MINUTES

Annual General Meeting of the British Paediatric Neurology Association
Held on
Wednesday 27 January 2010
At the Royal College of Physicians, Queen Street, Edinburgh

1. Minutes of 2009 meeting

These were accepted as correct.

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

3. Election of Officers

Jay Patel was elected Assistant Secretary unopposed. The results of the postal election revealed Sunny Philip to have been elected as Secretary.

4. New Members of Council

New members of Council include Sanjay Bhat (East Anglia), Andrew Curran (Mersey), Robert McFarland (North East), Tim Martland (North West), Sameer Zuberi (Scotland), Santosh Mordekar (Trent second term), Evangeline Wassmer (West Midlands).

5. Change to Constitution regarding Mac Keith Prize

The meeting agreed that paragraph 4(c) of the constitution will be amended to read:

“An annual Ronnie Mac Keith Prize was instituted in 1982. Nominees should have made a significant contribution to paediatric neurology or neurodisability as judged by published work and be under the age of 40 years or within 5 years of obtaining a CCST, whichever is later, at the time of the next Annual General Meeting. The prize winner is decided by a panel convened by the Secretary and is invited to attend the Annual Meeting as a guest of the association and present a paper. The money for the prize is provided from the funds of the association”.

The prize winner will also be given a certificate to which the logos of the BPNA and the Mac Keith Press will be added.

Manju Kurian has been awarded the prize this year. Karen Horridge has kindly offered to chair the panel for the prize next year.

6. RCPCH

There have been a number of changes in RCPCH committees this year. The specialty forum has been abolished. A meeting of CSAC chairs/heads of schools continues. Helen Cross represents the paediatric neurology CSAC on this group. A proposal for the quality assurance of training in small specialties/sub-specialties has been considered by this group. There is continuing concern about the effects of the European Working Time Directive on training. Helen Cross will write to Medical Education England setting out our concerns about this and also giving information about a recent survey of trainees. There has been discussion with the RCPCH relating to performance indicators in paediatric neurology.
7. **Society of British Neurosurgeons**

A joint meeting between the BPNA and the SBNS is planned for September.

8. **Joint Neuroscience Council**

We are represented on this group by Colin Ferrie. An intercollegiate faculty of neuroscience has been proposed.

9. **ACCEA**

The BPNA is able to nominate a limited number of members as part of this process, the number for each award specified by the size of the organisation. This means that not all applicants will be nominated. Applications are reviewed by a nominated committee consisting of the President, President elect, National Training Advisor, and two council nominees as well as a lay member. Nominations have to be selected and ranked. To maintain transparency of the process, in future members will be informed if they have been nominated.

10. **National Commissioning Group**

Two bids for rare diseases (Batten’s Disease and Moyamoya Disease) have been submitted to the NCG. In future if bids are to be made to the NCG where BPNA support is thought to be desirable, the intention for the proposal should be put forward to the the BPNA Council in June for discussion. Johann Te Water Naude will be bringing a paper to Council setting out the principles that ought to be involved in BPNA assessments of such bids.

11. **Paediatricians with Interest**

A small group has recently been formed to consider this matter. The aim will be to prepare an aspirational document setting out the BPNA’s view of how paediatric neurology services in district general hospitals might best be provided. Helen Cross will take this forward. It was agreed that collecting more data and information was important. Chris Verity emphasised his view that reinstating CSAC training and service visits was appropriate.

12. **EPNS Meeting**

It was agreed that this has been a very successful meeting. The final accounts for the meeting were not yet available but it is likely that the meeting will have at least broken even.

13. **BPNA Strategy Meeting**

Peter Baxter reported on a strategy meeting that had been held prior to the Edinburgh Conference. A number of themes had emerged from this meeting and will be taken forward in due course.

14. **Membership**

In 2009 there were 374 ordinary members. Applications for new membership were considered by the meeting and approved. It was agreed that Brian Neville, John Stephenson and Richard Robinson should be offered honorary membership. In future proposals will be sought from Council for honorary membership in June.
15. **Manpower Survey**

Sunny Philip presented the results of the recent manpower survey. It was agreed that this is a useful exercise and collects data that is important in helping to inform plans for trainee numbers.

16. **Grid Interviews**

Colin Ferrie reported on the recent successful grid interview process.

17. **Safe and sustainable paediatric neurosurgical services**

Colin Ferrie has represented the BPNA on this group. The report has been prepared and is available on the National Specialised Commissioning Group website. The BPNA has made a formal response as a stakeholder on this report.

18. **Accounts**

Penny Fallon presented the accounts. The financial position of the BPNA was felt to be on a sound footing. At present reserves represent about two years running costs of the association. There is an annual surplus and plans are being developed for how this should be spent. We now employ six members of staff. It was confirmed that we do not have a pension liability in relation to these staff.

19. **UKCNRC**

Mike Pike described the work of this organisation so far. It has been agreed that a further £15,000 will be donated to this organisation to support fundraising in addition to the £55,000 that the BPNA has already donated.

20. **Paediatric Epilepsy Training Courses**

Colin Dunkley presented the progress on these. It was noted that these courses are now in their fifth year of successfully running.

21. **Distance Learning**

Richard Newton described the continuing expansion of this initiative. Each of the units is being updated and the course is now web based. There is considerable interest from abroad in the course.

22. **Clinical Effectiveness**

Helen Basu listed the guidelines that we have contributed to in the last year. She also described the Epilepsy12 Audit which is being led by Colin Dunkley.

23. **Neurodisability**

Karen Horridge described the neurodisability grid process. There were 19 applicants for the neurodisability grid this year.
24. **Mac Keith Press**

Peter Baxter described the continuing success of the Mac Keith Press. Feedback from BPNA members is welcome regarding both the journal and the books.

25. **Future Meetings**

The 2011 meeting will be held in Edinburgh and organised by Oxford.

The 2012 meeting will be held in London. There were offers from two centres (Southampton and Leicester/Nottingham) to host this.

26. **Any Other Business**

Neil Thomas, the honorary archivist requested members to submit information to him that might be useful in the BPNA archive.

The next AGM will be held at the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh on Wednesday 26 January 2011 at 4.30pm.