

The Royal College of Anaesthetists, Churchill House, 35 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4SG

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ACADEMIC ANAESTHESIA**

**Board Meeting**

**Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19 April 2012 at 13:30 pm  
in the 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Council Chamber at the Royal College of Anaesthetists**

**Members:**

Prof R P Mahajan	Royal College of Anaesthetists, Chairman
Prof M Grocott	Co-optee - Health Services Research Centre, Director
Mr D Hepworth	Co-optee - Lay representative, Patient Liaison Group
Dr F Plaat	Co-optee - Obstetric Anaesthetists' Association
Prof D Rowbotham	Royal College of Anaesthetists, Chairman NIAA Research Council
Wg Cdr S Turner	Co-optee - Royal Centre for Defence Medicine
Dr I Wilson	The Association of Great Britain & Ireland

**In attendance:**

Prof D Lambert	Attending on behalf of Professor Webster for the British Journal of Anaesthesia
Ms S Drake	Royal College of Anaesthetists (Director of Education & Research)
Ms C Bunnell	Committee Secretary (NIAA Administrator)
Miss M Humphrey	HSRC Administrator

**NIAAB/17/2012 WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting, particularly Professor Lambert who was attending on behalf of Professor Webster for the British Journal of Anaesthesia (BJA).

**NIAAB/18/2012 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Professor Bion (Royal College of Anaesthetists, RCoA), Dr Harrop-Griffiths (Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain & Ireland, AAGBI), Colonel Mahoney (Royal Centre for Defence Medicine), Dr Sanders (Trainee representative) and Professor Webster (BJA).

**NIAAB/19/2012 MINUTES**

The confidential and non-confidential minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2012 were approved as a correct record with the following amendment:

List of attendees

To note that Dr Wilson had not been present at the meeting.

**ACTION:** NIAA Administrator to upload the non-confidential minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2012 to the NIAA website.

**NIAAB/20/2012 MATTERS ARISING**

(i) Anaesthetic Research Society

The Chair reported that a very constructive meeting had been held that morning with the President of the Anaesthetic Research Society (ARS), regarding a move towards closer working between the ARS and the National Institute of Academic Anaesthesia (NIAA). It had been agreed that a Working Party would be established, involving representatives from the ARS, NIAA, the Health Services Research Centre (HSRC), trainees and the military in order to progress this.

(ii) European Society of Anaesthesiology

The Chair reported that he would be meeting with the secretary of the European Society of Anaesthesiology in June to discuss the possibility of collaboration.

(iii) Association of Medical Research Charities

The Chair reported that the Research Council had briefly discussed the merits of joining the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC) at its morning meeting. Members had agreed that it would be advisable to wait until the proposed NIAA charity was in place before investigating this any further.

(iv) Register of Interests

The NIAA Administrator reported that the majority of declarations of interest had now been received from Board Members.

**ACTION:** NIAA Administrator to send a gentle reminder to all members who had not yet submitted their declaration of conflicts of interest and then upload this information to the NIAA website.

(v) NIAA Away Day

Board members received an updated version of the discussion paper from the NIAA Away Day held on 11 November 2011. Members noted the addition of an Executive

Summary and further points raised by Dr Nathanson on behalf of the AAGBI and Anaesthesia. The Board endorsed the Research Council's decision to upload the Executive Summary to the NIAA website, with a feedback form to allow visitors to the site to comment on the outcomes of the day. It was also agreed that a matrix would be produced for internal use to show progress against objectives.

(vi) Specialist Society Research Priorities

The results of membership surveys conducted by the Association of Paediatric Anaesthetists of Great Britain & Ireland (APAGBI), the Neuroanaesthesia Society of Great Britain and Ireland (NASGBI), the Society for Education in Anaesthesia UK (SEA UK) and the Vascular Anaesthesia Society of Great Britain (VASGBI) had been tabled at the Research Council that morning. Professor Lambert highlighted the priorities that were common to all four surveys: the desire for more outcomes research, a general interest in educational and vascular-neuro research in children. It had been agreed to await the results of the remaining surveys before revisiting the subject of joint-funding awards.

**NIAAB/21/2012            CHAIR'S REPORT**

This was covered by Matter's Arising.

**NIAAB/22/2012            NIAA AWAY DAY**

This item was covered in the Chair's Report.

**NIAAB/23/2012            NIAA STRATEGIC PLAN**

The Board received a draft of the NIAA Strategic Plan from the Chair. Members were given one week to suggest any changes. The plan would be circulated to the Research Council before being finalised.

**ACTION:**

**NIAA Administrator** to obtain the latest version of the HSRC Strategy for inclusion in the NIAA Strategy.

**Board members** to send any further changes to the Chair by the week ending 27 April.

**NIAAB/24/2012            NIAA COMMUNICATIONS PLAN**

The Board received an updated version of the NIAA Communications Plan accompanied by an implementation document. Ms Drake introduced the plan and asked for volunteers from the Board to take it forward. She confirmed that the NIAA PowerPoint presentation which was used at the NIAA exhibition stand would be distributed to members of the Board and Research Council.

Dr Wilson suggested that the plan - and the NIAA brand as a whole - could benefit from some expert marketing advice. He felt that more needed to be done to capture the interest of young trainees and that the website failed to convey the exciting activity in anaesthesia research. It was hoped that input from the Board's new trainee representative would address this, however Ms Drake acknowledged that it may be appropriate to seek expert help in the future.

Wg Cdr Turner suggested that the increased use of social media tools such as Twitter and blogging would encourage visitors to keep returning to the NIAA website. The Chair

encouraged Wg Cdr Turner to consider working with the NIAA's trainee representatives to develop this aspect of the NIAA site further.

**ACTION:** The **NIAA Administrator** to circulate the NIAA PowerPoint presentation and logo to members for use when representing the NIAA at external meetings, along with an updated version of the implementation document.

The **Communications Plan** to become a standing item on future Board agendas as of now and updated on a regular basis with achievements and targets.

#### **NIAAB/25/2012            MILITARY ANAESTHESIA**

- (i) Wg Cdr Turner provided an update on military activities including the publication of a significant number of articles in journals such as the Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery, Critical Care and Continuing Education in Anaesthesia, Critical Care & Pain on subjects ranging from resuscitation, major trauma, blast injury and oesophageal Doppler monitoring.
- (ii) Wg Cdr Turner outlined plans for developing the military section of the NIAA website, including the creation of a blog and regular, interview-style features on key individuals as well as more general items providing background information on military anaesthesia. He volunteered to take responsibility for updating military content on the website and it was agreed that the office would look into access rights in more detail.

**ACTION:** **Ms Drake** to speak to the NIAA's web developer regarding arranging access to the NIAA website for Wg Cdr Turner.

- (iii) Wg Cdr Turner confirmed that the NIAA/Military Anaesthesia event would be held on Wednesday 8 May 2013 and that he had already started contacting potential speakers. The event would follow the format of the Academic and Armed Conflict day held in 2009 and would include themes from combat and casualty care, lung, blast and how to do a research degree in the military.

**ACTION:** **NIAA Team** to liaise with Wg Cdr Turner about arrangements for the military/anaesthesia event.

#### **NIAAB/26/2012            ACADEMIC TRAINEES**

- (i) It was noted that the ARS-NIAA Working Party would oversee the arrangements for the next NIAA Academic Trainee Day.
- (ii) The Chair had been pleased by the response to the NIAA advert for a new trainee representative to replace Dr Moonesinghe on the NIAA Board. Ten applications had been received and an application from Dr Eleanor Carter from the University of Cambridge was recommended to the Board. It was agreed that Dr Carter would be appointed for a term of two years, as advertised, and that the Chair would meet with her to discuss the appointment prior to the next Board meeting.

**ACTION:**        **The Chair** to discuss the trainee representative role with Dr Carter prior to the next Board meeting.

**NIAA Administrator** to upload details of the trainee representative recruitment process to the governance section of the NIAA website.

(iii)        In the light of Professor Sneyd’s notification that he wished to step down as Academic Trainee Advisor on the NIAA Board, the Chair asked Board Members to agree the process for nominating his replacement.

                  Professor Grocott nominated Dr Ramani Moonesinghe and his proposal was supported by the Board. It was also agreed that the position would be renamed.

**ACTION:**        A new title for the position to be agreed and the **Chair** to notify Dr Moonesinghe of her success.

**NIAAB/27/2012                    HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH CENTRE**

(i)        The Board noted the minutes of the HSRC Executive Management meetings held on 24 January and 15 March 2012.

(ii)        The Board received a written progress report from Professor Grocott which included the following key points:

- The success of the National Emergency Laparotomy Audit bid had not been confirmed, however further information had been requested from the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP). It was hoped that a final decision would be received in June
- The Hip Fracture Peri-operative Network was currently pursuing a joint audit which would involve the recruitment of over 10,000 patients
- Work on the 5<sup>th</sup> National Audit Project (NAP5) was underway and it was noted that Dr Iain Moppett would be conducting a formal external review of the NAP process
- The HSRC was providing support for two aspirational studies; a cluster study of a quality improvement programme in patients undergoing emergency laparotomy (EPOCH); and a randomised controlled trial of general vs regional anaesthesia in patients with fractured femur (GeRAFFE)
- The third Perioperative Care Research Forum had taken place on 12 March and had been an overwhelming success with the demand for places exceeding capacity
- The first UK Pain Clinical Research Forum was scheduled for 19 September
- Recruitment for the position of HSRC Researcher was ongoing
- A copy of the job description for the Local Audit Research Coordinator posts was included in Professor Grocott’s report. It was noted that the coordinators would act as a link person within each hospital who would be responsible for responding to individual audits or research studies from the NIAA and HSRC. Professor Grocott reported that some comments on the job description had been received from Council the previous day, and that these would be incorporated before the job description was distributed to Clinical Directors.

- (iii) The Board received a proposal for a NIAA Clinical Trials Unit (CTU) from Professor Grocott. The Board welcomed the outline and it was agreed that Professor Grocott would submit a full proposal at the next meeting.

**ACTION:** Professor Grocott to submit a full proposal for an NIAA CTU for consideration at the Board's next meeting on 27 September.

- (iv) The Board noted the results of the first pilot census of research output from UK anaesthetists conducted by the HSRC based on bibliometric data gathered from the Researcher ID website. Although 45 researchers were on the NIAA Researchers' Database, only 13 had successfully logged their publications using Web of Science. Nevertheless, the exercise still showed this as a feasible means of benchmarking individuals anonymously and in time could form a basis for comparisons at an international level.

**ACTION:** Professor Grocott to review the researchers' database and researcher criteria in order to encourage participation.

**NIAAB/28/2012 NIAA WEBSITE: GUIDANCE IN RELATION TO INFORMATION ABOUT ANIMAL STUDIES IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN**

The Chair reported on a discussion held by the Research Council that morning regarding its position on the publication of progress reports from successful grant holders that refer to the use of animal models. After a considered discussion members agreed that these reports should continue to be uploaded to the NIAA website in the interests of transparency.

It was also agreed to upload a statement to the NIAA website to say that animal experimentation was only supported in cases where there was no other means of conducting the research.

**ACTION:** As of now, progress reports which mention animal experimentation to be checked for any sensitive content.

The **NIAA Administrator** to upload a position statement on animal experimentation to the NIAA website.

**NIAAB/29/2012 NIAA EXHIBITION STAND**

The Chair asked Board Members to notify the NIAA Administrator if they were available to assist on the NIAA stand at the GAT Conference on 27-28 June.

**ACTION:** The **NIAA Administrator** to recirculate the call for volunteers to assist on the NIAA exhibition stand at GAT.

**NIAAB/30/2012 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Thursday 27 September 2012

Provisional dates for meetings in 2013:

Thursday 31 January 2013

Thursday 25 April 2013

Thursday 17 October 2013

**NIAAB/31/2012      ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The following item was raised:

Professor Rowbotham summarised a discussion held by the NIAA Research Council that morning regarding an initiative by the Difficult Airway Society (DAS) to appoint its own professors. It was noted that the professorships would be reviewed after a period of five years, but the appointments were intended as permanent, extending into retirement as “emeritus professor” and subject to a robust set of application criteria.

The Board noted that whilst there had been support for the proposal from one specialist society, the majority of members had opposed the move. Instead there had been a strong sense that the NIAA should concentrate its efforts on helping individuals to achieve professorships through established, quality-assured means. The Board supported this view and agreed that the NIAA’s lack of support should be communicated to College Council via the minutes and also in a letter to the President of the DAS and the specialist society representatives.

**ACTION:**      To report that the NIAA does not support the DAS’s intention to appoint professors to RCoA Council via the Board minutes and Chair’s summary, and in a letter to the President of the DAS copied to the specialist society representatives.

## **GLOSSORY OF ACRONYMS**

AAGBI	Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland
ACTA	Association of Cardiothoracic Anaesthetists
ARS	Anaesthetic Research Society
ASG	Anaesthesia Speciality Group
ASIG	Anaesthesia Special Interest Group
BJA	British Journal of Anaesthesia
BOC	British Oxygen Chair
CCRN	Comprehensive Clinical Research Networks
CLRN	Comprehensive Local Research Networks
CRN	Clinical Research Network
DAS	Difficult Airway Society
DMA&CC	Department of Military Anaesthesia and Critical Care
EMB	Executive Management Board
EPICOT	Evidence, Population, Intervention, Comparison, Outcome, Time stamp
FPM	Faculty of Pain Medicine
JLA	James Lind Alliance
NCRPSE	National Clinical Research Priority Setting Exercise
NIAARC	National Institute of Academic Anaesthesia Research Council
NIHR	National Institute for Health Research
NTNs	National Training Numbers
OAA	Obstetric Anaesthetists' Association
RA UK	Regional Anaesthesia UK
RCoA	Royal College of Anaesthetists
SEA UK	Society for Education in Anaesthesia, UK
UKPRF	UK Perioperative Research Forum
VASGBI	Vascular Anaesthesia Society of Great Britain & Ireland