



BOARD MEETING

Minutes of the teleconference meeting held on Wednesday 3 May 2017

At the Royal College of Anaesthetists, Churchill House, London

Members:

Prof Monty Mythen	Chair, NIAA Board
Dr Paul Clyburn	Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain & Ireland
Mrs Jenny Dorey	RCoA Lay Committee rep (incoming)
Prof Mike Grocott	RCoA Council

Co-opted members:

Ms Sharon Drake,	Director of Clinical Quality & Research, RCoA
Dr Dan Martin,	NIAA Academic Training Coordinator
Dr Ramani Moonesinghe	Director, Health Services Research Centre
Dr Ronelle Mouton	Specialist Society Representative
Prof Rupert Pearse,	Director, UK Perioperative Medicine Clinical Trials Network (joined part-way)
Prof Rob Sneyd	Chair, NIAA Research Council (joined part-way)
Dr Matt Wilson	NIAA Grants Officer (incoming)

In attendance:

Mr James Goodwin,	Research Manager, RCoA
Ms Pamela Hines,	Committee Secretary (NIAA Coordinator)

Apologies:

Mr David Hepworth,	RCoA Lay Committee rep (outgoing)
Dr Andrew Klein,	<i>Anaesthesia</i>
Prof Dave Lambert,	NIAA Grants Officer (outgoing)
Prof Nigel Webster,	<i>British Journal of Anaesthesia</i>

NIAAB/05.2017/1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and apologies were noted as above.

NIAAB/05.2017/2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The confidential and non-confidential minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2017 were approved as an accurate record.

ACTION: Ms Hines to upload the confirmed non-confidential minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2017 to the NIAA website.

NIAAB/05.2017/3 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising that were not already on the agenda.

NIAAB/05.2017/4 NIAA APPOINTMENTS

The Chair introduced the paper outlining the decision that had been taken re: recruiting a Research Council Chair. Following the interviews it was felt that neither candidate was appointable on the day, and the paper put forward a number of alternative options for the Board's consideration. The option of re-advertising the post with backfill was not supported, as there was concern that including a PA with this role would not be compatible with similar posts at the College. It was noted that the post had been advertised as widely as possible amongst relevant networks and appropriate colleagues, so it was questioned whether re-advertising would produce a different result and this option was ruled out.

Prof Grocott raised the issue of the role's sensitivities and it was noted that a successful candidate would need to be aware of and able to navigate these. It was felt that such knowledge and expertise already exists amongst the founding partners, and a nominated chair from this group

would be the most suitable option in order to handle these matters and provide consistency. Dr Clyburn argued that the option to invite a rotating specialist society representative to chair the Research Council would go towards ensuring that the views of all specialist society partners are truly represented on the Board. Dr Mouton countered that being the new representative in this role she felt unsure how best to represent all societies, suggesting a voting system as a possible way of resolving this as well as sharing Board papers in advance of meetings and collating any feedback via the representative.

Mrs Dorey questioned if the rotation of chair would be a time limited arrangement, and whether partners' levels of financial contribution would have an effect on their time period as chair. It was clarified that all founding partners would chair equally and was suggested that this would be an interim solution given the situation, with a review once all partners have had the opportunity to chair.

Mr Goodwin queried whether an additional Research Council representative would need to be sought for founding partners during the existing representative's term as Research Council chair; the Chair clarified this would be the case. As all founding partners were not represented in this meeting the Chair asked members to agree by email outside of the meeting who would be the initial rotating chair; Prof Grocott recommended that as the BJA were not involved in the interviews it would be prudent to suggest that they should nominate a member of their Board to be the first representative to fill the Research Council Chair role.

Ms Hines provided a verbal update on the recent Trainee Representative recruitment; Dr Annemarie Docherty was successfully appointed to this role following interviews with 4 strong candidates. Dr Docherty will be attending the upcoming Research Council meeting in June. Dr Mouton fed back some positive comments she had received from one of the interviewed trainees, who although was unsuccessful had found the experience useful and thanked the interview panel for their feedback.

ACTION: Ms Hines to develop a system where relevant Board meeting papers are shared with specialist society partners and feedback collated via the Board representative.

ACTION: Prof Mythen to write to BJA formally requesting nomination for Research Council Chair.

ACTION: BJA to nominate a representative for first rotating Chair of Research Council, going forward from the June meeting.

NIAAB/05.2017/5 CLINICAL TRIALS NETWORK

In Prof Pearse's absence the Chair provided a brief overview of the written report that had been circulated. No further comments were made.

Members' attention was drawn to the POM CTN Regulations which had been approved by the CTN Board and was presented to the NIAA Board in this meeting for formal sign off. No further comments or objections were made.

NIAAB/05.2017/6 NIAA-RCSEng SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS

Prof Grocott provided a verbal update on this item stating that the RCSEng are supportive of continuing with jointly funded systematic reviews; some good work is coming out of this and the collaboration is a positive one. Prof Grocott sought support in principle from NIAA partners that they would continue to joint fund this work, which would also provide leverage for conversations with other external funders. Dr Clyburn queried whether any of the work funded so far had been evaluated at this stage; Prof Grocott responded there has been no formal evaluation but he will request that one takes place. No further comments were made and the Chair clarified that partners were supportive in principle to this collaboration continuing, with the understanding that further detailed information would be forthcoming when available.

ACTION: Prof Grocott to liaise with RCS colleagues re: evaluation of current systematic reviews and report back to the Board.

NIAAB/05.2017/7 NIHR SPECIALTY GROUP

Prof Grocott provided an overview of his report which illustrated that the specialty portfolio is currently in a healthy state and growing, with positive contributions from both HSRC and POM CTN studies. Prof Grocott referred to the letter from the NIHR's Prof Whitty circulated with the meeting papers, outlining a number of themes and his 20 year forward look at how these might impact on

the future of the NIHR. The specialty group will be providing a formal response to Prof Whitty's call for input to the NIHR's forward strategic plan, and Prof Grocott consulted with Board members on whether there was a preference to contribute to this response or provide one from the NIAA separately. The deadline for responses is 16th June. Dr Moonesinghe explained that the document would be circulated amongst the HSRC Board for comment to contribute to the NIAA response, if the Board would find this helpful. It was generally felt to be preferable to provide a strategic response from all relevant parties rather than individualised feedback. Dr Clyburn queried how best to collate this bearing in mind the given timeframe; Prof Mythen suggested that Prof Grocott compile a first draft to circulate amongst members for input and to agree the final response. The NIAA Coordinator will collate member's replies on behalf of Prof Grocott, for circulation to the board before agreeing a final version. Mrs Dorey queried whether it would be possible for the lay committee to have sight of the final document and ensure the group is in agreement with the overall message.

Prof Grocott raised the issue of the joint NIHR Research Award for consultants and trainees, and sought approval from the Board to include a new trainee network category for the 2018 awards. A discussion followed over whether these should be badged as a joint award with the NIHR and the NIAA, or the RCoA. Ms Drake clarified that in the recent RCoA Nominations Committee meeting a proposal had been approved for the new category. Members were consulted on their views; it was felt that if the awards are being badged as NIAA they should be presented at a NIAA event rather than a College one, however on further discussion it was agreed that as all other similar joint awards run by the NIHR are badged by the relevant College these should be badged as RCoA awards, run jointly with the NIHR, going forward.

ACTION: Prof Grocott to circulate a first draft response to Prof Whitty's letter to be co-signed by NIAA projects and Board members, with replies collated by the NIAA Coordinator.

NIAAB/05.2017/8 ACADEMIC TRAINING

Dan provided a verbal overview of his paper circulated in advance; a working group has been developed to investigate the issues and potential barriers to trainees joining academic opportunities with the NIHR in particular. Two approaches have been proposed initially: to approach local HEE offices to get a sense of the numbers of ACFs available, and to conduct a survey of ACFs in anaesthesia as well as in other academic pathways to understand where barriers may exist. Dr Clyburn suggested also approaching the devolved nations as well as local HEE teams, to gather the broader picture. Prof Pearse suggested Dr Mike Gillies would be a good contact in this respect as he is based in Scotland.

Prof Grocott queried whether the NIAA Research Database could be used as a way for individual departments to map information on the ACFs they have available, perhaps developing a template so the data can be collected easily and added to the database. Prof Sneyd mentioned the Royal Colleges' academic leads meetings he had attended in the past; Dr Martin confirmed he has attended the last few of these meetings and it had proved useful to be part of these discussions. Following a suggestion at the previous meeting Dr Martin confirmed he has discussed with James Fenton regarding attending a future board meeting, which James is happy to do. Dr Martin will advise of the next few meeting dates for James to confirm which he is able to attend.

Dr Martin discussed Prof Menon's suggestion of producing a guidance document on academic training in anaesthesia similar to that published by the FICM which signposts trainees through the NIHR pathway. Prof Sneyd suggested that these documents would need to be compatible with each other, and needs to link with Prof Chris Whitty's future plans for ensuring that consultants across the country are suitably research trained and capable.

ACTION: Dr Martin to take forward guidance document on academic anaesthesia training, ensuring that it aligns with other documentation.

NIAAB/05.2017/9 HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH CENTRE

Dr Moonesinghe provided a brief verbal overview of her update paper; a number of grant applications have recently been submitted including one to HQIP for re-funding NELA for a further 3 years – the outcome of this will be known in July. There has also been an application to the APAGBI via the NIAA grants Round 1 system for a NELA study with children, and to the Health Foundation for the PQIP project. A request to the RCoA has also been made for core HSRC staff costs.

SNAP2 recruitment has now been completed; approximately 23,000 patients and over 10,000 clinicians contributed data. It is hoped to run SNAP2 in Australia later this year. PQIP has recruited over 1,000 patients in 40 hospitals so far.

A meeting was held recently to discuss the future of NAPs and SNAPs; there has been no final decision on whether to continue these types of studies yet nor on the format they may take. A further proposal will be presented to the NIAA Board later in the year. Prof Sneyd highlighted the importance of RCoA Council being informed and involved in these decisions. Ms Drake responded that the Council are represented in this work as Prof Ravi Mahajan has been asked to chair the group and a paper will be presented to RCoA Council at a later date.

NIAAB/05.2017/9.3 HSRC FELLOWSHIPS FUNDING PROPOSAL

Dr Moonesinghe presented a re-drafted proposal following the previous Board meeting; the request is for members to support the proposal for funding HSRC fellows to allow wider recruitment of trainees including those from outside of London. As the board does not have its own funding to spend any support given would be an agreement in principle and this endorsement would enable the HSRC to leverage other funding from external agencies. Prof Grocott expressed support for this approach to increase regional representation. Dr Clyburn echoed this support, suggesting that Dr Moonesinghe presents a proposal for consideration at the AAGBI's Research & Grants meeting in September. No further comments were made. The chair confirmed there was overall support from the board for this proposal in principle, for Dr Moonesinghe to conduct discussions with other funders.

ACTION: Dr Moonesinghe to attend AAGBI Research & Grants meeting in September to present a proposal for funding HSRC fellowships.

NIAAB/05.2017/10 NIAA GRANTS

Dr Wilson provided a verbal update on Round 1 which had received 37 applications and have all now been sent out for external peer review. There have been a larger number of review invitations being refused, and due to the quorum required on peer reviewers this puts timescales under pressure. This round will continue to be mainly led by Prof Lambert, with Dr Wilson leading on two of the grant categories. Round 2 later in the year will be led by Dr Wilson with support from Prof Lambert, with Dr Wilson assuming full responsibility in 2018. It was noted that Prof Lambert will continue to be involved in the process as the BJA grant committee representative in future.

Prof Grocott highlighted Prof Lambert's outstanding contribution to the NIAA and questioned whether there were plans to formally recognise this; Ms Drake confirmed that Prof Lambert had previously been awarded an Honorary Fellowship by the RCoA.

NIAAB/05.2017/11 NIAA ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING & RESEARCH AWARD

Ms Hines provided a verbal update on current delegate figures and the research award finalists for information. Prof Pearse raised the RCoA's future event schedule which is undergoing change, including plans to introduce a larger Congress event from spring 2018 which may clash with the usual timing of the ASM. Members discussed whether to move the NIAA event or attempt to integrate in to the wider College event, with the chair and most other members expressing a preference for the latter. The chair suggested that discussions should be held between the College event organisers and the 2018 ASM organisers to establish how this could go forward.

NIAAB/05.2017/12 NIAA COMMUNICATIONS

Ms Hines drew members' attention to the wide range of recent NIAA and HSRC publication coverage that had been highlighted in the written report circulated, a list of published and upcoming articles had been provided. No further comments were made.

NIAAB/05.2017/13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

NIAAB/05.2017/16 DATES OF FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

Wednesday 26 July 2017, 1:00pm, AAGBI (includes Exec Board meeting to follow)

Wednesday 8 November 2017, 11:00am, Teleconference

Wednesday 24 January 2018, 11:00am, RCoA

ACTION POINTS

Item		Responsible	Action	Due
2	Minutes of the previous meeting	Ms Hines	Upload the confirmed non-confidential minutes of meeting held on 30 January 2017	Next meeting
4	NIAA Appointments	Ms Hines	Develop a system for sharing Board papers with specialist society partners and collating feedback	Next meeting
		Prof Mythen	Write formally to BJA to request nomination for interim Chair of NIAA Research Council.	ASAP
		<i>British Journal of Anaesthesia</i>	Nominate a representative for interim Chair of Research Council	27 June 2017
6	NIAA/RCS Systematic Reviews	Prof Grocott	Liaise with RCS colleagues re: evaluation of current systematic reviews and report back to the Board.	Next meeting
7	NIHR Speciality Group	Prof Grocott	Circulate a first draft response to Prof Whitty's letter, with input from NIAA partners collated by the NIAA Coordinator	ASAP
8	Academic Training	Dr Martin	To take forwards development of guidance document on academic anaesthesia training, ensuring that it aligns with other documentation.	Ongoing
9.3	HSRC Fellowships	Dr Moonesinghe	Attend AAGBI Research & Grants meeting to present a funding proposal	September 2017