



BOARD MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 17 January 2018

6th Floor Meeting Room at the Royal College of Anaesthetists

Members:

Prof M Mythen	Chair, NIAA Board
Dr P Clyburn (by telephone)	Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain & Ireland
Mrs J Dorey	Lay Representative
Prof H Galley (by telephone)	<i>British Journal of Anaesthesia</i>
Prof M Grocott	Royal College of Anaesthetists' Council
Dr A Klein	<i>Anaesthesia</i>

Co-opted members:

Ms S Drake	Director of Clinical Quality & Research, RCoA
Dr D Martin	Academic Training Coordinator
Dr R Mouton	Specialist Society Representative
Prof R Pearse (by telephone)	Director, UK Perioperative Medicine Clinical Trials Network
Dr M Wilson (by telephone)	NIAA Grants Officer

In attendance:

Mr J Goodwin	Head of Research, RCoA
Ms P Hines	Committee Secretary (NIAA Coordinator)

Apologies:

Prof D Lambert	Chair, NIAA Research Council
Dr R Moonesinghe	Director, Health Services Research Centre
Prof I Moppett	Deputy Director, Health Services Research Centre
Prof N Webster	<i>British Journal of Anaesthesia</i>

NIAAB/01.2018/1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

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

NIAAB/01.2018/2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The confidential and non-confidential minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2017 were approved as an accurate record.

ACTION: Ms Hines to upload the confirmed non-confidential minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2017 to the NIAA website.

NIAAB/01.2018/3 MATTERS ARISING

3.1 NIAAB/11.2017/3 REF 2021

The Chair drew members' attention to the final list of candidates that had been put forward for REF 2021 expert panel nominations along with their respective role selection. Prof Mythen thanked all who had been involved in the process. Ms Hines updated the Board on the next stage of the process; the REF admin team expected to be formally announcing main panel membership during the week commencing 19 February and sub panel membership during week commencing 12 March. Nominees had already been given advance notice of potential key dates for diary coordinating; successful nominees will be contacted prior to formal announcements being made.

3.2 NIAAB/11.2017/6 Experimental medicine group

Prof Grocott reported that a preliminary experimental medicine meeting would be held at the RCoA on 1 February, following the NIHR critical care specialty group meeting earlier that day. The meeting is being convened by Prof Grocott, Prof Lambert and Prof Galley. An open

invitation has been circulated to interested parties; Prof Grocott asked for the invite to also be circulated to Board members. There has been an encouraging level of interest from those invited so far.

ACTION: Ms Hines to circulate information on the experimental medicine meeting to Board.

3.3 NIAAB/11.2017/7 NIAA Research Council Chair

Prof Mythen noted that Dr Mike Nathanson has been nominated as the AAGBI's representative to assume the Research Council Chair role for a year from June 2018.

3.4 NIAAB/11.2017/9 NIAA-RCS

Prof Grocott reported that he and Prof Pearse would share the NIAA's seat on the RCS Research Committee. Meeting dates for this group had been circulated however these both clashed with Prof Grocott's existing commitments. Prof Pearse can only attend one date and his confirmation has been fed back to the RCS. Effort to engage with the RCS and attend future meetings with more advance notice will continue.

3.5 NIAAB/11.2017/15 Away Day

It was noted that a date for this is still pending; members were asked to make every effort to accommodate the dates being circulated. The agenda is not yet fixed but the main object of the day will be to review the NIAA 5-Year strategy and set out plans for the future.

Post meeting note: Monday 23 July has now been confirmed for the Away Day. Venue is to be confirmed. All members are encouraged to suggest agenda items for discussion.

NIAAB/01.2018/4 ANAESTHESIA NIAA GRANTS STUDY

Dr Klein updated members on the current status of the *Anaesthesia* journal paper reviewing all NIAA-facilitated grants awarded since 2008, attempting to track outputs, publications and abstracts that have been produced by the successful grant holders as a result of their funding, in an effort to measure the overall impact of NIAA grants across the period. Dr Klein confirmed a first draft of the paper had been reviewed by various members of the Board who had fed in comments, and has now been submitted for review and publication. The reviewers have requested that more information on rejected grants and additional NIAA grant award streams, for example BOC Chair and Senior Fellowships, be included in the study. This information was being provided to the authors by the NIAA Coordinator. This additional data would make the study a more complete piece of work than other similar analysis being carried out in other countries.

Dr Klein made a suggestion that the NIAA should consider continuing to collect this information prospectively in the future and to make it publically available on the NIAA website to keep track of outputs and measure the impact of NIAA grants as it has proven to be a very useful exercise but was noted that collecting this data retrospectively is very time consuming. Dr Wilson queried whether there would be opportunity for him to comment on the paper; Dr Klein advised that there would not as it has already been submitted, noting that Prof Lambert as Grants Officer for the majority of the period in question had reviewed the paper and commented extensively. Dr Wilson agreed that the data should continue to be kept up to date as it will help to build impact cases for the NIAA. Further discussion was suggested for the away day later in the year.

Prof Galley suggested the Researchfish platform as a useful tool for collecting this information from funded researchers in future, as many will already be using this for reporting to the NIHR. Ms Drake commented that the work involved in collecting the data/chasing successful applicants would be absorbed by the RCoA through the NIAA Coordinator's role, and suggested that uploading data onto Researchfish could be made a condition of any NIAA awarded grants. Mr Goodwin noted that Dr Wilson's review of the entire NIAA grants process could incorporate these suggestions where feasible, however Dr Wilson noted that the smaller grants awarded may not suit using the Researchfish system and perhaps it should only be a condition for larger grants being adopted onto the portfolio. Mrs Dorey noted that it is important to consider patients throughout this whole process and how best to feed back to patients/the public on the output data being collected.

On balance of all comments made Prof Mythen suggested that Dr Wilson be responsible for taking this work forward which was agreed.

ACTION: Dr Wilson to investigate the feasibility of using the Researchfish platform for NIAA grants data capture, and present a proposal to the next Board meeting.

NIAAB/01.2018/5 NIAA GRANTS OFFICER REPORT

Dr Wilson summarised his initial report on the most recent NIAA grant round which awarded over £500,000 to 14 projects, and noted that obtaining peer reviews in this round had been quite difficult given the breadth of applications received across a range of topics. A new process had been piloted in this round, where small grant applications received for under £5,000 to the DAS programme had been reviewed by DAS internally before being taken forward to the grant committee meeting for further discussion and decision making. Dr Clyburn noted he was pleased to hear there had been an element of flexibility in piloting this system as this had always been the intention of the NIAA.

Dr Wilson presented his proposal for a consultation on a strategy for the next 5 years of NIAA grants to be held with funding partners, as it was noted that although Prof Lambert had handed over a system which works well there was an opportunity to review the process at this stage to see where possible improvements or adjustments could be made. It will be important to engage with the partners in this exercise to capture their feedback and input. It is not anticipated that any radical changes to the existing system will be proposed. There was general support around the Board for this approach; Dr Clyburn suggested that Dr Wilson present this proposal to the AAGBI Research & Grants Committee at their next meeting on 23 March.

ACTION: Dr Wilson to present NIAA grants consultation proposal to AAGBI Research & Grants Committee on 23 March 2018.

NIAAB/01.2018/6 NIHR SPECIALTY GROUP

Prof Grocott reported that accruals and recruitment on to NIHR portfolio studies continue to improve, however due to unusually large recruitment numbers seen last year due to SNAP-2 the overall numbers this year will appear to be lower in comparison. A brochure on career pathways following a workshop held last year is in the final stages of production with an accompanying editorial being published in the *BJA*. In addition, a report has been published following the MedTech workshop in December 2016 and Prof Simon Howell is producing an accompanying *Anaesthesia* editorial.

Stratified medicine has been identified as a national priority for the NIHR and each specialty group has been tasked with nominating a named lead in this regard; Dr Dan Martin has agreed to take on this role for the anaesthesia specialty group. The work is still in its early stages. Prof Grocott also mentioned that the NIHR strategy has now been produced and this along with the NIAA's strategy will form the basis on which the specialty group will draft its own strategy.

NIAAB/01.2018/7 ACADEMIC TRAINING

Dr Martin reported that the guidance document for academic anaesthesia trainees as discussed in the previous Board meeting is now complete and in the process of being designed as a brochure; the final version will be shared with members. The exercise of collecting data on national ACF/CL posts is now as complete as it can be however most of the feedback has been through opinions and feedback gathered rather than any hard data, as he has discovered that quantitative data on posts is not always routinely collected and management of these posts differs across the country.

ACTION: Dr Martin to prepare a report on the outcomes of ACF/CL national data collection exercise for discussion at next Board meeting

NIAAB/01.2018/8 CLINICAL TRIALS NETWORK

Rupert spoke to his paper circulated prior to the meeting. Network membership continues to grow steadily. Final delegate feedback from the autumn meeting has just recently been received and is positive overall; attendees were highly engaged with the sessions and research nurses in particular were interested in content at future meetings being included that is more relevant to their roles. The 2018 meeting will therefore be across two days to be held at the RCoA, and will be a day lecture/plenary sessions and a day of education/workshop sessions. Prof Pearse has delivered positively received presentations to both AAGBI and RCoA Councils and will be meeting with the Rosetrees Trust in the coming weeks to discuss future funding for the CTN. Prof Pearse expressed a keen desire to move the Network towards becoming less dependent on the founding partners without losing the existing connection to both partners. A trial proposal day is planned for 23 April to assist with this by identifying suitable trials to work up into full funding proposals.

Prof Pearce provided an update on the currently adopted trials; one may need to be de-adopted due to problems with progressing the trial due to unforeseen regulatory issues as it has been declared as a CTIMP which increased its costs. A further two trials are in the set up phase and two are actively recruiting. A new trial in Edinburgh was being considered for adoption. The secretariat has collected useful metrics on the currently adopted trials however the information is still to be ironed out and as Prof Pearce is not entirely sure that all complete data is being reported by trial investigators, this is some way from being released with confidence.

Interviews for the Deputy Director and Board posts will take place next month chaired by Prof Mythen. Should an existing Board member be recruited to the Deputy Director position the resulting Board vacancy will be recruited from the applicants that expressed an interest in this role.

Prof Mythen gave his overall view on the RCoA Council meeting attended by Prof Pearce, noting that Council members were supportive of the proposal presented and in continuing to fund the CTN's core costs and cost recovery should continue to be an ambition for the Network but it shouldn't be restricted in where this funding is sourced. Dr Klein raised a suggestion for trials that are adopted being charged a fee for CTN services, helping to generate an income. Prof Pearce agreed this had recently been considered by the CTN Board however noted a number of risks had been raised, for example if an organisation such as RAFT with limited resources approached the Network should they be charged the full support fee or a proportion, and what will this decision be based on? The Network is keen that any future fee structure be implemented as fairly and robustly as possible. Dr Klein also expressed a general concern on the CTN submitting grant applications in its own right.

Dr Clyburn queried the available timescales to agree the next tranche of CTN funding given that current arrangements have been made up until June 2018, and whether an interim agreement will need to be made to allow time for further discussions at all levels. Prof Pearce noted that discussions with the Rosetrees Trust are still to be had which will have significant bearing on the overall picture.

Prof Grocott raised a question on whether commercial trials may provide a viable income stream? Prof Pearce responded that this question had been raised early in the Network's existence however due to other experiences with commercially funded trials there was some hesitation in taking this route with the CTN. Prof Pearce did note however that it isn't completely ruled out, but would want to be absolutely certain of the relationship between both parties before agreeing to pursue this.

Dr Mouton questioned Prof Pearce on how the CTN had found working with local trial networks in respect of the adopted trials. Prof Pearce responded that there had not been much interaction with these local networks as most PIs are already engaged with the CRN and they had not found this very difficult, but noted that adopting studies that CRN active investigators are keen to be involved in is proving slightly more difficult. This is something the Network is actively working on resolving.

NIAAB/01.2018/9 HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH CENTRE

Prof Moppett was not available for the meeting and as no update paper had been circulated there was no discussion on this item.

NIAAB/01.2018/10 EVENTS

10.1 BMA Conference

Prof Mythen drew attention to an invitation he had received to attend the BMA Conference of Medical Academic Representatives on 20 April 2018, which is an opportunity for medical academic representatives to meet, discuss key issues and set priorities. Members were asked to consider if they are able to attend.

Post meeting note: Prof Grocott has agreed to attend this conference on behalf of the RCoA/NIAA.

10.2 NIAA Annual Scientific Meeting 2018

Prof Mythen invited discussion on the outline programme for this year's event. It will follow a similar format to previous years, including the Research Award. It is anticipated that there will be a larger ASM in 2019 which may potentially run alongside the RCoA's Anaesthesia 2019 event, however further discussions on this are to take place at the NIAA Away Day.

NIAAB/01.2018/11 NIAA COMMUNICATIONS & 2018 COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW

Ms Hines highlighted key things to note from her communications report, namely the updated NIAA website which now displays a 10th anniversary logo on the homepage and throughout the site; an increasing number of NIAA partners now either display the NIAA logo or link to the NIAA website from their own society's website. Members were reminded to notify Ms Hines if they have any items they wish to advertise or promote via the NIAA website or Twitter account.

NIAAB/01.2018/12 NIAA BOARD SPECIALIST SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVE 2018-19

Dr Mouton noted that this would be her last meeting as the spec soc representative on the Board. Prof Mythen expressed thanks for all the work Dr Mouton had done. RA-UK is the next society on the rota. Dr Mouton suggested an item for discussion at the Away Day, namely how best to make the Board specialist society representative role as useful as possible for all parties.

ACTION: Dr Mouton to develop a proposal paper on specialist society communication with the Board for further discussion at NIAA Away Day.

NIAAB/01.2018/13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**13.1 Overseas Fellowship funding request**

The Board discussed a request received from Dr Santhirapala, a CT2 trainee who has been awarded the Paul Farmer Fellowship in Global Surgery at Harvard Medical School, enquiring whether any funding opportunities are available to support living costs during their placement. Prof Galley noted that there are existing mechanisms to support such requests; Dr Klein pointed out the joint AAGBI/RCoA funding programme available for such global health travel projects.

ACTION: Ms Hines to provide information to Dr Santhirapala on the existing research travel grant opportunities available at both the AAGBI and RCoA.

13.2 Payne Stafford Tan Award at NIAA ASM

Mr Goodwin noted that the RCoA Events team had requested that the Payne Stafford Tan Award, advertised and awarded through the NIAA's small research grants mechanism, be included on the programme for this year's NIAA Annual Scientific Meeting. This constitutes a brief certificate presentation to the Award winner. No objections were raised to this proposal.

ACTION: Ms Hines to add Payne Stafford Tan Award to NIAA ASM programme.

NIAAB/01.2018/14 DATES OF FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

Friday 18 May 2018, 11:30am, Teleconference

Friday 13 July 2018, 11:30am, RCoA/AAGBI (venue TBC) **(Executive Board meeting to follow)**

Monday 23 July 2018 – AWAY DAY (venue TBC)

Wednesday 14 November 2018, 11:00am, Teleconference

Wednesday 23 January 2019, 11:00am, RCoA **(Executive Board meeting to follow)**

ACTION POINTS

	Item	Responsible	Action	Due
2	Minutes of the previous meeting	Ms Hines	Upload the confirmed non-confidential minutes of meeting held on 8 November 2017.	Next meeting
3.2	Experimental medicine group	Ms Hines	Circulate invite to NIAA Board to preliminary meeting on 1 February.	ASAP
4	<i>Anaesthesia</i> NIAA Grants Study	Dr Wilson	Investigate the feasibility of using the Researchfish platform for NIAA grants data capture, and present a proposal to the next Board meeting.	Next meeting

5	NIAA Grants Officer Report	Dr Wilson	Present NIAA grants consultation proposal to AAGBI Research & Grants Committee on 23 March 2018.	March 2018
7	Academic Training	Dr Martin	Prepare a report on the outcomes of ACF/CL national data collection exercise for discussion at next Board meeting.	Next meeting
12	NIAA Board Specialist Society Representative 2018-19	Dr Mouton	Develop a proposal paper on specialist society communication with the Board for further discussion at NIAA Away Day.	July 2018
13.1	A.O.B.: Overseas Fellowship funding request	Ms Hines	Provide information to Dr Santhirapala on the existing research travel grant opportunities available at both the AAGBI and RCoA.	ASAP
13.2	A.O.B. Payne Stafford Tan Award at NIAA ASM		To add Payne Stafford Tan Award to NIAA ASM programme.	ASAP