



## BOARD MEETING

### Minutes of the teleconference held on Friday 18 May 2018

#### Members:

Dr P Clyburn	Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain & Ireland
Prof M Mythen	Chair, NIAA Board
Mrs J Dorey	Lay Representative
Prof H Galley	<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 A Macfarlane	Specialist Society Representative
Prof R Pearse	Director, UK Perioperative Medicine Clinical Trials Network
Dr M Wilson	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 (to June 2018)
Dr R Moonesinghe	Director, Health Services Research Centre

#### NIAAB/05.2018/1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting, noting that this was Dr Macfarlane's first Board meeting as the Specialist Society Representative. Apologies were noted as above.

#### NIAAB/05.2018/2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The confidential and non-confidential minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2018 were approved as an accurate record.

**ACTION: Ms Hines to upload the confirmed non-confidential minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2018 to the NIAA website.**

#### NIAAB/05.2018/3 MATTERS ARISING

##### 3.1 NIAAB/11.2017/3 REF 2021

The Chair drew attention to the enclosed letter signed by the REF Manager Dr Hackett confirming that the first appointments to REF sub-panels have now been made. It was clarified that Prof Menon was one of the 14 members accepted onto the Clinical Medicine sub-panel following the nominations submitted by the NIAA. This was the only successful anaesthesia-related nomination in this round, however over 4000 nominees had been put forward for the sub-panel by the wider scientific community. Further nominations may be invited at the next round in 2020.

##### 3.2 NIAAB/01.2018/4 ANAESTHESIA NIAA GRANTS STUDY

The published paper '*Analysis of the distribution and scholarly output from National Institute of Academic Anaesthesia (NIAA) research grants*' was noted for information. The Chair congratulated the authors on its publication. Prof Grocott suggested that the review of grants awarded involved in publishing this paper should be continued as standard practice for the NIAA going forward, particularly to aid with transparency. There were no objections to this.

#### NIAAB/05.2018/4 NIAA BOARD CHAIR

Mr Goodwin briefly updated members on the recent recruitment for the Board Chair role, noting that two candidates were interviewed with all founding partners being represented on the panel. A unanimous decision was made to appoint Prof Grocott as the next NIAA Board chair. The decision has been presented to the RCoA President and Council for ratification as per the NIAA Terms of Reference, and has been approved. Congratulations were expressed to Prof Grocott. A handover period will commence between outgoing and incoming chairs. No further comments were made.

#### **NIAAB/05.2018/5 NIAA AWAY DAY**

The Chair drew members' attention to the previously confirmed July date for the proposed NIAA Away Day, noting that recent discussions between himself and Prof Grocott had led to a suggestion to postpone the date to later in the year, following a planned external review as per the AOB item to be discussed later in the meeting. Members were consulted for their views on this suggested course of action. Besides the preliminary organisation undertaken by the NIAA Coordinator in securing a date and facilitator no financial investments had been made so far, however it was noted that should a later date be decided this will need to be addressed soon to ensure availability of those involved. Prof Galley queried whether it would be feasible to conduct said reviews before a rearranged away day; Prof Mythen clarified that the away day would be most likely in the first half of 2019 to allow the review to take place. No objections were raised to postponing the away day based on the rationale discussed.

**ACTION: Ms Hines to notify all NIAA members of postponed July away day date.**

#### **NIAAB/05.2018/6 ACADEMIC ANESTHESIOLOGY CAREER DEVELOPMENT**

Chair introduced the enclosure, a paper regarding the FAER programme where a survey had been undertaken to ascertain the programme's impact on funding anaesthesiology investigators launching their academic careers in the US, and how this may parallel with the work carried out for the *Anaesthesia* publication discussed under item 3.2. Prof Mythen clarified that the paper shows US researchers awarded a FAER grant are more likely to apply for NIH funding, but a successful grant award has no impact on their rate of success in securing this funding.

Prof Pearse noted that a similar exercise did not seem to be relevant for the UK given the general differences in the types of research carried out between both countries. Prof Galley noted the lack of gender demographic information in the grants analysis data which felt like a missed opportunity; it was noted this should be taken into account in future NIAA grants analysis. The paper was noted for information but no parallels with the NIAA specifically were immediately apparent.

#### **NIAAB/05.2018/7 NIAA INNOVATION RESEARCH AWARD**

The Chair drew attention to the paper prepared by Dr Mariyaselvam and Dr Young, with a proposal for a new award to be run via the NIAA, with the aim of promoting early adoption of ideas for innovations in safety products. After discussion it became clear that the details of the proposal had not been defined enough to make any decision, particularly given that the NIAA does not have funding of its own to distribute. It was agreed that the principle idea was sound but needs refining and clarification. Members suggested that discussions should be held with other potential funders including NIAA founding partners and industry groups, before returning to the Board and Council with a clearer proposal. The project group were also advised to define their interpretation of innovation more carefully as this is not always the tangible product/device the group seemed to be describing in their proposal. Board members were supportive of the idea in principle but agreed the proposal needs further development.

**ACTION: Ms Drake to return initial feedback to proposal group, extending an invitation to attend future NIAA Board and Research Council meetings for further discussion.**

#### **NIAAB/05.2018/8 NIAA GRANTS OFFICER REPORT**

Dr Wilson briefly reported on the current 2018 Round 1, clarifying that consultation with NIAA members, namely the BJA and specialist societies, on the ongoing grants review will continue once the current round has completed. He also drew attention to a proposal to dispense with the requirement for applicants to submit a hard copy in addition to their online grant submission. It was felt that this additional copy is both unnecessary and potentially introduces discrepancies between versions of submitted applications. The proposal will maintain compliance with the recently updated RCoA Data Retention Policy. No objections were raised.

The Grants Officer also outlined the plans to commence offering CPD credits as recognition for peer reviewers who carry out assessments for the NIAA grants process. The RCoA Revalidation team had been consulted and given confirmation this was a viable possibility as the credits would be awarded under the External Advisor category, and it is felt to be a valuable incentive with no cost or labour implications. Dr Wilson plans to roll this out effective from the current grant round to all individuals who complete reviews. The Board supported this proposal.

Dr Wilson also reported on his initial findings on Researchfish, per previous discussions at the last Board meeting. Researchfish is a national reporting tool used as a way of appraising research impact and must be updated by individual users on an annual basis; it is obligatory for NIHR grant holders to use it to track their research funding. There is a cost of £5,500 p.a. for the level of access that would be required by the NIAA and it was discussed how this cost should be covered and the best way of rolling this out to NIAA grant holders. Prof Galley expressed full support for NIAA's use of the system, pointing out that experienced researchers will be accustomed to using it and the infrastructure that exists within the system is comprehensive enough to fulfil the NIAA's requirements re: impact measurement, particularly in light of the results in the recently published *Anaesthesia* paper. It was suggested that applying use of Researchfish as a condition to grants awarded in future would go some way to ensuring it is used most effectively, and any awards would be dependent on an applicant's compliance with this condition. It was also suggested that NIAA grants already awarded should be monitored through Researchfish retrospectively across the whole awarding period. Mrs Dorey queried whether patient feedback is taken into consideration under Researchfish outputs. It was clarified that public engagement is one of the monitoring tools in its remit. After discussion, it was agreed that splitting the cost between founding partners would be feasible and full support for pursuing this was given by Board members. Ms Drake confirmed that the RCoA financial year ends in June and funds could be accrued for this purpose. Ms Drake suggested that she and Dr Wilson discuss hosting of the platform and any data sharing issues.

**ACTION: Dr Wilson to pursue activating a Researchfish account on behalf of NIAA Grants.**

**ACTION: Dr Wilson and Ms Drake to discuss data implications of hosting Researchfish account.**

#### **NIAAB/05.2018/9      NIHR SPECIALITY GROUP**

Prof Grocott reported on the overall portfolio metrics as displayed in his report, which remain healthy. The recently formed Discovery Science group continues in its development and it was discussed whether this group should seek representation on either the NIAA Board or Research Council. On balance, it was felt that the Research Council would be the best place for this work to sit.

Prof Grocott also suggested that taking a more proactive approach to encourage applications for NIHR Senior Investigator positions from within the specialty would be welcomed; Prof Grocott himself has recently been recruited as a Senior Investigator, which takes the total within the specialty up to three. It was suggested that active encouragement for other suitable candidates to apply for these opportunities would be of benefit to the anaesthetic community as a whole. Prof Grocott indicated that the existing Senior Investigators would be happy to support potential applicants through the process and the NIAA's support in this regard would be valuable. Members were supportive of this suggestion.

#### **NIAAB/05.2018/10      ACADEMIC TRAINING**

Dr Martin reported on the enclosed most recent version of the academic training guidance document presented to members for approval. This is in the final stages of production, with a few minor amendments to be made and Board members were asked to suggest any changes directly to Dr Martin as soon as possible. Prof Galley pointed out that the Scottish clinical lectureship scheme SCREDS was not mentioned in the guidance document, offering to provide relevant details to Dr Martin to rectify this. Dr Martin agreed the guidance should be as accurately representative as possible and this additional detail should be included.

**ACTION: Dr Martin to update guidance document to include information on devolved nations.**

Dr Martin updated members on the ongoing work he had undertaken, investigating where there may be barriers or decreasing interest in NIHR ACF and CL posts across England resulting in a downturn in applications. This has resulted in the enclosed report outlining the views of those consulted including trainees, TPDs, RAs and HEE. Dr Martin suggested that a course of action could

be for the NIAA to address each of the major concerns raised in the report at future Board meetings, particularly in relation to working more closely with the NIHR in advertising these posts more widely and increasing their appeal. It was agreed that this report would be a subject to focus on at the eventual NIAA away day, and the paper is a good basis for further discussion.

Dr Martin also reported briefly on his plans for the Trainee section of the NIAA website, outlining the suggestions for new and updated content discussed between himself and Mr Goodwin recently. The planned overhaul is still in its early stages and a more developed proposal will be brought to Board members' attention at a future meeting to discuss any required costs.

**ACTION: Dr Martin to include NIHR ACF and CL posts as discussion item on NIAA away day agenda.**

#### **NIAAB/05.2018/11 CLINICAL TRIALS NETWORK**

Prof Pearse briefly summarised his report, drawing attention specifically to the CTN's next period of funding. Meetings to discuss the next 3 years of funding have now taken place with all founding partners and the Rosetrees Trust – an application for further funding has been submitted to the latter with a decision due to be made in the coming months. Early signs are positive that the application will be supported, however the amount is still under debate. The outcome will have a bearing on the funding required from partners. Ms Drake confirmed she had emailed all founding partners with suggested tapered funding figures, should the Rosetrees application be successful.

The Trials Development Day held in April was a success; the resulting sub-groups are continuing to work up further trial proposals based on the discussions held on the day and it is hoped this will lead to at least one CTN-led NIHR grant application. Prof Galley confirmed that BJA Directors were satisfied with Prof Pearse's responses to queries and subject to ratification at the upcoming Directors meeting would confirm their financial support based on the figures in Ms Drake's recent email. A question was raised over why a larger amount wasn't requested of Rosetrees on this occasion; it was clarified that the maximum amount was requested and this is an increased amount than the request made for the first three years of funding. Dr Clyburn advised that the AAGBI/*Anaesthesia* are still considering the figures put forward in Ms Drake's email and expect to respond with some queries of their own once the matter has been discussed further.

#### **NIAAB/05.2018/12 HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH CENTRE**

The Chair highlighted Prof Moonesinghe's report for information in her absence. There were no further comments or discussion on this item.

#### **NIAAB/05.2018/13 EVENTS**

Ms Hines reported briefly on the general programme of this year's NIAA Annual Scientific Meeting. A full agenda is planned including the Research Award session and post-event drinks to mark the NIAA's anniversary. Roughly 60 attendees are expected including speakers and presenters. Prof Mythen reiterated the current situation with RCoA's new event *Anaesthesia 2018* running adjacent to the NIAA ASM this year. It was noted that consideration should be given at the eventual NIAA away day as to how these events may be run in future years including whether research sessions should be integrated into larger meeting programmes as has previously been suggested. Prof Grocott confirmed that there are plans to run *Anaesthesia 2019* as a 3-day meeting, which could afford space for this on the programme. There were also suggestions made for 'inward facing' NIAA meetings similar to the CTN Autumn meetings, possibly to be held outside of London. Prof Grocott mentioned early discussions he had held with Dr Simon Howell in this regard, with a potential venue in York as a possibility. Ms Drake mentioned a further venue she is aware of also in York. Prof Grocott agreed to develop this suggestion and present a further update at the next Board meeting.

**ACTION: Prof Grocott to develop a further proposal for a future NIAA meeting/event outside of London, in discussion with Dr Howell and Ms Drake**

#### **NIAAB/05.2018/14 NIAA COMMUNICATIONS**

Ms Hines briefly outlined the enclosed communications report noting that the figures for returning website visitors and overall users had slightly decreased compared to the same period in the previous year. Dr Macfarlane queried whether RA-UK should be represented in the table on page 1. Ms Hines clarified that the table shows partners who do not provide a link to the NIAA website or an NIAA logo on their own website. Since RA-UK already does this, they are not included in the table.

**NIAAB/05.2018/15 ANY OTHER BUSINESS****15.1 NIAA independent external review**

Prof Grocott spoke to the enclosure circulated earlier, outlining a proposal for an independent external review of the NIAA, to include its constituent parts CTN and HSRC. This is being proposed for a number of reasons including the NIAA's decade long existence and imminent change in leadership, and in considering its future direction. The proposal suggests a panel that could be approached to conduct said review, including international members. It is proposed the majority of the review would be conducted electronically/remotely. Prof Grocott is keen to maximise the availability of Prof Paul Myles, a suggested panel member, who will be based in London over the summer. Other considerations were also discussed including timelines and representation from outside the specialty being part of the panel including a lay person, and members of the NIAA secretariat should also be consulted as part of this review. Dr Clyburn questioned whether the QI work conducted within the NIAA will also be reviewed as part of this process and whether the proposed panel has sufficient expertise for this. Prof Grocott responded that every attempt will be made to represent the full spectrum of the NIAA's work in the makeup of the panel. Overall there was broad agreement in principle for the proposal. The Chair suggested that Prof Grocott initiate early conversations to get this work underway, and start discussing the required finances with Ms Drake with a view to formulating a full proposal and gaining a final decision on the work by mid-June.

**ACTION: Prof Grocott to commence work on external review proposal, liaising with Ms Drake re: finances**

**NIAAB/05.2018/16 DATES OF FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS**

Dr Clyburn requested that every effort to avoid scheduling future Board meetings on Fridays in future, given that these clash with existing regular AAGBI meetings.

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

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 17 January 2018.	Next meeting
5	NIAA Away Day	Ms Hines	Notify all NIAA members of postponed July away day date	ASAP
7	NIAA Innovation Research Award	Ms Drake	Return initial feedback to proposal group, extending an invitation to attend future NIAA Board and Research Council meetings for further discussion	ASAP
8	NIAA Grants Officer Report	Dr Wilson	Pursue activating a Researchfish account on behalf of NIAA Grants	ASAP
		Dr Wilson Ms Drake	Discuss data implications of hosting Researchfish account	ASAP
10	Academic Training	Dr Martin	To update guidance document to include information on devolved nations.	ASAP
			Include NIHR ACF and CL posts as a discussion item on NIAA away day agenda	TBC
13	Events	Prof Grocott	Develop a further proposal for a future NIAA meeting/event outside of London, in discussion with Dr Howell and Ms Drake	Next meeting

15.1	A.O.B. NIAA independent external review	Prof Grocott	Commence work on external review proposal, liaising with Ms Drake re: finances	Mid-June
16	Future meeting dates	Ms Hines	Schedule Board meetings to avoid Fridays in future	ASAP