



BOARD MEETING

Minutes of the teleconference held on Wednesday 30 October 2019

Members:

Prof M Grocott	Chair, NIAA Board
Prof H Galley	<i>British Journal of Anaesthesia</i>
Dr K Ferguson	Association of Anaesthetists
Prof J Hall	Royal College of Anaesthetists' Council
Prof A Klein	<i>Anaesthesia</i>

Co-opted members:

Dr G Ackland	Experimental Medicine Lead
Dr D Martin	Academic Training Coordinator
Prof R Moonesinghe	Director, Health Services Research Centre
Prof R Pearse	Director, UK Perioperative Medicine Clinical Trials Network

In attendance:

Mr J Goodwin	Research Manager, Royal College of Anaesthetists
Ms P Hines	Committee Secretary (NIAA Coordinator)

Apologies:

Mrs J Dorey	Royal College of Anaesthetists' Lay Committee rep
Ms S Drake	Director of Clinical Quality & Research, Royal College of Anaesthetists
Prof D Lambert	<i>British Journal of Anaesthesia</i>
Dr M Nathanson	Chair, NIAA Research Council (to September 2020)
Dr B Ratnayake	Specialist Society Representative (2019 – 2020)
Dr M Wilson	NIAA Grants Officer

NIAAB/10.2019/1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting, noting that due to other commitments Prof Moonesinghe would need to be excused before the end of the meeting so items 7 & 13 would be covered earlier on the agenda. Apologies noted as above.

NIAAB/10.2019/2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the joint Board & Research Council meeting held on 18 July 2019 were reviewed and agreed as an accurate record.

ACTION: Ms Hines to upload the confirmed non-confidential minutes of the Board & Research Council meeting held on 18 July 2019 to the NIAA website.

NIAAB/10.2019/3 MATTERS ARISING

Most actions from the previous meeting had either been completed or were on the agenda for later discussion. Prof Grocott advised Dr Ackland that they should continue further discussions with each other re: the acute care special interest group that had been highlighted at the previous meeting.

NIAAB/10.2019/4 RCoA MACINTOSH PROFESSORSHIP 2019

The Chair noted for information that the Executive Board had reviewed all Macintosh applications and had nominated two candidates from the four submissions received. Due to conflict with some members present in the meeting, all candidates had been anonymised for discretion within the circulated papers. There was some confusion with the list that had been circulated of previous Macintosh awardees, as it appeared that some were existing Professors which is not the intention of the award. Ms Hines clarified that all on the list had a Dr title at the time of their application, and the list indicated their current title which may now be Professor. It was suggested that in future papers, titles should either be removed or listed with the titles that applied at the time of the individual's Macintosh submission for consistency. Members of the Board present in the meeting were content to

ratify the nominations. Ms Hines confirmed that nominations would remain confidential until they had been ratified by both RCoA Council, Nominations Committee and CQR Board the following month, after which time all applicants would be notified.

ACTION: Ms Hines to notify RCoA Council, Nominations Committee & CQR Board of the two nominated Macintosh Professor candidates, using the applicable titles

ACTION: Ms Hines to revise Macintosh Professor rubric in future, to clarify that the award is intended for candidates who are not yet at Professor level

NIAAB/10.2019/5 NIAA GRANTS

Dr Wilson offered his apologies due to a delayed international flight preventing his attendance. In his absence Ms Hines provided a brief overview of Dr Wilson's Grants Officer report that had been circulated in advance, which highlighted that the Researchfish grants outcome monitoring platform has now been implemented for the NIAA grants awarded in 2019 R1 and will be utilised for all grants going forwards. The NIAA secretariat and Grants Officer have undertaken a training session with the providers to become familiar with the platform and to set up reporting schedules. Members discussed whether it would be prudent to retrospectively include the larger NIAA facilitated awards, for example BOC grants and BJA funded Career Development Awards, which would help to boost the NIAA's reported outputs through the Researchfish platform. It had previously been discussed and agreed that the biannual project grants funded through the NIAA would not retrospectively be uploaded to Researchfish for reporting purposes. Members agreed that it would be worth approaching Researchfish to discuss whether this would be possible.

ACTION: Dr Wilson to contact Researchfish to discuss possibility of including large NIAA grant awards retrospectively for output reporting purposes

Ms Hines also noted that she and Dr Wilson had both recently attended the Association's recent Research & Grants Committee meeting, during which it was confirmed that the Association is fully supportive of the flexible funding approach often adopted during NIAA grant committee meetings, where funding partners will agree to collaboratively fund a project of robust scientific merit where one partner has surplus resources and another may have insufficient funds.

NIAAB/10.2019/6 RCoA SMALL RESEARCH GRANTS & MAURICE HUDSON PRIZE 2019

Ms Hines drew members' attention to the listed grant and award recommendations that had been circulated, which had been reviewed by a panel of NIAA Research Council members and chaired by Dr Felicity Platt. Six applicants had been recommended to receive funds for small research/travel/educational projects, and a further four were pending a final decision subject to providing further requested information on the proposed project. An additional seven applicants were not being recommended for funding due to a poor project proposal or ineligibility. One candidate was being recommended for the Maurice Hudson Prize for his published paper on post-operative myocardial injury and morbidity. The recommendations were noted for information and no further comments were made. The Maurice Hudson nomination will be presented for ratification by the RCoA Nominations Committee, Council & CQR Board.

ACTION: Ms Hines to notify RCoA Nominations Committee, Council & CQR Board of the Maurice Hudson Prize candidate

NIAAB/10.2019/7 EQUALITIES, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Prof Moonesinghe updated members on the progress with this work, advising that the working group had held a face-to-face meeting in September where they had discussed the first draft of the recommendations paper and agreed on some suggested amendments which will be revised and refined with the working group members, before the final version being shared with the wider NIAA membership at the next meeting in February 2020.

NIAAB/10.2019/8 ANAESTHESIA RESEARCH 2019

Ms Hines provided an update on the 2-day Anaesthesia Research meeting, taking place in York in December. Paid bookings as at end of October were a total of 45 delegates across both days, which did not include faculty, staff, speakers and other invited guests which would increase the total attendance to roughly double. It was noted that bookings would remain open until immediately

before the event and had seen an increase in recent weeks – it was noted that the bulk of bookings were made in the previous month. Advertising of the event has been as wide ranging as possible including social media, targeted emails and newsletter circulations. Some concerns were raised about the budget, given that some Board members had registered and paid for a place to attend and had subsequently been refunded. It was noted that this would not usually be standard practice for an ARS event, for example, and it was questioned whether the event stakeholders would ultimately be bearing additional costs unexpectedly, which had not been the prior agreement. Mr Goodwin clarified that the budget has been monitored by the RCoA Events team who had not flagged any concerns, and the event is budgeted to at least break even at roughly 100 delegates. The majority of the budget to cover costs was being sourced from repurposing what would usually have been spent on a number of existing events – the NIAA ASM, POMCTN Autumn meeting, and HSRC 'QuARC Day' which were not taking place this year and were being folded into Anaesthesia Research instead. It was noted that given this is a first-run for this event there will undoubtedly be lessons which can be learned which should be explored as early as possible after this year's event, and the Board were happy to support the endeavour. Members agreed that a meeting should take place early in the new year to discuss feedback.

ACTION: Ms Hines to set up a teleconference in early 2020 between Anaesthesia Research event stakeholders

NIAAB/10.2019/9 NIAA EXTERNAL REVIEW 2020

Prof Grocott updated members on the current status of the review, which he confirmed will be taking place in May 2020 parallel to the RCoA's 'Anaesthesia 2020' conference. Given that at least two of the proposed review panel are internationally based and will be speakers on the programme, means that their travel costs will be borne by the Anaesthesia event and will reduce the costs of the review. Two of the panel members have informally confirmed Prof Grocott's approach to perform the review; the remaining members are yet to be confirmed including Prof Sir Bruce Keogh who has been approached but is yet to confirm. Prof Grocott has shared details of the circulated Board meeting discussion paper to provide some context for the review panel members that he has approached so far, and suggested a process that will firstly involve the panel evaluating a suite of NIAA documents at least three months in advance of the face-to-face/remote interviews and discussions of the review itself in May. These documents would namely include the terms of reference, strategy, published Comprehensive Reviews plus the equivalent documents that relate to NIAA-affiliated operational activities i.e. the HSRC and POMCTN. The advance materials should also include narrative documents from the NIAA's constituent parts including the research grants function, experimental medicine/discovery science, HSRC, POMCTN, training/education and secretariat staff, which should outline each author's views of their contributions to the NIAA, and their reflections and ambitions for the NIAA going forward. In addition to this, Prof Grocott also suggests that the NIAA partners should produce an equivalent document from their perspectives – one from each NIAA founding partner, and a joint document from the specialist society funding partners. In the name of clarity and precision and for the panel's ease a 1000-word limit for each document was suggested.

ACTION: Prof Grocott to contact NIAA partners and stakeholders to request written contributions for external review

ACTION: Prof Grocott to send formal invitations to external review panel members

NIAAB/10.2019/9a NIAA STRATEGY & TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members noted for reference the current existing NIAA strategy and ToR. Prof Grocott advised that the external review will contribute to a review of both documents.

NIAAB/10.2019/10 NIHR SPECIALTY GROUP

Prof Grocott clarified with members that his term as NIHR national specialty lead will actually continue until March 2022, contrary to the earlier end date he had previously advised. A succession plan will be put in place ahead of this. He noted that the NIHR are currently promoting engagement in research amongst clinicians not at Consultant level i.e. trainees, nurses and AHPs through developing a recognised national Associate PI scheme, which he will present with more information at the next meeting. It was also noted that new NIHR branding and website have been launched which will include a new profile page for the specialty – a mock-up had been circulated with the meeting papers. Prof Grocott acknowledged that the current metrics for the specialty in terms of patient recruitment are low compared to previous years when larger studies such as SNAPs or Trainee

Network projects took place, but that the size of the portfolio is the biggest it has ever been. He also noted that progress is being made with the acute care special interest group – a themed strategic summit is due to take place in March 2020 – however is yet to be formally recognised strategically by the NIHR.

NIAAB/10.2019/11 ACADEMIC TRAINING

Dr Martin noted that the 2020 curriculum is now being assessed by the GMC; NIAA members had previously had sight of and commented on the research content and feedback will be returned in due course. Dr Martin also advised on the academic credentialing system being developed by the RCP for healthcare providers interested in gaining a qualification in research methodology, has now been funded by the DoH and will be going out to Universities to tender. The RCP will also be running a survey to ascertain how members' research time is allotted in their job plan and how it is funded, which will be a joint survey run with other Colleges and will include some questions specific to the specialty which are being developed with the RCoA. The intention is to map how research is being carried out and funded across the medical sector as a whole.

NIAAB/10.2019/11a NIAA TRAINEE REP

Dr Martin advised members that Dr Annemarie Docherty, one of the two NIAA Trainee Representatives, has stepped down from her role as she has been appointed to a Consultant position and has been successfully awarded a Wellcome grant. Dr Andrew Owen has agreed to continue as the remaining Trainee Representative for the immediate future. Dr Martin's term as Academic Training Coordinator is due to run until December 2019. Discussions have been taking place on whether it is necessary to have two posts in the trainee rep position and how best to develop the role(s) to become more involved in NIAA activities, following some of the feedback Dr Docherty has given. Prof Grocott proposed that pending the upcoming external review it would be prudent to assess the shape of academic training within the NIAA across the long-term once the review has taken place, and in the meantime to extend both Dr Owen and Dr Martin's terms for a further year. This would involve discussions with the BJA on their share of funding Dr Martin's role for the extended period. Members agreed to this proposal.

ACTION: Prof Grocott and Prof Galley to discuss BJA's funding Academic Training Coordinator for an additional year

ACTION: Dr Owen and Dr Martin to continue their respective roles within the NIAA for an additional year, with a review of academic training role to be undertaken following the external review

NIAAB/10.2019/12 CLINICAL TRIALS NETWORK

Prof Pearse advised that the quarterly metrics he had included in the updated CTN report will continue to be presented to the Board over the long term so should be considered with a long-term view in mind and that the numbers will increase but this will take time. The antimicrobial trial developed at the 'sandpit day' held during the CTN Spring Meeting had been submitted for NIHR HTA grant funding and been invited for resubmission but had subsequently been rejected. It is planned to submit the proposal for a second grant application, once a substantial systematic review that will be used as the basis of this application, has concluded. A number of other trials have also been submitted or planned to be submitted for external funding, which are awaiting results. A further CTN 'sandpit day' to develop new trial ideas is being planned for next Spring. Prof Pearse noted that the CTN Strategy is currently under review by the CTN Board and will be presented for discussion and approval at the next NIAA meeting, as it is hoped this will help raise the profile of the Network and its trials and perhaps lead to more successful grant bids.

Prof Pearse also sought the Board's approval for initiating a national conversation on equipoise in randomised trials, noting the negative effects experienced in recruiting patients to studies within the specialty, and given the large population this affects feels it is a topic which needs exploring more publicly. Members were in agreement that this is a problem and a discussion followed looking at how it could be addressed, including a possible publicity campaign with opinion pieces exploring both sides of the argument, articles, open discussions whilst also noting that this will involve a cultural shift and may take some years to see change. It was discussed how this could be supported by the NIAA and endorsed by its founding partners, who will be in better position to speak to their own audiences possibly through a survey of members/journal readers. All partners agreed that this is a topic they are prepared to support and will participate with appropriate representation where necessary and a

number of options were discussed. Prof Pearse agreed to take this work forward and will start by forming a working group of representatives from each of the NIAA founding partners to approach the subject, who will report back to the next NIAA meeting.

ACTION: Prof Pearse to form a working group of NIAA founding partners to explore equipoise and return to the next NIAA meeting with a proposal to address the issue

NIAAB/10.2019/13 HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH CENTRE

Prof Moonesinghe drew members' attention to the SNAP3 themed grant call, details of which had been circulated with the meeting papers – the deadline for this is February 2020, and it is calling for proposals from individuals who wish to lead SNAP3 which will address frailty and delirium. It was also noted that the PQIP second annual report had been published and a successful collaborative event had taken place in September. The NELA annual report has been submitted to NHS England and will be published soon. NAP7 has held two steering panel meetings and all fellows have agreed to be involved for a further year. The CASAP study has started and continues to increase the number of participating sites that are actively recruiting patients.

NIAAB/10.2019/14 EXPERIMENTAL MEDICINE AND DISCOVERY SCIENCE GROUP

Dr Ackland advised that he will be presenting the work he is currently developing at the Anaesthesia Research 2019 event in York in December. He also referred to the RCP survey exercise mentioned by Dr Martin under item 11 as he would like to discuss this further with him.

NIAAB/10.2019/15 NIAA COMMUNICATIONS

Ms Hines drew members' attention to the standard report presented for information. Dr Ferguson noted that following the Association's recent website redesign the NIAA logo had been removed and advised she would discuss this internally to get it reinstated.

NIAAB/10.2019/16 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other items were discussed.

NIAAB/10.2019/17 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- NIAA Board & Research Council, Monday 24 February 2020, 10:00 – 13:00, RCoA (Followed by Executive Board meeting)

Further meeting dates TBC

ACTION POINTS

Item		Responsible	Action	Due
2	Minutes of previous meeting	Ms Hines	Upload the confirmed non-confidential minutes of meeting held on 18 July 2019 to the NIAA website	Next meeting
4	RCoA Macintosh Professorship 2019	Ms Hines	Notify RCoA Council, Nominations Committee & CQR Board of nominated Macintosh Professor candidates	ASAP
			Revise future Macintosh Professor rubric, to clarify that award is intended for candidates at pre-Professor level	ASAP
5	NIAA Grants	Dr Wilson	Contact Researchfish to discuss possibility of including large NIAA grant awards retrospectively for output reporting purposes	ASAP
6	RCoA Maurice Hudson Prize	Ms Hines	Notify RCoA Council, Nominations Committee & CQR Board of Maurice Hudson Prize candidate	ASAP
8	Anaesthesia Research 2019	Ms Hines	Set up teleconference in early 2020 between event stakeholders to discuss feedback	ASAP
9	NIAA External Review 2020	Prof Grocott	Contact NIAA partners and stakeholders to request written contributions for external review	Next meeting
			Send formal invitations to external review panel members	Next meeting
11a	NIAA Trainee Rep	Prof Grocott Prof Galley	Discuss BJA funding of Academic Training Coordinator for additional year	ASAP
		Dr Owen Dr Martin	Continue respective roles within the NIAA for an additional year	Effective immediately
12	Clinical Trials Network	Prof Pearse	Form a working group with NIAA founding partners to address equipoise	Next meeting