



BOARD & RESEARCH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 24 February 2020

NIAA Board:

Prof M Grocott	Chair, NIAA Board
* Dr G Ackland	Experimental Medicine Lead
Ms S Drake	Director of Clinical Quality & Research, Royal College of Anaesthetists
Dr K Ferguson	Association of Anaesthetists
Prof H Galley	<i>British Journal of Anaesthesia</i>
Prof J Hall	Royal College of Anaesthetists' Council
* Prof A Klein	<i>Anaesthesia</i>
Dr D Martin	Academic Training Coordinator
* Prof R Moonesinghe	Director, Health Services Research Centre
Prof R Pearse	Director, UK Perioperative Medicine Clinical Trials Network
* Dr B Ratnayake	Specialist Society Representative (2019 – 2020)
* Prof M Wilson	NIAA Grants Officer

NIAA Research Council:

Dr J Coles	Neuro Anaesthesia & Critical Care Society
Dr K El-Boghdady	Difficult Airway Society
Prof F Gao	NIHR Senior Investigator
Dr G Kunst	Association for Cardiothoracic Anaesthesia and Critical Care
Prof D Menon	NIHR Senior Investigator
* Dr A Owen	NIAA Trainee Representative
* Dr R Ramsaran	Society for Education in Anaesthesia UK
* Dr B Ratnayake	British Society of Orthopaedic Anaesthetists
Dr K Samuel	Research & Audit Federation of Trainees, Chair
* Dr D Taylor	Vascular Anaesthesia Society of Great Britain & Ireland
* Lt Col T Woolley	Royal Centre for Defence Medicine

* **Attended meeting remotely**

In attendance:

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

Apologies:

Dr S Courtman	Association of Paediatric Anaesthetists of Great Britain & Ireland
Dr M Davies	Association of Anaesthetists
Ms J Dorey	Royal College of Anaesthetists' Lay Committee rep
Prof D Lambert	<i>British Journal of Anaesthesia</i>
Dr A Macfarlane	Regional Anaesthesia UK
Dr M Nathanson	Chair, NIAA Research Council (to September 2020)
Dr F Plaatt	Obstetric Anaesthetists' Association

NIAAB+RC/02.2020/1

WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and introductions were made around the room and on the phone. Apologies were noted as above.

NIAAB+RC/02.2020/2

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Minutes of the Board/Research Council meeting held on 18 July 2019 and the Board meeting on 30 October 2019 were discussed and agreed as accurate. There were no further comments made.

ACTION: Ms Hines to upload the confirmed non-confidential minutes of both meetings to the NIAA website.

NIAAB+RC/02.2020/3 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising to discuss as previous actions had been completed or were to be discussed as agenda items in this meeting.

NIAAB+RC/02.2020/4 ACADEMIC TRAINING

Dr Martin advised members that through the knowledge gathering exercise he had been undertaking on NIHR ACF/CL posts across the country he had discovered that in general trainees have the view that the main barrier to these posts is a lack of centrally coordinated information on where these opportunities are and it is not clear what is available on a national level; local information is not routinely widely shared. Dr Martin had managed to call together all individual parties who are involved in coordinating these posts nationally, and through these people will start to pool together a central resource that can be shared through the NIAA, RCoA and NIHR. Dr Martin also noted that the next stage of development for this strand of work will include producing equivalent information relevant to the devolved nations.

Dr Martin also discussed a proposed national mentoring scheme for senior academic trainees and newly appointed academic consultants, which could potentially be offered as a formal mentorship training scheme integrated through the Association's existing programme. Prof Menon suggested that based on his own experience, the proposed mentoring programme could also be mapped to the Academy of Medical Science's existing model as an alternative. It was noted that both existing schemes may actually be complementary of each other. Prof Pearce also noted that any new scheme should take into consideration the POMCTN Chief Investigator scheme, which offers a similar element of mentoring, so as to avoid any crossover and ensure there is a good level of awareness amongst the relevant cohorts. There was also discussion highlighting the differences between mentorship and sponsorship and how useful it is to access this in the earlier stages of one's career, and at crucial crossover periods. It was suggested that Dr Martin should contact both Prof Menon and Dr Ferguson outside of the meeting to discuss both the Academy of Medical Science and Association's mentoring programmes respectively and how these could be beneficial in developing the new scheme, and return to the next NIAA meeting with a worked up proposal.

ACTION: Dr Martin to discuss proposed mentoring scheme with Prof Menon and Dr Ferguson

ACTION: Dr Martin to work up a more detailed mentoring scheme proposal for discussion at the next NIAA meeting

Dr Samuel provided an update on RAFT activities, noting that their AGM had been held recently. She also advised that RAFT had just completed a collaborative qualitative survey looking at airway management which is expected to publish results by April. RAFT are currently accepting proposals for its national project selection process, with pitches to take place in May and the final topic selection due in July. RAFT had made a presentation at the RCoA Council meeting at the end of 2019 to request support both financially and with academic supervision. This had been met with broad Council support however the details of how this support will be provided, and by whom, are yet to be established. RAFT also plan to conduct national surveys to assess how equalities, diversity and inclusion has an effect on trainee network exposure to research opportunities and the impact of these on trainee's personal experiences. There was discussion on the two previous RAFT studies and that neither have yet published any results, with questions on whether there is any timeline for this. This was acknowledged and attributed to difficulties in establishing a proper handover of information from the outgoing committee, and whether there is anything the NIAA can do to move this forward. Dr Ferguson mentioned that a discussion group of Association members has been set up to look at how the Association may support RAFT going forward and help retain its independence. Dr El-Boghdadly suggested that a proactive way forward may be for a senior academic with publishing experience to help push the delayed study publications forward; Prof Moonesinghe suggested there may already be senior members already involved in each respective study group that should be consulted first. Prof Grocott agreed to help support this course of action.

ACTION: Prof Grocott to liaise with Dr Samuel to assist progression of previous RAFT projects to publication stage

NIAAB+RC/02.2020/5 EQUALITIES, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Prof Moonesinghe introduced the final draft of the recommendation paper which had been prepared by the task and finish group, who were thanked for their input in the work undertaken. It was noted that the recommendations had been drafted for action to be taken by various NIAA stakeholders including the Board and specialist society partners. The intention is that stakeholders should be encouraged to take the recommendations back to their respective Boards and Councils to be discussed and implemented, with a suggestion to report back on progress to the NIAA on an annual basis. Comments were also made on ensuring that these recommendations should be considered together with any existing policies and with the intention of developing a unified front amongst partner organisations, for example with speaker diversity and an event code of conduct. A question was raised about the level of authority the NIAA can expect to have over imposing the recommendations made. Some of the onus will be on individual organisations and their own existing EDI statements, if any, and making sure these are regularly reviewed in conjunction with the drafted recommendations. It was also noted that the focus on early career researchers under recommendation 3 relating to large career awards may not be entirely appropriate, when it could be argued that more support is required later in one's career for example when transitioning to professor level. It was suggested that recommendation 3 may be too specific and should be re-worded. There was overall support for the contents and tone of the document and its proposed actions and the working group were commended for a job well done, however it was noted that some partners may not be in a position to immediately implement all recommendations. Prof Moonesinghe noted that some of the recommendations may require financial input from the NIAA, and queried how these costs may be met. It was suggested that a formal financial proposal should be presented at a future Board meeting for discussion.

ACTION: Prof Moonesinghe to re-draft recommendation 3 to be more inclusive of researchers at different stages in their careers

ACTION: All NIAA partners to circulate EDI document and recommendations to their respective Boards and Councils

ACTION: Prof Moonesinghe is to return a worked up financial proposal for discussion at the next NIAA meeting

NIAAB+RC/02.2020/6 EQUIPOISE

Prof Pearse provided a verbal update to members outlining the work undertaken by the task and finish group to develop an initiative on the issue of equipoise within the specialty, which had involved convening a meeting to discuss how to take the work forward. The group had decided to assemble a team of participants that would deliver the agreed activities including drafting a position statement and engaging in public conversations through journal articles and online content on the topic as well as conducting a piece of research, which will be overseen by the core working group that is made up of members from the NIAA founding partners. Prof Pearse estimates that there would be a financial implication of roughly £2,000-£3,000 towards research costs. Members requested that Prof Pearse return to the Board with a costed proposal for further discussion.

ACTION: Prof Pearse to draft a costed proposal for further Board discussion

NIAAB+RC/02.2020/7 NIAA EXTERNAL REVIEW 2020

Prof Grocott provided a brief verbal update, advising members that diary coordination of the invited review panel has been proving difficult due to their international geographical locations, however plans are being developed for the panel members to be convened during the RCoA Anaesthesia 2020 meeting in May and it was noted that a review chair has accepted the role – Sir Bruce Keogh. Prof Grocott assured members that work on the review is in progress and expected to be delivered within the original timeframe outlined.

NIAAB+RC/02.2020/8 ANAESTHESIA RESEARCH 2019/2020

Prof Grocott introduced the circulated paper which included feedback on the 2019 event and a proposal to run a similar event in 2020. Members were invited to comment on the 2019 feedback, which was generally very positive. Prof Klein raised questions on whether the event actually ran at a loss based on the figures presented, and also commented on the ARS and CTN continuing to plan their own events for 2020 alongside the York meeting and whether continuing these separate events defeat the purpose of a joint meeting. Mr Goodwin explained that the costs of this event were met due to absorbing the existing annual meeting budget for two separate NIAA and CTN events – the NIAA ASM and CTN Autumn meeting – neither of which went ahead in 2019 as they were each folded

in to the programme for the York meeting. It was also noted that these regular events are usually not expected to be hugely profitable as they are budgeted to break even. Prof Pearse also explained that as the CTN usually holds two of its own meetings per year, they had agreed to forego one of these separate meetings to be part of the joint Anaesthesia Research meeting. The CTN membership had felt this to be a positive experience that added a different dimension to their usual meetings, but noted that the multi-strand nature of the programme meant there was less CTN content than they would have liked. Prof Galley agreed this was also true for the ARS. It was acknowledged that both the ARS and CTN would prefer to retain one of their two respective independent annual meetings alongside the joint York meeting, as their own meetings allow more room on the programme to focus on their relevant areas of research and to cater to their specific respective audiences, but each were happy to sacrifice one annual meeting in order to support the collaborative event. The discussion continued on the many possible ways to gauge the success of the meeting – effective partner collaboration, keeping delegate costs low and budgeting to break even as opposed to the meeting making a profit, positive delegate feedback and engagement, high attendance figures – and how these measures can help decide whether it is viable to repeat the meeting this year. It was agreed that a programme organising committee should be brought together to start discussions for the 2020 event to include all founding partners, stakeholders and trainees. Other suggestions were also made on how best to coordinate the poster competition and the NIAA Research Award including possibly splitting into categories and displaying posters electronically, which would need to be discussed further by the programme committee.

ACTION: Ms Hines to set up teleconference for Anaesthesia Research organising committee

NIAAB+RC/02.2020/9 NIAA ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Prof Grocott introduced the two requests submitted from POETTS and RAFT, for associate membership of the NIAA. Both organisations had submitted an outline of their activities, aims, and their expected contribution to the NIAA. There were no objections from members to either request.

ACTION: Ms Hines to send written confirmation of NIAA Associate membership status to both POETTS and RAFT

NIAAB+RC/02.2020/10 RCS RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE

Prof Grocott advised members that as both himself and Prof Pearse currently attend the Royal College of Surgeons' Research Committee meetings in a shared role as co-opted members to represent the NIAA, and asked for members' opinions on inviting a member of the RCS Committee to join the NIAA Research Council as a co-opted member to reciprocate and encourage joint working. It was noted that there is a well-established trainee network within the RCS, which may be helpful to the anaesthesia trainee network. There were no objections to this suggestion.

ACTION: Ms Hines to invite RCS Research Committee to nominate a representative to co-opt to the NIAA Research Council

NIAAB+RC/02.2020/11 NIAA GRANTS

Dr Wilson introduced his written report summarising the most recent grant round at the end of 2019. Prof Moonesinghe noted the lower number of applications for smaller grants and queried whether discussions had been taking place within the grants committee for smaller specialist societies to consider pooling funds to provide larger grant offers to applicants. Dr Wilson agreed that these discussions are occurring on an organic basis, with numerous collaborative grants being offered in the current 2020 grants round 1. Dr Wilson also noted that his first term as Grants Officer ends in March 2020, and is subject to a second three-year term on approval from the NIAA Chair and Board. He advised that he is content to continue in post for a second term and sought approval for this. Dr Wilson suggested that succession plans should include an appointment in 2022, to allow for a full year (two grant rounds) handover period, as had been the case for his own handover with Prof Lambert which had been felt to be extremely effective. Prof Grocott suggested that any re-appointment should be discussed in the closed Executive Board meeting that would follow the main meeting, as this would have financial implications for founding partners.

NIAAB+RC/02.2020/12 BOC CHAIR OF ANAESTHESIA AWARD 2020

Prof Grocott introduced this verbal item, advising members that there had been 7 applications received for this award. Due to the conflicts of interest that Prof Grocott had declared between himself and a number of the applicants it was felt to be inappropriate that he should continue to

chair this particular process, therefore he excused himself from the room along with any applicants that were present in the meeting. Prof Menon was asked to chair this item and members discussed the most appropriate course of action given the current composition of the interview panel and to decide who should chair it. Members discussed how to establish what would constitute a conflict, and it was agreed that given Prof Grocott's own declaration of conflicts this should be acknowledged and a new chair sought. Following discussion on the remaining panel members and their levels of conflict it was agreed that it would be desirable to continue with a representative from each of the NIAA founding partners who have as few conflicts as possible, along with Dr Wilson in his capacity as NIAA Grants Officer as well as a lay representative. Prof Menon suggested that given the BOC Chair is an RCoA award it would be appropriate that the NIAA RCoA representative, Prof Hall, chairs the interview panel. Members agreed with this suggestion and Prof Hall accepted the role of panel chair.

ACTION: Prof Hall to liaise with Ms Hines to take forward further coordination on BOC Award interview date and relevant communication with review panel

NIAAB+RC/02.2020/13 JOINT RCoA/NIHR CLINICAL RESEARCH NETWORK AWARDS 2020

Ms Hines advised members that these awards would again run for another consecutive year, with the intention to open for applications later in the summer. The award winners are intended to be presented at Anaesthesia Research 2020, and three categories are available being Consultant, Trainee, and Trainee Network. The draft application form was presented for information and members were asked to assist with promoting the awards in due course. No further comments were made.

NIAAB+RC/02.2020/14 NIHR SPECIALTY GROUP

Prof Grocott discussed the key issues that included NIHR support for the NIAA's decision to address equipoise as an important area to focus on, and Prof Grocott advised Prof Pearce that a member of the NIHR specialty group had expressed an interest in joining the equipoise working group. Prof Grocott also discussed the continued increase in portfolio studies seen against declining recruitment figures for randomised trials, which he acknowledged fluctuate depending on the size of studies including those larger studies conducted by RAFT and HSRC and are an important factor in the portfolio metrics. Prof Grocott also noted there are a handful of HTA funded trials where recruitment is at risk of missing current targets and that may affect national figures for the specialty.

NIAAB+RC/02.2020/15 CLINICAL TRIALS NETWORK

Prof Pearce advised members that the finalised CTN strategy document was being presented for NIAA approval. There were no further comments or objections from members on this. He also noted that there were 4 female candidates for the Chief Investigator scheme that would be interviewed in the coming weeks. The CTN Trials Development Day and spring meeting are scheduled to be held in May, where a few new trial ideas will be discussed. Prof Pearce also advised that his six-year tenure as CTN Director will end in April 2021 and proposed that recruitment should start as soon as possible to allow a suitable handover period. Ms Drake and Mr Goodwin are to discuss taking this forward.

ACTION: Ms Drake and Mr Goodwin to discuss planning for CTN Director recruitment

NIAAB+RC/02.2020/16 HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH CENTRE

Prof Moonesinghe advised that two applications were received for the SNAP-3 Chief Investigator role and interviews will take place in March. The NELA report was published in December following delays due to the election and received positive press coverage, noting that the falling mortality rate that NELA has traditionally seen seems to have plateaued. The NAP 7, PQIP and CASAP projects are progressing well despite slightly slower than expected recruitment. Three applications had been received for the 2020 Fellowship programme, which is fewer than in previous years, however all were appointable. There had been updates to the HSRC website to align with the recent changes to the RCoA website. Plans to convene a Scientific Advisory Board in order to review the HSRC's activities and plan strategic progress are currently on hold due to a number of factors. There has been a timetable drawn up of key HSRC appointments including Director and Deputy which are both due to be made in the coming 2-3 year period, including the National Audit role which is also planned to be reconfigured to reflect the developments there have been with NAP projects in recent years.

NIAAB+RC/02.2020/17 EXPERIMENTAL MEDICINE & DISCOVERY SCIENCE

Dr Ackland provided a brief verbal update, advising that discussions on the acute care specialty group were ongoing with Prof Grocott, following a presentation given at the Anaesthesia Research 2019 meeting.

NIAAB+RC/02.2020/18 MILITARY ANAESTHESIA

Col Woolley advised that there are now three military ACF appointees, including both an RAF and a Navy trainee respectively that were recently appointed following an earlier Army appointment in 2019. Col Woolley also advised that the appointment process for his successor as Defence Professor has started, and advised that his department are in the process of formalising the requirement for NIAA endorsement for this role as it currently stands as an informal requirement. Prof Grocott advised that he has agreed to review the CV submissions and noted that he has asked Dr Wilson to assist with this. In determining which candidates are deemed suitable to be put forward for the role Col Woolley has offered to extend his post as the Army candidate for a further two years if necessary, as currently no other candidates are felt to be suitable and no CVs have been put forward. So far there has only been 1 CV submitted for review, which is the Navy candidate Dr Hutchings. There is no RAF candidate currently suitable. The Senior Medical Advisory Board will make their decision on the submissions at a panel in April. Col Woolley also advised that he will be deployed towards the end of 2020; therefore a deputy will be in place to cover his period of absence.

NIAAB+RC/02.2020/19 NIAA COMMUNICATIONS

Ms Hines introduced the written report, advising members that any suggestions for improving the communications report function including additional metrics or information that partners would find useful, should be fed in. Prof Grocott advised that further discussions on communications may be better held after the external review, and Mr Goodwin advised that a review and potential redesign of the NIAA website and communication materials is also planned and may also have some effect on this going forward.

NIAAB+RC/02.2020/20 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business discussed.

NIAAB+RC/02.2020/21 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- NIAA Board, Monday 11 May 2020, 14:00 – 16:00, Teleconference
- NIAA Board & Research Council, Tuesday 21 July 2020, 10:00 – 13:00, Teleconference
- NIAA Board, Tuesday 10 November 2020, 14:00 – 16:00, Teleconference

ACTION POINTS

Item		Responsible	Action	Due
2	Minutes of previous meeting	Ms Hines	Upload the confirmed non-confidential minutes of Research Council meeting held on 18 July 2019 and Board meeting on 30 October 2019, to the NIAA website	Next meeting
4	Academic Training	Dr Martin	Discuss proposed mentoring scheme with Prof Menon and Dr Ferguson	Next meeting
			Work up a more detailed mentoring scheme proposal for discussion	Next meeting
		Prof Grocott Dr Samuel	Liaise to assist progression of previous RAFT projects	Next meeting
5	Equalities, diversity & inclusion	Prof Moonesinghe	Re-draft recommendation 3 to be more inclusive of researchers at different career stages	Next meeting
			Return a worked up financial proposal for EDI implementation costs for NIAA discussion	Next meeting

		All NIAA partners	Circulate EDI document and recommendations to respective Boards and Councils	Next meeting
6	Equipoise	Prof Pearse	Draft a costed proposal for equipoise research costs for Board consideration	Next meeting
8	Anaesthesia Research 2020	Ms Hines	Set up teleconference for Anaesthesia Research programme committee	ASAP
9	NIAA Associate Membership	Ms Hines	Send written confirmation of NIAA Associate membership status to both POETS and RAFT	Next meeting
10	RCS Research Committee	Ms Hines	Invite RCS Research Committee to nominate a representative to co-opt to the NIAA Research Council	Next meeting
12	BOC Award 2020	Ms Hines Prof Hall	Liaise to take forward further coordination on BOC Award interview date and relevant communication with review panel	ASAP
15	Clinical Trials Network	Ms Drake Mr Goodwin	Plan recruitment for CTN Director post	Next meeting