

The Royal College of Anaesthetists, Churchill House, 35 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4SG

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ACADEMIC ANAESTHESIA

Board Meeting

**Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 27 September 2012 at 13:30 pm
in the 6th Floor Council Chamber at the Royal College of Anaesthetists**

Members:

Prof R P Mahajan	Royal College of Anaesthetists, Chairman
Ms S Drake	Royal College of Anaesthetists, Director of Education and Research
Dr E Carter	Trainee representative (Co-optee)
Prof M Grocott	Health Services Research Centre (Co-optee)
Mr D Hepworth	Lay representative, Patient Liaison Group (Co-optee)
Dr R Moonesinghe	NIAA Academic Trainee Coordinator (Co-optee)
Dr F Plaat	Obstetric Anaesthetists' Association (Co-optee)
Prof D Rowbotham	Royal College of Anaesthetists, Chairman NIAA Research Council
Dr R D Sanders	Trainee representative (Co-optee)
Prof N Webster	British Journal of Anaesthesia

In attendance:

Dr P Clyburn	Attending on behalf of Dr William Harrop-Griffiths, Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland
Prof D Lambert	NIAA Grant Officer & Communications Lead
Surg Cdr Jane Risdall	Attending on behalf of Wg Cdr Simon Turner
Miss M Casserly	Royal College of Anaesthetists, Education and Research Manager
Miss M Humphrey	HSRC Administrator
Ms C Bunnell	Committee Secretary (NIAA Administrator)

PART A

Members of the Board received a presentation from Dr Tom Clarke and Dr Gary Minto from the Peninsula Deanery regarding, 'SWARM: A trainee driven multicentre network for anaesthetic audit and research'. Please note that this presentation has been circulated separately by email.

PART B

NIAAB/32/2012 WELCOME

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting, particularly Dr Ramani Moonesinghe, NIAA Academic Trainee Coordinator, Dr Eleanor Carter, trainee representative, and Professor David Lambert in his capacity as NIAA Communications Lead, also Dr Paul Clyburn on behalf of Dr William Harrop-Griffiths for the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain & Ireland (AAGBI); Surgeon Commander Jane Risdall, on behalf of Wing Commander Simon Turner (Royal Centre for Defence Medicine) and Miss Mary Casserly, Education & Research Manager for the Royal College of Anaesthetists (RCoA).

NIAAB/33/2012 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Professor Robert Sneyd (incoming Chair of the NIAA Research Council), Professor Julian Bion (RCoA), Dr William Harrop-Griffiths (AAGBI), Colonel Peter Mahoney (Royal Centre for Defence Medicine), Professor Robert Sneyd (RCoA) and Wing Commander Simon Turner (Royal Centre for Defence Medicine).

NIAAB/34/2012 MINUTES

The confidential and non-confidential minutes of the meeting held on 19 April 2012 were approved as a correct record with the following amendment:

NIAAB/27/2012 (ii): Bullet point 2

The Hip Fracture Peri-operative Network was involved in a pilot sprint audit which aimed to recruit over 10,000 patients. It was noted that this recruitment exercise had not yet taken place.

ACTION: **NIAA Administrator** to upload the non-confidential minutes of the meeting held on 19 April 2012 to the National Institute of Academic Anaesthesia (NIAA) website.

NIAAB/35/2012 MATTERS ARISING

- (i) NIAAB/20/2012 (ii): The European Society of Anaesthesiology
The Chair reported that he had met with the Chair of the European Society of Anaesthesiology's (ESA) Research Council in June, to discuss potential opportunities for collaboration. The Chair agreed to share information about the NIAA with the Chair of his Grants Committee and would ask him to consider the NIAA for collaborative projects in the future. The Chair felt that the exercise had been very positive.

ACTION: **NIAA Administrator** to add a link to ESA on the resources page of the NIAA website and to find out if ESA would be willing to list the NIAA on their website.

(ii) NIAAB/20/2012 (v): NIAA Away Day

It was noted that the Executive Summary of the NIAA Away Day held on 11 November had been uploaded to the website and could be viewed at:
<http://www.niaa.org.uk/article.php?newsid=553>.

(iii) NIAAB/28/2012: NIAA Statement on the use of Animals in Medical Research

It was noted that an NIAA statement on the use of animals in medical research had been uploaded to the NIAA website and could be viewed at:
<http://www.niaa.org.uk/article.php?newsid=567>.

(iv) NIAAB/31/2012 DAS Professorships

The Chair reminded colleagues of the discussion held at the last meeting regarding the Difficult Airway Society's (DAS) decision to award professorships. The Chair reported that he had written to the DAS to communicate the NIAA's views about the initiative. As a result the DAS had revised its original proposal and the Board received a copy of the criteria for the appointment of 'Difficult Airway Society Professors of Anaesthesia and Airway Management'.

The criteria were comprehensive and outlined a professorship that was similar to the one-year Macintosh Professorship awarded by the RCoA. The document had already been seen by the RCoA's Council and as a result the President had asked the NIAA to establish a set of application criteria for eponymous professorships.

The Board discussed the matter in detail and agreed to appoint two or three individuals to work on a specification for these professorships. Once agreed, a formal invitation could then be sent to all specialist society members, suggesting that they approach individuals who they believed met the required standards to apply for the Macintosh Professorship. In addition, the Chair would write to the DAS and acknowledge the amendments that they had made to their original proposal.

ACTIONS: The **Chair** to appoint colleagues from the NIAA Board to draft a specification for eponymous professorships such as the Macintosh Professorship, and write to specialist societies inviting them to apply.

The **Chair** to write to the DAS formally acknowledging the changes to their original proposal.

NIAAB/36/2012 CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair reported on the following items discussed at the Research Council meeting that morning:

- (i) Collaborative Funding
The Research Council had held an encouraging discussion about the potential for joint funding between specialist societies and had agreed that the NIAA should invite funding partners to work together on specific projects. A sub-group would be set up to formalise the process and the exercise would be combined with Dr Simon Howell's work on identifying specialist society research priorities for The Database of Uncertainties about the Effects of Treatments (UK DUETS).
- (ii) Mentoring
A report from Professor David Lambert on the first district general hospital visit had revealed that there was a clear demand for the NIAA to provide a mentoring service to trainees.
- (iii) NIHR Specialty Group 'Anaesthesia, Peri-operative Medicine and Pain Management'
The specialty group was progressing well and despite the possibility of a change to the structure of the national specialty group networks, Professor Martin Leuwer was working hard to retain the group's individual status.

NIAAB/37/2012 MEMBERSHIP OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL RESEARCH CHARITIES

Following the publication of the Department of Health's (DoH) AcoRD (Attributing the costs of health and social care Research & Development) document in May, it had become apparent that organisations belonging to the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC) could receive funding from the Department of Health for certain research activities.

The Board received a summary paper outlining the NIAA's position in relation to membership. The NIAA's lack of charitable status meant that it was not eligible to apply for full membership of the AMRC. As it would not be practical to ask each specialist society with charitable status to seek membership, the Board agreed to explore whether the College could apply as an alternative.

ACTIONS: **Ms Drake** to investigate whether the College could apply for full membership of the AMRC for the benefit of the NIAA, and whether this solution was acceptable to the AAGBI.

NIAAB/38/2012 NIAA STRATEGIC PLAN

The Board received and noted a copy of the NIAA's Strategic Plan and accompanying action plan. The Chair described both as working documents and hoped that members would help to support the achievement of the objectives contained therein.

NIAAB/39/2012 NIAA PARTNERSHIP FUNDING

The Board received the minutes of a meeting held on 19 July between the AAGBI, BJA, the Obstetric Anaesthetist's Association (OAA) and the RCoA to discuss ways in which the NIAA could develop its funding strategy by seeking partnerships with larger bodies. Since the meeting Professor Lambert confirmed that he had written to a number of organisations, including the Medical Research Council, proposing a meeting to discuss potential opportunities for collaboration.

Other ideas discussed at the meeting had included establishing a number of iBSc style studentships and investigating the possibility of working with an established clinical trials unit (CTU) or providing CTU-style services within the NIAA. Professor Lambert agreed to

present a proposal on the former at a future meeting, whilst the Chair requested that Board members invite their CTU contacts to attend a future Board meeting to provide an introduction to the operation of CTUs.

ACTIONS: Professor Webster and Professor Mike Grocott to speak to CTU contacts in their local areas and invite them to attend a future Board meeting.

NIAAB/40/2012 NIAA COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

The Research Council received a progress report from Ms Sharon Drake on the NIAA Communications Plan. It was noted that the programme of district general hospital visits was underway and that the first visit to Scunthorpe had already taken place. The NIAA had run three successful stands at the RCoA's Anniversary and Congress and the AAGBI's Group of Anaesthetists in Training (GAT) meeting in Glasgow, where many people had signed up to the NIAA's mailing list. Conversations were taking place with Dr Sam Shinde regarding the NIAA's contribution to GAT next year. Work on an NIAA flyer was underway to accompany the NIAA Comprehensive Review. Dr Mike Nathanson had kindly agreed to act as an editor for the NIAA and would be focusing on commissioning articles for the *Bulletin* and the AAGBI's *Anaesthesia News*. The NIAA website was currently under review and the first part of a military blog from Surgeon Commander Adrian Mellor on high altitude research had been uploaded to the website at: <http://www.niaa.org.uk/article.php?newsid=618>. Finally, the NIAA would be working with the College's media advisor, Simon Scott, to discuss how the NIAA could publicise its achievements more effectively.

Ms Drake reminded members that they could request a copy of the NIAA PowerPoint presentation or copies of the NIAA Comprehensive Review from the office if they were speaking at events about research. She also mentioned plans for a regular NIAA eNewsletter and invited contributions for content from members of the Research Council.

NIAAB/41/2012 ARS & NIAA SUB-COMMITTEE

- (i) The NIAA Board agreed to formally constitute the Anaesthetic Research Society (ARS) & NIAA sub-committee and received the notes of its first meeting held on 17 July 2012. Key features of the new relationship between the ARS and the NIAA were that the ARS website would be embedded within the NIAA's site, and that the ARS would lead on the provision of educational events for the NIAA. A four-day research event, incorporating the BJA Research Methodology Day and NIAA Academic Trainee Day, would be piloted at the end of 2013 and would draw on the expertise of both bodies.
- (ii) It was agreed to appoint an ARS representative to join the NIAA Board as a co-opted member and that the Board's Academic Trainee Coordinator, Dr Ramani Moonesinghe, would sit on the ARS Committee in order to allow for effective communication between the two organisations.

ACTIONS: Ms Drake to draw up a formal agreement with the ARS acknowledging their partnership with the NIAA.

cohesive strategy in terms of the support offered by the NIAA to academic trainees. Dr Moonesinghe summarised the main aims as being:

- (i) To improve access to academic training for non-academic trainees
- (ii) To fulfil the vision of Professor Pandit's Strategy for Academic Anaesthesia published in 2005 of breeding a future generation of academic anaesthetists
- (iii) To improve the profile of the NIAA.

Dr Moonesinghe suggested that these could be met by:

- (i) Providing general training for non-academic trainees through workshops which would enable them to gain skills for further training in academic anaesthesia.
- (ii) Establishing a network for trainees to enable access to academic training opportunities.
- (iii) Provide coordinated support for future academic anaesthetists by enhancing the NIAA academic trainee days with guidance from the ARS in their new capacity as educational lead for the NIAA.

Dr Moonesinghe also emphasised the importance of mentoring which had already been discussed by the NIAA Research Council that morning, and was one of the key services missing from the NIAA's 'offer' to trainees.

The Chair welcomed the strategy and looked forward to seeing a timeline for its implementation in due course. The Board noted that Dr Moonesinghe was keen to produce a regular progress report on NIAA activity in relation to its support for trainees.

ACTIONS: **The office** to liaise with **Dr Moonesinghe** regarding the implementation of the academic trainee strategy.

NIAAB/46/2012

HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH CENTRE

- (i) HSRC Executive Management Board
The Board received a copy of the minutes from the Executive Management Board meetings held on 17 April, 20 June and 30 July 2012, for information.
- (ii) HSRC Update
The Board received a report from Professor Mike Grocott which included the following:
 - (a) The National Emergency Laparotomy Audit (NELA)
The bid to undertake this audit had been successful and would be conducted in partnership with the Royal College of Surgeons and the Intensive Care National Audit and Research Centre (ICNARC). Funded by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) to the value of £1,039,031 over three years it would formally commence on 1 December.
 - (b) Hip Fracture Peri-operative Network
Work on a pilot sprint audit was ongoing with a three month sample anticipated at the beginning of 2013.

(c) National Audit Projects (NAPs)

Professor Jaideep Pandit, NAP5 Lead, confirmed that a very active meeting of the NAP5 Steering Panel had taken place the previous day and that a large number of reports had been received about awareness to date. A scoping exercise for NAP6 was underway and Dr Iain Moppett would be conducting a review of NAPs 3 and 4.

(c) Clinical Measures Development Programme

Two systematic reviews had been completed by Dr Ramani Moonesinghe so far and were in the process of being submitted to the *BMJ* and *Anesthesiology* for publication. A quality measures survey had been drafted by contacts at Imperial and the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) for distribution to the Quality Audit and Research Coordinators (QuARCs). These documents would be discussed further at the RCoA/HSRC Working Group on Quality Measures in Anaesthesia meeting on 10 October 2012.

(d) Events

The next HSRC UK Peri-operative Clinical Research Forum would take place on 21 January 2013 in Birmingham. Following that, the next forum would be built into the four-day ARS research event taking place in September 2013. The first Pain Research Forum was scheduled for 1 November 2012 and would be chaired by Professor David Rowbotham.

(e) Presentations

Professor Grocott would be making a presentation to the RCoA Patient Liaison Group (PLG) on 11 December to discuss, in particular, the issue of Patient Public Involvement.

(f) Recruitment

Dr Mike Galsworthy had been appointed as the HSR Researcher in June and Dr Matthew Oliver had been appointed as the HSR Fellow in August.

(g) European Surgical Outcomes Study (EuSOS)

This had been facilitated by the HSRC within the UK and a report from Dr Rupert Pearse on its outcomes had been published in the *Lancet* on 21 September.

The Chair congratulated Professor Grocott on the scale of activity achieved by the HSRC in such a short time.

NIAAB/47/2012

MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD

The Board approved a proposal from the Chair that Professor Lambert be formally co-opted to the Board in his capacity as NIAA Grants Officer and Communications Lead.

NIAAB/48/2012

MEETING DATES

Thursday 31 January 2013

Thursday 25 April 2013
Thursday 17 October 2013

NIAAB/49/2012 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair concluded the meeting by thanking Professor Rowbotham for his outstanding contribution to the foundation and development of the NIAA, as this was his last meeting.

GLOSSORY OF ACRONYMS

AAGBI	Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland
ACTA	Association of Cardiothoracic Anaesthetists
ARS	Anaesthetic Research Society
ASG	Anaesthesia Speciality Group
ASIG	Anaesthesia Special Interest Group
BJA	British Journal of Anaesthesia
BOC	British Oxygen Chair
CCRN	Comprehensive Clinical Research Networks
CLRN	Comprehensive Local Research Networks
CRN	Clinical Research Network
DAS	Difficult Airway Society
DMA&CC	Department of Military Anaesthesia and Critical Care
EMB	Executive Management Board
EPICOT	Evidence, Population, Intervention, Comparison, Outcome, Time stamp
FPM	Faculty of Pain Medicine
JLA	James Lind Alliance
NCRPSE	National Clinical Research Priority Setting Exercise
NIAARC	National Institute of Academic Anaesthesia Research Council
NIHR	National Institute for Health Research
NTNs	National Training Numbers
OAA	Obstetric Anaesthetists' Association
RA UK	Regional Anaesthesia UK
RCoA	Royal College of Anaesthetists
SEA UK	Society for Education in Anaesthesia, UK
UKPRF	UK Perioperative Research Forum
VASGBI	Vascular Anaesthesia Society of Great Britain & Ireland