

MINUTES

BHRS Council – Wednesday 15th February 2023 @ 10:00

Held via Zoom

PRESIDENT: Alistair Slade (AKBS)

PRESIDENT ELECT/SECRETARY: Eleri Gregory (EG)

TREASURER: Steve Murray (SM)

DOCTOR REP: John Paisey (JP), Vivienne Ezzat (VE), Joseph de Bono (JDB), Ross Hunter (RH),

PHYSIOLOGIST REP: Phil Durkin (PD), Chloe Howard (CH), Amy Dutton (AD),

NURSE REP:

OTHER REPS: Simon Holmes (SH) – MHRA

Stuart Allen (SA) – Accreditation Committee Chair

Derek Connelly (DC) – Scottish representative

Dewi Thomas (DT) – Welsh Working Group

Francis Murgatroyd (FM) – Registry & Audit Committee Chair (in part)

ADMIN: Steve Sadler (SS), Pauline Heery (PH) – (TWeb)

1. Apologies for absence

Anya Murray, Bridgette Smith, James Cranley, Mark Dayer, Ashley Nisbet, Paul Foley, Heather Herbert, Cristiana Monteiro, Catherine Laventure.

2. Agree minutes of previous Council meeting

Already complete.

3. Matters arising not covered elsewhere

a. GIRFT Cardiology Report

It was believed this is still an issue as some centres have ceased face to face appointments due to the report. AKBS and JDB to meet offline.

ACTION: AKBS/JDB – meeting offline.

b. Bullying survey

VE and CM have met online. Bridgette has agreed to represent nurses. A first draft is being composed.

c. Guidance for pregnant women in labour with ICDs

JDB reported good progress with a zoom meeting scheduled in March. PF and EG are assisting in revising the document which includes advice regarding C-sections and pacemakers. Remove JP and HD from titles moving forward.

ACTION: TWeb – update associated names.

d. Electronic cars

AKBS to contact SH to establish date for offline meeting for electronic cars and FSN.

ACTION: AKBS – set up meeting with SH

e. Arrhythmia guidelines for NHS paramedics

SM reported that the group is looking to update advice and JDB will be overlooking the final document. They are due to meet again this afternoon.

f. Management of FSNs

EG reported little interest in setting up a separate WhatsApp group. CM has offered to feed into the existing EP group anything relevant regarding FSN.

g. Review of NHSE PIFU arrhythmia pathway

A draft document has been composed by VE, JDB and Katy Horton-Fawkes and was circulated with the agenda. TWeb to recirculate for comments with a deadline of mid-March for comments. After final review BHRS will be asked to approve and endorse.

ACTION: TWeb – circulate document with a comment deadline.

4. President's Report

a. BHRS/A-A HRC relationship

At this point DC left the meeting due to potential conflict of interest. AKBS confirmed an impartial mediated meeting has been scheduled with A-A regarding Heart Rhythm Congress for 17th March. AKBS, EG and JDB will be in attendance from BHRS. As past Presidents of HRUK/BHRS Edward Rowland and Derek Connelly will act as impartial mediators.

AKBS to finalise the list of requests that would allow equal participation in the organisation and delivery of HRC. BHRS council to agree list prior to the meeting.

ACTION: AKBS – list of requests to be finalised and circulated to council for agreement.

b. Echo demand

AKBS has been approached by Martin Allen and Nathan Hall from NHS England who are doing a piece of work on echo demand and are seeking opinion on whether a more flexible approach to echo scans can be taken to reduce backlog.

The general opinion was that most patients should have at least one full scan. Repeated scans can be more focussed. CH reported that her centre has since implemented BSE triaging guidelines and this has helped with the wait. AKBS to feedback comments.

ACTION: **AKBS – feedback comments.**

c. BSH 25in25 declaration

BSH have approached BHRS for their support and placement of a physical signature on the campaign document which will aim to reduce mortality in heart failure by 25% over the next 25 years. Council agreed to support and AKBS to attend in March to sign document.

ACTION: **AKBS – confirm support and attendance.**

d. AF Ablation - NHS England Commissioning Policy. BlueTeq, PROMS etc

This policy was launched mid-December and BHRS has received several items of feedback from members. The main issue is that: centres now need to gain approval for funding from the patient's CCG before being able to add their name to a waiting list.

It was decided that MD would ideally need to appoint someone to oversee PROMS data collection. FM reported there was a potential candidate and will forward details to AKBS.

AKBS to send out a communication to members that BHRS are actively involved in discussions with NICOR and NHS England. BHRS feels the collection of PROMS is an important aspect and that we should work constructively towards a uniform method of collecting and paying for this data.

ACTION: **AKBS – communication regarding BHRS stance.**
FM – forward email details of candidate to AKBS.

e. CRG – Specialised Commissioning

AKBS briefly sat on group. Now 2 EP members Yaver Bashir(Oxford) and Richard Till (Norwich). AKBS discussed with Nick Linker and has agreed a third formal BHRS representative not necessary and would invite the two reps to feed back to Council as needed. Both have kindly already agreed to this approach.

f. Device Working Group

FM briefed Council on this group. This group was formed several years ago but very few meetings have taken place and there are currently unclear parameters. The group was formed to provide clinical advice to NHS England and NHS supply chain on new EP and CRM technology and its introduction and procurement. Roles include which products go onto the catalogue, reviewing whether pricing is fair and identifying best methods of introduction and the need for accurate data collection including setting up registries. FM welcomed the view that BHRS should have formal representation on the Group. The group will meet approximately once a month for one hour.

TWeb to ask for interest from full council on FM's behalf.

ACTION: **TWeb – email to council asking for interested applicants.**

g. Document Refresh - Device standards & ablation Standards

AKBS highlighted these documents need a check-over to see if they remain relevant or whether a refresh is needed. AKBS to approach PF to consider undertaking the device standards review given his excellent input to date in other device documents.? Ask JDB to review the ablation standards document

ACTION: **AKBS – approach PF regarding document reviews.**
 JDB – to review the ablation standards document for any relevant updates

h. Professional Liaison Group.

AKBS reported group debate with respect to the appointment of national audit leads. AKBS has secured a second Society representative on the joint appointments board with NICOR and identified Society membership as a criterion for appointment. AKBS will feedback further developments

5. Current External Groups with BHRS Representation

a. IQIPS Advisory Board

No update.

b. Academy of Healthcare Science

CH is now the rep and confirmed they are currently looking at the equivalence process.

c. RCCP

No update.

d. Resuscitation Council UK

JDB reported available funding was massively under applied for. JDB to forward to admin team to advertise any future funding opportunities.

e. SCST

No update.

f. BiCCEP

No update.

g. BCS CPCS

ACTION: **TWeb - add BCS CPCS on external groups for next time.**

6. Education Committee/Symposium

a. 28th March 2023 Symposium

JP reported organisation was going well. Council were encouraged to share social media and display posters. AKBS thanked the education committee and team for all their hard work. AKBS requested a small slot on the programme at the start.

ACTION: **JP/TWeb – add AKBS to programme.**

b. November Symposium – 6/7th Nov

Millbrook will take over the organisation of events moving forward. JP is looking for volunteers particularly for 7th Nov to help oversee stations. Simon Modi will be holding his traces course to a smaller audience the day before.

ACTION: ALL – volunteer directly to JP

c. 2024

SM asked to see Millbrook organisation quotes for reference. Save the dates to go out at the March symposium.

ACTION: TWeb – send Millbrook quotes to SM

7. Training Update

a. Curriculum

JP/DT and SA currently in discussion regarding a new 'Doctors' exam. A face to face January meeting was held to discuss this with a further review meeting planned in March at the accreditation committee/exam review meeting. Website changes to be made to reflect this. SA reported a table and information regarding the exams will be at the symposium.

SA reported DT and Honey Thomas have been invited to present at BCS on 6th June and will cover the new exam. BCS and BJCA to be asked to assist in advertisement. EHRA to be approached. JP to make contact with Tim Betts. EG to put JP in touch with Malcolm Finlay (Chair EHRA certification). EG to also revisit discounted memberships with EHRA.

**ACTION: SA/JP/EG – make relevant contact
EG – revisit discounted EHRA membership**

b. BCS 2023

Not discussed.

9. Nursing Update

In nurse rep absence SM reported the nurses have built a nurse specific survey to establish their relationship and view of the BHRS. SM authorised a £100 shopping voucher prize as an incentive to complete the survey. SM also reported authorisation of £1k nurse specific education grants (4 x £250).

9. Accreditation Update

SA reported the next exam will be held 17th May. The next exam review meeting will be held mid-March.

10. NICOR/Audit Report

MD sent over the following information in his absence:

- There has been some analysis of the ablation data (PDF circulated with agenda). Writing of the report is ongoing. MD would be grateful for any feedback, in particular any explanation for some of the observations, and any suggestions for further analysis.
- MD and FM currently validating device data
- In process of recruiting 2 patient reps for DEG

Regarding the ablation document it was noted that ablation numbers are yet to return to pre-pandemic levels. It was noted in some instances it could be down to changes in practices or priorities but more likely to be services being overwhelmed. The majority of council reported much higher wait times due to constantly dealing with emergencies.

AKBS to ask MD to insert an introductory paragraph into the document which broaches this significant change. JDB suggested the comment about re-intervention rate to be removed or amended.

ACTION: AKBS – feedback comments to MD

11. Research

a. General update

RH reported that Pier's CRAFT AF RCT trial is now funded. Zach Whinnett (Imperial) Left Bundle pacing RCT has also been funded and started. An MCTG summer meeting is planned.

b. Young research award (RH)

RH suggested the BCS model (arrhythmia focused) for this award. i.e larger submissions and presentations at a BHRS event. RH suggested a basic and clinical award – potentially multiple clinical. Agreed in principle and suggested to launch ready for the 2024 BHRS Symposium. A session should also be set aside for research at the 2024 event.

**ACTION: RH – to take forward
JP – incorporate into programme**

12. BJCA/Trainee Update

No update.

13. Admin Update

Highlights since last meeting:

- 103 tickets dealt with
- 5 newsletters sent out
- 49 social media posts
- Supported the Physician's exam meeting in January
- Assisted Education Committee with Symposium
- Lots of time on App admin

14. Website Update

- Symposium sub-site launched (including registration/ticket production)
- New ECG/EGM challenge
- May exam registration opened
- Advertised UK Cath Lab Consensus Study
- Documents launched:
 - Arrhythmia Nurse Specialist Competency Framework
 - Commissioning of Atrial Fibrillation Ablation
 - NHS Shared Care for Patients Prescribed Amiodarone

PD encouraged challenge submissions due to the amount of traffic it creates.

15. BHRS App

SS reported that the App was undergoing final approval after some issues with Apple approval. SS plans to launch softly due to concern over an influx of login questions.

16. Treasurer's Report

Balance is lower than usual but the symposium has been fully paid for and the bulk of sponsorship is due in. SM is considering adjusting the membership structure and is open to suggestions e.g. monthly membership, changing payment date. It was suggested a clearer definitive list of membership prices is needed. EG to circulate levels for comments.

ACTION: EG – circulate membership levels

17. Secretaries Report

EG reported 69 new members since last meeting with an even split of levels.

18. AOB

a. Cardio update Europe

Free places have been offered again for this year. It was decided to approach top exam performers and offer them the places in the first instance.

ACTION: EG/TWeb – to organise.

b. New Techniques/Technologies

RH suggested a webpage to help facilitation of learning new techniques. Council agreed this was a great idea. RH to put together a brief for TWeb to draft.

ACTION: RH/PD/TWeb – create new webpage

c. CRM Position Advertising

PD suggested an area where CRM positions could be advertised on the website. Council agreed. PD to implement with TWeb.

ACTION: PD/TWeb – implement advertising area.

d. Face to Face Meeting

Aim to organise the July meeting as a face to face in London with a preference for the BCS building. Aim to have at least 1 meeting per year face to face. This should be a hybrid meeting although officers would be expected to be physically present and we should plan to hold Council and AGM at forthcoming BHR symposiums.

ACTION: TWeb – book venue for July.

19. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 20th April 2023 at 10am.