

# MINUTES

## BHRS Council – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023 @ 10:00

Held via Zoom

**PRESIDENT:** Alistair Slade (AKBS)

**PRESIDENT ELECT/SECRETARY:** Eleri Gregory (EG)

**TREASURER:** Steve Murray (SM)

**DOCTOR REP:** Paul Foley (PF), John Paisey (JP), Joseph de Bono (JDB), Ross Hunter (RH),  
Ashley Nisbet (AN)

**PHYSIOLOGIST REP:** Chloe Howard (CH), Amy Dutton (AD)

**NURSE REP:** Bridgette Smith (BS), Catherine Laventure (CL)

**OTHER REPS:** Stuart Allen (SA) – Accreditation Committee Chair  
Derek Connelly (DC) – Scottish representative  
Dewi Thomas (DT) – Welsh Working Group  
Mark Dayer (MD) – Registry & Audit Committee Chair  
Heather Herbert (HH) – SCST Rep

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

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### 1. Apologies for absence

Vivienne Ezzat, Phil Durkin, Cristiana Monteiro, Anya Murray, James Cranley.

### 2. Agree minutes of previous Council meeting

Already complete.

### 3. Matters arising not covered elsewhere

#### a. GIRFT Cardiology Report

No update.

#### b. Bullying survey

No update. AKBS to chase any progress.

**ACTION:** AKBS – chase up

#### c. Guidance for pregnant women in labour with ICDs

JDB reported good progress. The consensus statement has been revised and will go to journal for acceptance and then BHRS for endorsement.

**d. Electronic cars**

No update. Post-meeting update. DC sent a recently published paper to Council confirming safety of rapid charging equipment in patients with CIED. Presented at EHRA 2023. Remove from agenda.

**e. Arrhythmia guidelines for NHS paramedics**

SM reported that the revised documentation is due for completion this month. Remove from agenda once complete.

**ACTION: TWeb – remove from agenda**

**f. Review of NHSE PIFU arrhythmia pathway**

JDB reported the document is undergoing a final tidy and is due to go to NHS England for approval in the next couple of months.

**g. SAFI Promotion by BCS**

It was brought to BHRS attention that new guidelines endorsed by BCS, A-A and several commercial companies had been released without BHRS involvement. This has been raised with the guidance lead and noted for future reference and monitoring.

**5. President's Report**

**a. BHRS/A-A HRC**

The mediated meeting was held 17<sup>th</sup> March regarding HRC with AKBS, EG and JDB in attendance from BHRS. It was agreed that a memorandum of understanding, along with viewpoints, would be drafted by both BHRS and A-A for further discussion. The BHRS memorandum was recently circulated to council for comments and has now been sent to Edward Rowland and DC as required. An exchange of memoranda will take place and a further face to face meeting will be scheduled in May or June.

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

**Communication from AICC re AF ablation and HCM:** After discussion it was decided some cases may benefit from MDT discussion rather than a blanket ban on all ablation in persistent AF in this group of patients. AKBS to draft response and forward to relevant people on council for comments.

**ACTION: AKBS – draft response for circulation to relevant members of council**

**c. Device & Ablation standards refresh**

**Ablation:** JDB is currently reviewing the document. AN offered assistance.

**Devices:** PF is currently reviewing the document and will make contact with Physiologists on council to assist.

**d. 25in25 HF summit 9th March – Royal Society**

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AKBS and EG attended the HF summit in London. The aim is to reduce heart failure mortality by 25% over 25 years.

**e. BCS Focused Echo working Party**

AKBS volunteered to attend and represent BHRS. First meeting 26<sup>th</sup> May.

**ACTION: AKBS – confirm BHRS representation**

**f. Request from Dawn Adamson for BHRS rep on NHS OHCA EAG**

JDB offered to represent BHRS on the group.

**ACTION: AKBS – confirm JDB as rep and put in touch.**

**g. Communication from Andy Turley re Medtronic ICD**

It has been raised that Medtronic nominal settings do not transmit shocks that are delivered by devices to the centre that is monitoring the patient by default. Some centres are not aware of this (as all other manufacturers transmit shocks by default) making it a potential safety concern.

It was agreed a statement should be composed by BHRS to make relevant professionals aware that events are not automatically transferred and alerts of Medtronic devices need to be manually switched on. AD to draft statement with SA assistance and circulate to council for comments.

**ACTION: AD/SA – compose statement for approval regarding Medtronic default settings**

**h. Request from Tim Betts – BCIS Structural Intervention Group BHRS Rep**

SM happy to represent BHRS. AKBS to inform group and put in touch.

**ACTION: AKBS – confirm SM as rep and put in touch.**

**i. Request from Mark Dayer – LAAO domain group BHRS rep**

MD reported the Left Atrial Appendage Occlusion group were looking for BHRS representation and someone to sit on the interview panel. SM volunteered.

**ACTION: MD – confirm SM as rep and put in touch.**

**6. Current External Groups with BHRS Representation**

**a. IQIPS Advisory Board**

EG to establish if a BHRS rep is needed. If not, remove from agenda.

**ACTION: EG – find out if BHRS rep needed.**

**b. Academy of Healthcare Science**

Nothing to report.

**c. RCCP**

No update.

**d. Resuscitation Council UK**

JDB encouraged applications and advertisement to apply for research funding.

**ACTION: TWeb – advertise available funding.**

**e. SCST**

No update

**f. BiCCEP**

AN reported that the group was very proactive and meeting regularly to discuss challenging cases. After receipt of a donation the group are looking to set up a charity and establish a registry database moving forward. Some research projects are also underway.

**g. BCS CPCS**

EG and CM currently on BCS CPCS council A physiologist and scientist session will be added to BCS agenda and invitations will be sent out shortly.

**h. Device Working Group**

Remove JDB from section. Add MD. No update.

**ACTION: TWeb – update rep names for future.**

## 7. Education Committee/Symposium

**a. March 2023 Symposium**

JP and his team were formally thanked by BHRS Council for organising a hugely successful day which has ensured BHRS are taken seriously moving forward as a realistic event organiser and have shown there is an appetite for such events.

JP presented a report which showed approximately 50% of attendees became or renewed a lapsed membership to be able to attend the symposium. He also confirmed the recordings of talks were released yesterday.

AKBS informed the group that he'd emailed symposium sponsors directly to thank them for their support and to gain their views on meetings moving forward. All responses were supportive.

Discussion was made around whether or not to continue with event plans with the ongoing meeting regarding HRC. It was agreed plans should move forward for (at least) the November 2023 and February 2024 events. The ideal for the larger event length would be a 2 ½ day event e.g. 3 days – first day with late start, last day with early finish.

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**b. November 2023 Symposium**

JP confirmed the 7<sup>th</sup> Nov will be a trainee simulation based event that would cover all professions. Confirmed are: Pacing programming (basic plus brand specific and specialised), mapping simulators, EP study simulator etc.

**c. Feb 2024**

JP confirmed the first programme committee for the Feb event will meet next week. Millbrook Medical Conferences have been commissioned to take forward these larger events. Pier will be organising abstract submissions, a young investigator award with an opportunity to present.

**8. Training Update**

**a. Curriculum**

No update.

**b. BCS 2023**

The remit this year will be updates for general cardiologists on how to manage issues.

**9. Nursing Update**

BS confirmed the nurse survey had been sent out with a closing date of 28<sup>th</sup> April. BS confirmed she had been asked to join the Feb 2024 programme committee to represent nurses.

**10. Accreditation Update**

**a. General Update**

SA reported there are currently 51 registrations so far for the May exam. The Accreditation Committee/Exam writing session took place in March 2023 in York. A live webinar/exam training session is scheduled for 5<sup>th</sup> May and has been opened to all BHRS members. There have been 69 sign ups so far. The introduction of the Physician exam has been launched. A pin badge is planned for accredited members.

**b. Reaccreditation Plan**

The following items and considerations are currently with the Accreditation Committee for comments and will return to council for full approval:

- Introduction of a BHRS points system
- Those with existing IBHRE or EHRA accreditation can reaccredit with BHRS points
- Hospital departments can also apply for BHRS points for regular departmental education sessions
- 2025 as cut off for the 5 year expiry
- Pre 2020 candidates can still reaccredit using BHRS points or at 10 years via exam
- Basic online system will be available by August 2023 to allow BHRS to upload CPD certs/BHRS points
- Reaccreditation will initially be a manual process with an aim to automate in the future

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### c. **Future Exam Plan**

The team are currently working on costings for an online mock exam (30 questions in 1 hour with instant results and feedback). The plan would be to evolve the system for the full exam from 2025. Having our own system will enable exams to have the following functions (which Pearson Vue cannot offer):

- Zoom functions
- Online callipers
- Rotation of 3D images
- Video questions, real time EGMs, EP traces, CT/MR/EP cases and Carto etc

EG reported that she and JP have met with EHRA to discuss joint accreditation and where there could be a mutually beneficial collaboration. The meeting has been summarised and EG is awaiting viewpoints back.

## 11. **NICOR/Audit Report**

MD reported positive feedback from the symposium on the NICOR presentation. The data is currently with NHS England prior to publishing.

MD highlighted the need for an accurate registry of devices. This data is likely to be collated via NICOR and be sent to MHRA.

## 12. **Research**

### a. **General update**

RH reported the CRAAFT HF trial has received funding for 1k patients. Zachary Whinnett has 2 further trials funded for physiological pacing. Pier is still working with BCS on small grants to promote multi-disciplinary research. The MultiCentre Trials Group meeting will be held in the next few months.

### b. **Young research award**

RH reported this will launch at the 2024 meeting and will work BCS style with a poster and potential for more than one category.

## 13. **BJCA/Trainee Update**

No update.

## 14. **Admin Update**

The admin team have been busy with the Symposium organisation and exam submission. Since the last meeting - 6 newsletters have been sent, 72 social media posts posted, 119 tickets answered. Graphs were presented showing a steady uplift in all work across the board.

## 15. **Website Update**

Highlights since last meeting:

- Post-symposium survey

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- March case challenge
- Released exam course materials to candidates (free)
- Sign-up for Live Education webinar: Device EGMs
- Launched Arrhythmia Nurse Survey
- Opened applications for 15 BSH funded places to BSH MDT Mtg in Glasgow
- Released symposium videos into private members library

Website traffic is good with the case challenges still being the biggest pull to the website.

## 16. BHRS App

SS of TWeb reported that the speed issues with the app have been rectified but problems with Apple have been encountered on resubmission of the App. Apple are asking for 30% of membership fees. This has been appealed.

## 17. Treasurer's Report

SM reported a balance of £195.5k (this is due to rise to £206.5k after full symposium sponsorship is received). Due to all the new outgoings and incomings it was decided the VAT application needs revisiting.

## 18. Secretary Report

EG reported a recent surge in membership due to the symposium (89 since last meeting). People are also seeing more benefits of memberships including free event places. EG reported she will be beginning the election process with TWeb shortly.

## 19. AOB

None declared.

## 20. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 18th July 2023 @ 11am at The British Cardiovascular Society Meeting Rooms, London. Hybrid facilities will be available for those who cannot make it face to face. Travel expenses will be covered.