



The Association of Coloproctology of Great Britain and Ireland

Research & Audit Committee

**Minutes of Teleconference
28 November 2016 7pm**

Chair: Nicola Fearnhead

Attendance: Austin Acheson
Simon Bach (RCS Coloproctology Research Lead)
Faheez Mohammed
Tom Pinkney
Andrew Renehan
Gabrielle Thorpe (ACPN representative)
Dale Vimalachandran

1. Apologies

Nuha Yassin (Dukes representative)

2. R&A Committee membership changes and roles

Following recent elections, DV and TP were welcomed to R&A Committee, and AA and AR congratulated on election for second term. It was confirmed that term of office is for three years and a maximum of two terms may be served on the committee.

Chair is elected for a three-year term by committee members if chosen from amongst elected representatives and by Council if no-one stands from within committee. Job description for Chair is available on website and includes serving on ACPGBI Executive and as an *ex officio* Trustee of BDRF.

NF will be standing down as Chair in July 2017, having served four years, the last year to allow transition of COP to the Asst Hon Secretary role within ACPGBI Executive. SB confirmed his re-appointment as RCS Research Lead with likely demitting of office in 12-18 months.

GT will ask ACPN if they wish to reappoint a nursing audit lead as Anna Wordley has demitted. NF has contacted Andy Williams to try and re-establish representation from the Pelvic Floor Society.

Current additional responsibilities of Committee members include representation on IBD CAG (AA and NF), representation on NBOCA CAG (NF is chair but R&A seats currently vacant as Baljit Singh and Seamus Kelly have demitted, and expressions of interest invited), website (FM), anal cancer database (AR), NASBO (NF and AA) and pouch registry (NF).

3. **Bowel Disease Research Foundation**

BDRF has appointed a new CEO Peter Rowbottom who has initiated a fund-raising campaign <http://www.bdrf.org.uk/news/newsletters/innovative-approach-brings-hope-to-patients-with-bowel-disease/>. The BDRF website has been extensively updated and made more current with promotion of BDRF-funded projects <http://www.bdrf.org.uk/news/>.

Upcoming grant rounds include a Delphi award round with grants up to £60 000 and a themed round in collaboration with IA and Kingston Trust. The R&A committee will provide external peer review and recommendations. BDRF's COI policy was discussed and accepted. SB noted that the last round of applications to BDRF had been of high quality.

The travelling research fellowship will also be advertised for the third time. It was noted that DV and TP have both held this fellowship.

4. **Delphi research programme**

SB summarized progress to date with notable successes of major funding for CIPHER and LEGO. Several groups are now up and running with different levels of need. PPI is still felt to be integral to success of the Delphi programme. ORACLE paper has now been published. PPI events have been held at RCS in support of Delphi perianal Crohn's and rectal prolapse questions. Update on 2016 progress includes 10-12 groups making progress with research projects.

Plans for 2017 are based around supporting needs of established groups, and bids for feasibility studies or major funding. Themes that will need specific development and support are rectal biopsy strategy, Stage IV colorectal cancer, IBD projects, recovery of gastrointestinal function and postoperative pain. Links with researchers in perioperative care, such as NCRI perioperative care group will be necessary to further these projects. Note was made of recently funded GAP trial (gabapentin vs placebo in postoperative care).

NASBO remains a key Delphi project for 2017 (see below).

There is willingness to support initiatives like GRANULE workshops for medical students, the pilot of which was funded by BDRF.

5. **National Audit of Small Bowel Obstruction**

NASBO is a collaboration between ACPGBI and the national research collaboratives led by Matt Lee and Adele Sayers of SYSuRG with support from WMRC. Additional support from multiple stakeholders has been sought and obtained. BDRF is the major funder. Pilot has been completed and national roll out will take place in January 2017 for 2 months. Anticipated data capture is between 1000 and 5000 cases.

6. IBD Databases

Surgical Workload Outcomes Audit Database (SWORD) pouch module has been prepared by AA and has now been approved for access by ACPGBI membership by IBD CAG. The database demonstrates activity, indication, proportion laparoscopic, gender, year, length of stay, readmission and reoperation rates. It has the utility of drilling down to regional, Trust and individual level. SWORD will be available to Consultant members of ACPGBI who will be given their own pseudo-anonymised code (based on GMC number) so that individual surgeons are protected from identification by other viewers.

The Pouch Registry is preparing for the anticipated 2017 Pouch Report. Deadline for data registration is 31 January 2017. IBD CAG had discussed lack of engagement from IBD surgeons in using the Registry and the reasons for this. A concerted strategy was in place to try and drive up upload of data on pouch patients in the Registry. GT is going to notify IBD specialist nurses of deadline to encourage local engagement.

7. Cancer audit and databases

Anal cancer database has run pilot after being established on Dendrite platform. As the database includes patient-reported outcome measures, entered by patients directly, it is felt that ethical approval is required and so an MRA application will be needed to support this aspect of the database.

NBOCA annual report 2016 is due to be published in early December 2016.

NBOCA has now established facility to collect data on anal cancer and recurrent rectal cancer treatment.

Eva Morris' application to CRUK for CORECT-R (a shared repository of all colorectal cancer databases) was supported by ACPGBI and NBOCA, and has been successful with an award of £3.4 million.

8. Wales Enquiry

Final report from the Invited Review on Cancer Outcomes in Wales will be published on 5 December 2016 and the Panel travel to Wales to discuss recommendations on 9 December 2016.

9. Website R&A content

FM has been drawing up list of trials for inclusion on the new look website. These should aim to include recruiting trials of interest to ACPGBI membership (TREC, STAR-TREC, FIAT, Foxtrot, HiP, PREPARE-ABC, LEGO, FOFAC, CIPHER, IVICA, PPAC, CREST-2) and list does not have to be exhaustive. Links to further information and basic descriptions should be included. Photographs and logos are helpful.

Overall plan is to increase footfall on website. Signposting to useful links such as research collaboratives, UK Clinical Trials Gateway, national audits, BDRF, European snapshot audits and recently published papers of major importance would all add value. Delphi research programme will also have coverage.

10. Date of next teleconference:

Poll to decide on dates in spring 2017 for discussion on grant applications and marking.

Nicola Fearnhead
30 November 2016