



# The Association of Coloproctology of Great Britain and Ireland

## **Research & Audit Committee**

**Minutes of Teleconference**

**18 April 2017 6 – 8 pm**

**Chair:** Nicola Fearnhead

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

**Apologies:** Andrew Renehan (joined towards end of call)  
Dukes Representative (currently vacant)

### **1. Confirmation of incoming R&A Committee Chair and forthcoming elections.**

Austin Acheson was congratulated on his unanimous selection as the next R&A Committee Chair. AR has served for four years as a steadfast contributor but has now decided to stand down; he was thanked for his major contribution. FM will be standing for re-election at the end of this first term. He was thanked for his hard work on updating the trials section of the ACPGBI website, and all agreed this had been a major improvement to the website.

There will be elections for three positions on R&A, as NF is also standing down.

### **2. BDRF Delphi grant applications**

#### **i) Recommendations**

As most members of the Research and Audit Committee were involved in applications, a special committee was convened to provide external peer review and make recommendations for the latest round of Delphi applications. Thanks were extended to Faheez Mohamed (only uninvolved member of R&A) who chaired the specially convened selection committee and to Neil Smart, Charles Maxwell-Armstrong and James Tiernan for marking all the applications and contributing to the final list of recommendations. In addition, they were advised by 75 separate standalone external peer reviews received on the 29 applications under consideration. The

standard of application overall was extremely high. Their recommendations have been submitted to BDRF for consideration at the next Trustees meeting.

**ii) Future approaches for delivery of recommendations**

Dealing with COI would need to be addressed in future grant rounds, on case by case need, depending on number of committee members with COI in any round.

**3. Other BDRF business**

**i) IA and Kingston Trust call <http://www.bdrf.org.uk/research/applications/>**

A themed round of applications has been sought by BDRF in collaboration with IA and Kingston Trust. The R&A committee will provide external peer review and recommendations. The applications were being vetted by IA and KT for suitability for their charitable purposes.

**ii) BDRF Patient Survey**

The BDRF had undertaken a patient survey to better understand how they may engage with patients.

**iii) 17 May Reception <http://www.bdrf.org.uk/support/individuals/events/reception/>**

All were encouraged to attend the BDRF's reception for donors and potential donors in the Hunterian Museum. Several awardees had agreed to attend.

**iv) Autumn event with industry and potential sponsorships**

SB and NF have had preliminary talks with Peter Rowbottom about an interactive researcher and industry event in late 2017.

**4. Trainee issues**

**i) Associate Surgical Specialty Lead**

Four applicants had been shortlisted for ASSL position in support of Simon Bach's role. It was agreed that the successful applicant should be co-opted onto the R&A Committee.

**ii) Young Coloproctologist of the Year**

Lyndsay Pearce won the YCPoTY award for 2017 after interview at the Motorway Course.

**5. ACPGBI Research programme**

SB, TP and NF reported on NIHR meeting 9 March 2017 which had highlighted discrepancies between NIHR portfolio and ACPGBI portfolios. GRANULE had attracted significant interest. ACPGBI website details on trials had been provided. ACPGBI Delphi research programme was also discussed.

Review of PPI events in rectal prolapse and ileocaecal Crohn's disease, and completion of core outcome set in perianal Crohn's disease noted.

Meeting of GI Recovery group planned for 28 April 2017 and launch of ACPGBI IMPACT initiative arranged for 15 May 2017 with support from an advanced malignancy PPI event on 26 June 2017.

SB and NF both suggested that a new initiative needs to be launched after Delphi while still supporting ongoing Delphi projects. This would fall to AA as the incoming Chair.

## **6. National Audit of SBO**

NASBO had successfully concluded in March 2017 with recruitment of 2 500 patients from 192 centres. Validation phase is underway and results are anticipated for autumn 2017. NASBO was felt to have been a very successful initiative as a collaboration.

## **7. IBD databases**

### **i) Pouch Registry and 2017 Pouch Report**

The 2017 Ileoanal Pouch Report is due for publication in July 2017.

### **ii) SWORD IBD modules**

The pouch module of SWORD is accessible to members but few have taken up the option to look at the data. AA continues to work with Methods Analytics on the other IBD modules with a view to making these available to members in July 2017, even if not yet perfected, due to coding issues.

## **8. Bournemouth Annual meeting 2017**

### **i) Plenary research symposium**

The plenary research symposium on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July at 4pm will consist of a research show followed by breaking trials. The breaking trials for presentation in the plenary research session are FOxTROT, TREC, RAPIDO, eTHoS and FIAT. All presenters had confirmed acceptance.

Much of the teleconference was devoted to plans for a presentation of colorectal research show covering the breadth of research trials throughout the UK, together with a showcase of elements from the Delphi programme, PPI events, GRANULE and NASBO, in a show business style format. NF had negotiated additional budget with the programme committee to cover lighting, special effects including music, sound, smoke and indoor pyrotechnics, as well as a producer for the presentation.

Rehearsals would be required prior to presentation, given the large cast of involved researchers and need for choreography. DV agreed to provide a format to structure this session. Patient videos were suggested as a way of involving patients in this session.

A lengthy list of trials and researchers was compiled to ensure widespread coverage of colorectal research.

### **ii) Patient Liaison Group session on research and PPI**

The PLG are running their inaugural session at an annual meeting on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July to showcase PPI in research and charitable work.

### **iii) Bournemouth Delphi**

The Bournemouth Delphi will be based on a consensus in gastrointestinal recovery to be developed in association with the ASSL when appointed.

#### **9. Proposal for Robotic Surgery Database**

A suggestion for a voluntary charity-funded database for robotic surgery had been received from Professor Tekkis. Given concerns about lack of engagement with voluntary databases and Intuitive's funding of an ESCP-sponsored database on robotic surgery, it was thought advisable to support the ESCP initiative rather than working in isolation.

#### **10. Date of next meeting:**

3 July 2017 9.30 – 10.30am in Bournemouth

**Nicola Fearnhead**  
**30 April 2017**