

Summary of Minutes of CGS Council meeting June 21st 2007

The meeting was held at NOWGEN and was chaired by Alan Fryer. The meeting was attended by Karen Temple (Vice-President), Helen Kingston (General Secretary), Trevor Cole (Treasurer), Sahar Mansour (Conference Organiser and Regional Co-ordinator), Duncan Rourke, Lily Islam, Peter Lunt, Sue Holder, Angela Brady, John Dean, Jill Clayton-Smith, Carol Gardiner, Michael Wright, Peter Turnpenny and in attendance was Rob Elles, chairman-elect BSHG.

General issues:

CGS membership stood at 448.

Tessa Homfray was invited to become a full Council member, due to her ranking in the 2007 ballot, since Dorothy Trump's term of office was being deferred until 2008-2010.

It was agreed that elected members of Council and co-opted members representing particular Sub-Groups/Committees, or reporting on current progress of Working Parties, should be invited to all Council meetings with wider representation at Council away-days to maximize input into Council business.

Professor Sir David Lane has agreed to be Carter Lecturer in 2008.

It was noted that John Burn had suggested holding a joint meeting with another national society e.g. Dutch Clinical Genetics Society. The Conference Organiser will consider taking this forward.

The death of Kendal Bird, Commissioner for Oxford, who had made a significant contribution, was sadly noted.

The following protocol was agreed for the appointment of new CGS representatives on various committees:

- Nominations accompanied by a short personal statement would normally be sought from the membership via the Regional Network and chosen by President/Secretary.
- When the Society is asked to provide representatives to be chosen by another body i.e. RCP, all nominations and statements will be submitted.
- When particular expertise is required, the President may directly approach a specific individual without going to the full membership.
- If there are no applicants, Society Officers will identify and approach a suitable member.
- Council will specify what is expected of its representatives in terms of providing feedback reports and term of office.
- This protocol will be posted on the website and circulated with request for volunteers.

Items discussed of general interest:

- The current Constitution of the Society was ratified in 1995. The President asked Council members to review the Constitution prior to discussion at the away day, so that changes can be put to the 2008 AGM.
- Links with developing Genetic services outside the UK - Rob Elles reported that a substantial business case involving development of genetic testing in India using British expertise, was currently being considered as a commercial venture. The proposal may provide the opportunity for a senior clinician to work in a developing centre for 3 months or more, with funding to appoint a locum during absence from their NHS post. Rob was asked to keep the President informed of developments. The complementary CGS initiative of inviting an overseas geneticist from a developing centre to make a presentation at CGS Conference and visit one or more UK centres, as agreed at the Council meeting of November 2006, is to be taken forward. At a future

date it may be possible to consider funding for a reciprocal visit from the UK geneticist involved. An application form for visiting overseas geneticists will be drafted and circulated to Council. A description of the scheme and an application form for visiting sponsorship would be posted on the web site.

- CGS Research network – Rob Elles stressed the need for a network and an integrated IT system for therapeutic trials that will be coming on-line. The development of a clinical network and possibility of a Research Network Committee to be discussed at the away day next year and led by Karen Temple.
- Carol Gardiner, chair of the Heads of Service group reported that the current indicative tariff has been removed. The Heads of Service Group was continuing work on calculating realistic tariffs. Lack of uniformity in defining and counting activity between centres remained problematic. The need for an overnight meeting of the Heads of Service Group to resolve the issue of counting and costing activity was recognized and is to be financed by CGS. There is majority support (including UKGTN and GENCAG) for the unbundling of genetic test costs, both local and send-away tests, from clinical costs, but there are major differences in current practice between centres. Input from Clinical Genetics is needed to determine the utility of Genetic tests and gate-keeping roles need to be defined.
- Quality Markers Survey - despite reservations about the utility of this survey and different methods of counting, participation was encouraged. The delay of feedback from last year's survey has been acknowledged by the DH and the lack of IT systems to support data collection is recognised.

Committee reports:-

- Clinical Governance sub-committee - the sub-committee will review Pedigree Drawing guidelines in light of recent concerns about ownership of information, in liaison with the DOAS team and Genethics club. A timetable will be drawn up for reviewing other CGS guidelines. A draft guideline on "Assessment of Guidelines" was tabled and discussed.
- SAC report - the curriculum and Assessment blue print have been approved by PMETB.
- Trainee report - there remained great concern among SpRs about Consultant job prospects. A recent survey indicated that a considerable proportion have thought of transferring to careers outside Clinical Genetics. It was agreed to contact the Lead Dean to see if all Deaneries will be receptive to extending the post CCT grace period by a further 6 months. It was also reported that many Deaneries were restricting study leave budgets and it was noted that although specific courses are not mandatory, courses such as the counseling course, had almost become so, and accounts for most/all of an annual trainee budget. The trainee representatives will gather information about study leave budget variations between regions.
- Reports from BSHG council meeting and away day, Joint Medical Genetics Committee and UKGTN were tabled and discussed.
- A draft final report from the Prenatal Genetics Working Party was discussed.
- More information about the activity of "Eye Genetics Group" would be sought.

Summary prepared by Alan Fryer.