APPROVED 21/06/2007

# Joint UKBTS/NIBSC Professional Advisory Committee

**Minutes of the 37th Meeting held at the**
**West End Donor Centre, London, on Thursday 1st March 2007**

**Meeting commenced at 11:10 am**

**PRESENT**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dr Bruce Cuthbertson | **(BC)** | - | Representing the Quality Managers of the 4 UK Blood Services |
| Dr Morag Ferguson | **(MF)** | - | National Institute for Biological Standards and Control |
| Prof. Ian Franklin | **(IMF)** | - | Medical Director, Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service |
| Dr George Galea | **(GG)** | - | Standing Advisory Committee on Tissues |
| Mr Nigel Goulding | **(NG)** | - | Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency |
| Dr Patricia Hewitt | **(PEH)** | - | Standing Advisory Committee on Transfusion Transmitted Infections |
| Dr Stephen Inglis | **(SI)** | - | Director, National Institute for Biological Standards and Control |
| Dr Richard Jones | **(RJ)** | - | Medical Director, Welsh Blood Service |
| Dr Sheila MacLennan | **(SM)** | - | Standing Advisory Committee on Blood Components |
| Dr Brian McClelland | **(BMc)** | - | Professional Director of JPAC (Chair) |
| Dr Morris McClelland | **(MM)** | - | Medical Director, Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service |
| Dr Willie Murphy | **(WM)** | - | National Medical Director, Irish Blood Transfusion Service |
| Dr Derek Norfolk | **(DN)** | - | Standing Advisory Committee on Clinical Transfusion Medicine |
| Mr Stuart Penny | **(SP)** | - | Standing Advisory Committee on Information Technology |
| Dr Derwood Pamphilon | **(DP)** | - | Standing Advisory Committee on Stem Cells |
| Prof. Stan Urbaniak | **(SU)** | - | Standing Advisory Committee on Immunohaematology |
| Dr Lorna Williamson | **(LW)** | - | Representing the Medical Director, NHS Blood and Transplant |
| Ms Yvonne Elliot | **(YE)** | - | Minute taker |

**WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed NG who was attending the JPAC meeting for the first time and Yvonne Elliot who was attending in the absence of Caroline Smith. The members requested that their good wishes for a rapid recovery be passed on to CJS.

**Action**

**1. APOLOGIES**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dr David Hutton | **(DH)** | - | Standing Advisory Committee on Care and Selection of Donors |
| Dr Chris Rudge | **(CR)** | - | Medical Director, UK Transplant |
| Dr Angela Robinson | **(AER)** | - | Medical Director, NHS Blood and Transplant |
| Miss Caroline Smith | **(CJS)** | - | JPAC Manager |

**2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING 1ST NOVEMBER 2006**

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

**Action**

**3. MATTERS ARISING NOT ON THE AGENDA (Review of actions list) JPAC 07-01**

**3.1. Component Quality: red cell content – item 3.7.**

DN is working with the Haemoglobinopathy Clinicians and the Thalassaemia Association to identify the impact of reduced red cell content with prion filtration. Also considering impact for patients with MDS. Will send interim report to LW for forthcoming meeting of Prion Reduction Working Group on 18th April. **BMc**

**Actions:**

- DN will provide his report for next JPAC meeting on 21st June 2007. **DN**
- BMc will send information about joint the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens TSE Working Group/ CJD Incidents Panel Highly Transfused Patients Working Group **BMc**

**3.2. Component quality: reliability of leucocyte removal – item 3.9**

The data has been supplied to the Blood Services and filter manufacturers.
LW tabled a preliminary report from Stephen Dobra (ESOR) JPAC paper 07-26 "Note on Leucocyte Depletion Failure and vCJD Risk version v0.1" SA Dobra 27/02/07.

The preliminary conclusion of this paper is as follows:

"Under both high and low infectivity scenarios, whether or not a red cell unit in additive solution is effectively leucodepleted (i.e. within specification), it is always certain to cause infection. Consequently it is not possible to quantify the increased residual risk due to any failures in leucodepletion".

It was noted in discussion that while cell washing may be an attractive option for plasma removal, the procedure would be demanding since even 0.1ml plasma would be infective on the vCJDIP assumptions of infectivity and prevalence.

**Action:** Members agreed to study paper JPAC 07-26 and provide comments LW by Friday 9th March 2007. **All**

*Post Meeting Note: Electronic version of paper JPAC 07-26 circulated to JPAC on 25th April 2007.*

**3.3. Simian Foamy Virus (SFV) – item 3.11.**

The Chair had referred back to SACTTI the decisions taken by JPAC on 1st November meeting and invited JPAC to discuss again the draft recommendations. During an extensive discussion the following points were touched on:
If there was judged to be a risk, then a donor exclusion criterion was required.
The proposal agreed at the previous meeting was, on consideration, felt to be impracticable.

There was not general acceptance of the argument that had been advanced at the previous meeting that a group of individuals, for whom there is evidence that they often become infected with an animal virus that is apparently non pathogenic both in the host species and in humans, should be excluded from blood donation on the grounds that this evidence suggest they could be at risk of infection with other unrecognised animal agents.

The following conclusions were reached:

1. No additional exclusion criterion should be introduced at this time.
2. This decision should be kept under regular review.

**Action**

3. The previous decision to contact employers of persons who work with primates was reversed, since this was felt to carry the risk of numerous complications.

4. Should the decision be made at a future date to introduce a donor exclusion related to SFV, steps should be take at that time to pre-warn organisations that may employ workers who would be affected by this, should they volunteer to give blood.

**Action:** JPAC agenda item for 1st March 2008 **CJS**

**3.4. Minutes of the QA Managers Meetings – item 3.15**

*Post Meeting Note: Minutes of QA Managers have been received and were circulated to JPAC on 3rd March 2007*

**3.5. Surveillance of new and emerging infections – item 4.1.**

The Chair reported that work was still in progress, with Chair of SACTTI to develop proposals for a more effective system for maintaining current information about new and emerging infections. **PEH**

**3.6. Referral to Hepatitis Advisory Group (HAG) of SACTTI on paper HBV prevention item 4.2.**

Although this appeared to be outside of the formal remit of the HAG it was agreed that the Chair would contact the Chair of HAG with a request to consider the SACTTI paper and give an independent opinion of the options. Action: BMc to write to Prof. Howard Thomas.

*Post Meeting Note: Prof. Howard Thomas has agreed that this paper can be sent to the Hepatitis Advisory Group.*

**3.7. Balance of costs and benefits for risk reduction measures – item 4.2.**

The Chair noted that there had been no conclusions drawn from the discussion at the previous meeting of the balance of costs and benefits for risk reduction measures and invited members JPAC to notify CJS of any further actions that they may wish to propose to JPAC for consideration.

Discussion touched on the following points:
The recent proposals for revision of MSBTO make recommendations on the separation of risk assessment and risk management, implying the establishment of a body or system to advise the health departments on risk management options.

There appears to be no coherent system for directing questions to the most appropriate advisory body. There appears to be no framework that encourages the recognition of widely differing magnitudes of risk or threat and that would assist a rational, transparent process to set priorities among possible risk reduction measures. SI referred to very recent work on the costs risks and benefits of new vaccines for human papilloma virus infection.

Action: It was agreed that work should be undertaken to examine the possible relevance of this to decisions about blood transfusion safety and developed as a paper for JPAC.

*Post Meeting Note: This has been identified as a priority task for the new Advisory Committee on Blood Safety (successor to MSBTO).*

**4. JPAC CHAIR'S REPORT**

**Action**

**4.1. Future of MSBTO - JPAC 07-02**

The Chair referred to circulated paper JPAC 07-02 and added the points that the Bell Report does not appear to make recommendations as to the interactions between the revised MSBTO, the Regulators (MHRA, HTA, HFEA, or RATE).

In the absence of further information about plans for MSBTO, it was agreed that JPAC should continue to work as at present, taking every care to communicate effectively with MSBTO and the Regulators.

**4.2. Tissues & Organs Guidance - JPAC 07-03**

MSBTO guidance on microbiological safety of tissues and organs for transplantation:
A sub group of MSBTO has been set up to revise this guidance.
GG and BMc have been invited to join this Working Group. Every effort will be made by them to ensure consistency between the new MSBTO documents and the relevant DSG and Red Book chapters. The Working Party will also produce recommendation on the dissemination of MSBTO decisions for consideration by MSBTO.

**4.3. Prion Testing: Studies of prevalence in blood and tissues - JPAC 07-04**

This proposal (paper JPAC 07-04) had been discussed at the last meeting of MSBTO 24th January 2007 and had been brought to JPAC for information in view of the major implications of the results of a prevalence study of 50,000 anonymised blood donor samples.

Some concern was expressed about the feasibility of the timescales proposed, the means for selecting the test systems to be used, consent issues, and the plans for handling a situation in which positive test results were obtained.

It was agreed that JPAC members would make every effort to send their comments to LW by Friday 9th March 2007. **All**

**4.4. MHRA Consultative Committee - JPAC 07-05**

The Chair referred to an excellent presentation on blood bank temperature monitoring given by Inspector Rachel Carmichael on 29/01/07 (Paper JPAC 07-05). This had described a range of important safety issues identified in initial hospital blood bank inspections.

There was discussion about the value of having the input of inspectors into the preparation of the next edition of the Red Book.

NG pointed out that the plans for the European Commission to develop good practice guidance on the interpretation of Community quality system standards and specifications of the Blood Directive and the Tissue and Cells Directive were delayed. In the absence of this guidance, inspections are based on the Directives, the principles of GMP and the Red Book, although the latter has no statutory force.

It was noted that information about inspections etc. is already published on the Operational Impact Group (OIG) pages on the JPAC website. It was further agreed that presentations such as Ms Carmichael's would be of considerable value to hospital blood banks.

**Action:** NG to confirm that we can publish on the JPAC website or, if more appropriate, provide a link to the relevant area of MHRA website.

*Post Meeting Note: Rachel Carmichael has also provided a copy of her presentation to*

**Action**

*Joan Jones, which will be posted on the OIG pages of the JPAC website.*

NG emphasised the commitment of MHRA to work with stakeholders to avoid re-inventing the wheel and noted that the future involvement of MHRA in the regulation of the safety and quality of blood and blood components has to be clarified once the Regulatory Authority for Tissue and Embryos (RATE) takes over as the competent authority in 2009 (shadow operation during 2008).
NG explained the origin of the MHRA approach to hospital blood banks (HBB). There was a logical flaw in the Directive which makes the competent authority responsible for assuring HBB's compliance with certain of its provisions, but does not require them to be licensed or inspected. The solution adopted for the UK was to make initial assessment based on compliance reports and use these to guide inspections.

**4.5. UK Forum Meeting**

Due to time constraints this item was deferred to be dealt with by e-mail communication.

## 5. STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TRANSFUSION TRANSMITTED INFECTION

**5.1. Behaviour related donor exclusions - JPAC 07-08 & JPAC 07-09**

The two position statements had been discussed by MSBTO and generally approved, although it was recognised that further evidence on issues such as compliance was essential. Formal confirmation was awaited from the MSBTO Secretariat to enable publication of the statements on the JPAC Website. A research proposal on donor behaviour had been commissioned from Professor Kaye Wellings and had been favourably received by MSBTO. Decisions on funding are awaited from DH.

**5.2. Storage of blood components and bacterial contamination - JPAC 07-10 & JPAC 07-11**

SACTTI had considered two related questions on platelet concentrates that have been subjected to deviations from the correct storage temperature and had recommended that there was no case for changing the existing Red Book entry on platelet storage.

SACTTI also advised that that there was little to be gained, at the present time, from further work to review the current guidance.

NG made clear the regulators view that there was no basis for "rescuing" a product that had escaped from controlled conditions.

LW pointed out that NBS has SOP's governing the release of products under medical authority in situations where the risks to patients of non-availability of product had been assessed as being greater than the risks associated with use of the product.

**5.3. Tissue Banking Chapters: Addendum to Red Book - JPAC 07-12, 07-13 & 07-14**

Chapters 21, 22, and 23 have been updated to reflect the European Union Tissue Directives, corresponding UK Regulations, and the revised Microbiological Safety Guidelines that had been approved by MSBTO in October 2005. They also incorporate two further modifications based on recent SACTTI advice regarding mother and baby testing regimes and syphilis testing.

It was agreed that the HTA should be informed of the forthcoming of the publication of these chapters and have an opportunity to comment. **GG**

**Action**

It was agreed that these chapters will go out for consultation and thereafter published on the Website as printed appendices to the current Red Book. **CJS**

JPAC members agreed to review and send any comments on these chapters to GG by end of March 07. **All**

**5.4. MSBTO additional requirements for vCJD safety of tissue and cell donations - JPAC 07-15**

These had been approved by MSBTO and will be included in the new edition of Tissues and Stem Cells DSG's.

In discussion it was noted that the matrix format of the vCJD exclusion criteria could be extended to other topics.

It was also noted that there was a need for clarity about the bodies that should advise on quality and safety issues for tissues, stem cells and gametes. This had been raised by the chair for a recent meeting of Expert Advisory Group on Aids (EAGA).

## 6. STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TISSUES

See item 5.3.

## 7. STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON STEM CELLS

**7.1. Stem Cell Chapter 24: Addendum to Red Book - JPAC 07-16**

The Stem Cells Chapter (24) of the Red Book had been revised to reflect new legislation and professional guidance and standards. Chapter 24 will go out for consultation and thereafter published for on the website. **CJS**

**7.2. EC Meeting with competent authorities for Tissues, Stem Cells and Gametes (HTA, FHEA)**

It was reported that following these discussions the Commission has now advised that donor lymphocyte infusions should be dealt with under the Tissues and Cells Directive and that the Technical Directive will be amended accordingly.

**7.3. Minimum standards for collections facilities (import/export of Stem Cells) – JPAC 07-17**

It was reported that the Alliance for Harmonisation of Cell Therapy Accreditation (AHCTA) had prepared detailed checklists for collection facilities and cord blood banks. JPAC agreed that these were valuable documents and requested a further report in 12 months on progress on the use of these. **DP**

## 8. STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BLOOD COMPONENTS

**8.1. Granulocyte Therapy Position Statement - JPAC 07-18**

This paper was welcomed by JPAC. The need for an additional paragraph on ABO and Rh compatibility was agreed and SU agreed to review this. Also suggested was addition of a line to draw attention to the higher donor exposure with the use of a buffy coat preparation and that it would be desirable to reference a paper in the December BJH on possible adverse effects of growth factor stimulation - BJH 135, pp 651-652

**Action**

Editorial.

It was agreed that the updated granulocyte statement should be recirculated to JPAC and, when approved, published on the website with an invitation to Haematologists to comment. DP agreed to produce a discussion document for JPAC on the use of G-CSF in volunteer donors.

*Post Meeting Note: JPAC Position Statement on Granulocyte Therapy re-circulated to JPAC 21st March 2007. "The Use of G-CSF in Volunteer Donors: Discussion Document for JPAC" received from DP and circulated to JPAC for comment on 19th April 2007.*

Also noted was the requirement for a review of the UK BTS policy that precludes the use of growth factor stimulation of healthy volunteer donors.

**8.2 Workshop on Components Commonality - JPAC 07-19**

This will take place on 4th April 2007 at BMA House in London. A briefing paper is being prepared by SM. It was agreed that while commonality in testing procedures is also important, that this should be dealt with in a subsequent workshop.

**8.3 X Irradiation of Blood Components**

JPAC approved the proposal from SACBC that validation of this device should be undertaken by UKBTS.

## 9 STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Noted that SACIT is co-organising the Components Commonality Workshop (see item 8.2.) and sees this as an essential first step towards achieving UKBTS commonality in component labelling and coding.

## 10 STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON IMMUNOHAEMATOLOGY

**10.1. DNA Standards - JPAC 07-21**

JPAC approved the proposal to establish a short life working group for DNA reference materials for Immunohaematology (Red Cells, Platelets and Granulocytes).

**10.2. Uptake of Anti-A, B Standards - JPAC 07-22**

It was noted that uptake of this reagent has been less than expected. However JPAC endorsed the recommendation from SACIH that Alba Bioscience should be asked to manufacture another batch and that efforts should be made by the UKBTS Quality Managers to promote the use of this standard in view of the clinical importance of reliable testing of donations for Anti-A and Anti-B.

**10.3. SACIH Work plan (May 2006)**

The revised work plan February 2007 was approved by JPAC.

**10.4. Standards from NIBSC - JPAC 07-24**

It was noted that Annex 1 of the Red Book is completely out of date and must be withdrawn. It was agreed that as a transitional measure paper 07-24 will be published on the website as a new Annex 1. Additionally a link will be provided to the NIBSC catalogue.

**Action**

## 11. STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CARE AND SELECTION OF DONORS

### 11.1. Haemoglobin levels for acceptance of donors - JPAC 07-25

It was reported that questions had arisen about the utilisation of plasma imported from third countries where acceptable donor haemoglobin levels were lower than those required by the EU Directives. It was reported that this matter continues to be under discussion by the Commission and Regulators.

JPAC made clear its view that this issue must be seen as entirely separate from the issues concerning donor safety and the avoidance of iron depletion or anaemia.
It was noted that a workshop has been organised by NBS/SACCSD in May 2007.

## 12. STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CLINICAL TRANSFUSION MEDICINE

### Handbook of Transfusion Medicine 4th Edition - JPAC 07-26

It was reported that this was published (in PDF and in booklet form) during January 2007. Downloading from the Website at the rate of 40-50 per day continues. **DN**
A consultative process will be launched approximately 6 months after publication to inform the development of the next revision.

## 13. COUNCIL OF EUROPE GUIDELINES - MOVE TO EDQM

BMc agreed to circulate relevant papers which will be available shortly. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

*Post Meeting Note: Report on Council of Europe Activities in the Field of Blood Transfusion and Organ Transplantation by Dr Angela Robinson and ToRs for both European Committees circulated to JPAC on 25th April 2007.*

## 14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### 14.1. Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (DEHP)

It was reported that ISO Committee has been established to review the benefits and possible risks of DEHP. SM undertook to send the relevant document to JPAC Office for circulation to members and to report back to JPAC when the results are available.

*Post Meeting Note: ISO new work item proposal "Development of Tolerable Intake Values for Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (DEHP)" circulated to JPAC 25th April 2007.*

### 14.2. ICBBA Proposals on Bar Coding of Stem Cells

It was confirmed that responses to this consultation had been sent on behalf of NBS, SNBTS, and SACSC.

**The meeting concluded at 15:25.**

## 15. DATES AND VENUES OF FUTURE JPAC MEETINGS

**2007**

Thursday 21st June – Library Annexe, Novartis Foundation, 41 Portland Place, London
Thursday 1st November – as above