

**MINUTES OF THE 16TH MEETING OF THE UKBTS/NIBSC JOINT
EXECUTIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE
held on 10 February 2000
at the West End Donor Centre**

ACTION

PRESENT:

Dr John Barbara (representing Dr Ruth Warwick)	JB
Dr Frank Boulton	FB
Dr Mahes De Silva	MDS
Prof Ian Franklin	IF
Dr Henry Hambley	HH
Dr Virge James (Chair)	VJ
Dr Liz Love	EL
Dr Morris McClelland	MM
Dr Peter Phillips	PP
Dr Terry Snape	TS
Dr Lorna Williamson	LW

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs Margaret Smith (Minutes)	MS
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1. Apologies for absence

Dr Chitra Bharucha	CB
Dr Morag Ferguson	MF
Dr Mike Kavanagh	MK
Dr Brian McClelland	BM
Dr Angela Robinson	AR
Dr Geoffrey Schild	GS
Dr Ruth Warwick	RW

2. Minutes of the 15th meeting - 5 October 1999

The following amendments were noted:

- 3.3 The last paragraph should read "It was noted that the future of the NBS National Blood User Group is under review."
- 8.1 The second sentence of paragraph 3 should read "AR would get a unified view from the Clinical Policies Group of how many are required and what is the best method for distribution."
- 11 This should read "SAC on Immunohaematology".

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3. Matters Arising

3.1 Distribution of Minutes

VJ clarified that approved minutes were those which had been agreed at the following SAC meeting.

3.2 Ethical Committee

IF advised that this matter had been discussed at the recent meeting of the UKBTS Coordinating Group and the need for an Ethical Committee was agreed. AR was pursuing this.

AR

3.3 Name of the Committee

It was agreed that the name of the Committee would continue to be "UKBTS/NIBSC Joint Executive Liaison Committee" for the time being.

3.4 Draft Proposal for EU Directive

VJ reported that at the previous week's SP-R-GS meeting, Frances Delaney mentioned that responses received had been considered and those from the UK had been most helpful. Information regarding the Directive was due to appear on the Internet on 16 February.

AR and IF were attending a meeting on 18 February when the Directive would be further discussed.

3.5 Working Party on Blood Packs

The setting up of this working party was currently with Richard Bedford and Peter Garwood.

3.6 EDI/CEN

EL reported that she had not written to Mike McGovern as there was a UK representative. She would contact this person and offer an invitation to a future SACIT meeting.

3.7 SHOT

LW advised that NICE were undertaking a review of all confidential enquiries and would make a decision about SHOT following that review.

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3.8 Donors who have previously received a transfusion

Discussion took place regarding the use of a computer data base for names of transfusion recipients who might donate in the future without their prior consent and therefore knowledge. This was being considered by an ethical committee. FB would seek further information and if necessary convene a special meeting with other experts.

FB

It was noted that the Deputy Chief Medical Officer at the DoH had formed a branch on CJD. FB would write to Don Jeffreys to ask that this Committee be informed of any relevant issues.

FB

4. Administration

4.1 Remit

VJ tabled a paper (EC 14/00) which updated the previous remit. It was agreed that the third sentence of para. 2, item 1 should be amended to read "... and should be compliant with European guidelines".

4.2 Request from NBS Chief Executive

Following the formation of the UKBTS Coordinating Group it was agreed that copies of Red Book meeting papers would be sent to the Chief Executives of the 4 UK blood services.

VJ/MS

VJ had requested that this Committee receive copies of minutes of the Coordinating Group so that any relevant issues could be discussed.

**5. Final Version Red Book 2000 -
List of Contents and New Chapters**

VJ tabled a paper (EC 15/00) listing the proposed contents of the new edition of the Red Book. She had received a suggested format from The Stationery Office which members were invited to look at. The 4th edition was due to be published late April/early May. The Stationery Office would host the Red Book website which would include links to e.g. Statutory Instruments. The Stationery Office would also deal with matters such as the ISBN number, copyright, publicity etc.

TS circulated a paper (EC 16/00) which gave an outline of the content of Section 2.

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<p>Copies of amended chapters would be circulated to members by the end of February. Any comments to be received as soon as possible as the final version had to be with TSO by mid-March.</p>	ALL
<p>Discussion followed regarding the MAD guidelines which were currently on the Intranet. TSO were happy to incorporate this onto their website but there would need to be consistency between the four Services. Work was taking place in this regard. It was suggested that Serge Six who had produced the NBS MAD browser version be invited to an SNBTS meeting.</p>	FB/IF
<p>6. CPD Credits</p>	
<p>It was confirmed that 10 CPD credits annually could be claimed for Red Book work.</p>	
<p>7. Red Book and Europe</p>	
<p>7.1 Current Overview (EC 01/00)</p>	
<p>VJ had produced an updated document which members agreed was useful. Further information had now been received and therefore the document would be revised and re-circulated.</p>	
<p>7.2 Council of Europe Guidelines Flowchart (EC 02/00)</p>	
<p>VJ explained the process involved in producing the CoE Guidelines. A paper giving feedback from the recent SP-R-GS meeting would be circulated to members.</p>	VJ/MS
<p>Discussion followed regarding the 12 minutes bleed time for platelets. VJ explained that this decision followed a study by Prof Myllyla in Finland which suggested that platelet function deteriorated if the bleed time was longer. The results had not been published and it was possible that the data was no longer available. IF offered to contact Prof Myllyla to see if it was possible to obtain any information.</p>	IF
<p>8. Status of Test Results during Implementation</p>	
<p>IF referred to this issue which had arisen during the implementation of PCR testing.</p>	
<p>(MM arrived at this point.)</p>	

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It had been discussed at the NAT Steering Group and would require further discussion at SACTTI. VJ would write to the new SACTTI Chair when appointed.

VJ

(JB arrived at this point.)

9. Standing Advisory Committee on Blood Components

9.1 Minutes of meeting held on 10 June 1999 (EC 03/00)

LW referred to item 7.2 and the recommendation for irradiating top-up transfusions. IF advised that SNBTS would not be doing it.

9.2 Minutes of meeting held on 15 September 1999 (EC 04/00)

These had been circulated and no comments were made.

9.3 Matters Arising from Meeting held on 15 December 1999

LW referred to issues raised at this meeting.

Discussion had taken place on blood bag/giving set incompatibility. AR had been requested to raise this with the European Blood Alliance. Martin Bruce would be liaising with BSI to resolve the problem.

AR

HH referred to similar problems in Wales and it was suggested that he write to Richard Bedford.

HH

9.4 Use of Slow Draw Whole Blood for FFP and Platelet Production (EC 05/00)

Correspondence from the AABB regarding bleed times was received for information.

10. Standing Advisory Committee on Clinical Transfusion Medicine

10.1 Handbook of Transfusion Medicine

VJ reported that TSO were willing to bear the printing costs of this Handbook and would provide 1000 free copies to the UK BTS. 5000 copies for distribution to hospitals would cost around £10,000 which Martin Gorham had confirmed could be funded. Following the audit carried out by Nicky

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| <p>Anderson it was suggested that copies of the Handbook should go to hospital wards rather than to Housemen. IF was asked to reassure BMcC that funding would be found for printing the Handbook.</p> | ACTION

IF |
| <p>The Handbook would also appear on the Internet and would be available for sale in TSO book stores with very significant discounts for bulk purchase. VJ agreed to forward to IF an e-mail received from TSO.</p> | VJ |
| <p>It was noted that this matter had been referred to the UKBTS Coordinating Group.</p> | |
| <p>11. Chairman of SACTTI</p> <p>Discussion took place on the method for replacing Dr Bharucha as SACTTI Chairman. Three nominations had been received and it was suggested that, in view of the special importance of SACTTI, the Medical Directors should have the opportunity of discussing and approving the nominations before a ballot. This was agreed.</p> <p>(MDS arrived at this point.)</p> <p>Nominations would be forwarded to the National Medical Directors and, if more than one nominee was acceptable, there would be a ballot. All Red Book Executive members (except the out-going SACTTI Chairman) would be eligible to vote.</p> | VJ/NMDs |
| <p>12. SAC on Care and Selection of Donors</p> <p>12.1 Minutes of Meeting Held on 28 June 1999 (EC 06/00)</p> <p>These had been circulated and no comments were made.</p> <p>12.2 Minutes of Meeting held on 27 September 1999 (EC 07/00)</p> <p>Item 6 - Safety of Blood Leaflet</p> <p>FB reported that he was keen to progress this and was waiting to hear from AR who was pursuing this with MSBT.</p> | AR/FB |
| <p>12.3 Matters Arising from Meeting held on 13 December 1999</p> <p>a) Haemochromatosis</p> | |

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FB reported that opinion was divided on this issue and he suggested that a mini Consensus Conference be organised, possibly in July or September, with representation from both inside and outside the UK BTS.

FB

b) Solid Tumours in Childhood

FB referred to potential donors with a history of solid tumours in childhood. It was felt that these people had a distinct risk of carrying Hepatitis C and therefore the SAC recommended that they be excluded as blood donors. JB stated that when PCR testing was fully implemented this would be picked up and therefore there was no need to change current rules.

c) Tissue Culture and Blood Donation

FB referred to the increasing number of people receiving treatment which involved the re-use of their own tissue following culture in animal derived media. It was felt that there was a lack of information available and noted that AABB and FDA were discussing this matter.

13. SAC on Information Technology

EL reported that meetings had taken place on 1 November 1999 and 13 January 2000.

13.1 Matters Arising from Meeting held on 13 January 2000

a) Implementation of ISBT 128

EL gave an update on progress and it was noted that:

- Dual labelling would be removed by December 2000
- Full implementation would be completed by 2002
- ISBT 128 product codes were being produced for tissues
- A SACIT update was being prepared
- Liaison was taking place with SACBC and the Blood Packs Working Party

b) SACIT Membership

EL reported that replacements were being sought for Stephan Bates who had resigned from the Committee, and Roger Finney who would be retiring.

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14. SAC on Immunohaematology

There had been no meetings recently. Members were concentrating on revising Red Book chapters.

15. SAC on Transfusion Transmitted Infections

15.1 Minutes of Meeting held on 22 September 1999 (EC 12/00)

FB referred to *T. Cruzi* testing and evidence that there was a greater risk of transmission from mother to child and from long term residence in endemic areas than from short visits by tourists. John Barbara had offered advice to the SAC. VJ requested the matter be resolved by the 2 SACs and the solution brought to the Executive.

FB

15.2 Clinical Significance of Past History of Syphilis (EC 13/00)

Correspondence from CB on this issue had been circulated.

It was confirmed that the algorithm for re-entry of donors with positive mandatory screening tests applies.

(TS left the meeting at this point.)

VJ requested an entry for the Red Book regarding the use of archive sample testing when dealing with investigation of post transfusion transmitted infections.

JB/VJ

16. SAC on Tissue Banking

16.1 Minutes of Meeting held on 12 March 1999 (EC 08/00)

16.2 Minutes of Meeting held on 29 June 1999 (EC 09/00)

16.3 Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting held on 2 September 1999 (EC 10/00)

16.4 Minutes of Second Extraordinary Meeting held on 22 September 1999 (EC 11/00)

JB attended the meeting on behalf of Dr Ruth Warwick. He raised the following points:

a) Minutes of Joint SAC Meetings

(LW left at this point.)

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It was agreed that a minute-taker should be appointed on the day and draft minutes prepared and a timescale agreed by both SACs for responses.

b) SACTB/SACTTI

JB brought to the meetings' attention that SACTB and SACTTI had agreed that tissue from cadavers with HBsAg reactive results may be used if negative in confirmatory tests by EIA of equal sensitivity and anti-HB core negative.

c) Red Book, Section 3

RW had requested a proof of Section 3 as it had been produced in Word 97 and there may be some inconsistencies following conversion to Word 6.

16.5 MSBT Guidance for Safety of Tissues and Organs in Transplantation

RW had responded to this revised document.

17. Items Raised by NIBSC

17.1 Standards for Low Level Leucocyte Counting in Blood Products

A faxed note was received from GS which referred to flow cytometry procedures used for validation of the leucodepletion process. NIBSC have produced, in collaboration with UK NEQAS for immunophenotyping, a low leucocyte count stabilised whole blood standard which is currently being assessed.

17.2 SACTTI Sub-Committee on TSE

One meeting had been held between Dr Schild, Professor Anstee and Dr Marc Turner.

18. Date of Future Meetings

Meetings would be held on:

7 June 2000 - West End Donor Centre
25 October 2000 - Birmingham New Street