

| New appointments to committees | New appointments to the JPAC team |
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| <p>SAC on Care and Selection of Donors (SACCS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jayne Hughes (SNBTS) has been appointed as the new Chair of SACCS, having previously been the Deputy Chair and the Interim Chair for the last few months. Thank you to Angus Wells for his eight years as Chair. | <p>Head of Scientific Safety Policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will be welcoming Dr Seetha Wahab to the team in late December. Seetha has a strong academic background in transplantation and cellular therapy and experience of regulatory affairs and stakeholder engagement. |
| <p>SAC on Information Technology (SACIT)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emyr Adlam (NHSBT) has been appointed as the new Chair of SACIT, filling a role that has been vacant for a few years. SACIT has a busy agenda! | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seetha will work alongside Gary Mallinson for the next few months before his planned retirement at the end of March 2026. Seetha will then take the lead scientific role in the SaBTO Secretariat and JPAC Office. |
| <p>JPAC Board</p> | <p>We were pleased to welcome two lay members</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helen Percival, a retired GP with >40 years NHS service and extensive experience of committee and governance work in healthcare, as well as nearly 30 years as a school governor. • Richard Ballerand, who worked in Finance and Defence, and has experience as a lay member for NICE and NIHR, and as a patient advocate for equality and inclusivity. | <p>Regulatory Affairs Manager</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We look forward to welcoming Tracey Miller to the team in March. • Tracey has extensive experience of regulatory affairs, having worked in NHSBT and the pharmaceutical industry. She will lead the work on the new EU SoHO Regulation and its impact and implementation in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. |
| <p>Exercise Pegasus</p> | <p>Audit of Emerging Infections Review process</p> |
| <p>JPAC played a key role in this pandemic simulation exercise organised by central Government. Members of SACTI, SACCS, SACBC and the JPAC Office produced and “published” a Position Statement, Donor Selection Guidelines and updates to the Geographic Disease Risk Index, to allow UKBTS to progress with their emergency response.</p> | <p>We invited the Government Internal Audit Agency to review our EIR processes, which concluded: “The approach for horizon scanning to identify and respond to emerging (and re-emerging) infections remains robust, reliable, and continues to evolve in line with best practice... The team effectively identify; assess; escalate; and communicate risks to blood and tissue safety, earning high levels of stakeholder confidence in both the process and its outputs.”</p> |
| <p>Our “Pandemic Planning” paper was a useful reference point, and will be revised to include learning from this exercise.</p> | |
| <p>Publications and presentations</p> | <p>Website renewal project</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 38 Change Notifications with 83 Guideline updates • Poster presentation on ‘a year in the life of JPAC’ at the BBTS Congress. You can view the poster here • Donor Haemovigilance Hub (here), developed in collaboration with our friends at SHOT | <p>The project to update our website has taken longer than we hoped, but is nearing completion and we will launch early in 2026. The new site will have a new address (www.jpac.org.uk) and we will maintain the existing website for a short cross-over period.</p> |
| <p>Thank you for your support! JPAC guidelines are evidence based and reviewed regularly. This is achieved through collaboration with subject matter experts from Blood Transfusion and Tissue Transplantation Services in the UK, regulatory agencies, academia and clinical collaborators. We are grateful for the time and expertise that is freely given in pursuit of excellence in donation, processing and use of blood, tissue and haematopoietic stem cells.</p> | <p>With best wishes from Steve, Clare, Pete, Gary and Anna</p> |