



Chair: Chris Raine
Vice Chair: Shak Saeed
Secretary: Deborah Mawman
Treasurer: John Briggs
Membership: Simon Lloyd

Minutes of the BCIG Council Meeting
Date: Thursday 16th December 2010 Venue: RNTNE
Time: 11.30 am - 3 pm

Present: Louise Craddock, Chris Raine, Andrew Reid, John Briggs, Simon Lloyd, Jeremy Lavy, Deborah Mawman
Apologies: Shak Saeed

1. Agreement of previous Minutes

Amendments to the previous minutes were approved:

Email from Lucy Phillips, Coordinator Bridgend CI Programme: Item 10 of previous minutes - Wales is not as yet funding sequential implants.

Email from Paul Boyd: Item 8 of previous minutes – a request for an increase in funding from £400 (should read £4000) to £5000 towards the annual BCIG meeting.

Email from Sara Bowcott: Item 5 of previous minutes. Anne Rayter is a Teacher of the Deaf in Bristol but does not work for the South of England Cochlear Implant Team

2. Matters Arising

Item 17 - from previous minutes. The UK ABI group continue to meet and are part of the BCIG. Council agreed that there should be a UK ABI annual meeting as part of the BCIG AGM. The National Specialist Commissioning Group (NCG) fund four Co-ordinating NF2 centres (Manchester, Cambridge, London and Oxford). NCG have commissioned ABI's for NF2 patients in two of these centres - Manchester and Cambridge. ABI's for NF2 patients will be performed by neurosurgeons rather than ENT surgeons. The next UK ABI working group meeting will be held during the BCIG conference in Nottingham 2011.

3. Membership update

2 new applications for membership were approved:

Name	Profession	Status	Affiliation
Louise Jones	Audiology	Full	North East CI Programme
Jennifer Demler	Audiology	Full	St Thomas' Hospital

4. Membership categories

An email had been received from Medel requesting a copy of Cochlear Implants International as part of their corporate sponsorship of BCIG. Corporate sponsors should receive a copy of CII as part of their annual subscription to BCIG. Council agreed that there should be a corporate sponsorship category and with this they would receive a copy of the journal. Clinical specialists working for the manufacturers are eligible to join BCIG as individual full members.

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A query had been received about whether there could be a category for a retired professional who did not want to receive the journal but wanted to remain a member of BCIG. Council agreed this person could change to the “non professional category” of membership.

Council agreed that clinicians would be eligible for honorary membership after making an outstanding contribution to the field. These would be announced at the BCIG AGM.

There are currently some anomalies in the (separate) databases of members held by the secretary, the membership secretary and the treasurer. This may be the reason why some members have not received their CII journal.

Action: SL to cross check list of paid members and ensure there is only one database of members.

5. BCIG Website and Cochlear Implants International

Louise invited Becky Amiss and Chris Attewell from the BCIG website company NOKO and Rosie Sheridan and Gaynor Redvers-Mutton from Maney publishers to discuss issues relating to the website and the journal. John Graham also attended this part of the meeting in his capacity as editor of the CII journal. It was felt that investment in the website would benefit all BCIG members.

Discussions about improvements to the website were considered including:

- a) Redesign of the current layout and content
- b) Provision of a members only password protected section on the website so that members could update their details online
- c) Ease of payment of subscriptions through eg paypal, especially for overseas professionals who want to join BCIG
- d) Online access to the journal
- e) Online voting for Council positions
- f) Creation of a virtual education site which could include webinars, podcasts and video broadcasts which could be registered for CPD and which may encourage membership of BCIG.
- g) Ability to implement surveys online through eg survey monkey

Discussions with Maney focussed on the production of a series of webinars (1 per year to begin with). They estimated the cost to sponsor a webinar to be £6000 which may be spread over a number of sponsors. Their idea would be to schedule the webinar alongside special issues of the journal. Suggestions for the first (2011) event is:

- a) An analysis of national uptake of cochlear implant s: differences in funding, policy and the effects on the deaf population.
- b) Managements of surgical complications
- c) Speech and Language issues

Actions:

- 1. Noko to hold a planning meeting with SS (who takes over management of the website in his capacity as Vice-Chair of BCIG)**
- 2. Noko to provide a quote to JB for the cost of updating the website**

6. Awareness campaign update

- a) Article for Pulse magazine

BCIG were asked to write responses to questions put by a GP for the online magazine “Pulse” which is distributed to all GP’s. The next edition of the magazine will be an ENT supplement relating to hearing loss in adults and children. The questions include issues relating to cochlear implants and so it’s hoped that the article will raise awareness of CI’s with GP’s. Shak Saeed has written the responses to the questions in collaboration with colleagues.

- b) Poster for GP waiting rooms about cochlear implants**

This is still in development in collaboration with the implant manufacturers.

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7. Correspondence

- a) An email was received from Nicola Hatton (Cambridge) about the management of patients with auditory neuropathy spectrum disorder (ANSO). Currently there are no national guidelines for CI centres about the assessment of these cases. Council agreed that there was a need for coordinated collection of outcome data and that it would be beneficial to establish a specialist interest group with view to producing national guidance on the management of patients with ANSD. John Briggs will organise a national meeting with interested parties. **Action: JB to recruit clinicians and host the first ANSD special interest group meeting.**
- b) An email was received from Tracey Twomey (Nottingham) regarding publication of the joint BCIG /NDCS paediatric quality standards document. During the consultation process comments had been fed back to the working group but the document was not sent out for final consultation prior to publication. Tracey requested that in the future the quality standards documents should be sent to all BCIG members prior to publication for a final review.

Tracey also commented that the BCIG / RNID adult quality standards document has been published as a pdf to download electronically from the BCIG website and was not produced as a glossy hard copy like the paediatric QS document leading to disparity in the quality of the two publications. Council felt that it was up to the sponsors of the documents (the RNID and NDCS) to decide how they wanted to produce the final version of the document.

8. Update on commissioning meeting in London 3rd November 2010

JB was unable to attend the meeting because of tube strike. He has requested copies of the presentations and will discuss these at the next meeting. **Action: JB to obtain copies of presentation from the meeting**

9. Funding for sequential cochlear implants

Simon Lloyd raised the issue of problems funding sequential implants in Manchester. The North West Specialist Commissioning Group (NWSCG) has decided not to fund sequential implants and in correspondence wrote:

“At its meeting held on the 29th November 2010, the North West Specialised Commissioning Group considered a proposal to amend / rescind its policy on sequential cochlear implants. Whilst acknowledging that there is an increasing number of exceptional cases being funded by PCTs, in the light of the current financial situation, the group confirmed that the current policy should stand i.e. that PCTs within the North West would not routinely commission sequential implants. This continues current arrangements whereby individual Primary Care Trusts consider individual funding requests on an exceptional basis”.

Chris Raine has been in contact with NICE and although they are unable make PCT's directly implement the guidance they would be able to advise parents about the content of a letter which they can send to commissioners. Chris is waiting to find out from NICE how clinics / parents can move this issue forward.

Jane Martin, centre coordinator at the Yorkshire Implant Programme in Bradford has emailed all coordinators to determine how widespread the refusal to fund sequential implantation is. If anyone is having problems obtaining funding, please email Jane at : Jane.Martin@bradfordhospitals.nhs.uk

It was commented that some PCT's have agreed funding for bilateral or 2nd side implants for adults patients.

Action: CR to liaise further with NICE about the NWSCG funding situation.

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BCIG Secretary

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10. New centres guidelines

LC will hand over the issue of guidelines for new centres to CR. In the past Council had agreed that this guidance was covered by the QS documents. It was also recognised that BCIG should produce some guidance for commissioners and that this should take into account the UK population demographics. The guidance could be written in a way that allows new centres to be supported and mentored by existing clinics. In the future more emphasis may be on remote or even self-programming of cochlear implants which may reduce the need for new centres. **Action: CR to review current guidance document**

11. UK CI centres Data Collection

Council agreed that BCIG should have responsibility for collecting information about cochlear implant activity in the UK on an annual basis. In the past this data was collected by Quentin Summerfield and published on the Institute of Hearing website. Currently the National Implant User group request this information from coordinators. Council agreed that in the future this data will be collected by BCIG in the format suggested by Agnes Allen (Kilmarnock) and published on the BCIG website. **Action: AR to collate information from centres on an annual basis and publish on the BCIG website.**

12. Update on coordinators meeting in London 22nd November

The main topic of discussion at the coordinators meeting was the presentation by Hayley Calder from the NHS supply chain. The existing national contract for cochlear implants has to be renewed. However the NHS supply chain will only re-write the tender specification if enough CI centres in the UK opt to purchase through them rather than directly with the manufacturers. NHS supplies add a 1% uplift on prices. If there is insufficient interest from centres to purchase through NHS supplies then each centre will have to tender their own contracts and NHS supplies will not renew the tender agreement. Currently manufacturers who discount the National tender agreement are acting illegally and BCIG cannot be seen to endorse illegal practice.

13. New adult and paediatric ICSLT Guidelines

The new guidance has been received from Amanda Odell and circulated to Council for comments. Once approved these will be published on the website in pdf format. They are due to be renewed in April 2012

14. Review dates for QS documents

Council agreed that the adult and paediatric QS documents will be reviewed in 2012 and published in pdf format on website.

15. Update on national research strategy

LC reported that there is no further update from David McAlpine.

16. NICE review 2011

CR has been in contact with NICE and the process of review has already started. NICE have approached the implant manufacturers for evidence of bilateral benefit. In March 2011 it is likely that NICE will again approach the membership organisations, including BCIG who were involved in the last review. NICE will again be looking for evidence of cost-effectiveness.

17. BCIG Bursary

Council decided to invest the current funds held in the BCIG account in the website which will benefit all members and put the issue of a bursary on hold for possible future consideration.

18. Nominations for Chair and Vice – Chair

Chris Raine (Yorkshire CI programme) was formally appointed as Chair of BCIG and Shak Saeed (RNTNE CI programme) was formally appointed as Vice Chair.

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19. Job descriptions for BCIG Council members

Job descriptions are still required for the post of Vice Chair and Treasurer.

Action: JL and JB to complete

20. AOB

CR discussed the issue of vaccination. During the American academy meeting in Boston 2010 Blake Papsin reported about the disparity of provision in the US of the pneumococcal vaccination. The time scales for provision of the vaccine is also different in the US to UK practice and CR wondered if the UK should change its recommendations about the vaccine in line with US practice. CR has been in contact with the Health Protection Agency and awaiting more details on biometric data. **Action: CR to email document re vaccination to Council for discussion.**

21. Date / time of next meeting

Thursday 31st March 2010 1 – 2 pm at the Nottingham BCIG AGM.