



Chair: Louise Craddock
Vice Chair: Jeremy Lavy
Secretary: Deborah Mawman
Treasurer: John Briggs
Membership: Simon Lloyd

BCIG Council Meeting
Date: Thursday 23rd September 2010 Venue: RNTNE
Time: 11.00 am - 3 pm

MINUTES

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

- 1) Agreement of previous Minutes
Minutes agreed from last meeting
- 2) Review of actions
An archived copy of the minutes should be posted on the BCIG website. **Action: DM and JL to arrange.**
- 3) Matters Arising
None
- 4) Membership update (SL)
Currently there are 182 full, 28 honorary, 4 overseas and 38 associate members (total 254). Types of BCIG membership are listed in the BCIG constitution on the website at www.bcig.org.uk

SL is in the process of updating the membership database. Currently there are some discrepancies about the types of membership category that some people are in eg some people who should be full members are in the associate category and some people who are full members but work for the manufacturers should be in the corporate category. Query from a member who has retired but still wants to receive the journal but not pay full membership. They can become an associate member and purchase the journal at an additional cost.

Council discussed a password protected member's only area on website so that individuals could update their membership online. Their contacts could be on website and available to other BCIG members. Funds currently in the BCIG account may be able to fund this area on the website. **Action: Council to discuss further with website designers at next meeting.**

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Currently membership renewal is via standing order but there is no way of knowing whether these have been paid. **Action SL will amend database of membership and payment types.**

5) Applications for new membership:

3 new applications for membership were approved:

| Name | Profession | Status | Affiliation |
|------------------|------------------------|--------|------------------------------|
| Jane Berry | Teacher of the Deaf | Full | West of England CI programme |
| Louise Jenkinson | Audiological Scientist | Full | North Wales CI programme |
| Anne Rayter | Teacher of the Deaf | Full | West of England CI programme |

6) Treasurers items

The treasurers annual report will in future record in the annual treasurers report attendance of council members at the BCIG Council meetings. Included with this record of attendance will be a summary of expenses claims submitted by individual members.

7) Awareness campaign update

The BCIG awareness campaign group held their second meeting in Bradford on 9th September to consider ideas for improving awareness about cochlear implants for adult patients, GP's, ENT consultants and audiologists. Representatives from the 3 main implant manufacturers attended the meeting. The group agreed on a number of initiatives to improve awareness including:

- A BCIG poster which could be displayed in GP practices and ENT outpatients clinics throughout the UK.
- A flyer for B AA in November about the current criteria for CI
- A TV documentary about the patient journey
- Magazine articles
- An article in the GP magazine Pulse.

8) BCIG 2011

Tracey Twomey organiser of the BCIG AGM in Nottingham in 2011 has emailed Council to request an increase in funding from £400 to £5000 towards the annual BCIG meeting. This was approved by Council.

Tracey had also emailed Council to request that BCIG underwrite the AGM. Currently liability in the event of a catastrophic event would fall to the local organising group. The local organising group keeps 50% of any profit made by the meeting and 50% goes to BCIG. It was agreed that if BCIG were to underwrite the liability for the meeting then the local organising team would need to submit a proposed budget to the BCIG Treasurer and that all profits from the meeting go back to BCIG.

9) UK CI centres data collection

Tricia Kemp has emailed BCIG on behalf of NCIUA and CICS to request that data about the numbers of implants on an annual basis in the UK should be collected by BCIG. Council agreed that data from each centre about the annual number of implants, device failures and re-implantations should be submitted from coordinators at their annual meeting to the Chair of BCIG. The data could then be kept on the BCIG website. **Action LC request data at the next coordinators meeting in November.**

10) NICE review 2011

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Tricia Kemp had emailed BCIG to determine what information would be needed for the NICE review in 2011 and whether it may be possible that the current recommendations about bilateral funding could be withdrawn.

CR is to hold discussions with the Chair of NICE and so information about what further data is required will become clearer. The North West UK is the only part of the UK not funding sequential implantation routinely and this will be part of the discussion CR has with NICE.

Currently data about bilateral outcomes is being collected by Professor Summerfield at the University of York and the National bilateral CI audit being led by Professor Lutman in Southampton. **Action: CR to report back to Council about his meeting with the Chair of NICE.**

11) Guidance for New Centres / Commissioning issues

Council discussed whether it was necessary to have a separate set of guidelines for commissioners when new centres want to start offering cochlear implants. It was agreed that the guidelines for new centre document written by Chris Raine and Philip Robinson should be made available to commissioners and new centres on request and that the QS documents on the BCIG website would otherwise be sufficient to guide new centres about acceptable practice. Inherent in the QS documents are the guidelines for new centres. New centres should be driven by clinical need and unmet demand in the local population with the positive assistance and mentoring of the established nearest local implant centre.

12) Commissioning meeting in London Weds 3rd November 2010

John Briggs will attend this meeting on behalf of BCIG. The meeting, "NHS Reform: driving cultural change" will discuss changes in commissioning in the NHS including the abolition of strategic health authorities and primary care trusts. Care for patients will be in the hands of foundation trusts and private providers, and commissioning will be undertaken by GP consortia. **Action JB to feedback at next meeting**

13) Procurement contract with NHS Supply Chain

Louise will meet on Monday to discuss the new contract for procurement of CI's with NHS supply chain. . **LC to feedback to Council at next meeting and also to Co-ordinators.**

14) Update on national research strategy (LC)

LC has contacted David McAlpine but to date has not had a response. Review at next meeting. **Action LC to feedback at next meeting.**

15) Meeting with ACIA in Stockholm (LC)

Members of BCIG had been asked to attend the inaugural meeting of the American Cochlear Implant Association during the Stockholm CI meeting and give a presentation about the work and role of the BCIG. The primary aim of the ACIA is political rather than support for professionals. BCIG felt that it was inappropriate to pursue a formal affiliation however the ACIA will include BCIG in circulation of the minutes of their meetings. It is hoped the two groups will continue to liaise with each other.

16) BCIG Website and Journal

The adult quality standards documents on the website are still in draft format. A link to the NICE guidance should be on the front page of the website. Council members' contacts are now on the website. The publishers of the CII journal are keen to include webinars and sponsored podcasts and have password protected area on website for members. BCIG needs to consider the cost of this and investment in a password protected area for members who could access the journal online. A limitation may be that website could be accessed by a couple of BCIG members in each department who could download the

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information for the rest of the team. In addition to the online journal membership details could be updated online.

The cost of the journal will stay the same this year but will increase in cost to £60 next year. This cost increase will not result in an increase in the membership fee.

Actions:

- 1. DM to send to JL the final adult QS version.**
- 2. LC to obtain a PDF copy of the paediatric QS document and forward to JL.**
- 3. LC to invite Rosie Sheridan and Becky from the website design team to the next Council meeting**

17) ABI group part of BCIG

The 2nd UK Auditory Brainstem Implant group meeting was held in London on 5th July. It was agreed that the UK ABI patients and in particular those who do not have NF2 come under the umbrella of BCIG. Currently there are 3 centres in the UK who have NCG funding to provide ABI's for patients with NF2. They are Cambridge, London and Manchester. The BCIG constitution covers auditory implant devices and so it was agreed by Council that it would be appropriate for this to include ABI. This raised an issue about the name of the BCIG and whether the group should be known as the British Auditory Implant Group (BAIG). This would need to be put to a vote at the AGM. **Action: Further discussion at next meeting**

18) Agenda for change assimilation

An email was received from John Graham about the discrepancies in pay between the different professional groups working in cochlear implant programmes. Staffs with similar healthcare and managerial responsibilities have been assimilated within the Agenda for Change pay bands at different levels. His question was whether there could be a BCIG initiative to attempt to resolve these discrepancies. After discussion Council agreed that these were local issues which could not be resolved nationally by any intervention from BCIG.

18) Feedback from Co-ordinators meeting

a) NICE recommendations

It has become apparent that different cochlear implant centres are interpreting the NICE guidance in slightly different ways. Moreover some patients who are outside NICE Guidelines have been implanted. It was agreed that outcome data on this group including QoL questionnaires (HUI and EuroQuol) and speech in noise testing should be collected from the centres. Louise is collating all the patient data and Quentin Summerfield will analyse the results and the questionnaires with a view to expanding future selection criteria.

b) Procurement

It is apparent that different cochlear implant centres paying different prices for implant devices. This is dependant on local negotiating with the manufacturers and until the NHS purchases on behalf of all CI centres this will continue to be the case.

19) Safety Guidance

Jane Bradley was invited to the meeting to present the new BCIG safety guidelines for cochlear implant users' document. This is now available to download from the website.

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On the issue of safety guidance Tricia Kemp on behalf of NCIUA and CICS had emailed BCIG to request that BCIG put pressure on the implant manufacturers to change the design of the safety helmets. Council agreed after discussion that this was not something that BCIG or the implant manufacturers could influence. Implant centres **should not** recommend making changes to the protective helmet in case the helmet loses its protective quality. Action: LC to write to Tricia Kemp re the outcome of the discussions.

20) BCIG Bursary (LC)

BCIG have considered using some the money in the account to fund some research or a travel grant. JB would like to wait until decisions regarding the financial investment in the website and underwriting the Nottingham BCIG meeting are known before making further commitments. **Action: JB to discuss at Council when financial commitments are clarified.**

21) Nominations for Chair and Vice – Chair

Louise Craddock (Chair) and Jeremy Lavy (Vice-Chair) are both standing down from office after serving four years on the BCIG Council. Nominations for their replacement are called for. **Action: DM to email all members the nomination forms. Voting will take place in October with an announcement about the new Chair and Vice-Chair on 5th Novemeber.**

22) Job descriptions for BCIG Council members

A job outline for the post of treasurer and Vice-Chair are still needed. **Action: JB and JL to write before the next meeting.**

23) Venues have been agreed for BCIG meetings until 2013. They are: Nottingham 2011; Manchester 2012 and Kilmarnock 2013

24) Date / time of next meeting

Thursday 16th December – 11am – 3pm. Venue to be confirmed.

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