



**Minutes of the BCIG Council Meeting
Thursday 22nd September 2011 10am – 3pm**

Present:

Chair: Chris Raine; **Vice Chair:** Shak Saeed; **Secretary:** Deborah Mawman; **Treasurer:** John Briggs;
Membership Secretary: Simon Lloyd; **Council Members:** Andrew Reid; Debi Vickers; Jane Bradley

1) Matters arising from minutes of BCIG AGM and Council meeting in April 2011

No amendments to minutes of AGM.

Matters arising from council minutes:

Item 7: John Briggs has organised the first UK ANSD meeting for cochlear implant clinicians on Monday 14th Nov in Cambridge.

Item 20: Chris Raine reported that there are differences in the implant vaccination policy between US and UK and that it's unlikely that an international standard for vaccination will be developed. No further action necessary.

2) Membership update from Simon Lloyd

Council discussed the category of honorary membership which according to the BCIG constitution is awarded at the discretion of Council in consultation with the organisers of the annual BCIG meeting. An honorary membership will be awarded at the annual BCIG meeting for an academic year. A formal announcement will be made at the BCIG annual meeting.

The membership has been re categorised. The category of associate membership has been removed and these people now have full membership apart from the non professionals.

Currently there are:

219 full members

4 overseas members

28 honorary members

6 non professional members

6 individual corporate members

Total 263 members

2 members have resigned this year

There is still no formal membership database although Simon and John keep their own spreadsheets. It is anticipated that the new website will incorporate a membership database.

1 new application for membership was approved:

Name	Profession	Status	Affiliation
Anne Duncan	Speech and Language Therapist	Full	South of England CI programme

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3) Treasurer's report from John Briggs

The 30 day business account holds £12,144.09 and currently pays 1% interest. The current account holds £38,818.

4) Review of NICE guidance TAG 166

The NICE guidance TAG 166 remains on the static guidance list despite the submission of additional evidence about the benefits of bilateral implants for adults. Currently there are no plans to start a UK bilateral implant outcomes study for adult patients.

5) Speech testing and candidacy

Council discussed the current battery of speech tests materials used in UK cochlear implant clinics. There was an agreement that there are limitations with the use of BKB sentences and the decibel levels at which they are presented to determine candidacy in some older children and adult patients. There exists a large pool of speech perception data in the UK from the POCIA study using AB words and BKB sentences which may inform decisions about candidacy. Debi and John were attending the ICAG (Implant Centre Audiologists Group) meeting in Cambridge on 23rd September and will add this issue to the agenda for discussion.

Action: Debi to report back from ICAG meeting

6) Graham Fraser Memorial Lecture support

The £1000 contribution to the Graham Fraser memorial lecture was discussed. The principle of support for the February 2012 meeting was supported. However, the council have received comments that hosting the hour long meeting on the Thursday before the RSM section in February restricts the possibility for the wider BCIG membership to attend. Chris will write to Pat Fraser to ask if she and the trustees of The Graham Fraser foundation would consider hosting the lecture at the annual BCIG meeting.

Action: Chris to write to Pat Fraser

7) Implant Centre funding problems

Chris reported that sequential funding was a problem in one centre that had elected to implant one ear in a child. The child had a subsequent deterioration in hearing in the non-implanted ear but his PCT would not fund a second implant because this was not possible in the current NICE guidance.

Council felt individual centres should determine the possibility of sequential funding with the PCT prior to implantation as this may be the preferred option for some children and especially if they are an anaesthetic risk.

8) Insuring speech processors

An email had been received from Trish Kemp who coordinates the CICS user group regarding insurance for speech processors. The CICS group are concerned about the financial impact of lost speech processors on an annual basis and wrote to Council ask if BCIG could take out an insurance policy on behalf of CI centres to insure against lost processors. It was decided that individual Trusts to need to determine the legality of insurance in the event of lost processors.

Action: Chris to write to Trish re Council decision

9) Cochlear Implant tender process

Hospital Trusts purchasing goods > £101,000 need to tender for the supply of the product. Some hospital Trusts in the UK have already tendered for the supply of implantable hearing devices.

Hayley Calder from NHS supply chain has written to Chris outlining the progress on the National Cochlear Implant Contract. Over the last few months NHS Supply Chain has been collating the tender documentation. They are now in a position to make available the final specification for Cochlear Implants, which will form part of a wider contract for Audiological Implantable Devices.

Cont

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The Audiological Implantable Devices Contract will comprise;

- Cochlear Implants
- Bone Anchored Hearing Aids
- Middle Ear Devices
- Auditory Brainstem Implants

NHS supply chain believe by combining the contract offer, Trusts who are multi-device purchasers will be in a better position leverage greater rebate returns from Suppliers. They also believe that increasing the overall scale of the contract will make it much more attractive to Suppliers.

Action: Deborah to email coordinators tender specifications and letter from Hayley Calder

10) PBR tariff

Council discussed this years Tariff charged to PCT's for the provision of cochlear implants. There is an uplift of 60% for children this year but only centres with specialised children's services are eligible for the uplift and so some centres are not able to charge as much despite delivering the same service.

The tariff charges over the last few years have changed and are illustrated in the table below:

	Tariff code	Adult £	Child £	Notes
2007 – 08	C60	20,164	34,077	Child top up 69%
2008 – 09	C60	18,609	35,357	Child top up 90%
2009 – 10	CZ25Q/N	23,872	23,872	
2010 – 11	CZ25Q/N	23,648	23,648	
2011 – 12	CZ25Q CZ25N	20,219 21,613	20,219 21,613	CZ25N with CC Plus child top up 60%

11) Rayovac battery trials

Helen McKean Rayovac's marketing executive has written to BCIG to request trials of a new zinc air battery for cochlear implant users. Council felt it was more appropriate for Rayovac to contact individual centres.

Action: Chris to email Helen and advise her of the UK centres the BCIG website

12) Patient pathway DVD (Midlands implant programme)

Louise Craddock has emailed the BCIG council to ask if they could discuss the role of BCIG and put the BCIG logo on the cover of a patient DVD they are in the process of producing. Council agreed this is likely to be approved but would like to see the DVD before its finalised.

Action: Andrew to feedback to Louise

13) Website update

Shak and Chris have been discussing updating the BCIG website www.bcig.org.uk with a couple of website companies and have had quotes for this. It is anticipated that the new BCIG website will have a front end for the public and a members only section which will be password protected. Online payments via eg paypal for membership fees will be incorporated. Chris has asked for input about the content of the new website from cochlear implant centre coordinators and this will be discussed at their next meeting on 6th December.

Action: Chris to review CI coordinators feedback

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14) Historical BCIG records at RNTNE

Jane has found minutes and agendas of the BCIG council meetings from the early days in a room at RNTNE! Council agreed that it was essential to keep the minutes of the society and archive them appropriately. Shak will ask John Graham to help with the process of archiving the records.

Action: Shak to arrange for BCIG records to be archived

15) Collection of implant data

Council felt it was appropriate that BCIG should be able to report to other organisations (DoH, PCT's etc) about the numbers of patients who have received a cochlear implant in the UK. Currently there is no known reliable source of this information. Jane Bradley has written to implant centre coordinators to request data about the numbers of patients being managed in each centre, the types of devices offered, number of annual implantations and numbers of failures. It is anticipated that a summary of the UK data can then be posted on the BCIG website although individual centres will not be listed. There are only a few centres now who have not submitted their figures, some of whom have a because of a concern about the purpose of the data collection.

Action: Jane to prepare information supplied to date and then circulate to centres.

16) Update on Cochlear CI512 failures

Richard Brook, Chris Bertrand, Barry Nevison and Stuart Thomas from Cochlear Europe attended the Council meeting to provide an update of the CI512 recall. A summary of this meeting has been sent to implant centre coordinators.

17) Minutes from coordinators meeting

The coordinators minutes from their meeting on 5th July were discussed by Council.

18) Implant Centre TOD guidelines

The updated implant centre teacher of the deaf guidelines has been submitted to Council for review and posting on the website. A further revised copy of the guidance has also been submitted and it was recommended that the revised copy be accepted. A final version needs to be agreed by the TOD group.

Action: John discuss with TOD group to agree on final version

19) Awareness campaign update

Council agreed that the awareness poster campaign should be aimed at ENT and audiology clinics. This may encourage referrals of adult patients for cochlear implants. The current poster ideas produced by Cochlear Europe were discussed and new ideas put forward. Deborah will contact Cochlear to discuss further.

Action: Deborah to liaise with Cochlear about poster changes

20) Outstanding job descriptions for Council positions

The job descriptions for posts Treasurer and Vice-Chair have been written.

21) Date / time of next meeting

Thursday 2nd February in the Toynbee McKenzie room at the RSM 10.30 – 3.30pm

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