

Neuromodulation Society UK & Ireland

Minutes of Annual General Meeting in Cork on 21st October 2006

Present:

Mr. Paul Eldridge, Dr. Jon Valentine, Dr Francis Luscombe, Dr. Roisin MacSullivan, Dr Simon Thomson, Mr. Brian Simpson, Dr. Jon Raphael

No accurate register of members present was kept.

Apologies:

Dr Sam Eldabe

Minutes of the previous meeting 1st December 2005 approved as a true record.

Matters arising:

1. Membership:

- a. Currently 56 members

2. Paul Eldridge and the Intrathecal Baclofen forum.

- a. This group has made guidelines for ITDD of Baclofen for spasticity, from spinal injury, cerebral palsy and MS. It actually duplicates the British Pain Society guidelines though to be fair is more focussed and comprehensive. Problem is it is driven by patient groups supported heavily by Medtronic.
- b. Mr. Eldridge reported telling them repeatedly that the guidelines were inherently a good idea, the indication good but that they must get the guidelines professionally sponsored (i.e. ask their professional groups - rehab med society, or the Assoc Brit Neurol) to sponsor this. Otherwise neither SBNS nor NSUKI would support any guidelines, nor would Mr. Eldridge contribute as an individual (i.e. He could be proposed by either of the above organisations).
- c. Specifically the guidelines must be industry independent.

Treasurer's report

1. Accounts were presented of the period ending 30th June 2006. This demonstrated a small profit of £3446. It was pointed out just how dependent the society was on its income from sponsorship of the annual scientific meeting with only £2000 arising from membership dues.
2. Dr Francis Luscombe stepped down from Treasurer having ably steered NSUKI into financial viability and compliance with the financial regulations. Dr Jon Raphael has taken over as Treasurer and Dr Luscombe has agreed to offer advice at least until the next AGM if required.
3. The financial accounts were approved by the board.

Secretary's report

1. During the year the standing order system has been replaced by the direct debit system run through the AAGBI. This allows for dues collection in pounds sterling and euros. The portion that is due to the INS in US dollars can be reconciled using the AAGBI. This should be under treasurers report
2. December 2005 - Dr Jon Valentine stepped down from Secretary to take up post as president-elect after 2 terms. Dr Sam Eldabe took up post of secretary.
3. It is the board's intention to co-opt to the NSUKI board a neurosurgeon if no elected position is held by a neurosurgeon.
4. It has been agreed that a board position for Irish affairs will be reserved for Irish candidates to apply for. Dr Roisin Macsullivan steps down having been in this position for 2 terms of office and is succeeded by Dr Connail McCrory

ASM meetings Present and Future

1. The meeting for 2007 will be a joint meeting with the Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery Group of the Society of British Neurological surgeons. This will be jointly organised and based in York. Dr Peter Toomey and Mr Roger Strachan will be the local organisers
2. It was suggested that the 2008 meeting might be sited in Plymouth as part of the Peninsula Medical School. Dr Francis Luscombe to be local organiser
3. Future meetings are likely to be assisted by the Events organising team of the AAGBI as to date this had demonstrated marked efficiency and capability with competitive pricing
4. As our society grows and becomes more sophisticated it was pointed out that each meeting had now become a joint effort involving a scientific committee and a separate sponsorship committee.
5. The Society was very grateful to Dr Sam Eldabe, Mr Thomas Heiser (of AAGBI) and the NSUKI board in ensuring that a successful meeting in Cork was achieved despite many difficulties.

Website

The INS website has at last been launched. Dr Thomson was able to demonstrate some of its capability. Each member will be receiving their password and user name. All were encouraged to use it.

Best practice guidelines

It was suggested that the ITDD guidelines should include some suggestions for the monitoring of endocrine function during IT opioid administration.

NICE have been told that NSUKI is an important stakeholder for SCS.

INS news

Dr Thomson reported on INS news:

- Three further national chapters were created last year - Germany, Japan and Southeast Europe. This brings the total to eight.
- Seven further chapters are in various stages of formation.
- The mission, vision and goals of the INS were rewritten and are available to see on the INS website.
- The journal has started to return a significant profit. This has allowed the INS to fund the maintenance of the new website without resorting to dues increase or use of reserves.
- The journal on its 10th anniversary is to be renamed and have a new front cover in keeping with the society's mission. Neuromodulation - Technology at the Neural Interface.
- The internal layout and font is to be changed.
- Reapplication to Index Medicus will be applied for the third time in January 2007.
- The journal is using "manuscript central" so allowing tracking of submission.
- The website was launched.
- No applications were received for the New Investigator competition. Applications for the second round are now being accepted.
- Prof Mario Meglio has stepped down and is now immediate past president and Elliott Krames is now president. Dr Robert Foreman has stepped down as Treasurer and is replaced by Dr Liang Liem of the Netherlands.

Any Other Business

Mr Brian Simpson, IFESS/INS liaison mentioned how in a recent board meeting between him and IFESS that there should be an attempt to include a portion within the NSUKI ASM that would appeal to UK based IFESS members and so further cement our scientific disciplines.