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## Minutes of the NSUKI AGM, Westin Grand Hotel, Berlin. 23 November 2012

**Present:** J Raphael, S Eldabe, P Toomey, R Strachen, G Baranidharan, S Bojanic, J Keaveny, F Luscombe, R MacSullivan, S Thomson, A Gulve, P Hall, A Lalkhen, A Bhaskar, N Collighan, R Bhadresha, H Mutagi, J Lascelles, R Sawyer.

### 1. Apologies: J Valentine

### 2. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the last AGM in London were accepted as an accurate record.

### 3. Nominations for election to the Board

JR announced the posts due for election in Sept 2013 were:

President Elect, Honorary Secretary and Board Member.

The membership will be circulated with invitations to apply for the posts. JR encouraged members to participate in the Board membership by applying for the posts. Busola will be asked to organise a ballot in time for appointments to be announced at the next AGM in Oxford in September.

Noted from the Minutes of the Cardiff AGM in 2008 that Board members should not apply to serve for consecutive terms in the same office.

### 4. President's Report

JR reported on the activities of the Society including providing education to support the therapies. A successful joint meeting had been held in May with NSUKI and the Polish Neuromodulation Society and Interventional Pain Medicine Society. A number of NSUKI delegates had been able to support the meeting with lectures and teaching. NSUKI had been involved in dealing with the PCTs and Commissioners and advising NICE. He also noted the progress made with getting the National Registry started. Noted that its success would be dependant on uptake of the project by all users. It would need to be incorporated into the commissioning specification. Also reported on the ongoing RASCAL study of SCS in angina.

### 5. Treasurer's Report

RS presented unaudited accounts for the Society up to 30 June 2011.

**Accounts.** The Barclays Community account had approximately £33,000 and the Business Saver Account had £22,000 making up a total reserve of £54880 in both accounts. This was noted to be a £10,000 decrease on last year which was mainly attributed to paying the fee for developing the Registry to D Cunningham.

The Business Saver Account is currently paying 0.05% interest so has been changed to an Active Saver Account that pays 0.75% below the current Bank of England base rate.

**Income** from membership fees raised £4873 after the membership deductions made to INS. (£12000 forwarded to INS from subscriptions) Interest on the account made £10.

**Outgoings** included fees paid for The Registry (£10,000) and Accountants fees (£1988). AAGBI Secretariat charges were £4000 and Executive Board members' expenses were £2300. AAGBI fees were higher than expected because of an outstanding invoice from the previous year.

**Balance** of the account activity was a loss of £13458. The Society would therefore not be liable for any tax this year.

**Registry** A separate account has been set up to fund the Registry. Over a two year period the five main industry sponsors have committed £115,000 to the project. Medtronic £40,000; St Jude £40,000; Boston Scientific £25,000; Spinal Modulation £5,000 and Nevro £5,000. The Registry will have to be maintained by a tariff system after the initial set up.

**Subscriptions.** INS has raised its membership fee to \$150. This has been absorbed by a modest increase in NSUKI subscriptions to £150. Nearly all members pay their subscription by Direct Debit. 6 members still pay by Standing Order.

Noted that the subscriptions do not cover the expense of running the Society. There should be some additional income from the shared surplus generated from this ASM in Berlin. There was no extra income generated last year with the INS meeting held in London. The 2010 ASM in Leeds just broke even. The 2013 ASM in Oxford should produce a surplus. Income could be increased by increasing the membership numbers, by producing training symposia at the AAGBI as was done in 2008 or by company sponsorship.

RS noted that there was little detail neither in the membership subscriptions paid into AAGBI and on to INS nor in the invoicing for services from AAGBI. RS to investigate the details of both and get all SO subscriptions switched to DD.

## **6. Secretary's Report**

PT reported that there had been a good turn out to the Berlin joint ASM. 35 NSUKI members had registered for the meeting.

NSUKI recorded membership stands at 102 with 95 in good standing. There were 84 UK members and 18 Irish members. UK & Irish delegates attending the 2011 INS meeting in London had been given one year's membership of INS as part of their registration. One of these had renewed their subscription after the free introductory offer.

The NSUKI page of the INS website had been developed with more information about NSUKI meetings and membership available. Log in details are available from the site or from the Busola at AAGBI.

PT also described the electronic voting for Board Membership that had been adopted by some of the other specialist societies of the AAGBI. PT would investigate the possibly of instituting this for NSUKI voting.

## **7. Irish Affairs**

JK reported that he would be investigating the opportunity of holding a joint meeting of NSUKI with the Irish Faculty of Pain Medicine in Dublin in 2014. They have had up to 200 delegates at their meetings in the past. The meetings are usually focused on a theme.

JK also questioned the plans to roll out the Registry to Ireland as there would be seen to be very useful. Noted some practical differences in the health system in the two countries that may need accommodating in the Irish Registry.

## **8. INS Report**

ST announced “The Year of the Brain” as an INS theme for 2014 that will be opened at the INS World Congress in Berlin. This was in conjunction with the European Brain Council with a slogan of “Look after your brain”. Various public events were being planned. Members were invited to instigate their own local public events under the same theme.

The INS website had been developed with much more information on it. There were patient information leaflets available and general information for patients available which made it a suitable resource for patients to access as a first point of call when considering SCS treatment. There is also a continuous newsfeed on the Home page. The discussion forum was available. There was consideration of launching a Google group forum from within the INS website.

A question was raised of could the INS subscription levied from chapters be reduced if members only received web access to the Journal instead of a paper copy.

## **10 Angina Study RASCAL**

SE reported on the progress of the RASCAL study. Middlesbrough, Basildon and Dudley had recruited 17 out of the planned 45 patients to the study. NICE had announced that it was awaiting the outcome of the study. There was an opportunity of other centres to contribute to the study either by referring patients or becoming a study centre.

Opportunities for further studies that NICE were interested in included PNS, Occipital Nerve Stim and Botox.

## **11. ASM Oxford 19 + 20 September 2013**

SB reported that the Examination Halls and Queens College had been booked for the ASM and dinner. Accommodations had also been reserved at the college and hotels. Ciaran Wazir had been engaged as the conference organizer to assist SB. Planned to arrange a Palliative Care intrathecal drug delivery training day in parallel with the ASM.

## **12. AOB**

FL suggested that further joint European Meetings or even Pan-European meetings could be planned in future, possibly every fourth year avoiding the years of the INS World Congresses.

ST advised that other groups apart from anaesthetists and neurosurgeons with an interest in neuromodulation need to be targeted to engage in joint meetings and join INS.

## **13. Date of next meeting: 19th September 2013, Oxford.**

## **14. Close of meeting:**

Jon Raphael closed the meeting, thanking all the Board members for their support during his term of office as President and handed over the presidency to Sam Eldabe.

President: Jon Raphael

Board Members: Sam Eldabe, Peter Toomey, Roger Strachan, Ganesh Baranidharan, Stana Bojanic, Josh Keavney

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