BRITISH NUCLEAR MEDICINE SOCIETY
Notes of the meeting held on 14th April 2005 at The Novartis Foundation, London

Present: President Dr A J Hilson
President-Elect Dr J W Frank
Hon Secretary Prof A Perkins
Hon Treasurer Dr R A Shields

Mrs S Allen
Mrs M Burniston
Dr B Ellis
Prof I Fogelman
Prof M Frier
Dr A Kelion
Mr J Reid
Dr W Tindale
Dr S Vinjamuri

In Attendance Mrs S Hatchard

1. MATTERS ARISING from the previous Minutes

President-Elect - the President reported that Dr Frank was elected at the AGM in Manchester.

National Diagnostic Imaging Board - the President reported he had still been unsuccessful in making contact with Ms Carol Wilby. In addition, he reported that another committee had been set up concerning National Diagnostic Waiting Times under the Clinical Lead for Diagnostic Imaging, Erica Denton.

Ammy Awards 2006 - Dr Tindale reported a conversation with Mr Wearing of GE Healthcare as follows:
A dinner for up to 500 people (largely open invitation) held on Sunday evening (eve of the conference);
Closing date for applications - 30th September 2005;
Judging finalists by end 2005;
Proposed judges: Prof R McCready, Dr A Millar, Mr C Eustance and Dr M Keir from last winning department. They would not receive an honorarium only out of pocket expenses;
Mr Wearing welcomed comments from BNMS and Council felt it appropriate that a nurse representative should be on the judging panel. After some discussion it was agreed that Prof Perkins would contact Mrs Garner in the first instance and if a nurse representative was unable to be involved he would contact Prof Philip Robinson as the BNMS nominee.

NICE guidance documents update - The President reported that Skin Cancer was out for consultation and at first sight looked quite useful. He had forwarded the document to Dr O’Doherty for comment but Drs R Allen and G Cook would lead on this.

In addition the President reported that the RCP/RCR working document on guidelines for thyroid cancer were five years old and were now being reviewed. The RCP had agreed that they should be reviewed, and a new version prepared for publication on a multidisciplinary basis.
National Occupational Standards
Dr Ellis reported that two meetings had recently taken place that entailed mapping discipline specific and generic NOS on to each stage of the nine stage career pathway and then assigning roles to each of the nine stages. Subsequently a representative from each discipline was involved in mapping NOS on to KSF for Agenda for Change. Dr Adrian Hall represented Radiopharmacy and Dr Ellis would ask him to send a formal report to Council. NOS/KSF/Agenda for Change would be an Agenda item for the next meeting in June.

Ms Allen reported that she was currently writing KSF’s for nuclear medicine clinical scientists as part of her role at Guy’s.

Dr Tindale reported that after the last Council meeting she had written to Prof Sue Hill to sign off the nuclear medicine and radiopharmacy standards but not the generic guidelines as the BNMS had not been involved with these.

Environment Agency - Small User Liaison Group - Ms Allen agreed to deputise for Dr G Davies if he were unable to attend future meetings. However, she was unable to attend the forthcoming meeting on 6th June.

RCP Open Day - 9th July -
Dr Frank confirmed that he was co-ordinating the BNMS stand and that the President and Mr McCool would assist during the day.

Nuclear Medicine HRG’s (Healthcare Resource Groups) - following correspondence from Peter Oates of the Casemix Service on setting up HRGs in Nuclear Medicine, the President had subsequently contacted Mr McCool, Dr Shields, Ms Julie Martin at Guy’s and Dr Jon Hill.

Dr Tindale reported that locally they had tried to allocate two HRG codes for myocardial perfusion scanning and she would email this information to the President, Dr Shields, Dr Frank, Prof Perkins, Mr Reid and Dr Kelion.

Korner KH12 returns - although unrelated to HRG’s, the President reported that he had raised this issue with Mr Oates in the hope that he might be able to shed some light on how these returns were being made. Mr Oates was unaware but agreed to make enquiries.

National Workforce Review Team - the President reported that the nuclear medicine workshop on 8th March had taken place and presentations made from all craft groups and thereafter breaking in workshops. No document as yet.

Following on from that, the President reported that he had attended a meeting on 7th April hosted by the National Workforce Review of Cancer Related Professions. This meeting was attended by very senior people including, amongst others, Prof Mike Richards, post-graduate deans, Dr O’Doherty for nuclear medicine physicians, Prof Williams for clinical scientists.

Major problems highlighted:
Technologists - supernumerary MTO’s attached to training programmes could be “rebadged” as nuclear medicine technologist apprentices - perhaps look at this as a title; Radiopharmacists - need for radiopharmaceutical scientists for clinical service and also shortage if PET/CT takes off;
Medical - NRPB survey results showing 70 full-time equivalents against a need of 350 and approximately 25 - 30% retiring in next 5/10 years

**RCP Specialty Committee** the President reported that the BNMS had two representatives on this committee. Dr Prescott, who would be standing down and another (to check with Dr Prescott). Subject to Council’s approval, it was proposed that Dr Frank replace Dr Prescott.

**Scientific Chairman** - Prof Frier reported that Prof David Williams had agreed to shadow him for the forthcoming year.

### 2. ANY OTHER BUSINESS NOT ON THE AGENDA

**BIR Travelling Fellowships** - Dr Tindale reported that the BIR had two fellowships of £5,000 and £1,000 respectively. Disappointingly they had problems in attracting applications and they had approached the BNMS for assistance. These had subsequently been advertised at the Spring meeting and information placed on the BNMS website. In an effort to attract applications, the BIR had opened the awards to Associate as well as Full BIR members and could apply on joining.

**EANM** - the President reported on the delegates’ meeting he had attended in Vienna. He stated that the President, Prof Carrio had convened the meeting in an effort to become more closely involved with the national societies. The President highlighted:
- Circulars/questionnaires to multiple societies - it was agreed that if people wanted to circulate these, it would be co-ordinated through the EANM, if appropriate;

### 3. CORRESPONDENCE

The President reported:
**HASS** - “Highly active sealed sources” DEFRA consultation document was out for comment.

A letter from Prof Mike Richards stating it would be useful to reconvene discussions on PET/CT with interested parties in relation to cancer. After some discussion it was agreed that the Hon. Secretary would respond that it would be helpful to receive feedback on the national workforce review meeting.

An email concerning a working party looking at PET/CT in UK set up by the RCR and chaired by Janet Husband. The President noted that the ICSC was not involved in this committee but he as President of BNMS and Dr Tindale had been invited to attend a meeting the following week. In addition Dr Neilly, Prof Maisey, S Rankin and other senior colleagues would also be attending. (later – at the meeting, Professor Gordon and Dr Prescott were co-opted in their ICSC capacity.)

A letter from Dr P Dubbins, Dean of the Faculty of Radiology at the RCR reviewing their relationship with special interest groups. To achieve clarity between the groups, the RCR proposed creating three different categories

   Category 1 – a College affiliated group recognised by a formal statement such as a Memorandum of Understanding;
Category 2 – College associated group – group does not wish to be bound by formalised statement of relationship
Category 3 – Independent group that maintains links with RCR – liaison only on specific areas as opportunities arise.

Under these proposals, the President stated that BNMS would fall under Category 3. However he had not yet formally replied as the BNMS had various links to the RCR through ICSC, RCP Joint Specialty Committee, RCR Radionuclide Radiology and he felt a meeting to discuss these issues would be the way forward. This was agreed.

Clinical Excellence Awards – the President reported a letter from Dr Coakley following the completion of the 2005 process for medical members to receive support from the BNMS in respect of performance related pay awards. Dr Coakley was anxious to ensure that the BNMS had a robust and transparent system in place known to the members of the Society, whilst at the same time preserving the confidentiality of individual applicants.

The President highlighted the tight deadline of new award holders usually being announced at the end of October and the new application process having to be completed by mid December. The President welcomed Dr Coakley’s letter and it was agreed to obtain feedback from the last panel of assessors namely himself, Dr Prescott, Prof Ell, Prof Peters, Prof Robinson, Dr Coakley and Dr Tindale (non medical lay member).

A letter from Ms Marilene Oliver, a London based artist requesting MRI/CT scans to develop her sculptural medical imagery. It was agreed that the BNMS should encourage all aspects of nuclear medicine and would try and assist. The correspondence was passed to Professor Fogelman.

4. **HON TREASURER’S REPORT**

The Hon Treasurer reported:

- Faxed instructions to bank e.g. WFNMB payment of subscriptions - the bank required an indemnity against errors that could arise as a result of a fax communication. The Hon Treasurer confirmed that the bank would telephone him before any transfer was made and Council agreed that the declaration should be signed.

- 2005 Travelling Fellowship - a proposal had been made to allow Mr J Reid, Technologist Chair, to attend the SNM meeting in Toronto allocating some of the travelling fellowship to the trip. A discussion took place and the following was agreed: up to £1,000 be allocated utilising the Ros Breen Fund up to £500 and travelling fellowship £500.

- Prizes - requested clarification of prizes given at the annual scientific meeting and the following was agreed:
  
  | Scientific papers | 1<sup>st</sup> £100*; 2<sup>nd</sup> £75; 3<sup>rd</sup> £50. |
  | Posters          | 1<sup>st</sup> £100; 2<sup>nd</sup> £75; 3<sup>rd</sup> £50. |
  | Posters - Technology | 1<sup>st</sup> see below; 2<sup>nd</sup> £75; 3<sup>rd</sup> £50. |
  | Student prize    | 1<sup>st</sup> £100 plus hotel/travel/free registration to attend annual meeting |

* President’s cup for one year (plus replica to keep)
Young Investigator’s
2\textsuperscript{nd} £25; 3\textsuperscript{rd} £15.

Technologist - 1\textsuperscript{st} Scientific/1\textsuperscript{st} Poster
Currently sponsorship provided by GE Healthcare and Tyco up to £500 to attend EANM meeting

The Hon. Secretary put forward a suggestion by Dr Ganatra, (Poster Chairman for the last two years) to approach industry to sponsor the 1\textsuperscript{st} prize for the Poster competition. A discussion followed and it was agreed that sponsorship should not only be pursued for the best poster but also for the best scientific paper and that the scientific paper should attract the higher sponsorship e.g. £500 and £250 respectively, depending on sponsorship received.

Autumn meeting - currently there was no mechanism in place, although the organisers of the York meeting awarded prizes locally in 2004.

5. **SPRING MEETING 2005 – Feedback**

2005/02/01 Responses from 35 questionnaires had previously been circulated. Attendance of 709 delegates was slightly down compared to Brighton 765. Comments concerning AV, accommodation booking service, etc. would be noted when planning 2006. A suggestion from industry to hold the cocktail party next year in the Exhibition Hall seemed a good idea. Generally feedback had been positive and the meeting had been very successful. A suggestion to bring forward the Highlights Lecture before lunch on the last day to encourage better attendance did not seem a viable solution.

6. **BRITISH NUCLEAR CARDIOLOGY SOCIETY**

Dr Kelion reported:
Pennyhill Park document - was still to be published, delays with HEART rather than NMC;
British Cardiac Society have set up two new committees involving nuclear cardiology representatives - BCS Workforce Special Committee and Non Invasive Imaging. The second committee included other imaging modalities and together it was hoped to provide guidance in certain situations.
Business Plan template - should be available on BNCS website; hope to set up a link to BNMS website.

7. **AUTUMN MEETING GLASGOW - 8\textsuperscript{th}/9\textsuperscript{th} September**

The deadline for abstract submission was 8\textsuperscript{th} July. It was agreed to invite the organisers for an update on planning to the next Council meeting.

8. **2006 SPRING MEETING -Manchester 27\textsuperscript{th} - 29\textsuperscript{th} March**

Prof Frier reported
Annual lecture - Dr Mathew Thakur, SNM President had agreed to present the Annual Lecture. Post meeting lecture topic: “Approaches to imaging oncogene expression”
Interactive sessions - appeared popular although four in one day perhaps too many. Two topics had been agreed Technologist - Mr J Reid - subject to be defined; Sentinel Node Imaging - Dr R Allen.

10. **2007/2008 SPRING MEETING VENUES**
A representative from ExCel in London had visited Manchester during the Spring conference to observe and discuss BNMS requirements. The ICC in Birmingham would also be visited in the near future as a possible venue.

Provisional bookings held:

- **2007**
  - Manchester: *Post meeting dates Mon 19th – 21st March*
  - Brighton 26th – 28th March
  - ExCel – 11th – 13th April (Easter Monday 10th April)

- **2008**
  - ExCel 9th – 11th April

11. **WEBSITE**

The Hon. Secretary reported that currently the BNMS had three different domain sites (using two companies) and a meeting had taken place with True Systems who currently hosted two sites for abstract submission and members’ database to rationalise this situation. It was proposed that True Systems maintain all three and also provide extra services to include simplifying the Members’ database system, develop content management, allowing specialist groups to manage their own areas, improve the search facility and provide an on-line forum. The Hon. Secretary outlined the costs for these improvements which were agreed.

12. **EDUCATION**

**Global Health Conference 2005, Plymouth** – Dr Vinjamuri reported that he had recently represented the BNMS at this conference for medical students on the theme of “Environment”. He thought approximately 100 students had attended mainly from the UK. Feedback from his talk was positive and he thought it was likely that the BNMS would be approached again in the future to provide a speaker.

**Non medical reporting** – As well as the course in Salford, Mr Reid noted that the Technologist group would be working on trying to establish a course somewhere in the south east.

13. **PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS**

The President reported:

- Consent issues in nuclear medicine – available on Members’ only section of website; comments by the end of June 2005;
- modifying the generic guidelines was raised at the AGM and they were now available on the Members’ only section of the website for comment;
- Sentinel node guidelines were adopted at the AGM
- Mobile PET/CT service – the ICSC were drawing up guidelines.

14. **RADIOPHARMACY GROUP**

Dr Ellis reported:

Chromium EDTA – no further progress. The MHRA were currently updating all their paper files of product licence applications onto a database and neither were available at the moment.
Radiopharmacy experts – Dr Tindale had written regarding setting up a formal network around the country so each area had a contact person. This issue was discussed at the recent Radiopharmacy meeting and Dr Ellis stated that although regions had disappeared, they had carried on with the old system but with succession planning, it was important to establish a new network.

The Secretary of State had approved Consultant Pharmacist posts. These would be defined and developed based on local need. Each post would be structured around four main functions: expert practice; research, evaluation and service development; education, mentoring and overview of practice; professional leadership. This also linked to New Career Pathways and Agenda for Change job profile. (Document available on DoH website – Dr Ellis to email Council). However, Prof Frier pointed out that funding was a major problem at regional level. After some discussion Dr Ellis agreed to draft a letter setting out the issues involved and this would be sent to Dr Jim Smith, Chief Pharmacist at the DoH and copied to Workforce Review Team proposing formal recognition of Consultant Radiopharmacists.

DMSA – the President reported that he had written to Mr Wearing at GE Healthcare concerning a rumour that DMSA was running out. He had not yet received a reply.

15. TECHNOLOGY GROUP

Mr Reid reported:
Staffing levels for Technologists – he hoped to have a draft document available for the PS&E meeting in May. This would be circulated to Council for information;
Society of Radiographers Nuclear Medicine Advisory Group/IPEM – he was involved with an initiative to produce a document stating who can perform nuclear medicine from a technologist point of view and a generic document on what they should be doing;
Injection certificate – nothing further to report.
State Registration – still out for consultation. They were encouraging technologists to register.

Home Office ‘highly skilled’ migrant programme – the President reported that nuclear medicine technologists were no longer on this list and he had emailed the Immigration and Nationality Directorate to draw this to their attention. To date he had not received a response. The President also raised this issue with Prof Black at the RCP Medical Specialty Board and she had subsequently written to Prof Sue Hill at the DoH. The President also noted that radiopharmaceutical scientists were not on the list.

16. NURSES GROUP

The committee was made up as follows: Joint Chairs: Carol Garner (Royal Sussex), Bridget Johnson (North Staffs), Treasurer Gina Ross (Guy’s), Jill Conley (Queen Elizabeth Birmingham), Kate Latus (Royal Brompton) and Heather Scicluna (Addenbrooke’s).

17. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

Twenty-four applications for Full membership were approved:
Dr M Aldridge, Mr J Bailey, Mr M Bellon, Dr J Brunton, Miss L Carmichael, Dr H Cheow, Mrs R Coleman, Dr C Doody, Mrs M Gardner, Dr S Geary, Dr S Horton, Dr Ingham, Dr S Masud, Dr E Owens, Dr B Rakowicz, Mrs M Stephenson, Dr H Tehranipour, Dr J Todd, Dr T van der Borght, Dr H Varia, Dr F van der Zant, Mrs I Vito, Dr P Wheeler and Mrs H Williams.

Three applications for Associate membership were approved: Dr T Beaconsfield, Mr Ghiotto and Mr Vincente.

18. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – Wednesday 15th June – Nottingham. Venue to be advised.