1. **MATTERS ARISING from the previous Minutes**

**National Diagnostic Imaging Board** – Dr Tindale reported that a meeting would be taking place with Dr Erica Denton on 6th October.

**RCP Open Day - 9th July**
Despite a low turn out, Dr Frank reported a successful day. He hoped the RCP would publicise the event more widely next year.

**Nuclear Medicine HRG’s (Healthcare Resource Groups)** – the President reported that this led into an important area for nuclear medicine covering procedure codes for payment by results. It also covered PACS, electronic patient records and related areas. Dr Buscombe would shortly be attending an RCP meeting. The Prime Minister’s office was looking at these areas.

The President explained the need to identify three different procedure codes including HRG’s for the radiology information system, PACS and central electronic patient record. He noted that national tables were being developed for PACS coding and drew attention to a PACS discussion group on the RCR website. In addition, Connecting for Health, who were rolling out the new electronic patient record system, had contacted him requesting a delegate to sit on their SNOMED CT DI procedures subset management group. The President agreed to do this and they would be meeting on 10th October. The purpose of the group was to come up with consistent coding on a national level and also produce a mechanism for developing new procedures. The President felt that as a Society the BNMS should form a small ad hoc group to feedback to this group. The following agreed to be involved or would identify a local person to assist: Dr Tindale, Dr Vinjamuri, Mr Avison, Dr Shields, Mr McCool, Ms Allen, Prof Perkins. The President welcomed further names of colleagues who might be able to help.
As an aside, Dr Kelion reported that Dr Tweddle had produced bottom-up costings in respect of myocardial perfusion scintigraphy and he would ask her to forward a copy to the President.

**National Workforce Review Team** – the President reported that he had seen a draft report of the meeting held in March but a lot more work needed to be done on the document. In addition, there was a problem relating to the workforce review recommendations for healthcare scientists 2006/7 and in particular the absence of MTO’s. It would appear that there was a mismatch of data between the DoH and IPEM census. Subsequently Guy Cross of the Workforce Review team had sent an email to all SHA’s requesting that they re-check their figures.

In respect of Nuclear Medicine Technologist training, the President reported that John Agnew had spoken to Gary Dakin (Healthcare Scientist Workforce Lead, North Central London Strategic Health Authority) who reported to him that IPEM were looking towards a four year part-time degree programme leading to level 3, with an attachment or supernumerary day release similar to Australian, New Zealand and South African nuclear medicine technologists. However, the version of the degree programme for Clinical Technologists dated July 2005 1.1 (not yet circulated to Council) did not state this. The Hon. Secretary agreed to contact Neil Lewis and Derek Pearson for clarification. Mr Reid noted that the Technology Group should be involved with the training programme.

**PET/CT working party** – the President reported that the draft report prepared by RCR in conjunction with RCP, IPEM and BNMS had been sent to the DoH. He would try and circulate a copy to Council. The document “Standards for Delivering a PET/CT Service” was on the RCR website and a link would be placed from the BNMS website.

In addition, the President reported that education and training requirements had been omitted from the above document as this was being devolved to the BNMS. This document would be placed in the public section of the BNMS website after revision and approval by Council.

**NOS/Knowledge Skills Framework (“KSF”)** – Ms Allen reported that representatives had been invited to attend a meeting on 29/30 September. Mr Reid and Mr Eustance would be attending.

**UKRC 2006** – Dr Frank reported that Prof Fogelman had agreed to chair the nuclear medicine session on the Monday afternoon.

2. **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. The President reported an email from Prof Mather in respect of guidance on Clinical Trials in nuclear medicine particularly the changes brought about by the new Clinical Trials Directive, i.e. requirements of GCP, registration with MHRA, new Ethics Committee approvals as well as GMP issues. It was agreed to invite Prof Mather to the next Council meeting.

2. The President reported that the RCP had set up a working party on the use of Radioiodine Therapy in the management of hyperthyroidism, (guidelines first produced in 1995). Dr Clarke reported that the RCP BTA cancer guidelines were also being revised.
3. Federation of the RCP in the UK – the President reported that he would be attending a meeting of all the Presidents on 22nd November in Edinburgh.

4. Healthcare shortage occupations – nuclear medicine. The President reported that although the RCP had received no response in respect of the Highly Skilled Migrant programme, it would appear defacto that an Australian colleague had received approval by the Home Office. The President would try and obtain a copy of the letter.

5. Integrated Diagnostics, Managing Patient Pathways – a Call for Evidence. The President reported receipt of a letter from the Science Council. Prof Perkins was a member of the Working Group and Prof Ell a panel expert. The aim of the study was to identify opportunities for improving diagnostics, specifically recognising the Government’s target of an 18 week maximum wait. Prof Perkins agreed to be the BNMS lead and an electronic version of their letter and accompanying could be found at l.hastings@sciencecouncil.org.

6. GE Healthcare – the President had received a letter stating that DMSA, DTPA, and Pulmocis were no longer available. However, DMSA was available from Schering.

7. Radcliffe Publishing – the Hon. Secretary reported that this organisation commissioned new texts for specialties and training and had written to enquire whether the BNMS would be interested as authors or editors of future publications. Council felt that the small handbooks “Clinicians Guides” sponsored by Amersham some years ago had been useful and might be an area that the Education Committee would like to follow up. Dr Clarke agreed to liaise with Prof Gordon.

8. International Journal of Radiology – the Hon. Secretary reported a request to add a website link to their journal. In addition a request to rent for one time use, the BNMS mailing list. These were agreed.

3. **BRITISH NUCLEAR CARDIOLOGY SOCIETY**

Dr Kelion reported:

- Pennyhill Park meeting – the document “How to set up a Nuclear Cardiology Service” had now been published in the HEART supplement, along with the BNCS survey for 2000.

Costing Perfusion Scintigraphy – they were currently preparing a bottom-up exercise for the DoH. They were recommending that, for quality control issues, centres should not perform less than 500 scans per annum.

BCS have invited each affiliate group to sit on their Cardiology Advisory Committee and to nominate someone to sit on their SAC CCST for the first time.

BCS have set up a non-invasive imaging group looking at relationships with different modalities covering coronary heart disease. A document was being put together but was not available yet.

Education and accreditation:
– web based learning (I Gordon) – a completed draft version of a cardiac stress model had gone to Peter Hogg to be put into a web based model – Dr Kelion was unsure how advanced this was.
– I Jones, K Latus, M Gardner and others were working on Guidelines for training non medical staff to cardiac stress. These would cover training, competency and how much and what form assessment should take. This was still in its early stages and Dr Kelion would arrange for Council to see this.
– Accreditation process for nuclear cardiology – Dr Kelion had been keen to put together a national scheme that included all craft groups but now felt this was too ambitious a task. ASNC/ACC have put together an accreditation process administered by a CBNC exam. They have now brought the exam to Europe in collaboration with the European Working Group on Nuclear Cardiology and colleagues would be able to sit the exam in Europe. He noted it was primarily aimed at cardiologists.

4. **CLINICAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS**
The President reported that the Society had a right to nominate medical colleagues for these awards and it was important to ensure that the mechanism for doing so was transparent. As President, he would chair a group that held higher level awards and the Hon. Secretary would also join the panel. A letter would be sent to all eligible members inviting them to send their CVQ no later than Friday 28th October with a view to having them ranked by mid November. He thought it likely that they would use the Scottish mechanism again based on the old merit award system. (Dr Clarke agreed to forward her Trust’s criteria to the President.) In addition, information would be placed on the Members’ section of the BNMS website.

5. **HON TREASURER’S REPORT**
The Hon Treasurer reported funds of £240,000.

6. **EXPANDING THE BNMS MEMBERSHIP**
Dr Hall’s document, 2005/9/1 had previously been circulated. In addition Dr Hall had written to Steve Ebdon-Jackson in respect of contacting ARSAC certificate holders to become BNMS members. However, this was not feasible due to Data Protection issues. Dr Hall had also contacted the medical indemnity companies to raise the possibility of offering discounts to BNMS members. Replies from Steve Ebdon-Jackson and MPS had also been circulated.

Dr Hall’s document explored all facets of membership: why expand membership; why do members renew; reasons for not joining and put forward recommendations:
- Review membership fees
- Introduce junior category
- Introduce corporate membership
- Revamp website
- BNMS magazine
- Evaluate Spring meeting to make it more attractive

The President thanked Dr Hall for producing a very useful document and Council discussed possible ways in which to move forward. After some discussion the following was agreed:
- Council to have an “away day” (last done in 1991)
- draw up a strategy for the Society with the assistance of a Facilitator (Prof Fogelman to provide a name)
- invite industry, through NMIA to participate.
Post meeting note: to be held in January – date to be advised.
- Council minutes (potted version) to be placed on Members’ Only section of the website – Hon. Secretary.

7. AUTUMN MEETING GLASGOW – 8th/9th September
To date there were 230 registrants.

8. 2006 SPRING MEETING -Manchester 27th - 29th March
Prof Frier reported:
Abstract deadline - Thursday 27th October
Scientific committee – would be drawn from Council members and would meet on Monday 14th November
Highlights lecture – Dr Al-Nahhas had agreed to give this.
The Hon. Secretary reported a letter from Prof Elliott suggesting that the lecture be brought forward to the end of the morning session to encourage people to stay. A suggestion was also made that CPD certificates should only be given out at the end of the meeting.


10. 2007 SPRING MEETING MICC - 19th / 21 March. – nothing further to report.

2008 ICC, Birmingham - 14 - 16 April. – The Hon. Secretary reported that the venue had ideal lecture theatre capacity and exhibition space. Dates for 2009 were not convenient (utilising Easter Monday). Dates for 2010 were fine.

11. WEBSITE
The Hon. Sec. agreed that the website needed re-vamping and recommended that another company should do this. Council agreed that tenders be invited and the Hon. Secretary /Dr Tindale requested Council members to forward details of useful websites they have seen.

12. PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS & EDUCATION COMMITTEE (“PS&E”)
Dr Clarke reported:
Guidelines – three were on the Members’ Only section for review;
Organisational Audit – this was very slow. She welcomed ideas as to how to move this forward;
Nurses education – the group were currently exploring a programme for nuclear medicine nurses;
Education funding – the National Workforce Commissioners Group had turned this down.

The President reported a letter from the RCP whereby they were reviewing their Invited Service Review process and were looking for a nomination from the Society. The President felt this would tie in well with the peer review process and had nominated Dr Clarke.

13. RADIOPHARMACY GROUP
Chromium EDTA – Prof Frier reported that he had attended a meeting with the MHRA in July but was unable to report any news in respect of the product licence. They were awaiting a study from Guy’s and King’s College to come out.
Dr Ellis reported:
LeukoScan was not available at the moment due to regulatory problems. It should be back on the market later in the year.

Clinical trials/IMP licence/Qualified Person (“QP”) – when applying for an IMP licence it is necessary to nominate a QP for the clinical trial. This was covered by the MHRA grandfather clause and a person could go on this licence until May 2006. However, a problem will arise next year getting QP’s into the NHS as they will now have to work in industry for six months. A letter had been sent to the Radiopharmaceutical Society about the problem as it would affect all clinical trials. It was also suggested that a letter be sent to Sally Davis, R&D at the DoH.

Prof Frier highlighted another issue where a number of departments had applied for an IMP licence which had been granted in the absence of a formal inspection and a QP nominated at an interim level. It was agreed that the Radiopharmacy Group would write to the President wearing his RCP “hat” outlining their concerns.

14. TECHNOLOGY GROUP
Mr Reid reported:
- a meeting with the NHS Career people to try and get careers information on nuclear medicine technologists onto their website. Because of the scale of their publications it would be impractical to have a dedicated nuclear medicine publication. However, they were willing to discuss what could go into subsequent publications which they were in the process of updating. He would report back any progress.
- IV certificate had now been finalised. He wondered whether the person signing the certificate had to be a member of the Society. Council confirmed that they did not and that the certificate should just state “issued in accordance with BNMS standards”;
- Survey of Technologists in the UK – he confirmed that he and Dr Frank had sent out 240 questionnaires. To date they had received 40 replies and they would follow up on departments who had not replied.

15. NURSES GROUP – nothing further to report.

16. BNMS REPRESENTATIVES
BMA CCSC speciality subcommittee – 2005/06 representative – Prof Jon Hill was willing to carry on for a further year.

EANM delegates – Dr Tindale was unable to attend the meeting in Istanbul and Dr Hall agreed to replace her.

JCHMT – SAC Nuclear Medicine – Dr Bomanji had completed his term of office and Dr Clarke agreed to replace him.

17. NUCLEAR MEDICINE COMMUNICATIONS
The Hon Sec reported that a conference call with the publishers would be taking place in later in the year once they had produced updated figures for the year.
18. **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS**
The following were approved:

**Full membership:** Miss R Davies, Dr T Szyszko

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**Associate:** Mrs H Scicluna