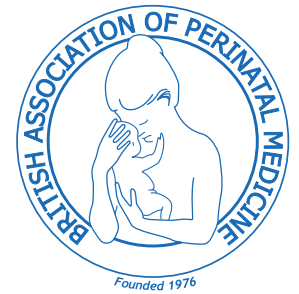


BAPM News



From the President

It was good to welcome you all to the Perinatal Day in York this year; the standard of presentations and abstracts was high and congratulations to all those who were selected for presentation in our session or in Plenary. The joint session with the Respiratory Group was also excellent with good debate over the use of RSV-prophylaxis and home oxygen. It was also a great opportunity to see old friends and catch up.

BAPM has been busy this year with a range of activities. We welcome Lisa Nandi our new Executive Officer, who has settled in well and has smoothly taken over the reins of the Association. Certainly there is lots of activity to report and she is busy organising the range of meetings we have over the spring and summer.

In the middle of the York Meeting I attended the launch of the Fabian Society publication "Born Unequal". This is a fascinating analysis of the need for social support for young mothers but importantly it recognises that social support has to come hand in hand with well resourced perinatal services, as the time scale for improvements in outcome for children through social change is long term and generational but the services provided by our membership are immediate. Too many governmental publications about maternity care forget that there is a second person with very special needs in the pregnancy: the fetus and baby. The meeting gave me an opportunity to both congratulate the Fabian Society and to remind the Minister for Inequality of the latter point.

Following the publication of the Nuffield Council on Bioethics Report in November, we have set up a group to develop a position statement from the professional groups involved on the management of borderline viability. Chaired by a past-President of the Association, Andrew Wilkinson, this should have a draft for debate with the membership at the Annual Meeting in September.

Data continues to generate much activity as the Honorary Secretary

describes overleaf. There are several activities going on at present in parallel – mandatory data set, BAPM dataset, national neonatal audit etc – and it is becoming clear that BAPM needs to provide leadership in this area to ensure no duplication, something that will become more important as new areas of the country join the three main data collection systems to coordinate their activity.

Data are the key to arguing for resources and was the subject of one debate at the recent first meeting of the Neonatal Network Managers and Lead Clinicians hosted by BAPM in Nottingham earlier this month. Networks are potentially an important route to arguing for more appropriate resources in perinatal care and the object of the meeting was to air common issues around the current networks which have been slightly destabilised by the recent reorganisation and uncertainty about the future for these fledgling organisations. We had an excellent presentation from the National Audit Office over the current audit that some of you may have seen. The NAO are a powerful organisation and their attention and spotlight on Neonatal Care is welcome. We look forward to their report in the autumn. We debated the hot issues of data initiatives, the current standards and how we can work with our Neonatal Surgical Colleagues to help improve the care provided for our joint patients. Finally we were updated on the PBR process and debated how we can take the commissioning agenda forward to make it effective. I am grateful to Maria Howard, the chair of the Managers Group, for helping me organise the meeting and we look forward to the next meeting involving more of our nursing colleagues in the autumn.

We held a meeting of the BAPM Clinical Trials Group in Birmingham on 16-17 May. This was not greatly attended but the select audience was treated to presentations of 4 proposed new trials which were intensively debated and we



will support. As an innovation this year on the second day, Peter Brocklehurst and I ran a workshop for people who wished to learn about designing a clinical trial in perinatal medicine. This was a great day and we developed four themes through as clinical trials with the audience, with really positive feedback from the participants. I must thank Peter and his staff at the NPEU for their support of the meeting and continuing input. Perinatal medicine has many excellent randomised trials going on at present and there are several more under consideration by funding agencies. They are the lifeblood of service improvement and we should all endeavour to learn about and involve ourselves in such research activity.

We are looking forward to the Annual meeting in the Isle of Man in September – this will be the first opportunity to see the new EPICure-2 data and get new information on the early adolescent outcome for the original EPICure cohort as well as debate around the new BAPM position statement. Book early to avoid disappointment and please submit abstracts for our trial poster session!

We also need you to put a very special date in your diary for 2008 – our annual scientific meeting will be held earlier than usual on the 2-4 June 2008 in the International Conference Centre in Harrogate. This will be a joint meeting between the British Maternal & Fetal Medicine Society, the Neonatal Society and the Neonatal Nurses Association. The meeting, entitled "**Perinatal Medicine 2008**", promises to be a great occasion and will feature several important international speakers and run in a series of parallel sessions. Further information will be available in the summer.

Neil Marlow

The National Grid in Neonatal Medicine - the story of 2007

I thought it would be useful to trainees and educational supervisors to update on the outcome of the 2007 round of the national grid training programme in neonatal medicine. Many will have realised that the organisation of the whole process changed Deanery with Yorkshire now the lead deanery in the UK for paediatric training. From the perspective of an interviewer, I must start by praising staff at the Deanery for the expert organisation of the whole process throughout.

As stated in my previous correspondence on the process, BAPM newsletter February 2007, the neonatal CSAC agreed with the College to agree to 15 places for subspecialty training. Regional advisors put into the scheme 23 neonatal training programmes for trainees to choose from.

Now for the numbers. A total of 72 applications were received. This was an 80% increase on 2006. 31 trainees were shortlisted and interviewed over 2 days at the end of February 2007. The interview panel was made up of myself, two neonatologists and a non-neonatal chair. At the end of the process we concluded that the standard we needed to set would need to recognise the popularity of the speciality and the likelihood that future consultant appointments were likely to become increasingly more competitive. The panel concluded that 17 of the 31 interviewees had convinced us that they should be recommended for a subspecialty training post in neonatal medicine. Following matching, 15 training posts were allocated. Congratulations to all those who were successful.

In previous years, the majority of trainees who were interviewed were deemed to be suitable for training and were prevented from a grid slot by the lack of posts. This year we chose a firmer approach and deemed that many did not convince the panel that they had the skills/attributes required. Whilst accepting comments

that this process may not identify all the good trainees that many in local units have rated highly, it is the only equitable process available to us at the present time. It seems appropriate to set the standard for those applying to neonatology as high as possible. As I have already advised many trainees who have been unsuccessful, this does not stop local Deaneries agreeing to train those trainees they consider suitable. I would, however, urge caution, since they will be applying at a national level for consultant posts and come up against those very same applicants who were successful for the grid posts.

As ever, the RCPCH will review the whole process in order to improve again for 2008. There were some appropriate concerns about the standardised application form (sounds familiar I suspect to many!). However even given these the interview panel was disappointed by the quality of many applications and for those interviewed, the ability of applicants to recognise the detail needed in the answers. This topic will be discussed at the joint BAPM/CSAC trainees day on 24 October 2007. I would urge those thinking of applying in the future to consider attending. A booking form for the meeting is enclosed with this newsletter and can also be downloaded from the BAPM website: www.bapm.org.

Finally, may I thank the interview panellists for their diligence over a very long two days of interviews. I believe we have appointed some outstanding trainees to neonatal subspecialty training.

A Bryan Gill

Annual and Scientific Meeting 6 & 7 September, Isle of Man

Bookings are coming in fast and this is a reminder to please book for the Annual and Scientific Meeting as soon as possible – the earlier the booking, the cheaper the flight!

Travel Services (Isle of Man) have put together an inclusive travel and accommodation package. Please contact Sally Helwich, Travel Services (Isle of Man) on 01624 661177 or email: iomts@manx.net



Call for Abstracts

A reminder that abstracts are invited for possible inclusion in the programme for the Annual Scientific Meeting on 6 September 2007. All abstracts will be presented as posters and will be displayed in parallel poster sessions. Those abstracts selected for presentation will be published in the delegate handbook for the conference. Abstracts should be no more than 300 words long and should include aims, methods, results and conclusions. Authors are encouraged to submit abstracts online or post them to the BAPM office using the official abstract form.

Deadline for submission extended to **5pm on 15 June 2007**.

www.bapm.org
or contact the BAPM office

Letter from the Secretary

As I write this in Edinburgh on the eve of the elections to the Scottish Parliament I wonder if we are moving towards a change in the political geography of Britain. Whatever your views on this I think it is one of the great strengths of this Association that it represents the interests of members from all countries of the United Kingdom, as well as having several members from overseas. The Executive Committee is inclusive of country/region as well as of the diverse specialties that make up the membership.

Talking of specialties I want to start by thanking Andy Leslie for his good work in representing nursing on the executive. He has completed his term of office and Alison Gibbs takes over as nursing representative.

Since the last newsletter we have had the RCPCH annual meeting in York. Can I thank all those who helped make the perinatal day and the combined session with the respiratory group a success. The sessions were lively and well attended.

Lisa Nandi is now well established in her role as Executive Officer. My thanks to her and Julia Wheal for their hard work in the office and in particular for the organisation of our sessions in York.

BAPM is receiving an increasing number of requests to send out questionnaires to members. These usually relate to a survey of management of a particular condition. The quality of these surveys is very variable and, if we send these out for members, there is a danger that BAPM is seen as endorsing the questionnaire. They also add to the number of e-mail messages we receive and many members find this irksome.

At the recent Executive Committee meeting it was agreed that BAPM would advertise any surveys in one of the regular e-mail news updates. Members would be asked to contact the person running the survey if they wanted to be involved. BAPM also offers a facility to buy a single-use sheet of address labels of all members who have agreed that their details can be given to third parties. The cost for these labels can be obtained by contacting the BAPM office.

Neonatal data collection continues to develop. There are now several established projects (acronyms!!) including SEND, MANNERS, NICORE, National Neonatal Data Project (NNAP), The Neonatal Survey (formerly the Trent Neonatal Survey – at least no acronym here !) and the Scottish Birth Record (SBR). In England the Neonatal Critical Care Minimum Dataset (NCCMDS) became mandatory from the 1 April this year. Several units also submit data to the Vermont-Oxford dataset.

The BAPM Data Group is working to ensure standardisation of definitions across all data projects. This is important if we are to pool data nationally for audit, benchmarking and research. The dataset has been expanded to include the items from NNAP and NCCMDS. This will be published on the website very soon and there will be time for discussion during the AGM in September.



The Neonatal Data Analysis Unit (NDAU) has been established to analyse clinical data held on SEND and other neonatal records, including data from NNAP. There will be a launch meeting for NDAU on the 25 June in The Friends House, Euston Road, London. Further information can be obtained by contacting Professor Neena Modi.

The trainees meeting this year will be held in the Royal Institute of British Architects, London on 24 October. The programme is on the website and a booking form is enclosed with this newsletter. It deals with many issues in which trainees may not have much experience but which are important in the consultant role. As always there will be time over lunch for trainees to have one to one discussions about their training, although do not expect anyone to solve the problems of MTAS ! Please encourage all trainees to attend what in the past has been a very successful meeting.

It remains for me to remind you about the AGM and annual scientific meeting in the Isle of Man on the 6 and 7 September. The venue looks great and travel is not expensive if booked early. All details are on the website but also please contact Lisa in the BAPM office if you need further help – she has visited the venue and is full of enthusiasm for the Isle of Man and the meeting.

At the AGM we will be electing a President elect. A call for nominations accompanies this newsletter. There will also be some discussion around changes to the Trust Deed and Constitution including a proposal to extend the term of office of the President and Honorary Secretary. You will hear some data from EPICure-2 as well as the recommendations from the group, chaired by Professor Andrew Wilkinson, on the management of the extremely immature baby born at the limits of viability.

See you on the Isle of Man.

Andy Lyon

Forthcoming Meetings

Extended Neonatal Network

Imperial College
London

100 years of living science

100

Neonatal Update 2007

"The science of newborn care"

Monday - Friday, 26 - 30 November 2007

*Celebrating the centenary of Imperial College London
and the 10th anniversary of the Faculty of Medicine*

Informative, stimulating and thought provoking
- a meeting that expands the horizons of neonatal medicine
A "must" for experienced clinicians and clinical scientists

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Symposium Office: Tel: 020 7594 2150; E: sympreg@imperial.ac.uk
www.symposia.org.uk

Following on from David Field's article in the last newsletter, I would like to introduce myself as the MCRN Extended Neonatal Network Co-ordinator.

Since starting post in January 2007 I have been focused on establishing an Extended Neonatal Network which will include a large number of neonatal units who do not currently fall within the boundaries of the six MCRN Local Research Networks. I will act as a central resource for these units who will benefit from support within the MCRN including information about potential sources of funding for new studies and advice on regulatory issues for submission of study applications and training opportunities. Additionally, those neonatal units which participate in MCRN portfolio studies will be able to access service support costs for those studies via the Comprehensive NHS Research Network. As part of the Extended Neonatal Network, units would be kept up to date with developments within health research in England and any developments relating to the Comprehensive Research Network. As I am based at the NPEU, I am also the central contact point for information and queries relating to the NPEU neonatal studies which have been adopted by the MCRN, currently ADEPT, BOOST-II UK and INIS.

Regarding the timescale, letters of invitation were sent out to all units in England in March. If you have not yet expressed your interest in joining, please visit the neonatal webpage on the NPEU website:

www.npeu.ox.ac.uk/neonatalnetwork. The Extended Neonatal Network Expression of Interest Form can be downloaded from this site and returned to me. If you have any queries relating to the Extended Neonatal Network please contact me sara.lewis@npeu.ox.ac.uk or 01865 289716.

Sara Lewis

Announcing.....

PERINATAL MEDICINE 2008

2nd - 4th JUNE 2008

HARROGATE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE - HARROGATE, UK

A Joint Meeting of the British Maternal and Fetal Medicine Society, the British Association of Perinatal Medicine, the Neonatal Society and the Neonatal Nurses Association



www.perinatalmedicine2008.ukevents.org

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- FETAL GROWTH RESTRICTION 'Is catch up growth good for you?' 'Neurocognitive outcomes'
- PERINATAL INFLAMMATION 'Inflammation and disability'
- OUTCOMES 'Perinatal psychiatry' 'Developmental care'
- DEBATE - BORDERLINE VIABILITY 'Has patient choice gone too far?'
- SOCIETY LECTURES
- PARALLEL SESSIONS
- FREE COMMUNICATIONS
- SCIENTIFIC POSTER DISPLAYS

For further information, please contact the Conference Secretariat:

Hampton Medical Conferences Ltd,
113-119 High Street, Hampton Hill, Middlesex, TW12 1NJ, UK
Tel: +44 (0) 20 8979 8300

Email: fetal@hamptonmedical.com www.perinatalmedicine2008.ukevents.org

Child in Mind Project Neonatal Course

Birth Notice

The 'Child in Mind' Project Team are pleased to announce the safe arrival of their third course. It has been named 'Neonatal Cognitive and Emotional Development'. It weighs in with two seminars called 'The Competent Newborn' and 'Promoting Positive Relationships'.

Piloting feedback from five neonatal units is very encouraging, and has led to few changes. The first 'Training the Trainers' workshop at RCPCH on Tuesday 22 May is almost full. Later in 2007, workshops

will be held in Glasgow on Friday 2 November and at RCPCH on Tuesday 4 December. Application forms will be available in June from the 'Child in Mind' section of the College website.

Avril Washington and Quentin Spender

BAPM diary dates for 2007:
'Child in Mind' Neonatal Course
'Training the Trainers' workshops:
2 November 2007
Glasgow Thistle Hotel
4 December 2007
London, RCPCH.



Kilimanjaro and the BAPM Educational Bursary

And so it was, with the inhibitory synapse off, that I found myself saying that I would be very happy to accompany my son Matt up Kilimanjaro with a group of old university friends. Having forgotten this foolhardy pledge within hours, my dismay and alarm knew no bounds when some 18 months or so later, an email arrived to say that we were to be going up Kili in about 6 months and to cough up for the flights and accommodation.

Diaries were consulted – no ready excuses found. Matt was consulted – still keen, keener even. Mrs A consulted – she seemed enthusiastic, suspiciously so, that I go up this 19,000 foot mountain. So I paid up but made sure that a fellow Neonatologist, Wilf Kelsall, was also coerced to join me. Our 6 female consultant colleagues were delighted and already planning the advert for two new replacements and what colour to paint my office.

However all our high altitude training in Cambridge paid off. Eight out of our party of 11 made it to the top, including Wilf, which was a fantastic feat. I got to about 15,000 feet which was plenty high enough for me. You will be pleased to see that two BAPM ties accompanied me on the trek – a source of much comfort!

Safely back at sea level I would very much like to thank all of you who encouraged me with your sponsorship, your messages of support, offers of psychotherapy and, in at least one case, the offer to set up a memorial for me – thanks Julian. I would also like to thank all of the corporate donors including Chiesi, Fisher and Paykel, Avent, Infant and KPMG for their generous donations towards the educational bursary fund.



The fund now stands at £3,847. At the last BAPM Executive Committee it was confirmed that the fund should be used to support attendance, by non-medical members, at the BAPM AGM and Annual Scientific meetings. Details of how prospective attendees can access support towards their costs from the educational fund will be circulated soon. If any members have other suggestions for use of the funds, which I hope we can build up over time, then please do get in touch with me.

Jag Ahluwalia

Ross Gilbraith Mitchell MD, FRCP Ed., FRCPCH, DCH (1920 - 2006)

Ross Mitchell, Professor Emeritus of Child Health in the University of Dundee, died from cancer on 14 August 2006. He was an honorary member of the BAPM and gave the fourth Founder's Lecture on the 'Outcomes of Objectives of Perinatal Care' in 1985.

A native of Skye, Ross was born on 18 November 1920 and educated at Kelvinside Academy where he was 'dux' in 1938. In 1944, he graduated in medicine at the University of Edinburgh. After national service in the Royal Navy (Burma and Indonesia, 1945-46), he trained as a paediatrician in the UK and also as a Rockefeller research fellow at the Mayo Clinic. Returning to Scotland, he was appointed as a consultant paediatrician in Dundee in 1955 and in 1961, was given special responsibility for the newborn service. In 1963, he accepted an invitation to take the Chair of Paediatrics in Aberdeen but ten years later, returned to Dundee as James Mackenzie Professor of Child Health.

Ross's research interests, to which he made many important contributions, included amine metabolism, neonatal medicine, asthma, developmental neurology and the antecedents of childhood handicap. His wise guidance was also much in demand as a committee chairman. He was a founder member of the Paediatric Research Society, a member of the American Academy for Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine, a member of the GMC and of the Medical Advisory Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals. He was also a member of the Scottish Advisory Council on Child Care and of the Specialist Advisory Committee on Paediatrics. Abroad he was a consultant to the WHO and travelled widely in Asia, Africa, America and New Zealand, lecturing and giving advice to a number of medical schools. In the UK, as Chairman of



the BPA's Academic Board in the 1970s, he was a strong proponent for the integration of Community Child Health into Paediatrics; to this end, his book 'Child Health in the Community' was most influential. He also strongly supported the need for an independent Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health and, in 1996, suggested the motto for the new College ('Children are a heritage from the Lord').

Ross Mitchell was a private and modest man but he had great dignity and integrity, and was much admired by colleagues and patients alike. Following retirement in 1985, he had more time for his hobbies of walking, painting, reading, salmon fishing and the history of medicine. He spoke Gaelic and in 2003, gave a notable lecture in York on Celtic medicine in Scotland. He was elected President of the Harveian Society of Edinburgh and also of the Scottish Paediatric Society. He had met his wife June in 1950 when she was nursing at Great Ormond Street and they had a son, three daughters and six grandchildren. Ross Mitchell's death has deprived Paediatrics and Child Health of an outstanding advocate and leader.

P.M. Dunn

Professor Neville Butler
1920 - 2007
(Bristol)

Dr Beryl Corner
1910 - 2007
(Bristol)



Diary Dates 2007

6-7 September 2007

BAPM Annual General Meeting & Scientific Meeting, Isle of Man

24 October 2007

BAPM Trainees' Meeting
RIBA, London

www.bapm.org

Contact Details

President:

Prof Neil Marlow
Email: neil.marlow@nottingham.ac.uk

Honorary Secretary:

Dr Andrew Lyon
Email: andrew.lyon@luht.scot.nhs.uk

Honorary Treasurer:

Dr Jag Ahluwalia
jag.ahluwalia@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Executive Committee members:

www.bapm.org

Executive Officer:

Ms Lisa Nandi
Tel: 020 7307 5627
Email: bapm@rcpch.ac.uk

Office

50 Hallam Street
London W1W 6DE
Tel: 020 7307 5627/ 8025
Fax: 020 7307 5601
Email: bapm@rcpch.ac.uk

Charity No: 285357