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IN CONFIDENCE

SCOTTISH NATIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

Minutes of Meeting of the Co-ordinating Group of the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service held at the Protein Fractionation Centre, Liberton, Edinburgh, at 11 a.m. on Friday 10th January, 1975.

PRESENT : Major-General H.C. Jeffrey (in the chair)
 Dr. C. Cameron
 Dr. J.D. Cash
 Dr. I.A. Cook
 Miss M. Corrie
 Dr. H.M.B. Lewis
 Dr. J. Wallace
 Mrs. C. Thayer (Secretary)

APOLOGIES

An apology was tendered on behalf of Mr. J. Watt, currently on a visit to the United States.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 10 DECEMBER 1974

The following amendments were made to the Minutes of the last meeting :

- (a) Page 4, para. 5 amend to read "and a project report based on a practical investigation occupying at least 100 hours".
- (b) Page 4, para. 6 amend to read "As higher qualifications of degree standard other than FIMLT were not obligatory for technicians".

With these amendments the Minutes were agreed to be a true record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The Chairman informed the meeting that he had written to the General Administrator of the CSA about the implications of the IMLT paper on "Routes to Qualification in Medical Laboratory Subjects". In this letter he had indicated the number of candidates normally in training and pointed out that until a clearer picture of the proposed courses had emerged it was not possible to give an estimate of the financial implications in terms of additional staff. He had further suggested that the possession of a HNC and completion of an agreed period of assessed practical experience might be a more suitable route for advancement than the FIMLT.

Dr. Wallace reported that Consultant Haematologists and Senior Chief Technicians in the West of Scotland had met to discuss the document. This group had been highly critical of the paper, believing the IMLT to be out of step with the views of its members on this subject, and they had decided to circulate their views to Health Boards.

COURSES AND CONFERENCES/

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COURSES AND CONFERENCES

The Chairman indicated that nominations had been received from Directors for a number of major conferences and symposia, scheduled for the financial year 1975/76. Participation in meetings of this kind was essential to the future development of the service, both because of the exchange of ideas, and because of the contacts which could be made at them. To ensure that up to date information on forthcoming conferences was available to the service it was agreed that steps should be taken to obtain corporate membership of the International Society of Blood Transfusion for the National Headquarters.

So far as authorisation to attend international conferences was concerned, it was felt that, since programmes were arranged well in advance, the best approach would be to submit to the February meeting of the CSA Establishment Committee a comprehensive list of all such nominations for the year.

It was reported that details were not yet available of the new CSA scheme for authorising attendance at courses and conferences, as it was currently being redrafted. Little information was available about the categories into which the CSA divided such meetings, but it was felt that the most logical approach would be to separate them according to

- (a) whether or not a commitment of some kind was involved, including the presentation of a paper
- (b) whether or not the conference was taking place within the United Kingdom.

It was agreed that the National Medical Director should draw up a paper along these lines for presentation to the CSA Management Committee.

It was agreed that the following schedule of nominations should be submitted to the CSA Establishment Sub-Committee for approval :

Outwith the United Kingdom

1. International Society of Blood Transfusion, Helsinki
27 July - 1 August 1975.

Dr. J.D. Cash *
Mr. R. Hopkins *
Miss A. Hunter
Dr. D.S. Pepper *
Dr. A.G. White *
Dr. R. Mitchell
Dr. I.A. Cook
Dr. J. Smith
Mr. J.G. Watt
Dr. H.M.B. Lewis
Major-General H.C. Jeffrey

2. Vth Congress of the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis,
Paris
21 - 26 July 1975.

Dr. J.D. Cash *
Dr. D.S. Pepper *

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3. European Society for Clinical Investigation 8th A.G.M., Rotterdam
21 - 27 April 1975.
Dr. A.B. Kay *
4. Society for Low Temperature Biology, Amsterdam
9 - 11 April 1975.
Dr. D.S. Pepper *
5. Conference on Protides of the Biological Fluids, Brugge, Belgium
30 April - 3 May 1975.
Mr. G. Templeton
6. 8th European Congress of Immunology, Helsinki
1 - 7 June 1975.
Mr. A. Munro (or a member of his staff)
7. 2nd European Immunology Congress, Amsterdam
17 - 19 September, 1975.
Dr. A. Munro (or a member of his staff)
8. American Red Cross 7th Annual Symposium, Washington
6 - 7 May 1975.
Mr. J.G. Watt
Mr. W. Grant

It was further suggested that the SNBTS should be represented at the annual meeting of the American Association of Blood Banking.

Within the United Kingdom

1. International Society of Haematology, London
24 - 29 August 1975.
Dr. R. Mitchell
Dr. P.C. Das *
2. British Society for Immunology, London
16 - 18 April 1975.
Dr. A. Munro
Mr. J. Harrop (one-day symposium only)
Dr. P.C. Das *
3. British Burn Association Annual Meeting, Stoke Mandeville
14 - 15 May 1975.
Mr. R. Hopkins *
4. Annual Hepatitis B Workshop, London
April 1975.
Mr. R. Hopkins *

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5. British Society for Allergy and Clinical Immunology, Manchester
10 - 13 July 1975.

Dr. A.B. Kay *

* An asterisk denotes that the applicant will be presenting a paper at the conference.

With reference to the proposed conference to mark the opening of the Protein Fractionation Centre, the Chairman informed the meeting that approaches were being made for a member of the Royal Family to perform the official ceremony in July 1975. It would not be possible to arrange a conference at such short notice, but an event of this type could be arranged for the following year.

MANAGEMENT TRAINING FOR SNBTS STAFF

Miss Corrie presented to the meeting information, including specimen programmes, of two types of management course which would be available to staff of the Transfusion Service. The first of these, the Senior Management Course organised by the CSA Manpower Division and held at the University of Strathclyde, was designed to meet the training needs of staff such as senior laboratory technicians, donor organisers and administrative assistants, and consisted of an introduction to management principles. Dates for these courses were not yet available, but Miss Corrie understood that there would be four during the course of the year, the first during the month of March.

The second type of course, the Senior Managers Course, also organised by the Manpower Division in conjunction with the University of Strathclyde was designed for staff such as Regional Directors, who are involved in management at a very senior level. Dr. Ruthven Mitchell had recently attended a course of this nature, and felt he had benefitted particularly from the exchange of ideas, both formal and informal, with other senior Health Service managers. Interest was expressed in both types of course, and Miss Corrie agreed to circulate further details to Directors as soon as these became available.

In addition the Manpower Division of the CSA had suggested that it might be possible to arrange two or three day courses for Directors which could be specially tailored to their needs. In this case it would be possible to call upon the expertise of any one of a number of organisations specialising in this type of course, for example, the Manchester Business School or the British Institute of Management. There would undoubtedly be a demand for such courses from other parts of the Health Service, and any further information on this subject would be circulated.

CONSULTANT HAEMATOLOGISTS' GROUP (SCOTLAND)

Discussion took place on the future role of this group particularly in relation to the Blood Transfusion Service. In its activities so far the group had appeared fairly constructive but it was clear that some of its members saw it essentially as a ginger group intent on modifying national policy. Moreover the constitution of the group stated clearly its intention of liaising with the SHED on all matters relating to Haematology. The meeting agreed that while Blood Transfusion may at present be regarded as a sub-speciality within the field of Haematology current trends seemed to indicate that separation might occur/

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occur in the future. It was in any case felt to be quite inappropriate for the Consultant Haematologists' Group to make recommendations on policies relating to Blood Transfusion to the SHHD. In future an effort should be made to ensure that at least one Director attended the group's meetings to keep abreast of developments and to make clear Blood Transfusion Service policy on any relevant issues which might be raised. There could be no doubt that the Co-ordinating Group and the Advisory Committee on Blood Transfusion would be regarded by SHHD as the primary sources of information and advice on blood transfusion matters.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CO-ORDINATING GROUP AND THE CSA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The meeting on 10 December 1974 with Mr. McPhee and Mr. Morrison, Secretary and Treasurer respectively of the CSA, was discussed. Certain specific undertakings had been obtained, including an agreement that the Blood Transfusion Service might issue contracts on a local basis. Nothing further had been heard from Mr. McPhee on this point in spite of a number of unanswered letters addressed to him and the Personnel Officer on the subject, so it was agreed that revised contracts should be printed on the basis of the draft circulated to the meeting, as amended. A list of authorised signatories was provided as follows :

Glasgow

Dr. Wallace
Dr. Mitchell
Mr. Worsley

Edinburgh

Dr. Cash
Dr. Kay

Aberdeen

Dr. Lewis
Dr. Allen

Dundee

Dr. Cameron
Mrs. Smith

Inverness

Dr. Cook

With regard to the relationship between the SNBTS and the CSA, it was agreed that representations to the SHHD should be seen as a last resort if no satisfaction was obtained from negotiations with the CSA. It was unlikely that the SHHD would be sympathetic to the case, unless they felt that the CSA had been given a reasonable trial period. In the circumstances it was agreed that the most fruitful line to follow would be an approach by the National Medical Director to the Chairman of the CSA, Mr. Simpson Stevenson.

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GRADUATE SCIENTISTS GROUP

General Jeffrey referred to the decision by scientists in the Blood Transfusion Service to establish a group which would convene meetings from time to time on matters of professional interest. The group would arrange its own programme and hoped to extend invitations to other members of staff from Transfusion Centres in Scotland, and was also keen to invite staff to contribute papers to these meetings. General Jeffrey and Dr. Wallace had met the organisers of the group to discuss its objectives and had welcomed its formation. The group had agreed to prepare a paper on the career structure and methods of training for scientists within the BTS.

Dr. Wallace reported that the group hoped to organise an Open Day at the Law Centre in March. It was agreed that it should be suggested to the group that they invite Regional Directors and through them some of their technical staff. Similarly in the case of ordinary meetings of the group the suggestion should be made that an invitation should go to each Director to nominate a senior member of his technical staff to attend. The meetings could potentially prove very useful in cementing relationships between scientific and technical staff.

The possibility of holding an annual scientific meeting for the whole of the Transfusion Service in Scotland was raised, and it was felt that this might indeed prove to be a worthwhile venture.

DHSS LETTER ON BLOOD PRODUCTS PRODUCTION

The Chairman referred to a letter sent by the DHSS to Regional Administrators in England, on the subject of the need to provide an increasing amount of ABG concentrate and of albumin fractions, especially plasma protein fraction. The letter outlined the possible threat to the Blood Transfusion Service which might arise from the use of blood products derived from imported material and marketed in this country by commercial firms. It put forward the view of the Department, that the NHS should aim to become self-sufficient as soon as practicable in the production of PPF and other blood products. To move towards this target it would be necessary to raise the percentage of blood donations used in the form of concentrated red cells to approximately 40%. To assist with the cost of providing facilities for separating additional plasma, the DHSS proposed to make available financial assistance up to a limit of £0.5 million. In the discussion which ensued, Directors expressed the view that a direct allocation of this order by the DHSS represented a most interesting precedent. Overall it was felt that a target usage level of 40% in concentrated red cells was rather too low to be realistic. It was agreed that the question of SNBTS policy on this issue needed to be thoroughly examined, and that this should be included as an item on the agenda of the next Directors' meeting.

REPRESENTATION OF SNBTS AT MEETING OF ENGLISH REGIONAL TRANSFUSION DIRECTORS

It was agreed that after the next meeting Dr. Cook should take over from Dr. Lewis as Scottish representative at the London meetings. The Chairman thanked Dr. Lewis on behalf of those present for his invaluable contribution in this respect in recent years.

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PFC PLASMA RETURN

The Chairman told the meeting that he had now received the return showing the production of plasma fractions for the quarter ended 26.12.74. Copies were provided for Directors.

ESTIMATES

The SHED had now approved the revised estimates for 1974-75. Pay increases would be met in full and a weighting factor would be applied to take account of price increases. The Treasurer had now introduced a system of monthly expenditure statements, and it was hoped that this would assist considerably with budgetary control. All requests for increases in staffing levels, as detailed in the 1975-76 estimates, were being submitted to the CSA Establishment Committee, due to meet on 19 February, for approval.

Business having been completed, the meeting adjourned.