British Geriatric Society

Northern Ireland Council Meeting Friday 13th March 2015

Clifton House, Belfast

Draft Minutes

Present: Dr April Heaney (Chair), Dr Rosemary Kelly, Dr Cathy Patterson, Patricia Conboy, Dr Sanjeev Sarup, Dr Mark Magorrian, Dr Gerallt Roberts, Murudappa Bhattad, Dr Joyce Cheng, Dr Andrew Linton, Dr Emma Cunningham, Dr Cathy Davey, Dr Mark Roberts. Dr Patricia McCaffrey, Dr Mark Bowman, Dr. Aileen McSorley, Dr Mark Henry.

Apologies: Dr Julia Foy, Dr Ian Steele, Dr Jim Kelly, Dr Fergal Tracey, Dr Kevin Dynan, Dr Lynne Armstrong, Dr Stephen Todd, Dr Catriona McCullagh.

1. Welcome
   April welcomed Patricia Conboy, Policy manager British Geriatrics Society.

2. Review of minutes of last meeting, and matters arising : Dr April Heaney
   1. Agreement from central BGS to fund registration only for one BGS conference / year for the Chair of the regional committees. It is not a requirement for the Chair to attend the BGS national conferences, but it is desirable.
   2. Workforce planning: Dr Caroline Harper, director of Public Health Agency met with April, Sanjeev and Kevin. The meeting was felt to be productive. A further meeting will be arranged with the PHA along with trust representation. Action: April to follow-up.
   3. A letter was sent to Ms Valerie Watts – the new CEO of the Health Board, on the 8th December 2014. This letter introduced the BGS NI and requested the opportunity to meet with Ms Watts. As yet, there has been no acknowledgement of this. Action: Cathy to phone re receipt of letter
   4. Central BGS is encouraging the concept of multidisciplinary membership and educational meetings. Locally contact has been made with AGILE with the aim of arranging a local meeting on Frailty with a multidisciplinary focus. This will be held on the 21st May 2015 and we will be inviting members of AGILE, occupational therapists and nursing staff with an interest in Older People along with BGS members. Speakers confirmed include Dr. Eileen Byrnes, who will be speaking on nursing home medicine and Louise Briggs, a physiotherapist with an interest in Frailty. Action: April and Cathy organising in conjunction with AGILE
   5. BGS NI Manifesto has been circulated along with central BGS election documents. Opinion sought from those attending. Patricia Conboy felt that overall the themes were generic but we should state our needs in relation to Northern Ireland. We could take our
own priorities and use similar BGS branding. This was felt by all present to be the best option: Patricia also felt from experience that face to face discussions had the best outcomes, however this was more time consuming compared to sending letters to interested parties and previous meetings with politicians had not been productive locally. **Action Patricia Conboy to review the BGS document and liaise with April re development of BGS NI election pamphlet, then Cathy to distribute via email / letter to Health committee.**

6. **BGS NI Constitution.** The BGS NI constitution has been updated. We propose a 3 year term of office. The chair of the BGS NI will be also be a trustee of the BGS while in office. Comments in regards to these changes were sought, but no objections noted. **Action: BGS NI constitution agreed.**

7. **BGS NI Travel Grant:** We have had 1 applicant in the last couple of months. The limit has been set at £450. Discussion took place as to how we limit grants depending on what funds were available. Mark queried whether we should have a maximum number of grants issued per year. April felt we should review how many have been issued after one year to see if there were adequate funds. **Action: Cathy will put Travel Grant on each council meeting agenda to review funds available.**

8. **BGS NI posts:** Mark Roberts was nominated by April Heaney for the position of vice chair and seconded by Cathy Patterson. There were no other nominations and Mark was appointed as Vice Chair.
   
   There were no volunteers or nominations for the position of Treasurer. Mark Magorrian will continue as Treasurer at present.
   
   Mark Bowman was nominated by Andrew Linton and seconded by Emma Cunningham. There were no other nominations and Mark was appointed as Specialty trainee Rep. **Action: Cathy to email members for expression of interest for Treasurer post.**

3. **Treasurer Update**

   Mark Magorrian confirmed that the current balance is £15,628. Net profit from last year was £300 - 400. Income was in the region of £800 from attendance fees and £1200 from sponsorship with outgoings £1800 in conference expenses. In addition a laptop and projector were purchased for £600 and will be available for future meetings.

4. **Policy update – Pat McCaffrey**

   Pat is to attend the next policy council meeting in London which will take place next Thursday. The main topic will be the election manifesto. We would like to adopt our own shortened election manifesto. Pat felt that we should be responding to the Donaldson report before May.
   
   We have also been asked to contribute to the BGS newsletter before the election. **Action: April and Cathy to take forward**
5. **Training**

Sanjeev reported that the NI deanery is to be the external assessor for the whole of Scotland (4 deaneries). This includes 70-80 COTE trainees. 12 have their PYA coming up, fortunately this will be carried out in one day.

Interviewing for STs will be in May. There will be at least 2 posts present but possibly more by the time of interview.

The BGS training committee has included new modules for e-learning on the BGS website on topics such as Dementia/ Falls etc. These ware useful resources.

The process for applying for CESR (previously article 14) currently doesn’t require applicants to complete the specialty exam, but this is likely to change.

With regards to the future of geriatric training, the length of training is unlikely to change, however it is likely that ST3 will become part of core training.

A training sub-committee has been set up which includes the TPD and educational supervisors from the 5 trusts. Sanjeev is to meet with Enda Kerr in April to discuss undergraduate training.

An assistant TPD is recommended and there has been 1 expression of interest. This person could be appointed by the training sub-committee.

6. **AOB**

   a. Health Policy Forum – This forum has been established in partnership with Age NI and the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) Northern Ireland. The forum will seek to generate evidence and policy recommendations to improve the health and wellbeing of Northern Ireland’s ageing population. **April has agreed to represent BGS NI at this forum**

   b. BGS NI was sad to hear of the death of Mrs Stout. **April will send a letter on behalf of the BGS NI to Professor Stout.**

   c. Vote of thanks. April offered a vote of thanks to Rosemary for her work as chair over the last two years.

7. **Date of next meeting – Joint meeting with AGILE 21/5/15.**

Cathy Patterson

Secretary NIBGS

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