



Genomics and Reproductive Science Specialty Advisory Committee

A meeting was held on Wednesday 15 November 2023 at 10:00
hosted by the Royal College of Pathologists via Microsoft Teams

Dr Lance Sandle
Registrar

Present: Dr Sian Morgan, Chair
Professor Dimitris Grammatopoulos, Clinical Biochemistry
Dr Liz Hodges, Chair of the Panel of Examiners for Molecular Pathology
Dr Valerie Shaikly, Chair of Panel of Examiners Panel (Reproductive Science)
Alison Taylor-Beadling, Senior Clinical Scientist
Isabelle Delon, Lead Clinical Scientist Geneticist
Dr Kimberly Gilmour, Immunology
Christine Waterman, Consultant Clinical Scientist

Apologies

Helen Hunter, Higher Specialist Scientist Training Trainee (Reproductive Science)
Prof Sarah Coupland, Vice-President Communications
Dr Graham Fewes, Chair of Panel of Examiners for Genetics
Lowri Hughes, Higher Specialist Scientist Training Trainee (Genetics)
Chris Jelley, Lay Advisor
Professor Jason Kasraie, Reproductive Science
Michael Eden,

In attendance: Louise Mair, Governance and Committee Services Officer

Minutes (unconfirmed)

Gen.16/23 Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and introduced herself as the newly appointed Chair of the SAC. The SAC members introduced themselves and provided a brief background of their roles and expertise. During their introductions, both Dr Waterman and Mrs Taylor-Beadling highlighted the need for more rare disease representation on the SAC, which will continue to be explored. It was also highlighted that some members have been on the SAC for some time and the committee membership should be reviewed. Dr Gilmour advised that there should ideally be the following specialty advisors on the SAC: a virologist; a microbiologist; a histopathologist and a haematologist.



The SAC agreed the first step should be speaking to the Chair of the Medical Microbiology and Medical Virology Committee and asking if one of the virologist representatives would join the SAC.

Action: The Chair and Governance and Committees Services Officer to liaise with Rob Taylor and agree membership for the SAC.

Action: contact Chris Rag about guidelines and invite Kathy to the next meeting.

Christine and Isballe are rare disease, Christine is also cancer, could also rep that.

Gen.02/23 Minutes of the Last Meeting, Actions, Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2022 were approved as a correct record.

The following updates to the action log were noted:

Gen.13/19b: The Chair provided an update on the action on the potential revision of the "Code of Practice for Genetics Laboratories", highlighting that the genetics community does not have a code of practice, this is because registered scientists work to the Health and Care Professions Clinical Standards. The Committee agreed that this action could be removed, as it has not progressed in four years.

Gen.04/21a: The Chair to contact Dr Youd with a view to inviting an SAS doctor to join this committee. Governance and Committee Services Officer to follow up this action with Dr Youd, if she is unable to join the Committee, this action can be closed.

Gen.14/21b: Governance and Committee Services Officer to follow up on the action to confirm whether the College is still working with the F100 research on publications from trainees. The Governance and Committees Services Officer to follow up with the College.

Gen.02/22a: Chair to investigate SAC representation on the Test Evaluation Group. This action to remain open until the November meeting.

Gen.02/22b: Chair to consider how decisions from TEG and NHSE based activity are communicated to devolved nations and whether the SAC to be the conduit. The Committee agreed that this action could be closed and reopened if it becomes pertinent again for this SAC, as there are UK forums where these issues can be raised.

Gen.02/22c: Governance and Committee Services Officer to circulate Terms of Reference for members to review terminology used and to consider areas of the membership that could be recruited. Action to be closed until a specific challenge arises in the future.

Gen.03/22i: All members to list their committee membership. The Governance and Committees Services Officer to circulate a list of the current membership to the SAC for review.

Gen.03/22ii: Chair to request to discuss representation on the Workforce Committee the issue at their next meeting. The Committee agreed to close this action, as members were unsure of the action.

Gen.03/22iii: Chair to co-ordinate short webinar on the role of genomics in each of our disciplines with input from all members. The Governance and Committees Services Officer to find the original email for volunteers for this, as this could be used when organising other webinars within the SAC.

Gen.11/22a: Chair to discuss promotional event opportunities with Prof Coupland. The Committee agreed that this action could be closed and reopened if necessary.

Gen.11/22b: Chair to circulate a draft update for the website for members to contribute to. The Governance and Committees Services Officer advised she would review the SAC website page and update if necessary and asked for SAC members to make her aware of any changes needed.

Gen.03/23 Governance

- (a) Workplan - The SAC reviewed the workplan and agreed to discuss what could be added at the next meeting.

Gen.04/23 Committee Reports

- (a) College Council
The minutes from the College Council meeting on 23 February 2023 were noted.
- (b) Joint Committee for Genomics in Medicine (JCGM)
The minutes from the JCGM meeting held on 26 October 2023 were noted.

Gen.05/23 Workforce Issues

Action: Kitty to set up meeting with Richard Smith and Katherine Timms with Chair to discuss the workforce issues raised.

have responded to the survey or not answered sensitive questions, as individuals

Gen.06/23 Reproductive Science / Embryology Update

There was no update in the absence of Mrs Hunter.

Action: The Governance and Committees Services Officer to ask Mrs Hunter if she wishes to remain on this SAC or send a Deputy.

Gen.08/23 National School of Healthcare Science

Mrs Taylor-Beadling advised that the National School of Healthcare Science are holding collaborative events twice a year, one in person and one virtual and inviting anyone involved in training or part of professional bodies, a workforce development committee representative will attend the virtual session to stay informed on any updates.

Action: Alison to speak to Jenny about potential representation for the SAC and ask

Gen.09/23 Examinations and Training

Christine - Liz shared SAQ questions and meeting up next Spring to work together and share more. Exam results not ratified yet cant give pass rate update. Over 70 candidates, done marking, pass rate looks lower than last year, doing QA and performance of this cohort with other cohort to evidence exam has been working well.

Have been asked by chair of the clinical director of examinations to look at the format of exams an submit proposal of format going forward, our specialty as clinical scientists have diff requirements than our medical colleagues. Need to continue with two exams because of breadth of our exams. All of our examiners agreed to cover all of the rare diseases in genomics we needed two practical exams and written component, as it is testing the candidates scientific knowledge and whole patient pathway.

Liz hedges, 19 canidates for part 1 and 5 for part 2. Agreed to do them on the same day. Quality of project isn't as high as should be, needs to be some research to the project. Agreeing to projects that aren't relevant to the curriculum isn't the abstract meant to be approved by RCPATH?

Need to ensure that there is a streamlined administrative pathway.

Action: Chrissy to tell Chair what wants to stay

Action: exam committee meeting bring up issue with labs and training processes

Gen.10/23 Trainee Report

There was no update in the absence of Ms Hughes, who has demitted from the SAC. The Governance and Committees Officer will explore recruiting a new trainee representative for the SAC.

Action: The Governance and Committees Services Officer to begin recruitment for a genomics and reproductive science trainee to sit on the SAC.

Gen.11/23 Academic Activities

(a) Events – Members were invited to send any suggestions for potential events.

(b) To review best practice recommendation:

- **G144 Recommendations for the use of chromosome microarray in pregnancy.**

The Chair advised that this BPR became out of date in June 2018 and explained that a decision needs to be made whether to review and update it, and to find an author if it needs updating. The Chair agreed to contact the BSGM Chair and the Fetal Genomics Group to discuss further and will feedback to the SAC at the next November meeting.

Action: The Chair to discuss the G144 Recommendations for the use of chromosome microarray in pregnancy with BSGM Chair and Fetal Genomics Group.

The Chair highlighted that the UK somatic variance draft guidelines are out for consultation and the College has been asked to review and endorse them. The SAC agreed that its role in terms of endorsement will be to recognise that these specialist guidelines have incorporated appropriate clinical expertise in the drafting and the reviewing, and the SAC is satisfied with that review process, that is the primary role of this SAC endorsement rather than the specialist content.

The SAC were pleased that the group has been asked for input on these guidelines, as it will be extremely helpful not only to those who work in the genomics laboratories, but also to the specialties carrying out NGS analysis interpretation. The SAC agreed key shared learning and reporting and ensuring the guidelines are standardised.

(c) Webpage - Members were invited to send any suggestions for the website.

Gen.12/23 Press and PR, Updating of College Documents

(a) Press/PR – No further suggestions were received for topics in the press which could be used for the College's press and PR work.

(b) College Bulletin – Members were encouraged to suggest articles to the Chair.

Gen.13/23 Environmental Sustainability

The SAC was encouraged to consider how environmental sustainability can be improved and considered in laboratory practices.

Gen.14/23 Any Other Business

Gen.15/23 Date of Future Meetings
Wednesday 26 June 2.00pm

Meeting closed at 12.00pm