

MINUTES

BHRS Annual General Meeting Monday 4th October 2021 @ 17:30

Held via Zoom

24 participant BHRS members

1. Approve minutes from AGM 2020

Approved.

2. Presidents report (AKBS)

AKBS opened the meeting, welcomed and thanked participants for attending.

a) COVID & Rebuilding of Services

Alistair Slade, BHRS President (AKBS) reported that most were still recovering from the most recent wave of Covid. AKBS thanked John Paisey (JP) for composing guidance which was released in July for appropriate prioritisation of EP and Device procedures which is available on the website.

b) BCS Engagement

BHRS have been engaging with BCS and have been pleased to contribute significantly to a number of working groups.

c) Working Groups

Resources for pregnant cardiologists, their partners & supervisors

Council member, Ashley Nisbet (AS) was thanked for her part in contributing to the resources for pregnant cardiologists, their partners and supervisors. This is now published and available on both the BHRS and BCS website.

Cardiac arrest in cath lab

Council member, Joseph de Bono (JDB) was thanked for his contributions to the Joint UK Societies Guideline for the Management of Patients who Arrest in the Cardiac Catheterisation Laboratory. This document is currently out for consultation.

MRI CIED

AKBS and council member, Claire O'Neil (CON) are currently updating guidance for MRI scanning in patients with implant electronic devices. The draft is out for consultation and nearing publication.

CIED Radiotherapy

AKBS and CON are joined by Andy Turley to update guidance on radiotherapy and its impact on implanted devices.

MDT Heart Failure and devices

A new group has just convened to look at producing guidelines for heart failure and devices. AKBS and JP are currently contributing.

3. Remote Monitoring Survey

Covid led to a switch of remote monitoring. Council members, Eleri Roberts (ER) and Ian Wright (IW) composed a survey to identify what worked and what didn't and how we might move forward with maintaining and supporting a permanent change as standard on the basis of the evidence collected. A session will be presented at HRC 2021 which members are encouraged to attend. The main obstacle for maintenance of the service was cost. Findings have indicated patient preference for remote monitoring by questionnaires undertaken by A-A. It was reported that Trudie Lobban (TL) is hoping to gain a parliamentary discussion where remote monitoring can be standardised.

4. Education Committee

BHRS are in the process of setting up an education committee to try and develop an education programme for members. Terms of reference have been composed and will be discussed at council later in the week – after which a programme will be developed.

5. Secretary's report (ER)

2021 Election Results

- Welcome to: Cristiana Monteiro (Physiologist Rep)
- Welcome back: Eleri Roberts (Physiologist Rep & Treasurer), Joseph de Bono (Physician Rep)

b) Council Member Overview

- President - Alistair Slade
- Honorary Secretary - Eleri Roberts
- Treasurer - Steve Murray
- Nurse - Angela Hall, Sarah Clarke, Catherine Laventure
- Physiologist - Jason Collinson, Holly Daw, Claire O'Neill, Ian Wright, Cristiana Monteiro
- Doctor - Ashley Nisbet, Joseph de Bono, Ross Hunter, Paul Foley,
- John Paisey, Pier Lambiase, Steve Murray, Vivienne Ezzat

There are also a number of observer members, cop-opted members and representatives who attend BHRS council meetings regularly.

c) Membership Report

Total Members (as of 30.09.21): 1,425 with a breakdown of: CON/PHYS/IND: 1,065 and NURSES/TRAINEES: 360

d) Constitutional Changes

The follow amendments/additions were brought to the AGM:

- Addition to objective (in italics): Its objectives are a) to improve the health of patients with heart rhythm disorders through advancement of knowledge, education and practice in the field of cardiac rhythm management; *b) to support the membership of the British Heart Rhythm Society.*
- Text changed to reflect that we ask for members to nominate themselves with the support of 2 members (previously the proposer would need to contact us first and then we'd contact the nominated person)
- Members will be given a minimum of 3 weeks to vote (formerly one month)
- Subscriptions are payable 'annually' (formerly stated as the 1st day of July)
- Agenda to be circulated 2 weeks before council meetings (formerly one month)
- Addition: "In the event of a tie (if there is space to accommodate both candidates) both candidates will be offered a position on council. If the council is at maximum capacity the BHRS President will have the deciding vote".

The changes were put to a vote. 18 members voted and 100% agreed to the changes. The new constitution will be added onto the website over the coming days.

6. Exam report

The following overview was given:

- Exam Registrations for 2021: 53 in May + 85 in Oct = 138 candidates for 2021
- Date of Examination: 19th May & 20th October
- Locations: Pearson's Vue Test Centres
- Registration for Training: 26
- Candidate Locations: UK, Ireland, India, Kuwait, Malaysia, Qatar

The exam committee team and admin team have worked hard to move the examination to an online exam (rather than paper) and by using Pearson Vue to enable candidates to take the examination much closer to home. The exam is now held twice yearly.

7. Audit report

It was reported that NICOR now publishes data within 3 months.

Scottish government changes means data from Scotland is no longer collected but Francis Murgatroyd (FM) and Scottish representative council member, Derek Connelly (DC), are working together and trying to collect data independently.

FM is currently looking for a successor for the registry and audit work and it is hoped Ross Hunter and Mark Dayer will succeed him.

British Heart Rhythm Society

Registered Address: 24A Market Street, Disley, Cheshire SK12 2AA UK

Email: admin@bhrrs.com | Web: www.bhrrs.com

Registered Charity Number: 273307

8. Research report

In the absence of research members the following notes were made available:

MCTG (multi-centre trial group) Meeting 1/10/21 - a very busy BHRS Multicentre Trial Group Meeting online with 35 attendees. The following studies were presented and discussed at initial and advanced stages of development:

- PROTECT HF – Dr Zach Whinnett and Dr Daniel Keene; Physiological pacing vs Standard RV pacing ; Awaiting final decision BHF in Dec (30 UK sites and 3 international centres)
- CRAVE-SR – Dr Moly: Ranolazine vs Amiodarone/Ranolazine vs Amiodarone for Cardio Version of AF
- MINERVA and beyond – Prof G. Andre Ng : Ongoing studies to use Exercise ECG in EF > 35% pts: Assessing options and sample size calculations. Awaiting report of MINERVA trial which has completed now.
- RECOVERY-AF – Dr John Paisey: A framework for AF outcomes research and adaptive designs trials-Proposal
- FIND-AF – Dr Ramesh Nadarajah- Ix of silent AF in primary care: Applying to BHF for funding
- CRAAFT HF– Prof Pier Lambiase: Awaiting final HFF decision in DEC: 32 sites and Denmark, Sweden, Australia international sites
- RABLAP AF - Prof Dhiraj Gupta; Posterior wall isolation funded by Biosense-advanced stage -Ready to recruit
- Alcohol with ice – Prof Ross Hunter-Proposal to develop
- HCM PAF: Prof Ross Hunter-Proposal to develop
- HCM persistent AF: Prof Ross Hunter-Proposal to develop
- Shockless: Dr Muzahir Tayebjee; Minimise use of ATP in ICD recipients-needs review given APPRAIS EATP trial completed international recruitment

Prioritisation for support of these proposals to BHF will be undertaken by the BHRS MCTG Research Board.

Ongoing work with BHF CRC: Meta-analysis funding opportunities and support for initial trial development with CTUs nationally.

Series of Research lectures for fellows, physiologists, nurses and investigators posted on BHRS website led by Nikhil Ahluwalia.

9. Treasurer Report

Steve Murray, BHRS Treasurer, outlined where funds come from and the usual spending patterns of BHRS.

Despite changing subscriptions for Physician members to £60 (from £80) some members remain on £80 where standing order amounts cannot be updated from our end. This means inadvertently around 100 members are being charged £20 too much; and we are trying to currently contact effected members and will offer a refund or a free years membership.

Go Cardless online billing has stopped sending out automatic bills, causing us to not automatically bill subs renewals in cases where members do not use Direct Debit agreements; currently switching provider to Stripe to eradicate this issue.

SM reported a very generous and unexpected donation for BHRS that was received last month from the Roger Duncan Francis Trust of £111,85.86. This amount has rocketed funds to a balance of £245,964.25.

As a charity we are, of course, expected to spend funds. SM requested input from BHRS members in addition to the ideas below to be emailed directly treasurer@bhers.com.

Future Spending:

- Appointment of events manager subject to council ratification
- Development of BHRS app with ability to add functions such as lead/device databases, polling of members, alerts, etc. Integration with educational pages of website and guidelines
- Make out of print texts available online

10. AOB

a) Heart Rhythm Congress

Angela Griffiths wanted to pass her thanks to the BHRS nurse representatives for the huge amount of effort they have put into HRC this year. Their sharing practice has had valuable input to many.

A-As Trudie Lobban (TL) and BHRS council members were both looking forward to putting HRC back to a collaborative event with equal prominence and involvement. TL thanked BHRS for their contributions to this year's events and looks forward to input about sessions over the coming months for next year's congress. Members were impressed with this year's HRC content.

11. Closing remarks (AKBS)

AKBS thanked everyone for attending and wished them well and looked forward to a resumption of a face to face AGM and HRC next year.