

MINUTES

BHRS Council – Wednesday 15th January 2025 @ 10am

Chairmans Suite, The Grand, York YO1 6GD

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| PRESIDENT: | Eleri Gregory (EG) |
| TREASURER: | Vivienne Ezzat (VE) |
| SECRETARY: | Honey Thomas (HT) |
| DOCTOR REP: | Paul Foley (PF), Matthew Dewhurst (MD), Ashley Nisbet (AN), Ross Huter (RH) - in part |
| PHYSIOLOGIST REP: | Amy Dutton (AD), Sophie Robinson (SR), |
| NURSE REP: | Catherine Laventure (CL), Anya Murray (AM) |
| OTHER REPS: | John Paisey (JP) – Education Committee Stuart Allen (SA) - Accreditation Committee Jamie Walton (JW) - SCST Anish Bhuva (AB) - NICOR Rep - in part Dewi Thomas (DT) - Welsh Rep - in part Simon Holmes (SH) - MHRA Rep - in part Ross Thompson (RT) - BCS - in part |
| ADMIN: | Steve Sadler (SS), Pauline Heery (PH) – (TWeb) |

1. Apologies for absence

David Begley, Chloe Howard, Derek Connelly, James Cranley.

2. Agree minutes of previous Council meeting

The minutes were previously agreed.

3. Matters arising / Items not covered elsewhere

a. Workforce toolkit

No update due to Chloe's absence.

b. BCS Document Registrar Training

EG reported that BHRS has endorsed the document following the requested amendments. This item can be removed from the agenda.

ACTION: PH TWeb - remove from agenda

- c. Hidden waiting lists in EP Discussion

VE will reallocate the task of composing a letter to highlight concerns to Joseph de Bono.

ACTION: **VE - contact Joseph regarding the composition of the letter**

- d. Remote fu guidance

HT reported that a supportive statement directing people to the EHRA document has been added to the website. Remove from agenda.

ACTION: **PH TWeb - remove from agenda**

- e. Governance of Documents

SS reported that work is ongoing, but additional volunteers are required to take ownership of documents. AD, MD, and CL offered to assist. HT will form a strategy and establish a group to address this task.

ACTION: **HT - form document governance group with AD, MD and CL.**

- f. Patient safety issue: pacemaker settings post AV Node ablation

HT has been contacted by NHS England regarding a potential safety issue with a programmable parameter (sleep mode) on implantable cardiac devices. HT agreed to compose an email to SH at MHRA asking them to approach manufacturers regarding the issue. It was also agreed that future BHRS educational efforts (e.g., case challenges or via the sessions) should reference this issue to ensure awareness. MD will create a case study for future educational use.

ACTION: **HT - email SH at MHRA to highlight this document and suggest they approach manufacturers**
MD - create a sleep mode case for BHRS education to inform and highlight this issue. Send to PH TWeb in the first instance while a lead is being sought.

- g. Guidance on the management of patients with cardiac implantable electronic devices receiving radiotherapy

HT informed the group that this guidance has now been published, and communication will be sent out from BHRS. This item can be removed from the agenda.

ACTION: **PH TWeb - remove from agenda**

- h. BCS enhanced care units project

The Council welcomed Ross Thomson from Barts, who is forming a working group for BCS to update guidance on cardiac and coronary care units in partnership with the Intensive Care Society. CL offered to assist. BHRS will support communications related to this project.

ACTION: **PH TWeb - connect CL and Ross Thomson**

4. President's Report

a. BHRS/A-A HRC Update

Following an in-person meeting at RCP London and differing opinions regarding BHRS and HRC collaboration, EG presented options. A general vote was taken on whether to continue discussions or cease correspondence of a potential collaboration. EG will send a holding email to AA while gathering votes from absent council members.

ACTION: **EG - send holding email to AA**

b. BCS update

EG reported the publication of the consensus document, Advancing Access to Cardiovascular Diagnosis and Treatment Among Women with Cardiovascular Disease: A Joint British Cardiovascular Societies' Consensus Document, in September 2024.

A second consensus document, Strategies to Enhance Recruitment of Female Participants to Cardiovascular Disease Research: A Joint British Cardiovascular Societies' Consensus Document in Collaboration with the BHF Clinical Research Collaborative, is due for release in March 2025. BHRS has contributed to both documents.

c. EHRA update

EG met with the EHRA committee in December. JP has been collaborating with EHRA on educational offerings to foster international collaboration. Future BHRSessions may include an EHRA update. The EHRA President is keen to meet BHRS representatives during EHRA. PF offered to attend.

ACTION: **JP - put PF in touch with EHRA President**

ATLAS Project - this is a data collection on heart rhythm disorders with the aim to publish data at EHRA and collect this every 2 years. It is a large piece of work with no resources or remuneration offered. EG is attempting to manually collate and sort required data. EG and AB will continue to work offline and discuss how this data can be more easily collated in the future.

5. Current External Groups with BHRS Representation

a. IQIPS Advisory Board

AD reported the group met in early October with a vote that approved a move to the BS70000 standards moving forward. A series of 2025 meetings have been booked to translate this document for centres wishing to partake in IQIPS.

b. Academy of Healthcare Science

No update due to Chloe's absence.

c. Resuscitation Council UK

Joseph de Bono confirmed he is happy to remain the representative and report back to BHRS.

ACTION: **TWeb - add JDB back onto the circulation and council list as an observer member**

d. Out of Hospital Cardiac Expert Advisory Group

SR offered to replace Joseph de Bono as the representative. EG will facilitate the transition.

ACTION: **EG/SR - put in touch with relevant people**

d. SCST

JW, the new SCST representative, reported officer restructuring and a successful annual conference in November. Plans are in place to expand the SCST conference.

e. BiCCEP

VE reported that the group met in November and its website is now live. A link will be added to the BHRS website.

ACTION: **TWeb - add a link to the website from BHRS website**

f. BCS CPCS

EG reported that an agenda has been written for the next BCS June meeting which will involve BHRS and other relevant organisations.

g. Device Working Group

HT reported no updates.

i. BCIS Structural Intervention Group

No updates due to LG's absence.

j. LAAO domain group

No updates due to SM's absence.

k. UK Kidney Association consensus guidance on stroke prevention in AF Group

HT reported this document is progressing well.

l. NICOR Professional Liaison Group

No update.

6. Education Committee/Events

a. November Symposium feedback

Feedback has been positive. Council members are encouraged to submit any further comments directly to JP.

b. March 2025 sessions update

Organisation is progressing well, and the full programme is ready. JP is working to involve the full council as faculty.

c. Budget for abstract prize - March 2025

It was agreed the prize will include free attendance for winners, and a colleague, at the following year's event.

d. Webinars

A webinar lead is being sought to create structured sessions, reducing SA's workload. JP is also reviewing current materials. AD has categorised a large proportion of the video library.

e. ECG /EGM Challenge

There is current confusion regarding who is leading and approving these with no challenges going out for several months as a result. JP to double-check with the current team if wish to continue. A volunteer should be recruited as a lead (with final sign-off) and be supported by a team that they can use for reference. An official structure and sign-off process needs to be composed.

ACTION: JP - in the first instance contact the current team

7. Training Update

a. Curriculum

JP reported that the issue regarding concerns that all cardiology trainees' train in GM has been picked up by SAR. It has been agreed some initial minor amends can be made in the interim to get recognised for device training. JP will continue to report back but is pleased this has been acknowledged.

b. BCS 2025

This is currently being organised. BHRs has been asked for 4 sessions.

8. Nursing Update

a. General update

The nursing team has been actively updating the website and will attend the exam writing session in York next month. AM has some links from Abbott regarding courses that could be added. It was also reported that Angela Hall has resigned from the Education Committee.

b. Standards

It was clarified that the statement regarding the recommended number of nurses was accidentally omitted from the current standards. PF will locate the wording of the previous paragraph and send it to the nursing team and HT for review to determine if updates are needed before the next revision. The paragraph should be tagged as a note in the document until the next formal review.

ACTION: PF - send the omitted paragraph to the nursing team and HT for review

9. Accreditation Update

a. Exam update

SA reported a record number of candidates taking the exam in November 2024. The analysis and builds improve each year. Exam registration is now open for the May exam, and the exam writing session will be held next month to finalize the content. Future plans include departmental

accreditation and efforts to attract international candidates. A trial budget of £200 per month for advertising the exams was approved. Exam fees have been raised to £400.

b. Reaccreditation Points System Update

The reaccreditation system is working well, with 89 people successfully completing the process. Caroline is developing help videos to ensure the system runs smoothly. Reaccreditation fees will increase later this year as the introductory rate ends.

c. Webinar update

SA reported record attendance for the recent LBBaP webinar. Recent EP webinars have also been highly successful.

d. New Logbook

A new logbook system is in development, requiring candidates to submit case studies alongside implant numbers. The system will have a stringent logging process similar to the reaccreditation system and will include accompanying guidance. SA will send cost implications to officers for approval.

ACTION: **SA - send costs involved of new system to officers for approval**

10. NICOR/Audit Report

AB requested BHRS assistance with the following:

- NHS England seeks help collecting patient-reported outcome measures for AF ablation
- Centers must submit BlueTech forms, though few have done so.
- NHS England needs data for a medical devices outcome registry for all implanted devices. AB is updating the dataset to facilitate this.

AB asked BHRS to support communications about these requests, which was approved. AB will draft relevant communications for the admin team.

Additionally, AB is exploring measures for EP training and will connect with the BJCA representative for input.

ACTION: **EG - put AB in touch with BJCA Rep**

Challenges and ideas regarding data collection were discussed. A pilot study will assess the feasibility of collating this data. Ideally, NHS England would centralize these requests and align them with patient record services. AN will discuss the feasibility with nurses at her centre after finding out more from AB.

ACTION: **AB - explain to AN what is involved if their centre becomes involved.**

11. Research

In RH's absence, VE reported that RH is meeting with experts in VT, extraction, and congenital cases. He is gathering information to publish on the website and has engaged fellows to compile details of current UK research trials. The council expressed gratitude for RH's efforts.

12. BJCA/Trainee Update

No update was provided. EG will contact the current representative, James, to confirm if he will continue in the role.

ACTION: **EG - ask James if continuing role.**

13. Admin Update

Highlights since last meeting:

- November exam results analysed and sent out
- Onboarded new council members
- Supporting Millbrook with opening and advertising March BHRS Sessions
- 5 newsletters/member emails sent out
- 17 social media posts
- 69 Tickets

TWeb urgently needs guidance on what to share from external sources and will approach individuals for assistance.

14. Website Update

Highlights include: opening exam registration for May 2025 and running the LBBaP webinar.

15. Treasurer's Report

VE presented an overview of a healthy balance of £192,000. She reminded the council to remain mindful of larger outgoings, especially for events, and noted that a significant portion of the current balance is due to a past large donation.

16. Secretaries Report

a. Member update

HT reported 49 new members since last meeting (25 Level 1, 24 Level 2).

b. Membership structure update

VE reported that the online membership process has gone out to tender, and a contract has been awarded to 'Get John.' Work is expected to be completed by March 2025. VE was thanked for her efforts.

c. Council member update

HT reported that Phil Durkin has stepped down due to other commitments. The council thanked him for his contributions.

d. Any new declarations/new conflicts of interest

None declared.

17. AOB

a. Boston Pacemaker Advisory

JP received a request for high-level guidance from Boston and various centers. The council decided that individual centers should interpret guidance and consult tertiary centers if needed. No formal statement is necessary.

b. Abbott Tendril 2088

EG reported on noise issues detected in 22 Abbott Tendril 2088 leads, occurring 2–5 years post-implant at King's. This has been escalated via the yellow card system. The council decided to add this to BHRS educational content (e.g., webinars and challenges) to raise awareness. EG to inform SH of BHRS intentions.

ACTION: **EG - inform SH of BHRS educational intentions regarding the matter**
JP - add to educational offerings

18. Date of Next Meeting

8.30am, Tuesday 4th March 2025 - Duncan Room, RCP Edinburgh.

It was agreed to maintain the current schedule of two in-person meetings per year (one during the sessions and one at the symposium), with the remainder held virtually.