

HUMAN FERTILISATION AND EMBRYOLOGY AUTHORITY
SCIENTIFIC AND CLINICAL ADVANCES GROUP

Committee:	Scientific and Clinical Advances Group
Meeting Date	17 th June 2004
Agenda Item	6
Paper Number	
Paper Title	Horizon Scanning ESHRE 2004
Author	Chrissy Panton
For Information or Decision?	Information and Decision
Resource Implications	See Impact
Recommendation to the Committee	The Committee is asked to review the draft Proposal

Horizon Scanning ESHRE 2004

Aim

1. The aim of this paper is to introduce Members to the executive's suggested approach to Horizon Scanning. The approach should ensure that the HFEA is aware of the potential issues in new assisted conception technologies and techniques likely to become available that may impact on the Regulatory and Policy work over the next 3 to 5 years. The purpose of this exercise is to develop a response accordingly and to provide advance warning to the relevant stakeholders, it will, in turn, allow the HFEA to respond to changes more quickly when presented with new issues.

Background

2. At a recent meeting of SCAG held on the 19 February 2004, Members considered a paper suggesting that a professional consultant in this area be commissioned to facilitate a workshop for Members of the Authority to discuss a horizon scanning programme.

However, Members were concerned with the fees and structure of events organised by external facilitators. The Members felt that, alternatively, the role of facilitator could be fulfilled by an internal person at the HFEA.

At the SCAG meeting of the 21st of April 2004, Members agreed that to take the Horizon Scanning Project Work forward, it was necessary to arrange a meeting of individuals identified as experts in the field of ART at ESHRE Berlin 2004. Professor David Barlow agreed to contact

ESHRE to arrange a suitable venue. The list of experts originally agreed at the SCAG meeting has changed to include a more international element to the discussion.

Argument

Objective

2. The above proposed meeting is to be held in room (salon 22) from 4.30 – 5.30 on Tuesday 29th June 2004. The invited expert list is attached in **appendix A**.

The proposed outline of this meeting is as follows:

- i) Introduce the HFEA and its functions (15 mins)
- ii) Discussion on immediate developments the HFEA needs to be prepared for (15 mins)
- iii) Discussion on issues that the HFEA should be considering (Professor Trounson has offered to give a presentation – suggested timing 10 mins and 10 mins discussion)
- iv) Discussion on the practicalities as to how this expert group can function (10 minutes).

Proposed Chair: Professor David Barlow.

3. Having formed an expert group with agreed functions it will be necessary for the executive to progress the Horizon Scanning work. The following three options are proposed.

Option A

4. **Methodology**

Stage 1

Desk research: The executive will carry out assimilate policy and scientific literature with regard to reproductive technologies. In particular concentrating on work being carried out with animals which would indicate future possibilities with humans. However, this stage should be constantly under review.

Stage: Completed Paper presented to SCAG 21st June 2004

Stage 2

Interview phase; as discussed above, a number of experts have been identified that will be attending Berlin ESHRE 2004. The meeting although severely limited for time has an aim to introduce the HFEA to the experts

and invite them to join a HFEA Horizon Scanning Advisory panel to provide direction to the organisation in our regulation and policy making capacity.

Stage: In progress, meeting arranged in room (salon 22) has been arranged from 4.30 – 5.30 on Tuesday June 2004.

Stage 3

Design and facilitate Workshops: Having established our Horizon Scanning Advisory panel the executive would wish to design a workshop process that could involve a live link to the international experts. An example of a workshop is given in **Appendix B**.

Stage: Planning in progress

Stage 4

Evaluation and report writing: The workshop will be reviewed.

Stage 5

Outcomes to be incorporated into the business plan

5. **Timing**

Stage 1: Completed, however this stage requires continuous re-evaluation.

Stage 2: 1 hour

Stage 3: 3 – 4 weeks

Stage 4: 4 weeks (this would allow adequate time for the Executive and Members of SCAG to review the draft report).

Option B

6. Stage 1, 2, 4 & 5 are as above, however, stage 3 is revised so that invited panel of experts could be contacted periodically via email/letter/telephone only when required to comment on issues relevant to their specialism. No workshop.

Option C

7. Stage 1, 2, 4 & 5 are as above, however, stage 3 is revised to include both a workshop for those who can attend and periodic contact with experts via email/letter/telephone only when required to comment on issues relevant to their specialism.

Impact

8. Both Options A & C will require considerable resource allocation which will not exceed our anticipated business plan. These options would be more in line with best practice in Horizon Scanning as carried by specialist organisations.

Conclusion

Members are invited to review the proposed options and consider whether these are appropriate as early warning processes for the HFEA.

Members are asked to consider:

- (i) Which option should be used?
- (ii) Whether a combination of the options should be considered.
- (iii) Whether Horizon Scanning should be outsourced
- (iv) Whether the proposed format for the ESHRE meeting is appropriate and best use of the allocated the time.

APPENDIX A

INVITATION TO ATTEND ESHRE MEETING IN BERLIN 2004

Name	Field	Origin	Response
Professor Henry Leese	Vet Science	UK	Yes
Professor Alan Trounson	Stem Cells	Aus	Yes
Jaques Cohen rep Professor Santiago Munne	PGD	USA	Yes
Dr Maureen Wood	Cryopreservation	UK	Yes
Professor Alan Decherney	Editor in Chief, Fertility and Sterility	USA	Yes
Professor Martin Johnson	PGD	UK	Awaiting Response
Professor Bart Fauser	Editor in Chief Human Reproduction Update.	NL	Awaiting Response
Professor Azim Surani	Stem Cells	UK	Awaiting Response
Professor Twink Allen	Vet Science	UK	Not able to make ESHRE but wishes to be involved
Professor Hans Evers	Past Chair of ESHRE	NL	Awaiting Response
Professor Devroey	Reproductive endocrinology	B	Yes
Professor Van Steirteghem	IVF	B	Awaiting Response
Dr Charles Kingsland	IVF	UK	Yes?

EXAMPLE OF WORKSHOP AGENDA

1. Welcome, introduction and purpose
2. Table discussion No. 1
 - a. *What are the future developments in current assisted conception technologies and techniques that the HFEA will need to be engaged with in 3 – 5 years?*
3. Table discussion No.2
 - a. *What are the new developments in assisted conception technologies and techniques that the HFEA will need to be engaged with in 3 – 5 years?*

3 Definites
2 Probables
1 Wildcard
4. Table discussion No. 3 Suggestions for the first 6 scanning projects (refine the ideas).
5. Group task No. 1 Definites
 - a. Build a developmental timeline
 - b. Identify the issues for HFEA
 - c. Who should HFEA speak to
 - d. Feedback
6. Group Task No. 2 Probables
7. Group Task No.3 Wildcard
8. Review.