

**MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND CLINICAL
ADVANCES GROUP HELD ON THURSDAY 17TH JUNE 2004 AT
BLOOMSBURY STREET**

PRESENT:

Members

Neva Haites- Chair
Maybeth Jamieson
Tom Baldwin
Chris Barratt
David Barlow
Peter Braude
Jane Denton
Sara Nathan
Suzi Leather

Executive

Peter Mills
Cathleen Schulte
Katy Berry
Ross Thacker

Observers

Kim Hayes

1. APOLOGIES

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Iain Cameron, Christina Panton and Ted Webb.
- 1.2 Members were invited to declare any conflicts of interest they had in relation to the agenda items; Chris Barratt declared that he had a stem cell licence. Peter Braude also declared that he had a stem cell licence.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

- 2.1 The minutes of the last meeting were taken as read, subject to the correction of mono and chromo/ mono to monozygotic in paragraph 6.7 and the correct spelling of Sara Nathan's name.

3. MATTERS ARISING

- 3.1 PGD. PGD conditions on the licences of centres were unlikely to be current and some centres may no longer have the expertise to carry out those conditions on their licence. Regulation was informed and a letter will be sent to all clinics that carry out PGS/PGD asking which PGS/ PGD tests are carried out in their clinic.

Action: Regulation

- 3.2 It was noted that the pursuance of a licence is dependent on the clinic currently carrying out the procedures.

- 3.3 Embryo Biopsy. There has been no response from Dr Verlinsky to the request for a copy of his data following research on paediatric follow-up of embryo biopsy children.
- 3.4 Assisted hatching. A questionnaire was sent out to all centres licensed to carry out assisted hatching. It was suggested that the collection of more information could coincide with the introduction electronic data collection.
- 3.5 The questionnaires will be reviewed for any potentially useful information in time for the next SCAG meeting. The Secretary of SCAG and Chris O'Toole will collate the data and forward to Neva Haites for review.

Action: Secretary of SCAG, Chris O'Toole and Neva Haites

- 3.6 Embryo definition. Following the lunchtime discussion this issue will be addressed at the next meeting SCAG.
- 3.7 Preimplantation Genetic screening. The forms used to collect information about PGS need to be updated to collect the required information. This will be accompanied by a Chair's letter.

4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

- 4.1 There was no chairman's business.

5. SECRETARY'S BUSINESS

- 5.1 The executive proposes to table an updated list of attendees for the ESHRE meeting in Berlin on Tuesday 29th June 2004.

6. HORIZON SCANNING ESHRE 2004- SCAG (06/04)01

- 6.1 Peter Mills introduced this paper on behalf of Christina Panton. The paper introduces the executive's suggested approach to Horizon scanning. The approach should ensure that the HFEA is aware of the potential issues in ART and techniques that are likely to become available in the next 3-5 years. The committee is asked to review the draft proposal set out in the paper and various options within the proposals.
- 6.2 It was agreed that Option C was the best option with possible variations perhaps including video conferencing. Option C consists of Desk research, Interview Phase, workshop for those who can attend and also periodic contact when required to comment on issue relevant to their specialism, evaluation and report writing and outcomes incorporated into business plan.

- 6.3 The proposed agenda for the Horizon scanning meeting was discussed it was suggested that there was a lot to cover in the time allocated and that the amount of time spent introducing the HFEA be reduced to 5 minutes. It was decided that wine and nibbles will also be organised for the meeting and the agenda will be modified.

Action: David Barlow & Secretary of SCAG

7. RESEARCH REPORTS- SCAG (06/04)02

- 7.1 Progress report for research project R0121. Peter Braude left while this progress report was discussed. The progress report was accepted.
- 7.2 Progress report for research project R0133 was discussed. It was suggested that having the lay summary of the license application would be useful when discussing the progress report. The report was accepted.
- 7.3 Progress report for research project R144-1a. No lab work has commenced to date and so Ross Thacker's visit to the clinic is to be postponed until laboratory work is established. The report was accepted.
- 7.4 The final report for Research project R0130 was reviewed by the committee. It was suggested that the work might not have been statistically significant and it would have been useful to see the history of the licence including the goals to be able to review the project effectively. The history and the goals of the project will be sent to the committee.

Action: Ross Thacker

8. DEFINITION OF AN EMBRYO- SCAG (06/04)03

- 8.1 This paper was not presented here because it preceded the discussion with the invited speakers and it was felt that any discussion or decisions should be postponed until the discussion had taken place.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 9.1 There was no other business.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 10.1 The date of the next meeting is scheduled for 13th September 2004 at 11am.