

**Clinical Research & Academic Committee**  
**Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 12 May 2010**  
**Bournemouth International Centre, Bournemouth**

1. Present

P Chinnery (Chair), Beth Mallam, Clive Hawkins, Huw Morris, Heather Angus-Leppan, Martin Rossor

2. Apologies

Rustam Al-Shahi-Salman

3. ABN Fellowships Scheme

PFC updated the committee on recent progress with the Fellowships scheme. The application form has been requested over 30 times, and the deadline is the 31 May. PFC will contact the CRAC membership in the first week of June to advise on the number of applicants, decide whether all should be peer-reviewed or whether there will need to be a short-listing process. There was general enthusiasm for the scheme. The Committee expressed a desire to develop the scheme further, engaging other charities, and possibly negotiating for shared funding through NIHR-CLRN funding streams if this is possible. CH agreed to consider the feasibility of this approach in his role as CLRN nervous system disorders lead.

4. BNSU

PFC updated CRAC on progress made improving the BNSU system, including the e-mail report from RASS. PFC explained the need to reconcile different membership databases within the ABN office. Using a more up to date data base will hopefully increase the number of monthly returns from members. CRAC considered the recent BNSU application made by Dr Nicholas Moran, and agreed that the study was not appropriate for the BNSU because the aim of the study was simply to identify one or two patients with the mitochondrial disorder MNGIE for a treatment study. CRAC recommends that Dr Moran contacts centres in the UK with an interest in mitochondrial disease to identify these cases, and asks for the study to be added to the monthly ABN electronic newsletter.

5. BMedSci Bursaries Update

The closing date for applications has been extended to 31 May this year. The applications will be circulated to CRAC members in the first week in June for scoring. HAL recommended a further e-mail advertising the scheme should be sent to UK medical schools.

6. CRAC Membership and Chair

The committee agreed that PFC should continue as chair for a further 3 year period to which he agreed. There was general agreement that the membership of CRAC should be increased by three to four members to ensure all regions/interests of UK neurology are represented, especially given the possible role of CRAC in short-listing fellowship candidates. MR explained that, when President, he aims to develop "standard operating procedures" for all ABN committees, including the selection methods for committee members, and the roles and responsibilities of committee members. It was agreed that CRAC should expand when these new SOPs are in place.

7. Date of Next Meeting

Teleconference in September 2010. Date and time to be decided.