BAPN Research Minutes

Friday 5 December 2003

Institute of Child Health, London

Present: Kjell Tullus, William van't Hoff, Stephen Marks, Graham Smith, David Hughes, Jane Tizard, Jane Inward, Jean Smellie, Heather Maxwell, Alan Watson, Jane Deal, Maurice Savage, Dick Trompeter, Rodney Gilbert, Nick Plant, Mark Taylor, Adrian Woolf, Ambrose Gullett, Nick Webb, Lesley Rees, Moin Saleem, Paul Winyard, Sally Feather.

Apologies: Tim Chambers, Dick White, Lyda Jadresic, Mike Dillon, Mary McGraw, Sue Rigden, Sally Hulton, Suzanne Stephens, David Milford, Heather Lambert, Dennis Gill, Chris Reid.

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting

A small correction to Page 4, Cystinosis Registry was required as Ethical Committee is currently under submission. The minutes will be signed when this has been corrected.

2. UK Meetings

The BAPN/RCPCH day will be on 1 April 2004 in York starting at 10:00 hours and finishing by 15:00 for a plenary session. Gheeta Dhillon will be the invited speaker to talk on antenatal hydronephrosis. Unfortunately this date overlaps with the Renal Association and also the IPNA Growth Meeting. It is very difficult to change any of
these other meetings, however Professor Woolf agreed to e-mail the dates of future meetings to Dr Webb.

**Action: Professor Adrian Woolf**

Abstracts for this meeting will be adjudicated by Drs Nick Webb, Lesley Rees, David Milford and Malcolm Coulthard.

3. **Progress reports of ongoing and proposed research studies**

   (i) **HUS project**

   (a) European Registry for diarrhoea negative, VTEC negative HUS in children

   The European Registry met 6 weeks ago. The hope is to have a presentation at IPNA in Adelaide so all unit data needs to be analysed by January for an abstract in February. France has submitted 46 cases, all extensively investigated (Factor H and protease). 25% are atypical and all relapsing HUS have complement regulating abnormalities. The UK has approximately 40 patients but so far only 6 have been submitted and all are from Birmingham. Dr Mark Taylor asked if all units could have their data in by the end of the year.

   **Action: Membership**

   Tim Goodship has requested that all units first measure C3 and Factor H locally then send him DNA for gene analysis. He screens the terminal exons of Factor H as that is where defects have been shown. If no defect is found and Factor H is low, there may be abnormalities earlier in the gene so investigation is extended. If the defect is a low C3, screening may take much longer.

   (b) **UK follow-up study**

   This group will be meeting in January. Of the 300 HUS patients reported from the 1980 survey by the Birmingham group, the youngest will now be 16 years. Birmingham have funding to set up a gene base. The working group includes Nick Webb, Carol Inwood, Maggie Fitzpatrick, Sarah O’Brien (CDSC) and Carol Cummins (statistician).

   (ii) **UK VUR DNA sibling pair bank**

   This study has now been running for 11 months. 99 families have been identified and 62 approached. So far there are 41 families with complete data. Some centres are still applying for ethical approval. It was noted that the original protocol has been changed to include retention of frozen lymphocytes. It became clear that centres were not aware whether or not they had clearance for this. It was agreed that Ambrose Gullett would let all centres know individually.

   **Action: Ambrose Gullett**
It was re-stressed that the NKRF are acting as the Steering Committee to look at
applications for those who want to use this genetic resource.

(iii) C2 in SSNS and (iv) C2 in transplants

These studies are looking at the possible links between C2 levels (measured by
fingerprick) and gingival hypertrophy and hypertrichosis in transplant patients and
nephrotic syndrome patients. There are two small amendments required for MREC
approval for the transplant study and the nephrotic syndrome study is ready to go. The
research representative in each centre has been e-mailed with details of these studies.

(v) Lipid study

Fujisawa has offered money for an audit of lipid levels and their management.
However, at the recent research meeting there was not sufficient support for this study
and it was proposed that there should be a one-day symposium on this subject. Dr
Webb is due to meet Fujisawa again to re-discuss this.

**Action: Dr Webb**

(vi) Long term tapering versus standard prednisolone therapy for the treatment of the
initial episode of nephrotic syndrome

The protocol is now fully prepared for this study, which is a randomized double-blind
placebo controlled trial. The information required for recruitment has been kept short
(one side of A4). There will also be a psychological assessment of patients. DHP is
manufacturing Prednisolone tablets and placebos (5mg). Birmingham clinical trials
centre will be responsible for packaging the pills, randomizing and sending them out to
patients with diary sheets and stix. Ethics is on the point of submission to MREC and
an application is bring prepared for funding of the next stage. A trial co-ordinator to be
based in Birmingham needs to be appointed. We require a DDX under the existing
clinical trials regulations. We hope to commence the trial prior to 1 April to allow it to
take place using the DDX (these certificates cease to exist after 1 April). All general
paediatricians will receive a flyer in the College Meeting pack. Local centres will need
LREC approval. It is hoped to start in the first quarter of 2004.

(vii) ESPN SSNS trials

Nick Webb attended a European collaborative trial meeting on behalf of the BAPN
coordinated by Patrick Niaudet. It is hoped that further trials will be set up and may be
our own nephrotic study can be continued on a European basis.

(viii) Cystinosis Registry

There are now 129 patients on the Registry (46 transplants, 35 in adult units). 95% of
patients are now captured. However, there remain concerns re capturing growth data
and cystagon doses. It is clear that cystagon doses in the UK are lower than in other
parts of the world.
(ix) EBV vaccine trial

This study has now started at GOS and Bristol. It is a dose finding study and 6 patients are currently entered with a view of a total of 15.

(x) Rituximab trial

As yet there is very little information on this study as the group has not yet met. More information will be brought to the next meeting.

4. New proposals

(i) UK collection of PKD patients and families

This is a study of ADPKD being run by the adult service with an MRC strategic grant. It is hoped to be a DNA sample resource looking at ADPKD and modifying genes. It is hoped that 1,000 patients will be recruited (total cost £600,000). The plan is to ascertain patients and their clinical data, collect blood and extract DNA for mutation analysis by the MRC gene service. It is hoped to fund research nurses throughout the country. Dr Winyard had requested that this service would collect samples from patients with ARPKD as well and mutation analysis will be offered by Lisa Guay-Woodford. Dr Winyard will contact members with further information.

Action: Dr Paul Winyard

(ii) Renal Association HUS Study

This is for information only as this study is currently running in adults. The plan to administer APT070, a complement regulator, to D-HUS patients.

5. Taking research forward in the UK: Renal Association initiative

The Renal Association has been concerned that the Research Committee has taken a back seat to all the other Committees. Caroline Savage is to chair a committee to focus on research ideas for the Renal Association.

6. New legislation for clinical trials – an update

New legislation for clinical trials is due to start on 1 April. This will require a sponsor for all studies. Dr Nick Webb has all the information on this legislation and any member requiring information is invited to contact him.

7. NKRF – an update
This year there was only £400,000 (with some Amgen money) for 54 grants. No paediatric project was funded.

8. **Any Other Business**

Dr Watson is planning a trial of Physioneal. Members wishing to participate in this study are invited to contact him.

*Action: Membership*

9. **Date of Next Research Meeting**

To be decided.

Belfast - Professor M Savage : m.savage@qub.ac.uk
Birmingham - Dr D Milford : david.milford@bhamchildrens.wmids.nhs.uk
Bristol - Dr J Tizard : Jane.Tizard@ubht.swest.nhs.uk
Cardiff - Dr G Smith : SmithGC@Cardiff.ac.uk
Glasgow - Dr H Maxwell : heather.Maxwell@yorkhill.scot.nhs.uk
Leeds - Dr M Fitzpatrick : Maggie.Fitzpatrick@leedsth.nhs.uk
Liverpool - Dr C Jones : Caroline.Jones@rlch-tr.nwest.nhs.uk
London/GOSH - Prof AS Woolf : a.woolf@ich.ucl.ac.uk
London/Guys - Dr C Reid : christopher.reid@kcl.ac.uk
London/St Mary’s – Dr J Deal : j.deal@ic.ac.uk
Manchester - Dr N Webb : n.webb@doctors.org.uk
Newcastle - Dr M Coulthard : malcolm.coulthard@newcastle.ac.uk
Nottingham - Dr A Watson : watpaed@aol.com
Southampton - Dr R Gilbert : rodney.gilbert@suht.swest.nhs.uk