

ASSOCIATION OF MERSEY INTENSIVE CARE UNITS

A.M.I.C.U.

Minutes of the fifth meeting of AMICU held on  
11th December 1992.

Supported with an educational grant from ELI-LILLY.

Present: Dr. S. Mostafa (Chairman)

Dr. J. Chambers	Dr. J. Dalton
Mr. C. Dodd	Dr. N. Fergusson
Miss C. Hallett	Dr. J. Harper
Dr. D. Jayson (Secretary)	
Dr. A. Jones	Dr. A. Kent
Dr. A. Martin	Miss. J. Shalcross
Dr. N. Sutcliffe	Dr. G. Taylor
Dr. R. Wenstone	Dr. D. West
Dr. R. Wilkes	

Apologies: Dr. S. Atherton Dr. C. Charway  
Dr. P. Drury Dr. R. Griffiths  
Dr. C. Harris Dr. R. Macmillan (Treasurer)  
Dr. J. Radcliffe Dr. J. Smith  
Mr. C. Jones Dr. J. Watt

**24/92 Minutes.** The minutes of the fourth meeting of AMICU held on 18th September 1992 were circulated and approved.

**25/92 Matters arising.** Dr. R. Macmillan (Treasurer) had received 18 subscriptions and the association was in credit of £450. A vote of thanks was given to Mr. Richard Little of Eli-Lilly for continuing to support the meetings as he is now leaving the region.

**26/92 Linkman.** Dr. D. Jayson reported from the ICS autumn meeting on the discussions concerning the creation of a Faculty of Intensive Care within the system of Royal Colleges. The ICS is asking for information on ITU training posts in this country that could be available to overseas trainees.

**27/92 Staffing levels.** Dr. N. Fergusson (Chester) had expressed concern over the number of critically ill patients being transferred to other units due to increased bed occupancy. He had been informed by the purchasing consortia that they were unwilling to put further resources into Intensive Care to increase the nursing establishment without comparisons with other units.

Mr. C. Dodd presented the staffing figures for the unit at R.L.U.H. and Miss J. Shalcross presented the figures from Broadgreen. All these units had transferred an extra 10% of patients (or had been unable to admit these patients) due to the number of staffed ITU beds.

The problems of common staffing for ITU, HDU and CCU to improve flexibility was discussed.

It appeared that Mersey Region was probably underfunded for ITU beds.

**28/92 pHi.** Dr. N. Sutcliffe gave a well balanced presentation on the use of gastric tonometry in ITU. He described the principles involved along with its limitations and reviewed the literature. He described the cases in which it had been used at R.L.U.H. and the problems that had been encountered. He concluded that it probably had a place for use as a guide to therapy in compensated shock, but these patients were often in theatre or on the ward rather than on ITU. It may also have a role as a prognostic indicator and as a research tool.

**29/92 Other business.** Dr. S. Mostafa informed the meeting that he had received a letter via Dr. R. Macmillan from Dr. Rivlin dealing with audit in Mersey Region to offer help with meetings and organising speakers. It was considered that there is a general lack of funding for audit in I.T.U.s in this region and that manpower was required for this on a permanent basis. AMICU is already looking at the management of asthma and has assessed the use of HA-1A anti-endotoxin in participating units.

**30/92 Next meeting.** This was arranged for Friday 12th March 1993, 14.30pm, at the usual venue.