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# AMICU *Association of Merseyside Intensive Care Units*

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**Minutes of 49<sup>th</sup> meeting of AMICU**  
**March 19th-2004 at the Quality Hotel, Little Sutton, Wirral**  
**(Sponsored by an educational grant from Wyeth and Aventis Pharmaceuticals)**

### Attendance

**Consultants:** Dr G Masterson, Prof N Rothwell, Dr R Stevens, Dr J Gannon, Dr I Tweedie, Prof R Griffiths, Dr R Denton, Dr G Marx, Dr J Little, Dr R Mehra, Dr P Mullen, Dr J Harper, Dr L McCrossan, Dr N Robin, Dr E Allsop, Dr P Enevoldson, Dr I Graham, Dr J McCann, Dr A Guha, Dr F Mostafa, Dr S Tighe, Dr T Hankin,

**Trainees:** Dr T Mahambre, Dr O Freddy, Dr A Cherion, Dr G Mahalingam

**Others :** Mr M Evans (Aventis), Mr M Lazenby (Wyeth),

**Apologies:** Dr R McMillan, Dr N Scawn, Dr A Axon, Dr E Shearer, Dr R Wenstone, Dr M Stallwood, Dr N Fletcher, Dr N Ferguson

### **01/04 Introduction**

Dr Ian Tweedie welcomed the audience, thanked the meeting's sponsors (Aventis & Wyeth pharmaceuticals) and introduced the day's speaker.

### **02/04 Professor Nancy Rothwell's presentation**

Nancy Rothwell is the MRC Professor at the University of Manchester and she gave a presentation entitled "Brain injury and IL-1: a potential target for therapy?". The presentation lasted 45-minutes and was extremely well received. The talk stimulated 20-minutes of questions and discussion. The Chairman thanked Professor Rothwell for her contribution.

### **03/04 Dr G Mahalingam's presentation**

Dr Mahalingam presented the results of a regional survey that addressed the management of cervical spine injury management in unconscious head injury patients. His 15-minute presentation revealed a massive variation in practice throughout the region. Following 10-minutes of discussion it was agreed that this would be an appropriate area for the Cheshire and Mersey Critical Care Network to explore.

### **04/04 Business meeting**

#### *04/04/01 ICS Update*

Richard Griffiths thanked the association for their contribution towards his success in being re-elected to the ICS Council. He also reiterated the importance of collecting ACP data accurately as this data will be used for critical care commissioning until the critical care HRGs are developed. Richard reminded the audience about the ICS Spring meeting in Torbay and the ICS trainees'

meeting in York next August. Finally, he discussed the need for an ICS trainee linkman. It was agreed that the next trainee appointed to a NTN post would be asked to assume this responsibility.

*04/04/02 Feedback from Network's Clinical Group meeting*

Ian Tweedie informed the audience that Richard Nelson from Chester had given a presentation about how Chester manages glycaemic control on their ITU. The Chester protocol is available to any interested parties. There had been a detailed discussion about the ALERT and similar courses at the clinical group meeting and it was clear that a more coordinated approach was needed. It was decided that the CCOT and Practice Educator subgroups should take this forward. Finally, Ian discussed the whether it was appropriate or not to transfer a stable ITU patient to another unit to make room for a new admission. There was universal agreement that in general it would be more ethically acceptable to transfer out the new admission after stabilisation had been achieved but that each case should be considered on its merits.

*04/04/03 Cheshire & Mersey Critical Care Network update*

Jane Harper informed the audience that central funding for our Network would cease as from next September and that the continuation of the Network depended upon whether the Network's supporting PCTs perceive the Network to be beneficial. Jane then explained the Network's approach to collective commissioning and that outreach and audit/data collection funding were the Network's priorities for this year. She also reiterated the importance of accurate ACP data collection as part of the critical care commissioning process until the critical care HRGs are developed. Finally, Jane mentioned that the Transfer Subgroup were continuing to audit transfers and were organising transfer training for SHOs but not SpRs nor consultants as yet.

*04/04/04 Regional Advisor's Update*

In Euan Shearer's absence, Gary Masterson briefly mentioned that Euan had drawn up rotations for the new three NTNs and that these posts would be advertised in the near future.

**05/04 AMICU Treasurer**

Ian announced that Richard Wenstone has been elected as AMICU's treasurer in succession to Terry Hankin. Ian expressed the association's gratitude to Terry for his efforts over the last three years.

**06/04 Any other business**

*06/04/01 New consultant contract*

There was a brief discussion about job planning and the new consultant contract. It was clear that this process was still at a very early stage in most trusts and that at this point no-one had signed a new contract.

*06/04/02 MRSA and isolation policies*

Sean Tighe asked the audience about their practice around they manage MRSA and isolating patients with limited resources. At Chester he described how the shortage of HDU isolation rooms was delaying ITU discharge and resulting in an increase in transfers to other trusts. The resulting discussion revealed that there was a variation in practice throughout the region and that a Network coordinated approach would be a logical way forward. Jane Harper and Ian Tweedie agreed to discuss this at the Network.

*06/04/03 Neurosurgical Critical Care Audit*

Ian urged the audience to return the above completed audit forms.

**07/04 Date of next meeting**

The 50<sup>h</sup> AMICU meeting will be the Summer meeting on Friday 2nd July at the Suites Hotel, Knowsley, Merseyside. Dr Niki Snook from Leeds will speak about aspects of liver transplantation critical care.