

ASSOCIATION OF MERSEY INTENSIVE CARE UNITS

A.M.I.C.U.

Minutes of the fourth meeting of AMICU held on
18th September 1992.
Supported with an educational grant from ELI-LILLY.

Present: Dr. S. Mostafa Chairman

Dr. P. Barrat	Dr. P. Buckley
Dr. J. Chambers	Dr. C. Charway
Dr. N. Fergusson	Dr. R. Griffiths
Dr. J. Harper	Dr. C. Harris
Mr.C.Jones	Dr.R.Macmillan (Treasurer)
Dr. N. Sutcliffe	Dr. G. Taylor
Dr. I. Tweedie	Dr. R. Wenstone
Dr. R. Wilkes	Dr. D. Jayson (Secretary)

Apologies: Dr. S. Atherton Dr. J. Dalton
Dr. W. Horton Dr. A. Jones
Dr. A. Kent Dr. A. Martin
Dr. J. Ratcliffe Dr. J. Watt
Dr. E. Williams

18/92 Minutes. The minutes of the 3rd meeting of AMICU held on 12th June 1992 were circulated and approved.

19/92 Treasurer. Some subscriptions were still outstanding. The full accounts of the association will be presented at a future meeting.

20/92 Linkman. The I.C.S. linkman (Dr. P. Buckley) was present. There were no further communications from the I.C.S. Dr. Buckley informed the meeting that he was leaving the region and he was wished well. It was agreed that AMICU would require a new linkman for the I.C.S. and Dr. D. Jayson agreed to attend the Autumn meeting in this role. Dr. S. Mostafa agreed to send a letter of support to the I.C.S. from AMICU to help in its efforts to form a faculty of intensive care within the system of the Royal Colleges.

21/92 Ecstasy in the ITU. Dr. P. Barret presented the chemistry, pharmacology and history of M.D.M.A. abuse. and dicussed the current literature comparing deaths in the U.K. with U.S.A. He reviewed the case reports from this country, including two local cases, and described the typical presentation of these severely ill patients, the risk factors in the developement of this D.I.C./hyperpyrexia syndrome, and gave advice on the clinical management.

Mr. C. Jones presented the wider social problem of M.D.M.A. abuse and described the atypical nature of the D.I.C./hyperpyrexia syndrome and the association with environmental factors.

22/92 Ethical problems. Mr. C. Jones presented a topical case concerning the consent to treatment on ITU. He described the guidelines laid down by the Court of Appeal which say the medical team must take into account the patient's capacity to decide at the time of the decision, if the decision was made under any duress from outside influences, if the decision was limited in time or if it was made under any false assumption.

Dr. R. Macmillan presented a case concerning the visiting rights of relatives of ITU patients.

Dr. R. Wilkes presented a case concerning the problems of informing conscious patients of their prognosis and the difficulties of making a decision to withdraw treatment.

Dr. R. Wenstone described the situation in Toronto where a professional ethicist is involved in decision making.

There followed an interesting discussion.

23/92 Next meeting.

This was arranged for Friday 11th December.