

Posture & Mobility Group Research & Development Sub-committee

Minutes of October 15th 2010 meeting ATCare Design and Development Centre, 31 Scarborough Street London E1 8DR

Present: Donna Cowan (DC) joint chair
Alison Johnston (AJ)
David Porter (DPo) joint chair
David Punt (DPu)
Pat Sweet (PS)
Jo Jex joined via teleconference for first part of meeting (JJ)
Minutes: Olwen Ellis (OE)

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Helen Yarrow (HY). No contact from Steve Rolfe for a while.

2. Minutes from meeting of January 15th 2010 were agreed. May meeting was cancelled.

3. Matters arising not covered on agenda

6i) *The effect of surgery on back posture, pain and levels of disability in adult patients with spinal deformities: A pilot study.* OE had clarified that the participants in this study are ambulant, therefore not eligible for funding through PMG

6iii) and 6iv): the proposals from Swansea had been Development rather than Research. See item 6 below.

4. Role of chair and membership of the sub-committee

- i) Agreed that DPo to chair while clarifying the issues of this agenda item:
- ii) DPo is no longer on PMG executive, and it is a condition that chairs of sub-committees are members of the executive. Other members of the executive on R&D sub-cttee are DC, AJ and JJ. However none of these feel able to be chair at this time, due to other commitments and workload.
- iii) DPu was asked to consider taking on the role of chair, but also declined.
- iv) Recommendation that DPo should be co-opted to the sub-committee and that he and DC continue as joint chairs, with AJ, DC and JJ to report back to the exec when required. Take this to PMG executive meeting on December 7th.

DC/OE

5. PMG priorities for next 3 years.

- i) AJ reported back from recent PMG executive committee, which now has a new chair in Clare Wright (CW).
- ii) Because of the uncertain financial situation, the PMG executive has decided to focus funding on three key areas. All sub-committees have been instructed to support these priorities, as well as their own remit. AJ reported that the key areas of emphasis for the next 3 years are:
 - NTE
 - Website
 - Membership
- iii) The outcome of the Glasgow conference in terms of profit/loss is still unclear, and the PMG research fund will have to wait until final accounts are ratified. Hopefully this will be done on December 3rd, 2010; then PMG finance sub-cttee will hopefully be in a position to set a budget for 2011 at its meeting on 14th December 2010.
- iv) Agreed to continue calling for outline proposals, with an explanation of the current uncertain financial situation.
- v) AJ also reported that SIGs have been dropped, and that a formal alliance is being sought with Postrure24.
- vi) **R&D contribution to NTE:** DPo to consult with Marie Kelly about rerun of their

OE

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| vii) | workshop from Glasgow conference: Fundamentals of Research. OE to liaise. JJ would like a debate on clinical practice at NTE. OE to take the idea to NTE sub-cttee. | DPO/OE
OE |
| viii) | Ideally, a member of all sub-cttees should be on NTE sub-cttee also, to keep lines of communication open. | KIV |
| ix) | AJ reported that the pre-conference training day had been dropped, with Education & Training sub-cttee to host training days around the country instead. | |

6. Priorities for R&D sub-cttee

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| i) | DP gave a resume of how the sub-committee came into being, around the small research study fund. The Development aspect of R&D has never been considered. | |
| ii) | Agreed to wait until next year to discuss Development, once the funding situation is clear. | |

7. Outline Proposals

A) Posture management equipment usage with adults in low awareness states: A prospective survey of therapists working in sub acute rehabilitation and long term units
(Amount requested £5,000)

B) Posture management interventions for people in low awareness states: Pattern of deformities observed and posture management practises in a sub acute rehabilitation unit.
(Amount requested £5,000)

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| i) | OE confirmed that both proposals were from a current PMG researcher, Rasheed Ahamed Meeran (RAM) | |
| ii) | Agreed that in principle, and if money available, there would be nothing to prevent offering grants for 2 studies from one applicant, if they were felt to be distinct enough from each other. In this case it was agreed that distinguishing between the proposals is problematic. | |
| iii) | DPu actioned to discuss the proposals with RAM, and encourage him to select one or other of the studies as a potential for submitting a full application for funding. | DPu |
| iv) | Peer reviewers: If RAM decides to proceed with an application, two suggested peer reviewers are Keith Andrews, Royal Hospital for Neurodisability, and Pauline Pope. | OE |

8. Ongoing funded projects

OE tabled a schedule of updates on the current PMG funded studies (see attached).

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| A) Alice Wintergold (AW): | DC reported on the life and other issues which have held up this study since it commenced in 2006. AW about to go off on maternity leave for a year. Agreed that the clock stops in this circumstance, so that the study can recommence at the end of 2011. OE to inform AW. | OE |
| B) Ginny Humphries – | as schedule. | |
| C) Dave Harrison/PAWPAW project: | DPu confirmed that the final report from this study is excellent. Wait to hear outcome of the team's communications with Clinical Rehabilitation who may publish the report. PMG in the meantime to post the short report on website. | OE |
| D) Lorna Tasker (LT): | DPo feels that despite PMG not being able to post the final report on the website, because of potential publication in Clinical Rehabilitation, LT has disseminated the work widely at various conferences. | |
| E) Punt/Harbach: | DPu is concerned about accessing the data gathered, as the technician who holds the details has been on long-term sick leave. He hopes to discuss with Geoff Harbach in the next few weeks. | DPu |
| F) Casey/McDonald: | cttee sympathetic to the difficulties around recruitment for research studies. | |
| G) Rasheed Ahamed Meeran (RAM) – | Executive Summary approved. OE to discuss with RAM about posting on PMG website. Full report must be submitted ahead of any new application for funding being considered. | OE |
| H) Linda Walker: | encourage to present at NTE 2011. | OE |

- I) **Sally Kyle (SK):** OE reported that SK will be going on maternity leave in Spring 2011. Agreed that the PMG funding "clock" will stop during this period.
- J) **Nicola Holbrook (NH):** Agreed to hold the grant offer until Jan 2011, in an attempt to encourage NH to start the study. OE to request a statement of support from Jan Formis, NH's new line manager. **OE**
- K) **Lesley Perry:** OE to follow up re ethics approval. **OE**
- L) **Helen Hislop:** PS has approved the final report. Post on PMG website. **OE**

9. Adjudication of full application for funding

- A) DPo declared an interest in this application and left the meeting.
- B) ***Supportive seating and wheelchairs: what matters to young people?***
 - i) Agreed that the study complies with criteria for funding, and that PMG has the funding available for it.
 - ii) It was agreed to offer the project the funding requested but OE and DPo to discuss the following with the applicant, Gillian Taylor. **OE/DPo**
 - Adapt the title to match the research questions
 - Change the age-range to either 11-19 or 19-25.

10. Next meeting

- i) **Date:** 14th January 2011

ii) With potentially very little business for the January meeting, it was agreed that decisions may be possible via email. OE to keep everyone informed on any outline proposals submitted, and about PMG budget decisions for 2011. **OE**

- iii) ATCare booked for 14th Jan in case a meeting takes place.