

*The October 2005 meeting of the UK Radiopharmacy Group was held at Guy's Hospital, London. Items of general interest are summarised below.*

funding for training posts, lack of career pathway, lack of defined professional registration pathway, and shortage of QPs were all pointed out.

### UPCOMING UKRG EVENTS

### REGULATORY ISSUES

#### UKRG Workshop 2006

The next workshop is almost upon us. It will take place on **Friday 13 January 2006** in Bournville, Birmingham, and all non-superstitious radiopharmacy types are welcome. The topics include radiochemical purity testing and radiation safety aspects of  $^{90}\text{Y}$ -Zevalin preparation; thyroid blockade; and the surgical interface with nuclear medicine. The afternoon will be taken up with the popular and athletic Controversy Corners, with topics including radiochemical purity testing, MAA particle numbers, deviations from manufacturers' instructions, syringe shield policies, and manual handling aspects of generators. It promises to be a good day so we hope to see everyone there. Further information and registration information are available on the UKRG website. However, due to the short lead time, please contact [paul.maltby@rhuht.nhs.uk](mailto:paul.maltby@rhuht.nhs.uk) or 0151-706-4521 to check on capacity.

#### Postgraduate Course in Radiopharmacy

The annual course at King's College London will be run during the week of 13 March 2006. More information will be available shortly. In the interim please contact [jim.ballinger@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:jim.ballinger@kcl.ac.uk).

### WORKFORCE ISSUES

#### Workforce Review

You may recall from the Q2 Newsletter that members of different craft groups in Nuclear Medicine met with the Department of Health and the NHS Workforce Review team in March. There was little evidence of action coming out of that meeting until recently when the Workforce Review team conducted formal meetings with representatives of each craft group. The lack of succession planning in radiopharmacy, lack of

#### Clinical trials / Investigative medicinal product (IMP) licences

This remains a hot topic. The BNMS Council is addressing the issue and plans to devise a flow chart for guidance.

The current consensus is as follows. There are three general situations.

1. Studies of the properties of a new radiopharmaceutical will clearly require an IMP licence. This would include both industry sponsored and academic trials in which the radiopharmaceutical is labelled on site. However, if the radiopharmaceutical arrives in a form ready to use, the hospital should not require an IMP licence.
2. Studies in which a radiopharmaceutical is used as a physiological marker, and when the results are not used in clinical management of patients, should not require an IMP licence. However, the radiopharmaceutical would have to be prepared under a special licence.
3. Then there are the grey areas. First human use for proof of concept may not require an IMP licence so long as the information is not being used clinically, however a formal Phase I study toward eventual registration of a product would.

The only thing that can be said with any certainty is that this heading will continue to appear in each issue of the Newsletter!

### PRODUCT NEWS

#### DMSA kits

GE/Amersham has withdrawn DMSA kits from the market. The only remaining DMSA kit with a UK product licence is Renocis from Schering.

Alistair Millar from Edinburgh has produced a comparison of the chromatographic behaviour of Amersham and Schering DMSA. It is posted on the VirRAD web site, in Library, SPECT radiopharmacy practice, Technical notes.

Concern has been expressed about the instruction in the Renocis SPC that the product be shaken for 5-10 minutes after reconstitution. This also has been the subject of discussion on VirRAD and the consensus is that shaking for a few seconds to dissolve the kit material followed by incubation at room temperature for 10-20 minutes is sufficient. Shaking the vial for 5-10 minutes would constitute both a radiation hazard and manual handling risk.

### Leukoscan

Leukoscan is currently off the market while Immunomedics awaits official approval of their revised marketing authorisation due to a change in manufacturing facilities. Some hospitals have been able to obtain individual vials on emergency release for "special clinical need". Other centres have imported the BW 250/183 antibody from Schering CIS.

### NeuroSpec

NeuroSpec (fanolesomab, formerly known as LeuTech) the anti-leukocyte IgM antibody licenced in America for imaging appendicitis, has been withdrawn from the market pending investigation of a series of adverse incidents including two deaths following injection. Tyco Mallinckrodt had been seeking European approval of the drug.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### European Symposium on Radiopharmacy and Radiopharmaceuticals

30 Mar-2 Apr 2006, Pisa. See announcement on EANM website <http://esrr06.eanm.org>. Abstract deadline 6 Jan. Contact: [info@eanm.org](mailto:info@eanm.org).

## UPCOMING COURSES

### PET: Technology and Application

Imperial College, London. 5-7 Apr 2006. Focuses on research uses of PET rather than clinical.

<http://www.imperial.ac.uk/cpd/pet>

### DiMI (Diagnostic Molecular Imaging)

A series of short courses on research techniques in molecular imaging are being held at various locations in Europe as part of the European Molecular Imaging Laboratories (EMIL) network of excellence funded by the 6<sup>th</sup> framework of the European Commission. [www.mpifnf.de/dimix/](http://www.mpifnf.de/dimix/)

## PET RESOURCES

The Royal College of Radiologists, in consultation with other groups including UKRG, have published a strategy for implementation of PET-CT in the UK. [www.rcr.ac.uk/docs/general/pdf/PETCT\\_final.pdf](http://www.rcr.ac.uk/docs/general/pdf/PETCT_final.pdf)

## PEOPLE

We would like to offer our congratulations to Dr **Becky Stringer**, senior radiopharmaceutical scientist at the Royal Liverpool University Hospital, who has completed all the aspects of the EANM Radiopharmacy course, passed all the exams, completed her practical log book and has been awarded her certificate from the EANM Committee on Radiopharmacy. It is worth noting that Becky undertook blocks 2 and 3 at INSTN in Saclay Paris but used her PTQA qualification as the equivalent of module 1 (this being the pharmacy module for non-pharmacists run in Ljubiana). Thus, she did not have to attend the lectures there but DID have to sit the exam for that module.

[www.ukrg.org.uk](http://www.ukrg.org.uk)

*Editor:* Jim Ballinger  
Department of Nuclear Medicine  
Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust  
St Thomas Street, London, UK, SE1 9RT  
Phone: 020 7188 5521; Fax: 020 7188 4094  
E-mail: [jim.ballinger@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:jim.ballinger@kcl.ac.uk)

Issue 2005 Q4 Published 22 December 2005

This and previous issues of the Newsletter are available from the UKRG web site and are now posted in the library section at [www.VirRad.org](http://www.VirRad.org)