

UKRG EVENTS

Bournville workshop 2007

The workshop will take place on Friday 12th January. A few spaces may still be available, particularly if accommodation is not required. Please contact Paul Maltby immediately (0151 706 4521, paul.maltby@rlbuht.nhs.uk).

Postgraduate course in radiopharmacy

The annual postgraduate course in radiopharmacy, sometimes known as the Easter course, will be held 12-15 March 2007 at King's College London. The course brochure should be circulated with this Newsletter and posted on the UKRG website. Please contact jim.ballinger@kcl.ac.uk.

BNMS annual meeting 2007

The Manchester meeting will be held 19-21 March 2007. The number of submitted abstracts was encouraging and we should have a robust radiopharmacy session on the Tuesday.

UKRG INITIATIVES

Radiopharmacy Audit

The revised version of the UKRG Radiopharmacy Audit document is now available on the website.

Radiopharmacy Handbook

Revision of the UKRG Radiopharmacy Handbook is underway. The work has been divided up among UKRG members, with some making more progress than others (guilty as charged). Malcolm Frier will be compiling and editing the final version. It is hoped that the revised Handbook will appear on the website in the next few months.

Capacity planning

A subgroup is meeting to prepare a document on capacity planning in radiopharmacy and PET.

WORKFORCE ISSUES

Training staff for PET/CT

The BNMS document on training requirements of different professional groups for PET/CT was published in the December issue of *Nuclear Medicine Communications*. Bev Ellis is one of the co-authors.

European Postgraduate Specialisation Certificate in Radiopharmacy

The option for those who have been working in radiopharmacy since 1991 to obtain the certificate under the "grandfather clause" will close at the end of the year. A formal application containing the information on the checklist, which may be downloaded from the EANM Radiopharmacy Committee website (but without the need to have supervisors sign for the items), should be sent to the chairman of the board, Dr. G. Westera, Nuclear Medicine, Radiopharmacy, University Hospital Zürich, Rämistrasse 100, 8091 Zurich, Switzerland. The applications will be considered by the entire board early in the new year. The correct page on the website can be somewhat difficult to find. Go to www.eanm.org, select About EANM > Committees > Radiopharmacy > Committee site > Specialisation > Appendix III.

REGULATORY ISSUES

Qualified Persons (QP)

The issue of QPs within the NHS, particularly for Investigative Medicinal Products, was the subject of a recent meeting between the NHS QA Committee, UKRG, and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. A report will be included in the next Newsletter.

Orange Guide

The new edition of the Orange Guide (Rules and Guidance for Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Distributors) including the revised Annex 1 is to be published in February 2007 via the Pharmaceutical

Press (£40, ISBN: 0 85369 719 1). Formerly it was produced by the government Stationery Office. In addition to the usual paperback format, it will also be available electronically CD-ROM (£47 incl VAT, ISBN: 0 85369 720 5). www.pharmpress.com

PIC/S

The Pharmaceutical Inspection Convention of EU regulatory authorities has circulated for comment a draft Pharmaceutical Inspection Co-operation Scheme (PIC/S) document on hospital pharmacy which the MHRA will use as a guide for inspections throughout the EU. This identifies the different standards applied when inspecting hospitals as opposed to industry. While there are some anomalies in the current draft, there are also instances which indicate a relaxation on standards previously imposed by the MHRA. The deadline for comments is 30 March 2007 and the UKRG will be making a submission.

Radiation monitors at airports

The anti-terrorism measures instituted at transport terminals are extremely sensitive and nuclear medicine patients are being caught. In the USA the Society of Nuclear Medicine has published guidance on its website (www.snm.org). Similar guidance will be issued in the UK, likely in the form of suggested wording for the appointment letter and instructions for the patient to carry the letter if travelling within a certain period after the test or therapy. However, determining how long that period should be is difficult because the authorities are unwilling to divulge the sensitivity of the instruments.

Clinical trials

Scenarios as to what requires an IMP licence have been submitted to the MHRA policy group by Steve Mather. Keith Harding and Steve have co-authored an editorial in the January 2007 issue of *Nuclear Medicine Communications* which discusses this topic.

PRODUCT/INDUSTRY NEWS

More product withdrawals

GE Healthcare has announced it is withdrawing ^{133}Xe gas, ^{32}P sodium phosphate, and ^{90}Y silicate at the end of the year, due to low volume.

The UKRG has protested this discontinuation without due consultation in contravention of the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) guidelines, but the complaints fell upon deaf ears.

As an alternative to ^{90}Y silicate for radio-synovectomy, CIS still makes ^{90}Y citrate colloid and some of you may have previous experience using this product during times of non-availability of the silicate. It can be imported by Qados as an unlicensed product.

Tyco is making arrangements to import ^{32}P sodium phosphate and it should be available by the end of January.

In addition, Diagnostic Imaging Ltd has obtained a wholesale importers licence and is looking to import ^{32}P and other products. www.diagimaging.com

Depreotide (NeoSpect)

NeoSpect is available again, its marketing rights having been transferred from GE Healthcare to Schering, now CIS. The UK distributor is Qados. However, they are not currently stocking the product in the UK, so it has to be imported from France. Because it is shipped frozen, it cannot come over the weekend, so it takes about a week to obtain the product. Furthermore, the price is approximately double what it used to be.

^{99m}Tc -Nanocoll for sentinel node

Alistair Millar's group has published a validation of the stability of Nanocoll in unit dose syringes alone and premixed with blue dye. It is in the December issue of *Nuclear Medicine Communications*.

INFORMATION

Free access to journals

The Society of Nuclear Medicine has announced that electronic access to its journals, *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine* and *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology*, will be free for all issues more than one year old. However, the electronic format extends only back to 2000. Look for them at www.snm.org.

For those of you who are members of EANM, or whose libraries have subscriptions to the *European Journal of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging*, you might not be aware that the entire run of the Journal, back to 1976, is now available electronically. The early issues are scanned into PDFs.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

British Nuclear Medicine Society 19-21 March, Manchester. www.bnms.org

17th International Symposium on Radiopharmaceutical Sciences 30 April – 4 May, Aachen, Germany. www.fz-juelich.de/inc/isrs2007

Society of Nuclear Medicine 2-6 June, Washington, DC. Abstract deadline: 10 January. www.snm.org

European Nuclear Medicine Congress 13-17 October, Copenhagen. Abstract deadline: 6 April. www.eanm.org

Note from the Editor

It seems to be a recurring theme this year that I find myself apologising for the late running of this Newsletter service. Every effort will be made to keep on track in the new year.

Best wishes for the season to everyone.

www.ukrg.org.uk

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