

UKRG EVENTS

Radiopharmacy Workshop 2008

The next UKRG Radiopharmacy Workshop will take place on Friday 18 January 2008 at the Beeches Management Centre, Bournville, Birmingham. Information should be circulated with this Newsletter, posted on the UKRG website, or available from paul.maltby@rlbuht.nhs.uk. The morning session will contain talks on the current radiopharmacy research in the UK, both academic and practice based. Clinical aspects for new therapy will feature and the workshop will look at developing training in GMP for radiopharmacy staff, and disinfectants in the radiopharmacy. Exhibitors will include Bartec, Southern Scientific, Britec, and LabLogic. We hope to see many of you there.

Postgraduate course in radiopharmacy

The next running of the UKRG Easter course at King's College London is scheduled for 10-13 March 2008. Registration packs should be ready by the end of November. For information please contact jim.ballinger@kcl.ac.uk.

BNMS annual meeting 2008

Next year the BNMS congress moves north of Hadrian's Wall to Edinburgh. One of the invited speakers is Prof Phil Blower, talking about Radiopharmaceutical Development. The meeting is later than usual, being held 12-14 May. Let's try to maintain the momentum from last year with a high level of participation in the radiopharmacy stream. The abstract deadline is 11 January.

UKRG INITIATIVES

Concern about toxicity of stannous salts in ^{99m}Tc red blood cell labelling

In the previous Newsletter we presented "sensible advice" indicating that a review of the literature suggests that it is not necessary to wait 3 months between MUGA scans as recommended in the SPCs for some pretinning agents.

However, one reader has suggested that we point out another facet of the long lasting fixation of stannous salts on red blood cells, namely in the investigation of GI bleeds. If a patient has a GI bleed and the clinician suspects a possible Meckel's diverticulum as the source of the bleed, this scan must be performed before a labelled red cell scan to localise the site of bleeding, or a gap of 3 months left between the scans, otherwise the ^{99m}Tc -pertechnetate injection for the Meckel's scan will only result in labelling the blood pool (as in the original GI bleed scan). This situation has arisen a few times and the need to perform the Meckel's scan first has not always been appreciated by the referrers.

Sterility testing of radiopharmaceuticals

The last Newsletter contained a survey of sterility testing practices for radiopharmaceuticals as performed in UK radiopharmacies. Response has been good and the results will appear in the next Newsletter, but there is still time to get involved if you have not yet done so. For further information or a copy of the survey please contact: jim.ballinger@kcl.ac.uk

Sampson's Textbook of Radiopharmacy

We are pleased to confirm that Pharmaceutical Press has agreed to publish the 4th edition of the Textbook. It is scheduled to appear in mid 2009 and the content and list of authors are being finalised. The editor will be Tony Theobald, recently retired from King's College London.

WORKFORCE ISSUES

Registration of radiopharmaceutical scientists and technologists

Dialogue is continuing with the Association of Clinical Scientists, the body which sets the standards leading to registration with the Health Professions Council. The Department of Health must approve this proposal for it to go forward and that approval is being sought.

Pharmaceutical Society issues

The RPSGB will be reorganised under the government white paper, with its regulatory and professional activities being split. Although the register will by definition be limited to pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, the professional activities could include non-pharmacists. Over the summer there has been informal discussion of a college of pharmaceutical scientists which would include people from radiopharmacy and the pharmaceutical industry.

Carriage of Dangerous Goods 2007

The new transport regulations (Statutory Instrument 2007 No 1573) came into force on 1 July 2007 and are available at:

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2007/20071573.htm>

With respect to transport of radioactive materials, the content of the regulations has not changed significantly, however we will have to become familiar with new terminology and update documentation to reference the new regs.

REGULATORY ISSUES

Manufacturing of radiopharmaceuticals for veterinary use

A number of units have been supplying radiopharmaceuticals to veterinary practices under a Specials licence. In the last issue of the Newsletter we reported that a separate licence would be required for manufacture of radiopharmaceuticals for veterinary use. We were asked by the MHRA to disseminate this information.

However, it appears that this information is not correct, as some of you will have found out, although there is still some conflicting advice out there. The Veterinary Medicines Directorate has asked us to circulate the following clarification: "The current Veterinary Medicines Regulations do not apply to a veterinary product based on radioactive isotopes and thus a separate license is not required for veterinary supply by radiopharmacies which operate under a special licence for human products."

MHRA representative on UKRG

The committee welcomed Mike Woodhall as the new MHRA observer on the Group. The committee also thanked Keith Jones for his work with the Group and wished him well on his retirement.

International harmonisation

"European Cooperation and Synergy in Quality Standards beyond the European Pharmacopoeia" was the somewhat unwieldy title of a symposium organised by the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines held in June in Strassbourg, France, which was attended by Neil Hartman and Rob Smith, and Steve Mather was one of the speakers. It is evident that national pharmacy bodies in individual countries are interpreting the existing guidelines from Brussels differently, with the UK having the strictest enforcement.

MEETING REPORTS

BNMS autumn meeting

The BNMS Autumn Meeting was held in London at the Royal College of Physicians headquarters, a 1960's building adjacent to Regent's Park. Invited speakers included Martin Sandler, former editor of the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine* and president of the Society of Nuclear Medicine.

There was much excitement about the new D-SPECT cardiac camera which can produce high quality images with acquisition times as short as 2 minutes. This performance results from both novel detector material (cadmium zinc telluride) and novel configuration of detectors.

As usual for the autumn meeting, there was not much radiopharmacy content, though there was an excellent talk on peptides by Damian Wild from Basel.

Befitting the posh venue, I must say that the standard of catering was distinctly better than usual. The social evening was a Thames cruise, bedevilled by a tube strike.

The meeting ended with tours of the new department at University College London Hospital (formerly the Middlesex). I didn't manage to talk to Dominic Lui but did wave to him through a window in the new Tyco radiopharmacy.

Radionuclide therapy

On Tuesday 25th September the Radiochemistry Group of the Royal Society of Chemistry sponsored a meeting entitled Radionuclide Therapy: Chemistry and Applications which was organised by Prof Phil Blower and others. There were about 60 people in attendance including several from overseas.

Although I won't describe all the talks, I will say that Val Lewington gave an excellent talk on palliation of bone pain and presented extremely promising results with the alpha emitter ²²³Ra (there is a

phase II study published in the July 2007 issue of *Lancet Oncology*).

The keynote speaker was Prof Mike Zalutsky from Duke University in North Carolina. He reported that there are now several clinical trials underway using antibodies labelled with the alpha emitter ^{211}At .

UPCOMING MEETINGS

European Nuclear Medicine Congress 13-17 October, Copenhagen. www.eanm.org

28th International Symposium on Radioactive Isotopes in Clinical Medicine and Research 9-12 January 2008, Bad Hofgastein.

14th European Symposium on Radiopharmacy and Radiopharmaceuticals 24-27 April, Skopje, Macedonia. Abstract deadline: 21 December. <http://esrr08.eanm.org>

British Nuclear Medicine Society 36th annual meeting 12-14 May 2008, Edinburgh. Abstract deadline: 11 January. www.bnms.org.uk

UPCOMING COURSES

European Postgraduate Certificate Course in Radiopharmaceutical Chemistry and Radiopharmacy

Module 2, 4-15 February, Zurich

Module 3, 31 August, Leipzig

www.postgraduate.pharma.ethz.ch

SOCIAL NOTICES

The stork has been active in visiting the group, and in recent months Maggie Cooper and Jilly Croasdale have each given birth. I have met one of the babies but only seen pictures of the other, and I am too diplomatic to say which is the cutest, although the pictures were quieter. Not to be outdone, Adrian Hall has produced twins.

From the Editor

Once again I find myself apologising for this issue being late and rather thin. One lives in hope that at some point life will slow down enough that everything will fall into place.

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