

MOLYBDENUM UPDATE

International

- We suffered extreme shortages of ^{99}Mo in late May and a longer period of famine is anticipated in July.
- However, repairs at Chalk River and Petten are reported to be on schedule and both are expected to be back in operation in August. Indeed, Chalk River is beginning the process of refuelling.
- The LVR-15 reactor at Rez in the Czech Republic has joined Maria in Poland as a new contributor to international ^{99}Mo supply.
- The report on the European Medicines Agency (EMA) two day workshop on the need for radiopharmaceuticals labelled with reactor produced radionuclides has been released as document EMA/150127/2010. It is posted on their website at:
www.ema.europa.eu/htms/human/radiopharmaceuticals/radiopharmaceuticals.htm
- A recent open session of the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency on the High Level Group on the Security of Supply of Medical Radioisotopes predicted a significant worldwide shortfall in routine supply by 2016 when the Chalk River reactor is due to be decommissioned as there will be no excess capacity. A detailed study of the future demand for $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ to report within 1 year has been proposed. With regard to transport, there is a proposal to lobby for a new UN number specifically for radiopharmaceuticals with the hope that this could alert pilots etc to the critical nature of the shipment and not to off load.

National

- The Department of Health through the National Imaging Board has commissioned ARSAC to prepare a report on the medium to long term response to the ^{99}Mo shortage. This report is expected to be published in September. Two UKRG members are on the subcommittee preparing this report.

Medium term

- Plans for replacement of the Dutch reactor are moving ahead and it has been announced that

the location will be Petten. Similarly, the French and Belgian reactors are being replaced, but neutrons are not expected to begin flying till at least 2016.

Prediction of generator yields

- Covidien has distributed a yield calculation spreadsheet, which should accompany this Newsletter.
- GE have a yield calculation spreadsheet on their generator website:
www.gedrytec.com/user_guidance/index.html
- IBA/Qados have detailed information on yields in their generator product brochure.

Sources of information

- Weekly updates on the status of repairs at the Chalk River reactor are available at:
www.nrucanada.ca
- The BNMS website (www.bnms.org.uk) remains the most useful source of current information. News items and communications from manufacturers are posted in a timely fashion.

UKRG INITIATIVES

New chair!

Maria Palmer (Bristol) is now chair of the UKRG committee, taking over from the ubiquitous Paul Maltby (Liverpool).

Jilly Croasdale (Birmingham) is now the Radiopharmaceutical Sciences representative on BNMS Council, taking over from Maria Palmer.

Meanwhile, the joint secretaries of UKRG are **Anne Richardson** (Leeds) & **Sue Ackrill** (Birmingham).

Medicines administered as adjuncts to nuclear medicine studies

In response to a request from the National Patient Safety Association (NPSA), UKRG has compiled information about 10 drugs commonly administered in nuclear medicine. It is available on the BNMS website in the members' area under draft guidelines.

Sampson's Textbook of Radiopharmacy

The fourth edition of the textbook, this time edited by Tony Theobald, is now in proofs and should be published by the end of the year by the Pharmaceutical Press. Once that is put to bed, UKRG will concentrate on updating the radiopharmacy handbook and returning it to its rightful place on our website (it has been removed as too much information is out of date).

MEETING REPORTS

European Symposium on Radiopharmacy and Radiopharmaceuticals

Edinburgh presented a spectacular venue for this two yearly conference. Buoyed by late registrations, attendance was at a record high, stretching the capacity of the lecture room in particular (and queues at the opening reception).

Among the special sessions were: ^{68}Ga – will it replace $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ soon; the ^{99}Mo crisis; regulatory considerations in automated synthesis modules; and regulatory requirements for clinical trials.

The social events included a historic walking tour on the Royal Mile and the conference banquet in the baronial hall featuring the ceilidh band Sporrandipity (as entertainment, not entrée). Alistair Millar and his team are to be congratulated on the entire event.

www.sporrandipity.co.uk

The next symposium will be held in 2012 in Nantes, near the Atlantic coast of France. It is an excellent collegial event and highly recommended to anyone who has not yet attended.

British Nuclear Medicine Society

This year the BNMS spring conference was held in Harrogate, the Yorkshire spa town famous for spring water, Taylor's tea, and Betty's Tea Room (I'm addicted to Taylor's decaf tea – every night at bedtime). For a critique of the conference venue please see Jackie James' News and Views in the July issue of *Nucl Med Commun* which should also be available on the BNMS website. I would concur, particularly on the annoying ramp to the main auditorium (which was almost the size of a World Cup stadium).

There was a small radiopharmacy showing, with three submitted papers and one invited presentation. A fourth radiopharmacy paper was presented in the Young Investigators session and was awarded a prize.

The autumn meeting is in Nottingham, with the abstract deadline approaching, and next year's spring meeting will be a blast from the past as we return to Brighton.

BNMS session at SNM meeting in Salt Lake City

The BNMS was invited to present a continuing education session at the recent SNM meeting. The topic selected was ^{123}I radiopharmaceuticals, primarily iobenguane and ioflupane, both of which are being introduced to the American market which previously has not used much ^{123}I except for iodide for thyroid imaging. The radiopharmacy aspects were addressed by Kishor Solanki from Addenbrookes. The other presenters were Dewi Lewis and the ubiquitous John Buscombe.

INDUSTRY NEWS

New source of iTLC-SG

Varian/Agilent, makers of GMCP-SA which many of us have been looking at as an alternative to iTLC-SG, have bought the rights to iTLC-SG from Pall Gelman and it is now available again. They have sexed it up by renaming it as iTLC-SG. The presentation is slightly different, in boxes of 50 sheets at 11.4cm x 30.5cm. The product code is SGI0001 and the list price is £324. Order information is available at:

<http://www.varianinc.com/cgi-bin/nav?products/consum/iTLC/index>

or you can contact james.stratta@agilent.com for further information.



Tin colloid

Mediam in France hopes to have their version of tin colloid on the UK market in September. They have bought the UK product licence for Hepatate from GE. It is hoped that Mediam will also market their hepatobiliary agent Cholediam directly to the UK. For further information please contact Franck Rouiax, contact@mediam-pharma.com

RESEARCH NEWS

Flurpiridaz

This could be the next name we have to get our tongues around (sounds like fun!). It is also known by the equally snappy name of BMS747158 and is being developed by Lantheus as a PET agent for myocardial perfusion imaging. As the code name indicates, it came out of the research programme at Bristol Myers Squibb. It is labelled with ^{18}F and thus could be distributed by the same network as ^{18}F -FDG. Like sestamibi, it is trapped in mitochondria, though its mechanism of localisation is slightly different in that it binds in mitochondria rather than being trapped due to its electrical charge. There was a press release at the time of the recent SNM meeting when more clinical results were presented.

PUBLICATIONS

International Atomic Energy Agency

The IAEA has a number of radiopharmacy resources, some of which have featured in our Newsletter previously. Most are available for free download at www.iaea.org.

UK PET Research Network

The PET Research Network held workshops last July and in February. The report on the July workshop on UK resources for early phase studies is available on their website. The report on the February meeting on availability of radiotracers has been released and should be posted soon. www.ncri-pet.org.uk

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Radiochemistry Symposium at Wolfson Molecular Imaging Centre 21 July, Manchester
www.wmic.manchester.ac.uk

Terachem-2010: International Symposium on Technetium and Other Radiometals in Chemistry and Medicine 9-11 September, Bressanone, Italy. www.terachem2010.com

World Molecular Imaging Congress 8-11 September, Kyoto, Japan. www.wmicmeeting.org

BNMS autumn meeting 13-14 September, Nottingham. Abstract deadline: 30 June. www.bnms.org.uk

World Federation of Nuclear Medicine and Biology Congress 18-23 September 2010, Cape Town, South Africa. www.wfnmb.org

European Association of Nuclear Medicine annual congress 9-13 October, Vienna. www.eanm.org

UKRG Radiopharmacy Workshop 14 January 2011, Bournville

From the Editor

Back on schedule. Well, almost.

www.ukrg.org.uk

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