

**Minutes of Executive Meeting  
Irish Association for Emergency Medicine  
1.00 pm, Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2007**

**Venue: The Emergency Department, St. James's Hospital, Dublin 8**

**1. Present:**

Mr. F. Hickey – President  
Mr. J. Binchy – Honorary Secretary  
Dr. U. Geary – Honorary Treasurer

**Apologies:**

Mr. A.J. Martin  
Mr. A. Gleeson  
Dr G. McMahon

Dr. S. Walsh  
Dr. G. Quin  
Mr. G. McCarthy

**2. Minutes of the Executive Meeting, Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2007**

These were accepted.

**3. Matters Arising**

**a) Mediated Entry into the Specialist Registrar**

The President informed us that he had a further discussion with Mr. Patrick Plunkett. He is awaiting a formal reply to the updated text which he had also circulated to the Executive.

**b) Job Plans**

The Honorary Secretary has produced the first draft of a Job Plan, which he will circulate to the Executive.

**c) Taser Guns**

The President has had no reply from Dr. Collins, Garda Medical Officer, in spite of reminders.

**d) Health and Safety Report**

The President informed us that we had only received Health and Safety Assessments from eleven departments nationally. This is a very poor return.

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**e) Indemnity for IAEM**

It was noted that proposal forms had been submitted to the insurers earlier in the week.

**f) Carr Communications offer of Media Training for Officers of the Association**

The President has had feedback from Dr. G. McMahon that this offer was still valid but was presently on hold.

**g) Consultants in Emergency Medicine Work Practices**

The Honorary Secretary will seek further relevant documentation under Freedom of Information

**Action: Mr. Binchy – Honorary Secretary**

**h) Paediatric Emergency Medicine in the greater Dublin Area**

The President informed the Executive that he had sent a letter to Mr. John Kelly at RKW reiterating the Association's concerns that there had been inadequate consideration of secondary Paediatrics and recommending that they give careful consideration to the IAEM submission. Dr. Walsh informed us that the report was due out on the 26<sup>th</sup> September 2007. It was agreed that the President should write to John Kelly requesting a copy of the report before the official publication

**Action: The President.**

**i) Mental Health Act 2001**

The Department of Health has published a review of the Act, which emphasises that psychiatric patients should not be left waiting in Emergency Departments.

**Action: Mr. Binchy – Honorary Secretary to write to the HSE to highlight this issue.**

**j) Medical Protection Society**

The President informed us that the MPS, in reply to a joint-letter sent by the President and Honorary Secretary, had fudged the issue of when the duty of care is passed from the Consultant in Emergency Medicine to the Consultant In-Patient Specialist

**k) Swift Care Units**

Dr. Sean Walsh informed us that the information he obtained to date showed no reduction in attendances to EDs in areas that had Swift Care Units. In fact attendances were up. He is awaiting further figures from hospitals on the north side. He also informed us that Swift Care had written to the Medical Director at Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children requesting copies of hospital protocols that they could use when looking after sick children. Furthermore, Dr Walsh recounted how Swift Care personnel made many calls to inpatient teams seeking advice on patient management even though they were providing a private stand-

alone service. It was noted that the CIS was unlikely to cover such advice and that a revised Scope of Cover had recently been circulated.

#### **l) Stroke Care**

The President informed the Executive that the IAEM document on the Acute Management of Stroke had been well received by the HSE. He also informed us that the IAEM had not been considered for a “working party” set up to look at this issue.

The President reported that he had just written to the Chair of the “working party”, Dr Emer Shelley, offering an IAEM representative.

**Action: President to circulate letter to Dr E Shelley to Executive**

#### **m) Developments in the North East**

The President informed us that he had held a discussion with Mr. Conor Egleston about developments in the North East and a similar discussion with Dr Cathal O’Donnell about developments in the Mid West. He remained concerned that the rationalisation programme of acute services will be replicated across the rest of the country without adequate resourcing. While IAEM was broadly supportive of reorganisation of emergency services, the risk was that existing services would be closed before proper replacement services or enhanced services elsewhere were put in place. It was agreed that IAEM needed a position paper on the rationalisation of Emergency Services.

**Action: The Executive**

### **4 Correspondence**

The President informed us that he had received a letter from the Department of Health and Children inviting IAEM to make a submission for inclusion in their strategy statement for the period 2008 to 2010. There was general agreement that we should prepare a submission. The Executive had a brain storming session at the end of the meeting and Dr. Geary agreed to produce the first draft.

**Action: The Executive**

The President also received an invitation from the Council of Women’s Health requesting a representative on their Cardiovascular Disease in Women working party.

Dr. Geary agreed to take this on.

**Action: Dr. Geary**

### **5 Taskforce Report**

The President fed back on correspondence between himself and John O’Brien (Winter Initiative) regarding implementation of the Taskforce proposals and the HSE spin that overcrowding had been dealt with. He also fed back on the meeting that he and the Honorary Secretary had with John O’Brien and Angela Fitzgerald on the morning of the Executive Meeting. There remained a great reluctance on the part of the HSE to implement the six-hour target. The President had informed Mr. O’ Brien that the bottom line for IAEM was that this target must be introduced, even if it were at later date then we would like. Mr. O’

Brien had suggested that the Association should develop some guidelines on the pathway for patients going through Emergency Departments.

**Action: The President to circulate exchange of correspondence with J O'Brien  
The President and the Honorary Secretary to draft Pathway**

## **6 Co- Location**

The Honorary Treasurer has produced a first draft on a paper of Co-Location. This has been circulated to the Executive. The President suggested that this document be finished off and then parked until needed.

## **7 Emergency Department Design**

The President informed us that he had received very few comments back from the membership. Mr. McCarthy had some suggestions, which he will do as “track changes” and return to the President. The President will sign this off shortly and send it to the HSE, in particular Brian Gilroy who is in charge of estates.

**Action: The President to make a final request for views and finalise**

## **8 Private Practice**

IAEM has not yet received Senior Council opinion. The Honorary Secretary will email Mr. Paul Gaffney to chase this up.

**Action: The Honorary Secretary**

## **9 CEM Meeting 2008 and ICEM Meeting 2012**

Arrangements for the College Meeting in 2008 appear to be progressing satisfactory. The issue of how profits of the meeting would be distributed between the IAEM and the College need to be sorted out. The President also informed us that he received a letter from the national conference centre stating that the new centre would be up and running for business in 2010.

## **10 Chairman's and A.O.B**

### **a) Interns in Emergency Departments**

The President had become aware that there was a possibility of increasing the number of Emergency Departments with Interns, as part of a Medical Council review of the Intern Year. The Honorary Secretary agreed to prepare a draft paper on Interns in Emergency Departments.

**Action: The Honorary Secretary**

### **b) Web Committee**

There was a general discussion about the IAEM Website and about the need to develop Clinical Practice Guidelines. It was agreed that the Website needed to be updated on an ongoing basis and that we should be moving towards having some Clinical Practice Guidelines supported by IAEM. The issue of having an Irish Region input into the e- learning project of the College of Emergency Medicine was also raised. The President reminded us that the constitution allowed for the establishment of a Website Committee. Dr. G. McCarthy agreed to chair such a

committee of five members. The President suggested that Mr. John Ryan be on the committee, given his role as site webmaster to date. This was endorsed by the Executive. He will write to the members seeking three other people to contribute.

**Action: The President**

**c) Associate Members**

The Honorary Treasurer has emailed all EM Trainees reminding them of the benefits of membership of the IAEM. The Honorary Secretary has received applications from David Menzies, SpR in Emergency Medicine; Robert McMahon, Registrar in Emergency Medicine; Abel Wakai, SpR in Emergency Medicine, and Niamh Collins post accreditation SpR currently doing an ICU Fellowship. All applications were approved.

**d) Hospital MIMS**

The President reminded all that there was a hospital MIMS course being run in the Mater directed by Mr. Gerry Lane. He stated that this was a good course and encouraged colleagues to do it.

**e) Major Incident Exercises**

The Honorary Treasurer suggested that we start a database of Major Incident Exercises taking place nationally. This would allow SpRs from other areas to go and observe. The President suggested that the Honorary Treasurer contact Mr. Gerry Lane about this.

**Action: The Honorary Treasurer**

**f) AED and Pre hospital BLS**

At the President's request and following a suggestion from Mr O'Leary, Dr. C. O' Donnell had produced a draft paper supporting community BLS training and AED use. There was general agreement that this was a good idea. The President agreed to make changes to this document following a discussion and return it to Dr. O' Donnell for further development.

**Action: The President**

**11 Date and Time of next Meeting**

The Next Meeting is due to take place on Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> December at 13:00hrs in the Emergency Department, St. James's Hospital, Dublin 8.

Dr. Walsh suggested that we have a meeting before the AGM. It was agreed to have a meeting at 16:30hrs on Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2007 in the Nuremore Hotel. The President will contact Mr. Egleston to arrange a suitable room.

**Action: The President**

**SIGNED:**  **President**

**Date** 19<sup>th</sup> October 2007