

Bacterial Special interest group of BASHH.

Steering Group Meeting

Friday 19th March 2010

Present:

Cathy Ison (CI) chair, Frances Keane (FK) sec, Sarah Alexander (SA), Paddy Horner (PH), Kathy Lowndes (KL), Jonathan Ross (JR), Andrew Benzie (AB), Paul Benn (PB), Arnold Fernandez (AF), Elizabeth Claydon (EC), Justin Gaffney (JG), Uthayakumar (K), Beng GoH (BG).

Late attendees Caroline Carder, (CC), Philip Hay (PH), Nigel O' Farrell (NOF).

Apologies: Eva Jungmann.

New members: Paul Benn was welcomed to the group.

Minutes of the last meeting/Matters arising

Guidelines: Screening and testing guidelines for the UK

Chlamydia: clarification is required regarding testing for *C.trachomatis* in the pharynx. Also, there is a lack of continuity between the UK guidelines and the USA guidelines regarding the need for reproducibility of CT testing,

Gonorrhoea: The HPA guidance (2010) for the testing of gonorrhoea in England and Wales is now available on the HPA website, paving the way for an update on BASHH guidance re testing for gonorrhoea in the "Management of Gonorrhoea" guidance.

Item 6.3 Training and competency assessment tool for providing microscopy in GU laboratories

Several members had trialled its use in their clinics (EC, PB, AB, BG) and they provided informal feedback of their experiences. The membership agreed that the tool should be placed on the web for consultation.

Antibiotic resistance of M.genitalium:

The DHeL section on chronic urethritis refers to clinicians considering the possibility of *M.Genitalium* and approaching the HPA for testing. CI/SA advised that the HPA may need to consider providing *M.genitalium* resistance testing as part of its reference service if there was a clinical need. Primary diagnostic testing would remain a charged test.

Main agenda items

1. Consideration of Proposals for inclusion in the 2010/11 business plan

The merits and drawbacks of five proposals were discussed.

The group agreed to submit a proposal to develop a web-based microscopy slide test bank and formally approach BASHH to ascertain whether it would consider funding small BSIG research proposals in the future.

5. Microscopy courses

Dates of future courses: Bright field (BF) 08/05/10, Dark ground (DG) 19/06/10.

6. DVD

- Most DVDs sold have gone to the UK and Australia. There have been no sales in the USA. CI will arrange to send DVD to Jeanie Marazzo, USA.

Copyright issue: The DH had declined to pay for use of parts of the DVD for DHeL . It was agreed that BSIG would only permit small sections of the DVD to be used and this would be determined by CI/FK.

Accompanying test slide bank for the BSIG website

CI brought 17 test slides to the meeting. These were downloaded by group members (2 per person) to formulate suitable accompanying questions and answers.

8. Application for membership.

One application for membership had been circulated to the group. This stimulated a wider discussion about membership and turnover in the group. EC suggested a smaller steering group with an affiliated membership, available for expert comment and involvement in certain projects. PH supported this notion.

Action:

CI to email group re the current application and will bring a proposal for consideration regarding membership structure to the next meeting

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