Minutes of Regional Network Leads meeting 13th May 2010

Present – K Bartholomew (Yorks), S Bew (Yorks), I Billingham (PiP), A Chisakuta (NIPAN), S Courtman (SWACA), P Jameson (Chester), D McDonald (Brighton), D Patel (NWPAG), J Peutrell (APA Hon Sec), G Rodney (SPAN), R Rogers (Oxford), A Rollin (RCoA), G Wilson (Linkman Coordinator)

Apologies –D Marsh (Wessex), P Stewart (NIPAN)

1. Introductions
    a. R Rogers described the coverage of the Oxford Network, extending to Reading, and as far north as Northampton with some links to Leicester. They have occasional meetings
    b. S Bew attended as a teaching hospital contributor to the Yorkshire network
    c. D Patel described new developments in the NW – creation of a 'Google group' email discussion forum for local matters. They are also in the early stages of instigating peer review
    d. D McDonald reported on a recent meeting of the SE network, with their plans for peer review

2. Network Coverage. There are still some substantial holes in the country, namely North East England, East Midlands, Norfolk and the Republic of Ireland. Some efforts have been made to engage individuals within these areas since the last meeting but with no great success. This should ideally come from the tertiary centre within the area,

reflecting the lines of communication. **R Rogers offered to contact Chris Leng in Northampton**, Mike Tremlett proposed as a contact for NE England. **G Wilson will contact Linkmen in these areas to ask for their involvement. G Wilson has since discussed with Paul Martin (Nottingham) about East Midlands network development.**

3. Network creation. D McDonald reported on their recent meeting where 8 features of a good network were identified
    a. Visits to local tertiary centre
    b. Educational meetings
    c. Resus courses
    d. Website support
    e. Simulation teaching
    f. Provision of local guidelines/protocols
    g. Support for peer review

   These were broadly agreed with by all attendees, with the provision of local critical care support added.

4. Websites. Discussion centred about provision of support at a network level. D Patel expanded on the Google group concept where a query can be raised and distributed by email to those who choose to participate. There are certain potential problems such as firewalling of 'spam' emails, plus it may require all contributors to have a googlemail account. This was seen as a valuable resource for discussion at a local level, and not to duplicate the international discussion for that are currently in existence. **G Wilson to investigate creation of a Network Leads Google group.**
Currently SWACA, SPAN, TPAG, PiP, SE and NW have websites in existence. Can I have info on all of these please?. The new APA website has recently been launched, and links to the network websites will be provided, along with some generic info.

5. Meetings. Discussion about the relative value of educational content versus business matters. One aspect highlighted was the problem of gaining leave for a purely business meeting. The frequency of meetings varied between 1 and 2 per year dependent on network size and need. A need for a refresher/core topic type meeting was identified, possibly with a standardised programme to ensure equitable delivery.

6. Future meetings. A Leads meeting will be arranged to coincide with the next Linkman meeting (26th Nov 2010, at RIBA in London).