

**ETMRC (2013) 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting**

**Scottish Government Health Directorates  
Chief Scientist Office**

**Experimental and Translational Medicine Research Committee**

Minute of the meeting of the ETMRC on 5 March 2013 held in Conference rooms A&B, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh, at 9:30 am.

**Present:**

Dr Simon Powis (Chair)  
Dr Elaina Collie-Duguid  
Professor Eleanor Davies  
Dr Fiona Denison  
Dr Andrew McIntosh  
Professor Keith Muir  
Dr Russell Petty  
Professor Philip Rowe  
Professor Donald Salter  
Dr Calum Sutherland  
Mrs Joan Munro (Lay Member)  
Ms Barbara Lamb (Lay Member)  
Ms Joanna McGregor (Observer)

**Scottish Government:**

Dr Alan McNair  
Mrs Yvonne Croll  
Mr Kenneth McLeod

**1. Apologies for absence and intimations**

Professor Siddharthan Chandran, Professor Ruth Jarrett and Dr Faisal Khan sent their apologies.

**2. Approval of minutes of ETMRC meeting held on 6 November 2012**

The minutes of the meeting were approved.

**3. Matters arising from the minutes of the ETMRC meeting held on 6 November 2013** - full details of the 4 successful applications from the meeting are attached at Annex A.

**4. Final Reports**

**4.1 Professor Sattar (CZB/4/613)**

A randomised placebo-controlled trial of metformin on progression of carotid atherosclerosis in non-diabetic patients with cardiovascular disease treated with conventional risk reducing agents (CAMERA study)

The Committee graded this report as Satisfactory.

**4.2 Professor Struthers (CZB/4/666)**

Do Phosphodiesterase 5 inhibitors improve exercise capacity in COPD patients with pulmonary hypertension?

The Committee graded this report as Satisfactory, but asked that the Focus on Research be revised to address the technical terms used.

**4.3 Professor Holyoake (CZB/4/690)**

Investigation of the role of FOXO transcription factors in tyrosine kinase inhibitor-induced G1 arrest as potential targets in chronic myeloid leukaemia stem/progenitor cell eradication.

The Committee graded this report as Satisfactory but requested that the Focus on Research be rewritten to amend the use of technical terms throughout.

**4.4 Professor Fazakerley (CZB/4/704)**

Gene expression analysis of the neuropathogenesis of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

The Committee graded this report as Satisfactory but have requested that the Focus on Research be reviewed to remove the use of technical terms.

**4.5 Professor McMurdo (CZB/4/708)**

Maximising physical function in later life: A 2-centre randomised controlled trial of progressive resistance exercise training in combination with ACE inhibition.

This report was graded as Good by the Committee, though they have asked that the Focus on Research be edited to remove and replace the technical terms.

**4.6 Professor McColl (CZB/4/709)**

Does intra-abdominal fat accumulation induce intrasphincteric acid reflux and metaplasia at gastro-oesophageal junction?

Graded as Good by the Committee.

**4.7 Dr. Fitzgerald (CZB/4/717)**

Development of a novel high-resolution genotyping method for epidemiological and evolutionary analysis of the major Scottish and UK lineages of methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus.

This report was graded as Excellent by the Committee.

**4.8 Professor Marshall (ETM/3)**

Non-invasive measurement of regional brain temperature using magnetic resonance spectroscopy: validation and evaluation for acute brain injury research and investigation of brain cooling therapies.

This report was graded as Good by the Committee though they did ask that the Focus on Research be reviewed to remove the technical terms used throughout.

#### **4.9 Dr. Rich (ETM/31)**

Towards targeted and individualised therapy in hodgkin lymphoma: and investigation of autophagy, senescence and the biomarker p62.

Graded as Satisfactory by the Committee, though the Focus on Research does require to be reedited as the feeling was it lacked clarity in the way it had been presented.

#### **4.10 Professor Deary (ETM/55)**

A hundred at ninety: the common cause hypothesis of ageing tested in four waves of the Lothian birth cohort 1921.

This report was graded as Excellent by the Committee, though they did comment that they thought the publications list included was excessive for the size of the report.

#### **4.11 Dr. Powis (ETM/56)**

Defining the functional role of novel MHC class I dimers on secreted exosome vesicles.

The Committee graded this report as Excellent but have requested that the Focus on Research be rewritten to adopt a style more suited to the lay reader.

#### **4.12 Professor Satsangi (ETM/75)**

Establishing a national biobank to integrate genomic, metabolomics and microbial studies in inflammatory bowel disease in Scotland.

This report received an Excellent grading from the Committee.

### **5. Applications**

#### **5.1 Dr Garry M Walsh, Professor G Devereux, Dr Steve Turner, Dr Sean Semple (ETM/274)**

The effect of nanoparticles on in-vitro airway epithelial cell function in children and adults with and without asthma.

The Committee recommended funding this application.

#### **5.2 Professor Brian Lipworth, Professor Allan Struthers, Dr Jacob George, Professor Graeme Houston (ETM/275)**

Does aldosterone blockade reverse left ventricular hypertrophy on patients with COPD?

This application was not recommended for funding by the Committee.

#### **5.3 Professor Gerard John Graham, Dr John Campbell, Professor Robert J Nibbs, Dr. Alasdair Fraser, (ETM/276)**

The development of chemokines as novel, clinical grade, cell-sorting tools.

Recommended for funding by the Committee.

**5.4 Dr Dana Dawson, Professor David Newby, Dr Marc Dweck, Professor Andy Welch (ETM/279)**

Does warfarin accelerate vascular calcification?

This application was not recommended for funding by the Committee.

**5.5 Dr Frank Ward, Dr Anthony D. Ormerod, Professor Robert N. Barker, Dr Marianne Nicolson, Dr Sanjay Rajpara, Mr Ivan Depasquale, Dr Frank Muller (ETM/280)**

Targeting the soluble isoform of CTLA-4 - supporting a novel therapeutic strategy in malignant melanoma.

Recommended for funding by the Committee.

**5.6 Prof David St Clair, Dr Philip Benson (ETM/282)**

Further clinical validation of eye movement abnormalities as diagnostic biomarkers for adult neuropsychiatric disorders.

This application was not recommended for funding by the Committee.

**5.7 Dr Malcolm Donaldson, Dr Emilie Combet, Mr Jeremy Jones, Dr Andy Duncan, Dr Judith Simpson, Dr Rajeev Srivastava, Mrs Joan MacKenzie (ETM/284)**

Pilot investigation of maternal iodine status in pregnancy and feeding mode on neonatal iodine status and thyroid function.

The Committee did not recommend funding this application.

**5.8 Dr Kevin Blyth, Mr Jim Paul, Claire Lawless, Dr Barry J A Laird, Dr Noelle O'Rourke, Professor Anthony Chalmers, Dr Robert Milroy, Dr John G Edwards, Dr. Mahendran Chetty, Dr John Foster, Dr Marianne Nicolson, Dr Gordon MacGregor, Dr Nick Anthony Maskell, Mark McJury, Dr David Breen, Dr David Barry Stobo (ETM/285)**

An examination of diagnostic and prognostic biomarkers in malignant pleural mesothelioma.

The Committee recommended funding this application.

**5.9 Dr Maria del C. Valdes Hernandez, Professor Joanna M. Wardlaw (ETM/286)**

Medical image analysis toolkit for stroke and dementia.

This application was not recommended for funding by the Committee.

**5.10 Dr B. H. Ramsahoye, Dr C. A. Semple (ETM/287)**

Investigating the epigenetic effects of DNMT3A mutation in acute myeloid leukaemia (AML).

The Committee did not recommend funding this application.

**5.11 Dr Kathryn L Evans, Prof Andrew McIntosh, Professor David J Porteous, Dr Shona M. Kerr (ETM/288)**

Identification of epigenetic mechanisms and biomarkers for major depressive disorder.

This application was not recommended for funding by the Committee.

**6. Any other business**

**7. Date of next meeting**

Friday 14 June 2013, Conference room A&B, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, 9:30 am.

**Annex A**

**3. Matters arising from the minutes of the ETMRC meeting held on 6 November 2012.**

**3.1 (6.3) Professor Iain McEwan (ETM/258)**

Changing visual sensitivity using visual exploration strategies: a novel approach to visual rehabilitation.

A funding letter has now been issued.

**3.2 (6.4) Dr James D Chalmers, Dr Stuart Schembri, Professor Colin Palmer, Professor Sara Marshall (ETM/262)**

Mannose binding lectin deficiency, bacterial infection and disease severity in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease: towards personalised medicine for COPD.

A funding letter has now been issued.

**3.3 (6.5) Dr. Christopher Loughrey, Professor Colin Berry, Professor Godfrey Smith (ETM/263)**

Investigating the therapeutic potential of cathepsin-L inhibition to limit schaemiareperfusion injury in the heart.

A funding letter has now been issued.

**3.4 (6.8) Professor David Newby, Dr Shirjel Alam, Dr Peter Henriksen, Dr Scott Semple, Dr John Payne, Dr Saeed Mirsadraee, Dr Marc Dweck, Dr Sanjay Prasad (ETM/266)**

Identification of cellular inflammation in the myocardium using magnetic resonance imaging.

A funding letter has now been issued.