

Minutes of the SOHRC Board Meeting on Monday 28th October, 2.00-4.00pm at St Andrew’s House, Edinburgh

Apologies: Mark Hector, John Gibson, George Cherukara.

Present: Tom Ferris, Peter Mossey, Jan Clarkson (by teleconference), Jeremy Bagg, Lorna Macpherson, Angus Walls, David Felix, Deirdre Kelliher.

1. Tom Ferris welcomed the Board members to the meeting
2. The minutes of the April meeting were found to be correct. However, there were some issues arising from the actions:

Item 3 Public Health and Health Services Research Group

Action 1: TF had not managed to garner interest in the ISCOPE project with colleagues in the Scottish Government.

Action 2: TF and LM will meet before the end of the year to discuss future funding of the evaluation of Childsmile.

Item 5 Education Research Group

Action 1: GC had spoken to Jamie Dickie in relation to GDPR. Jamie Dickie followed guidance from the UK Information Commissioner’s Office. This may be applicable to a collaborative MMI project where there is no prior consent from the intended participants on the use of personal data. GC provided a paper on use of Legitimate Interests provision in GDPR as advised by the Information Commissioner’s Office. DK will circulate the paper to the Board. **Action DK**

1. Public Health and Health Services Research Group

In the final round of the CSO catalyst grant scheme, awards were made to Al Ross, “Feasibility test of FACTORS, a Human Factors-based quality improvement tool for prevention in dental practice” and Lorna Beaton, “Co-designing National Clinical Audits to improve population oral health”. Both projects will begin in early 2020.

Al Ross is submitting a further application to the Dunhill Medical Trust, “A feasibility and pilot study of the utility of routine electronic care data for improving oral health outcomes in care homes”

JC has been awarded a new grant subject to negotiation from NIHR with Aberdeen and Glasgow, “Pulpotomy for the Management of Irreversible Pulpitis” (ca £2 million). It is expected to start in summer 2020. She also is investigating a collaboration with colleagues in Boston which may result in a joint application to NIH for a fluoride toothpaste trial.

1. Craniofacial Research Group

Zika virus project – the group is working on a draft for submission to Nature Medicine.

Bodore Albaker’s studentship involving the Universities of Glasgow, Dundee and Edinburgh is progressing. The protocol has gone through Dundee and Glasgow research governance processes. The Group has approached Generation Scotland for access to phenotypes. Further work with Generation Scotland may develop as Generation Scotland has recently received funding from the Wellcome Trust to recruit another 20,000 members.

As President of the International Confederation of Cleft Lip & Palate and Related Craniofacial Anomalies, Felicity Mehendale is involved in the planning and organisation of the 2021 conference in Edinburgh. FM is interested in incorporating machine learning as a tool in craniofacial surgery.

Raising awareness of the Craniofacial Research Group activities among ministers of the Scottish Government is important. TF will contact Joe Fitzpatrick to arrange a meeting at St Andrew’s House. **Action TF**

PM drew the Group’s attention to funding opportunities from two organisations:

Scottish Universities Insight Institution

<https://www.scottishinsight.ac.uk/Opportunities/CallforProposals.aspx>

Medical Research Scotland – PHD studentships

<https://medicalresearchscotland.org.uk/phd-studentships/>

1. Education Research Group
2. Meeting of Main Group

At the September meeting, members of the Group discussed the possibility of including the Scottish Schools Human Factors network as another Subgroup of the SOHRC Education Research Group. Viv Binnie agreed to raise the matter with the Network and report back at the next meeting.

Education Research Group PhD students in Aberdeen, Dundee and Glasgow are carrying out research on assessment and recruitment, two of the themes under the top 5 National Dental Education Research priorities.

GC has volunteered to set up a SOHRC GDPR working Group and has already contacted the Research Governance Team at Aberdeen in this regard.

1. Meeting of MMI leads

The MMI subgroup is due to meet again in November to establish a research question.

JB commented that the minutes from the MMI meetings were very similar and wondered whether progress had been made. However, the Board recognised that there were still GDPR issues to be sorted. TF requested to see copies of all the Education Group minutes. **Action DK.**

1. Administrator’s report – DK reported that she has organised meetings for both the Public Health and Health Services Group and the Education Group since the last Board meeting in April. However, her main SOHRC work had involved organising the conference at Dundee Dental Education Centre.
2. REF 2021 – JB informed the Board that the joint REF return for Glasgow and Dundee would not be going ahead. However, each University’s submission will reflect the collaboration in oral health and MH and JB have written a joint statement to that effect.
3. SOHRC conference

The feedback from the conference was generally positive and the Board was satisfied that the event had gone well. The conference usually takes place in alternate years so the next one is likely to be in October 2021.

1. AOCB

TF asked if there was scope for including other areas such as Oral Sciences within SOHRC. At the next meeting in April the Board will discuss a strategy for oral health research. In the meantime, PM will share his oral health questionnaire. **Action PM**

Finally, AW congratulated TF on his appointment to Chief Dental Officer on behalf of the Board.

1. Date of next meeting

DK will seek dates in April from NA and set up a Doodle Poll.