

Minutes of PICS AGM  
Palace Hotel, Manchester,  
17<sup>th</sup> September 2010.

1. Life Membership Award

This was presented to Jill Cochrane at the beginning of the afternoon session on 16<sup>th</sup> September, following a citation by Dr Paul Baines.

2. President's Report

Presented by the outgoing President of Council, Dr Ian Jenkins. Before starting on the AGM proper, Ian asked the AGM to recognise the tremendous success of the Manchester Meeting and to thank Peter-Marc Fortune, Rachael Barber, Jez Samuel and Babbs ... from the local organising Committee; and also Sarah Morley from the Education & Scientific Committee for the work done in collating, assessing and finally judging the oral and poster presentations (of which there were over 100).

a. Council Member Changes

There had been two resignations from Council; Julie Richardson (Quigley) as a Medical Trainee Representative and Helen Bailey as well as her post as Hon. Treasurer. Dr Jenkins asked the meeting to thank both post-holders and particular mention was made of the energy and diligence with which Helen had sorted out our banking arrangements.

Ben Lakin from Birmingham replaces Julie and Chris Walker from Manchester replaces Helen.

Following changes to the Constitution made last year, there was now an additional (fourth) Nurse Member position. Dawn McKimm from Belfast was elected to that position.

b. Election of New Postholders

PICS Council had elected Michelle Milner to take over as Hon. Treasurer from Helen and Kevin Morris to take over as President from Ian Jenkins. **Both these changes were offered to the AGM for approval and by show of hands this met with obvious support.**

c. Communications, Journals & Direct Debits

Over the last three years PICS has been moving onto email as the primary vehicle of communication from the Council & Administrators. It had been announced last year that this would be taking place and from now on postal communication will not take place, saving on unnecessary financial & environmental costs of paper, postage and carriage.

It had also been repeatedly announced at AGMs that we are moving away from Standing Orders to Direct Debits. Most members have sent back the appropriate forms to PICS admin ([pics@aagbi.org](mailto:pics@aagbi.org)). In the course of the last year the subscription has also been modestly increased to £90 for doctors and £45 for nurses. We have been able to discover the unit price for Care of the

Critically Ill Journal (£31), so this means the PICS Annual nurse subscription is only £14/year! We are currently finding out the Unit Price of PCCM to discover the “real” PICS subs cost for doctors. There still remains a small group of members still on Standing Orders at the old Subs rates of £75 and £35. This is not economically sustainable (nor fair on the majority of Members on DD) so we will be asking the publishers to discontinue the Journals to these members until they come onto the updated subscription rates on DD.

**This was approved by the AGM.**

d. Industry Liaison

The total Industrial Sponsorship for the Manchester meeting had reached an unprecedented figure just in excess of £60,000. This was due to the combined efforts of the local Manchester Team and Maximize, the PICS Event Organisers. In future therefore it was proposed that this team continue to work with Maximize over forthcoming meetings to give continuity to this and maintain existing links with key Industry contacts.

**The AGM approved this development.**

3. Hon Secretary's Report

- a. We had planned for some time to have a joint Annual Meeting with colleagues in Ireland next September. However, unknown to us until very recently, the Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Society (PCICS, a 'world' organisation) had decided to hold their biennial meeting in Cambridge in September, 2011. This was going to clash and so rapid negotiations took place. It was agreed to defer the meeting in Ireland and join forces with PCICS for a joint meeting with a mutually acceptable programme.

Further work is needed on programming subsequent PICS meetings. We are assured that PCICS are not planning on holding their meeting in September again for the foreseeable future.

4. Hon Treasurer's Report

The accounts for the last financial year were presented. Although, as ever, such snapshots appear to show the Society's finances in good order, it must be appreciated how large the turnover is of the ASM and, consequently, how much of the balance of the accounts can vary acutely in response to the large deposits necessary. The balance is dependent on the extremely small margins of subscriptions that come in after Journal subs are deducted and the small amounts of profit after ASMs.

It is hoped that we will move to Charitable status in the next year which should reduce costs in the long term.

5. PICS Study Group (Mark Peters)

There was a plenary meeting of PICS Study Group at Lord's Cricket Ground in July. This was well attended and areas for further study were

proposed as well as updates on current projects were presented. There are research start-up grants and travel grants of up to £2000 & £500 respectively. Application Forms are available on the Website and awards will be made by the Education & Scientific Committee in conjunction with the Chair of PICSSG.

The possibility of obtaining funds directly from Industry to sponsor research activity had already been mooted at PICS Council and Mark was undertaking to explore this further.

6. Trainees' report (Ben Scholefield)

There have been a number of very successful trainee meetings in the last year but further volunteers are needed to host such events and organise workshops/speakers. Ben also highlighted the PICS Travel & Research Grants
7. Reports from the Dept of Health "Safe & Sustainable" Paediatric Cardiac Surgery & Neurosurgery Programmes.
  - a. Cardiac Surgery (Ian Jenkins)

IJ sits on the Clinical Steering Group and the Standards group but the involvement of these two clinical groups effectively ceased just before the Cardiac Surgical Units in England were visited by the Assessors led by Sir Ian Kennedy. Since then the scores of these visits have been used to help draw up rankings and also should be used to inform the designation options. However, the Clinical Steering Group has not been informed of the scores nor included in the process of options. This disconnect is being addressed by the Steering group as we have concerns that plans may be drawn up that have insufficient consideration to clinical safety and standards.
  - b. Neurosurgery (Kevin Morris)
8. Any Other Business
  - a. Potential Winter Scientific Meeting (Ian Jenkins)

It may be possible to arrange a meeting in an alpine venue that would be of interest to PICS Members. It would be best to start small and build up if there is sufficient interest. However before any planning takes place, it is necessary to gauge support from the membership.

A show of hands was made which clearly indicated interest in this venture.

**(Post AGM note:** Patrick Davies from Nottingham volunteered to help IJ in setting this up. Any further volunteers welcome.)