



Scottish Infection Research Network

Steering Group

Terms of Reference @ 30 April 2008

Background

As part of its commitment to develop and support high quality research around Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) within Scotland, the Scottish Executive tasked a group to explore how HAI research could be taken forward. A meeting was hosted by NHS Education for Scotland and the Chief Scientist Office in February 2005. From this meeting came the recommendation to establish a Network to work towards increasing the quality of research, and contribute towards the prevention and control of Healthcare-Associated Infections. Following this, representatives from NES, Health Protection Scotland and the Scottish Microbiology Forum were asked to propose how this Network could be established.

There was consultation with others who had expertise in HAI research, or were active researchers with a track record of attracting funding, to discuss the formation of strategy and to identify the support structures required to facilitate the establishment of this Network.

Remit

- a To foster development of a sustainable, high quality research infrastructure.
- b To foster building of capacity and capability within the HAI research community.
- c To develop and support effective collaborative relationships among the HAI research community.
- d To develop and shape high quality research bids within themed programmes and against any agreed criteria.
- e To initiate a research stream to evaluate current HAI practice.
- f To endorse and promote HAI related research that is scientifically credible and has practical application.
- g To attract and support research proposals that meet the CSO and other funding criteria.
- h To initiate research in promoting appropriate and prudent antimicrobial prescribing.
- i To knowledge manage HAI research activities in Scotland and wider, communicate to key stakeholders and ensure good quality HAI research underpins curriculum development in HAI in HEIs.

Steering Group

The Steering Group consists of 16 representatives who are academic researchers, clinicians, nurses, behavioural scientists, statisticians and educationalists who co-ordinate the functions of the Network.

Membership of the Steering Group shall mirror the main professions and skills involved in HAI and Infection research. Membership shall be drawn from the

Infection/HAI fields and, where possible, they may be representatives capable of representing their respective organisations. Membership is reviewed on an on-going basis.

Director

The Director chairs the Steering Group and is appointed by majority vote from within the Steering Group. Normal term of office is three years with the option of one further term. Current Director: Dr Alistair Leanord.

Reporting arrangements

The Steering Group currently reports to the Scottish Government Health Department (SGHD) via the Senior Medical Officer.

The Group will produce an annual report to the SGHD which will be published on the SIRN web site (www.glasgow.ac.uk/sirn).

The Group will also report to the Deans of Health and appropriate senior managers in the infection control area in Universities in Scotland.

Administration

The Administration Manager is based within the Glasgow University and reports to Professor Mitchell. The Manager is employed on Glasgow University terms and conditions.

Functioning

Meetings are held regularly - on a quarterly basis - and are Chaired by the Director.

Funding

Funding has been provided by SGHD to support the Network Manager, administration and support costs for two years.

Membership

NAME	REPRESENTING/EXPERTISE
Dr Margaret Brown	NHS Education for Scotland
Dr William F Carman	Clinical Virology Network
Professor John E Coia	Reference Laboratories
Dr Peter Craig	Chief Scientist Office (co-opted)
Professor Peter Davey	Director of External Relations for the Health Informatics Centre
Dr Jeff R Edwards	Independent external advisor
Ms Ysobel Gourlay	Scottish Antimicrobial Pharmacists Group
	Health Protection Scotland
Dr Alistair Leanord	Scottish Microbiology Forum
Dr Karen Lee	Lecturer in Nursing, University of Dundee
Professor T Mitchell	Professor, University of Glasgow
Professor Ian Poxton	Professor, University of Edinburgh
Dr Jacqui Reilly	Health Protection Scotland
Professor Chris Robertson	Professor Public Health Epidemiology Statistics and Modelling Science, University of Strathclyde
Dr Fiona Skinner	Academic Leader, Faculty of Health, UHI Millennium Institute
Professor Avril Taylor	Professor, University of Paisley.