

# National Metabolic Biochemistry (Biochemical Genetics) Network

## Update on Current Activities October 2003

### 1. Training initiatives

4 Training workshops are planned for 2003/4 on the following topics:-

- Organic acids
- Acyl Carnitines
- Very long chain fatty acids
- Lysosomal enzymes

These will be specialist workshops for scientists (clinical scientists and biomedical scientists) currently working in specialist laboratories in the UK.

### 2. Quality Assurance

An initial meeting is planned for October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2003 for all stakeholders organised by Dr. Jim Bonham in Sheffield.

### 3. Best Practice Guidelines

A series of best practice guidelines has been commissioned by the Network . Draft guidelines are now available for:

- Hypoglycaemia and IEM
- Hyperammonaemia and IEM
- Rhabdomyolysis and IEM

### 4. Web Site - [www.metbio.net](http://www.metbio.net)

The test/assay data base is under development . The quality and education and training sites are now functional.

### 5. Questionnaire on Service Provision-Current & Future

The questionnaire is ready for circulation later in October 2003.

### 6. Training and Recruitment

#### 6.1 Training posts/trainer time

This still remains the most pressing issue with currently no Grade B scientists in established funded training posts and lack of trainer time for the Core Grade A training. The needs are to :

- i. To create 10 supernumary training HST posts (grade B clinical scientists) for paediatric metabolic biochemistry
- ii. To create Trainer posts in lead training centres. The stakeholders have agreed that there should be three lead centres across England

## 6.2 Competences

Competences for registration in the sub-modality of Paediatric Metabolic biochemistry have been prepared and submitted to the Association of Clinical Scientists.

## 9.Future of the Network

**Current funding is only available for 2003/4:**

Ongoing funding is required :

- i. To Continue Support of the infrastructure of a Lead Scientist with Admin support.
- ii. To continue to support the quality initiatives, i.e Best Practice Guidelines Quality Assurance initiatives
- ii. To support an Educational and training infrastructure across three lead training centres
- iii. To provide ongoing support and development of the WEB (in collaboration with the GTN WEB)
- iv. To work with the commissioners to help plan service delivery
- v. To develop an infrastructure to support Audit and R&D initiatives

A detailed proposal has been developed and is currently under consideration by the DOH.

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