

## National Metabolic Biochemistry (Biochemical Genetics) Network

### Update on Current Activities October 2006

#### 1. Education and Training Strategy

Recent developments include:-

- Development of a "Metabolic map" by the Higher Specialist Trainees to be produced by Sigma Chemical Co and distributed internationally
- Resource material available on the website continues to increase with the inclusion of urinary organic acid chromatograms and other material
- Continued participation in the "Skills for Health" program and recognition of Metabolic biochemistry as a training modality

#### 2. Workshops and Meetings

Workshops being organised for 2006 are:-

Quality Assurance Day	4 <sup>th</sup> October, Belfast
Intermediary metabolism	January 2007
Vitamins, including B <sub>12</sub> and folate	2006/7

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

The site has been updated and reformatted with improved ease of access and a greater menu driven choice of options including:

- Meetings and Workshops
- Training and Education
- Best Practice Guidelines
- Quality
- Presentations
- Metabolic Assay Directory

The "Contact us" option now takes you straight to individuals with specific responsibilities within the Network

#### 4. Guidelines

Details of guidelines already completed are shown on the website. Those planned for the future include:

- Dysmorphology
- Encephalopathy
- Fits & seizures
- Lactic acidosis
- Metabolic Autopsy
- Investigation of hydrops
- Investigation of hyperammonaemia
- Cardiomyopathy
- Rhabdomyolysis

## 5. Quality

The next annual Quality Day is scheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> October in Belfast

## 6. Audit

Audit initiatives under way:-

- a re-audit of ammonia measurement to be presented in 2006
- SUDI protocol

## 7. Service Needs

Network links to:-

- **Newborn Screening**  
The Network is working with the UKNSLN and the Program centre on joint initiatives
- **Blood Spot Advisory Group (BSAG)**  
The Lead Scientist is maintaining involvement with the BSAG
- **Molecular testing**  
Links to the UKGTN are continuing
- **The Newborn Screening Program Centre**  
The previous lead for MetBioNet, Prof Anne Green, has taken up the role of lead scientist for screening on behalf of the Program Centre. This newly created post is designed to strengthen links between the laboratories and the strategic and operational development of the Program Centre. At a time of change and development this is a key development

## 8. Workforce Planning

Workforce data collection for all laboratory scientists across the UK was updated in May 2006

## 8. Publications/Communications

- A summary of Network activities has been published in the ACB Newsletter (March) and in the Spring Edition of the BIMDG Newsletter. An article has been submitted for the RCPATH bulletin

## 9. Other activities

- Much of the current activity has been dominated by the planned implementation of a strategy to respond to Hilary Burton's document : *Metabolic Pathways - Networks of Care*. In response to representations made to the JCMG and others, The Department of Health agreed to establish a Strategic Advisory Group, chaired by Dr Kieran Morgan. The initial meeting of this group was held in April 2006 with a follow up meeting in August and another planned for 13<sup>th</sup> December. The membership of this group includes:
  - 5 Paediatricians/physicians
  - 2 Laboratory scientists
  - 3 Public Health doctors
  - 3 Commissioners
  - 1 Dietitian
  - An NSCAG representative

It is planned that this group will help define standards and suggest a service delivery model, capable, with Commissioner support of delivering these standards of care on an equitable basis across the UK. It is hoped that the recommendations of this group, owned by Commissioners and providers will be submitted to the National Specialist Services Commissioning Group early in 2007.

As a parallel and linked development a professional board has been established with membership drawn from key stakeholders both to consider a "Do Once and Share" project in this area and provide advice to the Strategic Advisory Group.

These are both exciting developments in which it envisaged that the Clinical, Dietetic and Laboratory service would be jointly commissioned in a planned way throughout the country. MetBioNet strongly endorses this approach and the Stakeholders have expressed a desire to work closely with Dietetic and Clinical colleagues to achieve these goals.

*Dr J Bonham, Lead Scientist  
National Metabolic Biochemistry Network  
October 2006*