



Website subcommittee report to CMGS April 2008

The last year has been a period of consolidation for the website subcommittee. The most significant change has been a change of host from Netcetera to Zen. This has been a successful change, with lower costs, increased facilities (including improved backup), and shared host with BSHG website.

There has also been a change of personnel on the subcommittee. Will King has retired after a number of years service and we wish to record our sincere thanks for his input and skill. Roles on the committee have also been established including editorial responsibilities. As chair, I would like to thank everyone for their continuing work, in particular Peter Logan who has retired as Chair.

As a result of changes, the subcommittee met in Birmingham in July 2007. The outcome was very useful, with sharing of knowledge, agreed new roles, strategy for interaction with CMGS Exec, and strategic plan for developments. The subcommittee plans to meet again according to need (unlikely to be more than once per year).

The main items of progress over the year are as follows.

- Consolidation with new host – Zen. Reduced cost (£120 per year); backups provided by host.

- Backups – committee members make their own backups.

- Established objectives through interaction with CMGS Exec.

- Best practice guidelines – through CMGS Exec and Simon Ramsden, these are now re-established.

- Training – Much training information is provided on the website. Close contact is required with national and new regional trainers to maintain and improve these pages.

- Positive contact with Gavin Cuthbert (ACC) over shared experiences.

- Feedback forms on website – these are working, and used well for corrections and complaints, but disappointing response relating to training areas including interesting cases, despite offer of prizes.

Current areas of work are as follows.

- Introduction of password-protected areas on the website so that information can be published which is not visible to non-CMGS members. This is one of our most immediate tasks.

- Improved mechanisms for laboratory information updates. Some laboratories have disease listings absent, others may be out of date. Strategy required on these lists given that similar lists exist at UK-GTN, individual lab websites, EDDNAL, Genetests, Orphanet.

- Website appearance – general improvements, including photographs.

- Open to further developments as required by membership (forums?).

Report prepared: Monday, 31 March 2008

David Cockburn

Chair, CMGS website subcommittee