RECONVENED EphMRA ETHICS COMMITTEE TC MEETING	28 February 2013 1-2pm GMT

Attending	**BD**	**Bob Douglas – Committee Chair**
	BR	**Bernadette Rogers**
	CA	**Catherine Ayland**
	KGV	**Karen Giorgi-Vigo**
	PE	**Peter Eichhorn**
	SG	**Steve Grundy**
Apologies	**GB**	**Georgina Butcher**
	PR	**Piergiorgio Rossi**

ACTIONS

1. **National news/developments**
   a. Update on Transparency Law/Sunshine Act in France
      This has been followed up by BR but there is no further news
   b. Involvement of patient associations in recruitment in France
      LEEM (French pharmaceutical industry association) has been contacted by CA, currently awaiting a response
   c. Transparency Law in Italy
      Feedback from Lucio Corsaro has been received, awaiting further input from PG
   d. News from Ethics Advisors Network
      No news or comments at present
   e. News from Ethics Committee members
      No news or comments at present

2. **Suggestions from the Compliance Network**
   a. The following potential initiatives suggested by the Compliance Network were considered (i.e. the need for and practicality of developing and maintaining)
      □ Listing of appropriate incentives by country and respondent type including physician type
         It was agreed that this would be a difficult and time consuming task (both developing and maintaining such a list) and that as ethics resource was limited, this initiative should not be progressed. BR/CA to advise the Compliance Network.
      □ Data protection (DP) law and requirements by country including registration requirements and data protection agencies
         It was agreed that a list of country DP agencies/organisations, their contact details and a link would be produced but this would not extend to include any further information (such as national DP registration requirements), the EC did not consider it within EphMRA's ethics remit to provide a more extensive guide to DP, the information within the CofC already detailing DP considerations for MR. BR/CA to advise the Compliance Network.

b. Code of Conduct brochure
The suggestion of the Compliance Network for EphMRA to produce a Code of Conduct
brochure was agreed, BR/CA to advise the Compliance Network. The Code brochure will
detail and promote the role, scope and depth of the Code emphasising its 'pedigree' and
importance. BD referred to an ESOMAR Guidelines brochure and has since forwarded a copy
of this for reference.

3. **AER Foundation Project Update**
This has not been commissioned yet, the cost (in the region of £135k) of a main stage (relative
to budget) is a significant concern. Of the two proposals being considered it is only feasible to
conduct a pilot for one option. There are also questions about whether it can (now the
guidelines are in the field) generate value for money in terms of actionable information
gathered. **BD** is to review the proposal with a view to identifying cost savings.
The question of the value of the work now that the guidelines are in operation (and so the work
could not be used to help shape them) was also discussed. Whilst reservations about its overall
value were expressed, the consensus was that it would still be of value, less value than originally
hoped and possibly not £135k worth of value. It was also noted that the AER Task force is a
source of feedback on the AER process as well.
The EphMRA Board will make the final decision in conjunction with the Foundation Committee
but would take into account the EC's views and advice. **BD** to provide EC feedback to the Board.

4. **Training**
a. AER Webinar 31 Jan – the feedback was very positive and the questions asked and answered
will be used as the basis of an AER FAQ section to go on the website, CA to action.
b. 2013 training:
□ Further webinar proposed – originally May was proposed but the scheduling will not be
finalised until after the Germany Chapter meeting (18 April) so that news arising during
and after that meeting can be incorporated. The webinar will cover Code Update & Key
Issues.
□ Conference – there is no training workshop this year but ethics input (by CA)
to the social media master classes is planned.
c. Online Training and Competency Test/Certification take-up (keys used)
□ To date 420 members have taken the Code Competency Test and a further 250 have
completed the online training module
□ Online training and competency test to be fully updated once the outstanding Code
queries on observation are answered

5. **Access to Competency Test & Certification for freelance independent market researchers e.g.
moderators (now being requested by commissioning companies)**
BR raised this issue to alert the EC that a couple of requests had been made recently for
access to the competency test and certification for independent freelancers (for whom
EphMRA membership would be prohibitively expensive and not necessarily relevant). At
some stage there may need to be a means to accommodate this depending on demand. BR
will look into the way in which the BHBIA arrange access to their training, test and certification
for freelancers. How this might relate to the use of the kite mark was also raised. It was

recognised that what membership buys and access to training and certification buys must be carefully defined should the latter be introduced for freelancers.

6. **Any other business**

BD updated the EC on the recent TC discussion with the BHBIA's Ethics Lead Paula Walker about the potential for increased liaison between the two organisations on issues of common interest (such as observation and recording guidelines) and specifically aligning EphMRA Code and BHBIA Guidelines' competency testing and certification. It was a very positive discussion, the BHBIA Committee will be consulted and with their approval further discussions will be held to progress greater co-ordination.

7. **Also raised**

Publication of 2013 Code of Conduct, it was agreed that the update would be drafted but not finalised and released by CA until immediately after the Germany Chapter meeting (18 April) in order to try to include any clarifications on regulations and guidelines in Germany that come out of the meeting. It was also confirmed that CA would be compiling a list of questions that will be sent to speakers to try to make sure the ethics issues that we need to see addressed and clarified are covered.

Date of next Ethics Committee TC meeting 9th April 1.30-2.30pm (GMT)