SUMMARY MINUTES

of the

BRITISH PHARMACOPOEIA COMMISSION

A meeting of the British Pharmacopoeia Commission was held via videoconference on Monday 8th November 2021.

Present: Professor K Taylor (*Chair*), Professor A G Davidson (*Vice-Chair*), Dr E Amirak, Dr A Barnes, Dr J Beaman, Dr A M Brady, Dr G Cook, Dr A Gleadle (*lay member*), Dr V Jaitely, Mr R Lowe, Dr P Marshall, Professor J Miller, Ms S Palser (*lay member*), Professor M Simmonds, Dr R Torano and Dr P Varley.

In attendance: Mr J Pound (*Secretary & Scientific Director*), Dr F J Swanson.

Also present: Ms H Ashraf, Ms H Corns, Mr P Crowley, Mr L Elanganathan, Mr A Evans, Mr A Gibb, Ms R Hunter, Mr G Kemp, Mr S Maddocks, Mr R Smith, Ms A Thomson, Mr M Whaley and Mr S Young.

Ms Carly McGurry, the new MHRA Director of Governance, attended the meeting as an observer for the items recorded under Minutes 497 to 504.

484 **Introductory Remarks**

Welcome The Chair welcomed members to the meeting. He also welcomed Ms Hunter who had joined the Secretariat for six months as part of the Government Science and Engineering Fast Stream Programme.

Declaration of Interests; Confidentiality of Proceedings Members were reminded of the need to inform the Secretariat of any changes to their interests throughout the year and of the need to declare any specific interests at the start of relevant discussions. The Chair reminded members of the confidential nature of the meeting and that the papers should not be disclosed.

Members This was the last meeting for five long-standing members who would be retiring at the end of December 2021: Professor Alastair Davidson (*Vice-Chair*), Dr Graham Cook, Professor John Miller, Dr Ronald Torano and Dr Paul Varley.

Obituary Members were saddened to learn of the death of Mr Robert Shaw (formerly of the Academic Pharmacy Practice Unit, University of East Anglia). Mr Shaw had served on the Expert Advisory Group on Pharmacy between 2003 and 2006.

I MINUTES

485 The minutes of the meeting held on 5th July 2021 were confirmed.

II MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

486 The following matters arising from the meeting held on 5th July 2021 were noted.

Minute 466 – Code of Practice for Scientific Advisory Committees The updated COPSAC guidance framework document had been available for public consultation between August and October. The revised document had been re-organised and updated but had not introduced any significant changes that would impact the BP operation.

Minute 468 – Declaration of Interests The updated guidance and examples were being brought to the attention of the Expert Advisory Groups during the autumn meetings.

Minute 469 – AQbD Strategy Update The five proposed new members had all accepted the invitation to join the Working Party.

Minute 472 – Nitrosamines: Production Statement Proposals The consultation regarding the inclusion of Production statements in relevant BP monographs had been postponed.

Minute 473 – Formulated Preparations: Tests for Loss on Drying/Water The Aide Memoire and Policy List had been updated to reflect the decision that tests for Water/Loss on Drying, together with other product-specific tests, should no longer be routinely included in monographs for formulated preparations.

Minute 479 – European Pharmacopoeia: Aluminium in Parenteral Nutrition Solutions This issue had been discussed at the recent meeting of the Expert Advisory Group on Unlicensed Medicines and further information was being sought.

III REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

GOVERNANCE

487 Updates from the Secretary & Scientific Director

Mr Pound provided an update on how the BP and MHRA were responding to the global Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and other key issues.

OPERATIONAL

488 EAG HCM: Progress and Work Programme COM(21)36

An update on the recent activities of the Expert Advisory Group on Herbal and Complementary Medicines was provided for information.

Discussion workshop A workshop had been held in November 2019 to discuss the strategic approach for the selection and development of monographs. The group had identified three key target user groups and had agreed to move away from herbal drugs and focus on developing monographs for herbal extracts since this was the area that would provide the most benefit across the range of users.

Prioritisation A long list of potential extracts had been prepared and the group had prioritised development of monographs taking note of the current usage of the materials, items for which usage was likely to increase, items which had known quality or safety issues, etc..

Monograph Elaboration Draft monographs for some of the highest priority items had been discussed at the most recent meeting of EAG HCM.

Future activities The use of any newly published herbal monographs would be reviewed over time (eg. by monitoring website access, purchase of BPCRS) to ensure that the BP continued to provide standards that would provide the most benefit to patients.

As Chair of EAG HCM, Professor Simmonds acknowledged the huge input from the EAG members and the Secretariat into the review and said that the shift in focus was appropriate and reflected the current priorities for the herbals industry. The Chair thanked EAG HCM, on behalf of the Commission, for the comprehensive review and ongoing work.

489 **Working Party ATMP: Progress Report** COM(21)37

The third meeting of the Working Party on Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products had been held in April 2021. In addition to updates relating to the work on Flow Cytometry and Vector Copy Number presentations had been given by several of the members on potential topics to be addressed by two new sub-groups of the main Working Party. After considering the various proposals, the WP had agreed to establish new sub-groups for: (i) Empty Capsids for AAV (Adeno-associated Virus) Products and (ii) CAR-T Cell Potency Assay.

490 **COPSAC Review and Lessons Learned Workshop** COM(21)38

A combined list of actions arising from the review of the Code of Practice for Scientific Advisory Committees (COPSAC) and from the lessons learned workshop held after the March 2021 meeting had been prepared. Several common themes had emerged from these pieces of work and the combined list included a brief update on the progress and status of each item. Members were pleased to note the progress made to date and the following points were raised.

Impact on the patient Brief statements had been included in the papers for this meeting indicating the impact of BP Commission decisions on patients and/or public health. Members welcomed the introduction of these statements and several suggestions were made as to how they could be improved.

Status The intention was to transfer the on-going/not started activities to the list of items for future meetings (minute 509 refers).

491 **Alkyl Sulfonate Ester Impurities** COM(21)39

Background Members were provided with a summary of the activities leading to the introduction of Production statements in Ph Eur monographs for mesilate, besilate and tosilate salts and in BP monographs for mesilate substances and products regarding the need for risk assessment to be undertaken to evaluate the potential for alkyl sulfonate ester formation.

Recent correspondence The Secretariat had received correspondence and several freedom of information requests relating to the Production statements. Members were invited to discuss the issues raised and also to review their previous decisions in order to decide whether the BPC position should be maintained or if any changes should be made.

Production statement wording It was agreed that use of the term “genotoxic” in the current BP and Ph Eur statements was imprecise and should be replaced by “mutagenic” as this was a more precise term for alkylating agents. However, in order to avoid the possibility of confusion due to the use of different terminology in the BP and Ph Eur it was agreed that the Secretariat should request that the EPC consider changing the wording in their monographs before any changes were made to BP monographs.

Continued use of Production statements After a wide-ranging discussion it was agreed that the current risk-based approach remained the best option available to control alkyl sulfonate ester impurities. Although the risk of the impurities being present was very low,

they had been detected in some instances and the statements made it clear that testing was only required if a potential risk of their formation had been identified.

492 **British Pharmacopoeia Laboratory** COM(21)40

British Pharmacopoeia Laboratory Reports The list of reports concerning new and revised monographs that had been prepared by the Laboratory since the July 2021 meeting was provided for information.

British Pharmacopoeia Chemical Reference Substances Tables providing information on BPCRS up to the end of September 2021 were provided for information.

IV FUTURE PUBLICATIONS

493 **BP Portfolio Review** COM(21)41

Introduction A comprehensive, stepwise review of the BP Portfolio had been initiated in 2019. The first phase of the review had been completed and this had resulted in the omission of a significant number of monographs from the BP 2020 and 2021 publications and the removal of several BPCRS from the catalogue, together with the introduction of discussions on the establishment and maintenance of BPCRS as part of routine EAG business. Work on the next phases of the review was in progress and members were provided with an update on recent activities.

Phases II and III – Bringing Monographs up-to-date; Rolling Review and Work Programme Refresh The next phase of the review process was directed at monographs that used outdated technology and/or were out of line with current regulatory expectations. A list of high priority monographs for development or revision had been prepared.

Rationalisation of the Work Programme Members endorsed proposals from the Secretariat to rationalise the current work programme.

Next steps The Department of Health and Social Care Medicines Supply team were developing a list of critical medicines for the UK in collaboration with the MHRA. When this list was available it would be used to identify additional high priority items and the BP work programme would be amended accordingly.

494 **Approved Synonyms** COM(21)42

New monographs The proposed new Approved Synonyms relating to items added to the European Pharmacopoeia by means of Supplements 10.6 and 10.7 to the 10th Edition were approved. The items would be added to Appendices XXI B and XXI B (Vet) by means of the BP 2023 and would be incorporated within the online updates to the BP 2022 publications. For the remaining new monographs included in the Supplements, members recommended that the Ph Eur titles should be used.

British Approved Names As a consequence of the new monograph for Deferasirox Dispersible Tablets, Deferasirox would be added as a new British Approved Name in a future BAN publication.

Title changes The titles of several monographs had been changed in Supplements 10.6 and 10.7 and, in accordance with BP policy, the former titles would be retained as subsidiary titles in the BP. The Appendix XXI B entry for Phytomenadione would be amended to reflect the new Ph Eur title for this material.

V ANALYTICAL ISSUES

495 **Aide Memoire** COM(21)43

The Aide Memoire had been updated to reflect changes since the last version had been issued and some additional changes had been made for clarity. The revised text had been circulated to members in September and further changes had been made as a result of comments received.

496 **Policy List** COM(21)44

The Policy List had been updated to reflect changes since the last version had been issued and some additional changes had been made for clarity. The revised text had been circulated to members in September and further changes had been made as a result of comments received.

VI EXPERT ADVISORY GROUPS / PANELS OF EXPERTS

497 **Working Party AQbD: Analytical Quality by Design** COM(21)45

The report of the WP AQbD meeting (09:12:20) was endorsed and the following point was raised.

Atorvastatin Tablets The group had received an update on the development of the Assay procedure. The laboratory work had been expanded to include evaluation of Related substances.

498 **Expert Advisory Group MC3: Medicinal Chemicals** COM(21)46

The report of the EAG MC3 meeting (23:02:21) was endorsed. The members had welcomed the introduction of LC-UV/DAD identification methods and the move to numerical limits for related substances.

499 **Working Party ATMP: Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products** COM(21)47

The report of the WP ATMP meeting (30:04:21) was endorsed. The main focus of the meeting had been around identifying suitable topics to be addressed by additional sub-groups (minute 489 refers). Updates on the work of the sub-groups on Flow Cytometry and Vector Copy Number had also been provided.

500 **Working Party AQbD: Analytical Quality by Design** COM(21)48

The report of the WP AQbD meeting (11:05:21) was endorsed and the following points were raised.

Joint BP-USP Webinars The second joint BP-USP webinar had been held on 30th September and 1st October (see also Minute 505.2). This had provided an opportunity to highlight publication of the new Supplementary Chapter in the British Pharmacopoeia 2022.

Laboratory Project Design: Sumatriptan – Related substances Following on from the work on Atorvastatin Tablets, the group had discussed the approach for developing methods for the Sumatriptan formulated preparation monographs.

501 **Expert Advisory Group PCN: Pharmacy and Nomenclature** COM(21)49

The report of the first EAG PCN meeting (30:06:21) was endorsed and the following points were raised.

Workstreams In order to cover the areas that were previously the responsibility of the former Expert Advisory Groups on Pharmacy (PCY) and Nomenclature (NOM), the new EAG would have four main workstreams: (i) Standing items (eg. BAN publication, monograph titles, action and use statements); (ii) Projects (eg. legacy monograph titles, dispensing and supply statements); (iii) Items where EAGs had requested advice; (iv) Reactive items (eg. relating to patient safety alerts).

Liposomal formulations EAG ABS: Antibiotics had requested advice on the appropriate content and format of monographs for liposomal formulations. Members of EAG PCN had advised that they did not have sufficient expertise in this area and it had been agreed that a small group of relevant experts from within the current EAGs should be identified to progress this matter.

Adrenaline Injection Monographs Members had endorsed the recommendation from EAG MC2: Medicinal Chemicals to replace the current fixed-strength monographs with a single open-strength monograph and had also recommended that all strengths should be expressed in the same units.

502 **Expert Advisory Group MC1: Medicinal Chemicals** COM(21)50

The report of the EAG MC1 meeting (14:07:21) was endorsed. Members were pleased to note that Dr Marshall, who had been a member of EAG MC1 for several years, had agreed to take on the role of Vice-Chair with effect from 1st January 2022.

503 **Expert Advisory Group BIO: Biological and Biotechnological Products** COM(21)51

The report and summary report of the EAG BIO meeting (22:09:21) was endorsed. In addition to the work of EAG BIO, the group had received updates relating to the work of the BIO-DPS and ATMP Working Parties. Dr Varley would be standing down from his role as Chair at the end of the year and members were pleased to note that Dr Brady, the current Vice-Chair, had agreed to take on the role of Chair.

VII EUROPEAN PHARMACOPOEIA

504 **European Pharmacopoeia Update** COM(21)52

European Pharmacopoeia Commission The 170th Session of the EP Commission had taken place in June and the draft report of the Session was available on the BPC forum.

Pharmacopoeial Discussion Group Members were informed of the recent press release announcing a pilot expansion of the Pharmacopoeial Discussion Group (PDG) (PDG Pilot Expansion). The current PDG comprised the European Pharmacopoeia, the Japanese Pharmacopoeia and the United States Pharmacopeia and it was intending to include other global pharmacopoeias within its membership. The BP was already part of the PDG through UK membership of the EP Commission.

Questionnaires sent to the UK National Authority A list of the recent questionnaires relating to proposals to add items to or remove items from the Ph Eur work programme was presented for information.

VIII INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

505 **International Update** COM(21)53

Members were provided with an update on international activities.

United States Pharmacopeia Several teleconferences with the USP had been held to discuss areas of mutual interest, including informal harmonisation projects for finished product monographs, standards for digital therapeutics, Analytical Quality by Design & method lifecycle and the USP Science and Quality Framework.

BP-USP Webinar on AQbD Following the success of the first joint BP and USP webinar held in February, a second two-day event on "Real World application of AQbD and Analytical Procedure Lifecycle Management" had recently been held. The webinar had been very successful, with over 120 attendees, and it was intended to hold similar events in the future.

Chinese Pharmacopoeia Comments were still awaited on the draft Memorandum of Understanding between the BP and the Chinese Pharmacopoeia (CP).

Indian Pharmacopoeia Several teleconferences between the BP and the Indian Pharmacopoeia had been held to discuss best practices for the digitisation of pharmacopoeias and the potential for the joint development of monographs.

World Health Organization Further to the WHO Consultation on Screening Technologies, Laboratory Tools and Pharmacopoeial Specifications for Medicines held in May, a follow-up teleconference focussing on the development of standards for Covid-critical medicines had been held. Mr Evans had attended the virtual 73rd Consultation on International Non-proprietary Names (INN) in October. In addition to 279 new names for new chemical and biological substances, the INN Committee had discussed policies for the safe naming of drug substances, liposomal substances and Covid-vaccines.

IX ANY OTHER BUSINESS

506 **Retiring Members**

This was the last meeting for Professor Alastair Davidson (*Vice-Chair)*, Dr Graham Cook, Professor John Miller, Dr Ronald Torano and Dr Paul Varley. The Chair paid tribute to the outgoing members, all of whom had served on the British Pharmacopoeia Commission for many years. They had each been exemplary members of the Commission, providing significant input both during and outside meetings, and would be missed.

The Chair thanked the outgoing members for their unwavering support and contributions to the work of the BP over the years and was pleased to note that they would continue to be involved with the BP through their membership of the Expert Advisory Groups. Mr Pound added his thanks and acknowledged the unique contributions the members had made.

507 **Date of next meeting**

Monday 7th March 2022.

FOR INFORMATION:

508 **British Pharmacopoeia 2023: Text Review Dates**

The dates for reviewing the BP 2023 and BP (Vet) 2023 text using the document review tool (DRT) were provided for information.

509 **Items for Future Meetings**

An updated list of items for discussion at future meetings was provided for information.