SUMMARY MINUTES

of the

BRITISH PHARMACOPOEIA COMMISSION

A meeting of the British Pharmacopoeia Commission was held via videoconference on Monday 7th November 2022.

Present: Dr A M Brady, (*Chair*), Dr A Barnes, Mr C E Giartosio, Dr A Gleadle (*lay member*), Dr V Jaitely, Mr S Jones, Mr R Lowe, Dr P Marshall, Ms S Palser (*lay member*), Mr J Rickard, Professor M Simmonds.

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

Also present: Ms H Ashraf, Ms S Begum, Ms H Corns, Mr P Crowley, Ms A Estlin, Mr A Evans, Ms G Li-Ship, Mr K Rakowski, Mr R Smith, Ms C Swann, Ms A Thomson, Mr M Whaley and Mr S Young.

Apologies for absence were received from Dr E Amirak, Dr J Beaman and Dr E Bush.

560 **Introductory Remarks**

Welcome The Chair welcomed members to the meeting. She also welcomed Ms Begum and Mr Rakowski, who had recently joined the BP & Laboratory Services team, and Ms Estlin who was on a 12-month placement as part of the Government Science and Engineering Fast Stream Programme.

Mr Pound welcomed Dr Brady to her first meeting since being appointed as the first female Chair of the British Pharmacopoeia Commission in its 150-year history. He said he was looking forward to working with her as the Commission entered a new phase.

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.

BPC Membership Mr Beaman had decided to stand down from the BP Commission and EAG MC3: Medicinal Chemicals at the end of the year. The Chair paid tribute to Mr Beaman who had joined the Commission in 2016 and had been a member of EAG MC3 since 2015, providing valuable technical expertise throughout his tenure.

Obituaries Members were saddened to learn of the deaths of Professor David Ganderton OBE and Professor John Midgley, two former members of the BP Commission. Professor Ganderton had served as Chair of the BPC between 1990 and 1997. Professor Midgley had served on the BP Commission for many years and had served as Chair of Committee B (the previous incarnation of Expert Advisory Group MC2).

I MINUTES

561 The minutes of the meeting held on 11th July 2022 were confirmed.

II MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

562 The following matters arising from the meeting held on 11th July 2022 were noted.

Minute 541 – Pyrogen/Bacterial endotoxin Testing Policy A member had recently made some proposals for future consideration. These proposals would be reviewed by the Secretariat before being discussed more widely.

Minute 545 – How to Use the BP Guide Members were invited to submit any suggestions for additions or improvements to the current text.

Minute 547 – Expert Advisory Group BIO: Biological and Biotechnological Products Dr Simeon Gill had accepted the invitation to join EAG BIO.

III REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

GOVERNANCE

563 Updates from the Secretary & Scientific Director

Mr Pound provided members with an update on key activities for the MHRA. He continued to support the BP/BPC until such time that his replacement was appointed.

564 Combined Code of Practice on Interests; Annual Declaration COM(22)34

Combined Code of Practice on Interests The new MHRA Code of Practice on Identifying, Declaring and Managing Interests had been launched on 8th September 2022. This had replaced the former BPC Code of Practice on declaring interests in the pharmaceutical industry and applied to all members of the BP Commission and the supporting Expert Advisory Groups, Panels of Experts and Working Parties.

Annual Declaration Members would receive the annual declaration form and were asked to complete this in a timely manner.

OPERATIONAL

565 BPC Policies and Procedures COM(22)35

Introduction The Aide Memoire and BP Policy List documents provided members with information relating to the content of BP monographs and were updated regularly. It had previously been requested that a list of over-arching BP policies encompassing other aspects of the Commission's work should also be developed.

Policies, Procedures and Standard Operating Procedures A comprehensive Policy and Guidance list had been prepared which was intended to serve as a reference guide and included details of where to locate specific policies and procedures, who was responsible for these, when they had last been reviewed or updated and details of any action required and future review dates.

Members welcomed the detailed information prepared by the Secretariat which provided assurance that relevant policies and procedures were in place and were controlled.

566 Alkylsulfonate Ester Impurities COM(22)36

Call for feedback In accordance with the decision taken at the November 2021 meeting the Secretariat had issued a call for feedback document seeking views on the continued inclusion of Production statements in BP monographs for mesilate-containing substances

and products. This document had been included on the BP website as part of the July to September consultation window and had been sent to several associations and individuals with a potential interest in the matter.

Next steps As limited comments had been received, the Secretariat had proposed several ways to proceed.

The first option was to retain the current statements in the BP.

Option 2 proposed issuing a further call for feedback before a final decision was reached.

The third option was to remove the statements in a future edition of the BP.

It was agreed that a further targeted consultation would be carried out to ensure that all possible avenues had been explored before the final decision was taken.

567 **Pyrogen/Bacterial Endotoxin Testing Policy** COM(22)37

The Expert Advisory Group on Biological and Biotechnological Products had reviewed the current Supplementary Chapter on Bacterial Endotoxin Testing (I C) at their recent meeting. In addition to ensuring that the text reflected the current BP policy, the Chapter had been updated to include references to the Ph. Eur. Monocyte Activation Test and the test for Bacterial Endotoxins using Recombinant Factor C. The text had also been simplified and several editorial changes had been made. Members endorsed the revised text and agreed that it should be published in the next edition of the BP.

568 **British Pharmacopoeia Laboratory** COM(22)38

British Pharmacopoeia Laboratory Reports The list of reports concerning new and revised monographs that had been prepared by the Laboratory since the July 2022 meeting was provided for information.

British Pharmacopoeia Chemical Reference Substances Tables providing information on BPCRS up to the end of September 2022 were provided for information.

IV FUTURE PUBLICATIONS

569 **New Contract for the BP**

The MHRA had carried out a procurement exercise to re-tender the contract to publish future editions of the British Pharmacopoeia. A preferred bid had been agreed and the agency was in the process of finalising the details.

570 **BP Portfolio Review** COM(22)39

Background A list of high priority new and revised monographs relating to the work of the Medicinal Chemicals and Antibiotics Expert Advisory Groups had been agreed in November 2021 with a view to identifying and prioritising those monographs that would provide the most benefit to patients.

Progress An update on the status of new and revised monographs across all the EAGs was provided for information. The list of critical medicines being developed by the

Department of Health and Social Care Medicines Supply team was still awaited and would be reflected in a future update of the work programme.

Next steps The Secretariat had reviewed progress following implementation of the agreed changes and had confirmed that no adjustments were needed in the short term. Further updates to the work programme would be made once the information from DHSC was provided.

V ANALYTICAL ISSUES

571 Formulated Preparations: Tests for Water Content and pH COM(22)40

Following discussions by several Expert Advisory Groups, and comments received on draft text for inclusion in future editions of the British Pharmacopoeia, the Secretariat had reviewed the inclusion of formulation-dependant tests such as Water/Loss on Drying and pH in BP monographs.

Water; Loss on Drying The Aide Memoire included a statement to the effect that tests for Water or Loss on Drying should no longer be routinely included in formulated preparation monographs unless there were exceptional circumstances where such a test was justified. It was agreed that the current approach should be maintained.

Acidity or Alkalinity There were currently 470 BP formulated preparation monographs that referred to Appendix V L: Determination of pH Values. There was a range of guidance and requirements regarding pH within the Ph. Eur., the USP and ICH Q6A depending on the type of formulation. The Expert Advisory Group on Pharmacy and Nomenclature had discussed the continued inclusion of pH limits and had advised that current tests should be retained.

It was noted that pH would be controlled by manufacturers for several reasons including improving the solubility of the active ingredient, improving product stability, and also making formulations more palatable or comfortable for patients.

After a wide-ranging discussion the consensus was that while pH was an important factor, it should be considered as part of the overall quality considerations. Simple pH tests could be useful providing they did not impose a burden on manufacturers.

It was agreed that a statement should be added to the Aide Memoire indicating that pH tests should only be included in new monographs in exceptional circumstances and that current monograph tests should be retained.

572 Formulated Preparations: Enantiomeric or Racemic Confirmation in Identification Tests COM(22)41

Current position Monographs for chiral active substances specified the enantiomeric or racemic form within the Definition and a test to confirm that the correct form was present was included under Identification. The BP General Notices required that the Identification tests provided a means of verifying that the identity of the material being examined was in accordance with the label on the container, but there was currently no explicit guidance in the BP, Ph. Eur. or USP regarding the inclusion of chiral identification tests in product monographs. However, within ICH Q6A there was an expectation that where racemisation in the dosage form was a concern, manufacturers should carry out either an appropriate chiral Identification test or Assay.

Discussion Members agreed that a policy on including a test for the identification of specific enantiomers or racemates of the drug substance in the corresponding formulation monographs should be developed.

It was agreed that the best approach at this time was to include a test in product monographs where drug substance monographs for both the specific enantiomer and the racemate were available. Patient safety should also be taken into consideration and advice would be sought on products for which there was a risk to patients if the incorrect form of the active ingredient was present.

The Secretariat agreed to include a section in the Aide Memoire and/or Policy List reflecting the preferred approach to confirming the chiral identity of the drug substance, as appropriate, in the Identification tests for formulated preparations.

VI EXPERT ADVISORY GROUPS / PANELS OF EXPERTS

573 **Expert Advisory Groups, Panels of Experts and Working Parties: Membership Review; Panel MIC: Microbiology** COM(22)42

Membership Review The term of office for all members of the Expert Advisory Groups, Panels of Experts and Working Parties had been extended until 31st December 2023, in accordance with the decision taken at the last meeting. Following the appointment of the four new Commission members, some changes to membership had been made.

EAG ABS: Antibiotics Mr Jones had recently joined the group and had attended the September meeting.

EAG MC1: Medicinal Chemicals Professor Alastair Davidson would be retiring at the end of the year. Dr Marshall would take on the role of Chair from 1st January 2023 and Dr Bush would take over the role of Vice-Chair from the same date.

EAG MC2: Medicinal Chemicals Mr Rickard had recently joined the group and would be attending the next meeting.

EAG MC3: Medicinal Chemicals The current Chair, Professor Matthew Almond, had decided to retire at the end of the year.

Panel of Experts MIC: Microbiology Members endorsed the recommendation to appoint Dr Guest to Panel MIC.

574 **Expert Advisory Group MC3: Medicinal Chemicals** COM(22)43

The report of the EAG MC3 meeting (24:02:22) was endorsed.

575 **Expert Advisory Group MC2: Medicinal Chemicals** COM(22)44

The report of the EAG MC2 meeting (10:05:22 & 13:05:22) was endorsed.

576 **Expert Advisory Group ABS: Antibiotics** COM(22)45

The report of the EAG ABS meeting (13:09:22) was endorsed and the following points were raised.

Cefalexin Oral Suspension The EAG had agreed that it would be useful to include further information on dissolution testing of Oral Suspensions within the BP in addition to that included for unlicensed medicines.

Ciclosporin Eye Ointment A draft monograph for a veterinary formulation had been prepared. The product was also used as an unlicensed formulation in humans.

Enrofloxacin Preparations Three separate monographs for Oral Solution formulations had been prepared. EAG PCN would be asked to advise if these could all be accommodated in a single monograph or if separate monographs were required.

Doxycycline Preparations The members had proposed that as a general policy TLC methods should be replaced by more up-to-date and sustainable methods, where possible.

Renaming of EAG It had been suggested that the name of the group should better reflect the range of products covered and members had endorsed the proposal to rename the group as EAG AIM: Anti-Infective Medicines.

VII EUROPEAN PHARMACOPOEIA

577 **European Pharmacopoeia Update** COM(22)46

European Pharmacopoeia Commission Members discussed items from the 173rd Session of the EP Commission and advised the UK Delegation accordingly.

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.

Chromatographic Separation Techniques The text on Chromatographic Separation Techniques had been updated in the 11th Edition of the European Pharmacopoeia.

VIII INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

578 **International Update** COM(22)47

Members were provided with an update on international activities.

United States Pharmacopeia Regular teleconferences between the BP and the USP had been held between June and October to continue discussions on areas of mutual interest.

A productive meeting between BP staff and colleagues from the USP had been held in the Canary Wharf office on 27th October.

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

Indian Pharmacopoeia A proposed work programme, including monographs and standards that could potentially be developed jointly, had been prepared.

Ukraine Pharmacopoeia A signed copy of the Memorandum of Understanding between the BP and the State Pharmacopoeia of Ukraine had been received. This followed on from

the previous agreement which permitted the reproduction of an agreed number of BP monographs in the Ukraine Pharmacopoeia and supported the MHRA policy of improving the global supply chain of medicines.

World Health Organization Mr Evans had attended the 75th WHO Consultation on International Non-proprietary Names in person in October. Over 280 new names for new chemical and biological substances had been discussed, including many new drugs that were being assessed for their potential use in the treatment of Covid-related diseases. Mr Pound had attended the 13th International Meeting of World Pharmacopoeias remotely.

IX ANY OTHER BUSINESS

579 Date of next meeting

Monday 6th March 2023.

580 Reflections from the Secretary & Scientific Director

Mr Pound thanked members for their continuing support and dedication to the BP. He also thanked the BP staff for their significant achievements during a difficult year. In particular he highlighted the publication of the British Pharmacopoeia 2023 on time, the continued improvement in the availability of BPCRS and the progress made in the areas of Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products and Analytical Quality by Design. The Chair also thanked the staff and members of the Commission for their efforts and also the previous Chair, Vice-Chair and former members.

FOR INFORMATION:

581 British Pharmacopoeia 2024: Text Review Dates

The dates for reviewing the BP 2024 and BP (Vet) 2024 text using the document review tool (DRT) were provided for information.

582 Items for Future Meetings

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