SUMMARY MINUTES

of the

BRITISH PHARMACOPOEIA COMMISSION

A meeting of the British Pharmacopoeia Commission was held via videoconference on Monday 9th November 2020.

Present: Professor K Taylor (*Chair*), Professor A G Davidson (*Vice-Chair*), Dr E Amirak, Dr A Barnes, Dr J Beaman, 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.

An apology for absence was received from Dr A M Brady.

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

411 **Introductory Remarks**

Welcome The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

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.

Obituaries Members were saddened to learn of the deaths of Mr Tom Chapman, a former member of EAG HCM: Herbal and Complementary Medicines, and of Mr Roy Cowell, who had been a member of the Working Party on Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products.

I MINUTES

412 The minutes of the meeting held on 6th July 2020 were confirmed.

II MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

413 The following matters arising from the meeting held on 6th July 2020 were noted.

Minute 386 – Analytical Quality by Design The public response to the consultation on the Application of AQbD Principles to Pharmacopoeial Standards for Medicines had been published in August.

Minute 389 – British Pharmacopoeia Commission: Membership The new members had been appointed to the following Expert Advisory Groups: Dr Amirak (BIO: Biological and Biotechnological Products); Dr Barnes (ULM: Unlicensed Medicines); Dr Jaitely (existing member of ABS: Antibiotics); Dr Marshall (MC1: Medicinal Chemicals).

Minute 394 – EAG ULM: Monographs for Buffered Antibiotics Following the Commission's endorsement to develop monographs for unlicensed ready-to-use infusions, EAG ULM were intending to publish two such monographs in the BP 2022.

Minute 398 – BPCRS Establishment, Replacement and Omission: EAG Input
A proposal to include a standing item on "Review of BPCRS" at future EAG meetings had been presented at the recent MC2: Medicinal Chemicals meeting. The members of EAG MC2 had welcomed the information and the intention was to present similar information to the other EAGs at their forthcoming meetings.

Minute 399 – Rapid Revision of Monographs The Secretariat had finalised the key steps to be taken should the need arise to amend a monograph outside the usual publication process.

III REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

GOVERNANCE

414 Updates from the Secretary & Scientific Director

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

EU Transition Period An update was provided on the work undertaken across the Agency to ensure that the UK was prepared for the end of the EU Transition Period.

415 Declaration of Interests; Code of Practice COM(20)38

All members of the BP Commission must comply with the Code of Practice on Declaring Interests in the Pharmaceutical Industry and are required to submit an annual declaration of interests. The BPC Code of Practice was closely based on that for members of the Commission on Human Medicines (CHM), the main difference being that, with the exception of the Chair, members were permitted to hold personal interests in the pharmaceutical industry.

Discussion The need for Commission and Expert Advisory Group members to be transparent with regard to their dealings with the pharmaceutical industry was stressed and the BP had to remain vigilant in recording interests and taking appropriate action.

The consensus was that the BP currently dealt with interests appropriately, but that it might be helpful for additional guidance to be provided to members.

Annual Declaration Members would be asked to submit their annual declarations for 2020 during December.

OPERATIONAL

416 BPC Appointments 2021 COM(20)39

The Secretariat had initiated discussions with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) regarding the appointment campaigns that would be undertaken in 2021. Two separate campaigns would be carried out, firstly relating to the position of Chair and secondly relating to new members.

417 Nitrosamines: Update on Activities COM(20)40

Members were provided with an update on recent activities relating to the detection of nitrosamines in drug substances and formulated preparations.

Pharmacopoeial Activities ***European Pharmacopoeia*** Revisions to the General Monograph for Substances for Pharmaceutical Use and a new chapter on the analysis of *N*-Nitrosamines in Active Substances had been published in recent issues of Pharmeuropa and would be proposed for adoption in due course.

United States Pharmacopeia A draft USP General Chapter on Nitrosamine Impurities had been published in Pharmacopoeial Forum, which included four analytical methods.

BP Options The Secretariat had discussed possible approaches that could be adopted in the BP and members were invited to comment on the proposals.

Production statements The Production statement approach might be suitable for those products at higher risk of nitrosamine contamination due to the chemical structure of the drug substance, eg. metformin.

Monograph tests In view of the lack of validated methods the view was that specific monograph tests should not be included.

General Methods It had been agreed that it would not be appropriate for the BP to develop methods at this time.

Members strongly supported the introduction of Production statements, where appropriate. Development of a specific monograph test or General Method would be challenging for both the BP and the industry.

418 **British Pharmacopoeia Laboratory** COM(20)41

British Pharmacopoeia Laboratory Reports The list of reports concerning new and revised monographs that had been prepared by the Laboratory since the July 2020 meeting was provided for information.

British Pharmacopoeia Chemical Reference Substances Tables providing information on BPCRS up to the end of September 2020 were provided for information.

The Chair acknowledged the high level of work undertaken by the Laboratory under difficult circumstances and he asked for thanks from the BP Commission to be relayed to the staff.

BPCRS Monitoring in Response to Covid-19 The enhanced monitoring that had been introduced for 134 BPCRS associated with medicines that might be used for the treatment of Covid-19 was continuing.

IV FUTURE PUBLICATIONS

419 **BP Portfolio Review** COM(20)42

An update on the progress of the BP portfolio review was provided.

Phase I The first phase of the review had focussed primarily on low-selling BPCRS and had resulted in the omission or revision of several monographs in the BP 2020 and 2021 publications, together with the removal of several BPCRS from the catalogue.

Phase II The second phase of the review would be directed at monographs that used outdated technology and/or were out of line with current regulatory expectations.

Phase III The final phase of the review would be to consolidate the work carried out so far with a view to incorporating review principles in the day to day work of the Expert Advisory Groups.

420 **Approved Synonyms** COM(20)43

New monographs The proposed new Approved Synonyms relating to items added to the European Pharmacopoeia by means of Supplement 10.3 to the 10th Edition were approved. The items would be added to Appendices XXI B and XXI B (Vet) by means of the BP 2022 and would be incorporated within the online updates to the BP 2021 publications. For the remaining new monographs included in Supplement 10.3, members recommended that the Ph Eur titles should be used.

British Approved Names As a consequence of additions to the Ph Eur, **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 Supplement 10.3. There were no approved synonyms associated with these monographs. In accordance with BP policy, the former titles would be retained as subsidiary titles in the BP.

V ANALYTICAL ISSUES

421 **New Analytical Technologies** COM(20)44

Consultations on the proposed introduction of HPLC/UV-DAD methods for identification testing and the use of HPLC methods using pulsed amperometric detection had been included on the BP website between July and September. Members were presented with a summary of the responses received, together with proposals for progressing these initiatives. The proposals had been accepted by the *ad-hoc* group on New Analytical Technologies.

HPLC/UV-DAD for Identification Testing Members supported the inclusion of HPLC/UV-DAD methods where IR was not suitable, although some concern was expressed at the potential extra work for the BP Laboratory. It was agreed that HPLC/UV-DAD would not be included as a routine identification test, only where a manufacturer had provided supporting data to justify its inclusion. It was confirmed that the current policy of including two identification tests where IR was not suitable would be maintained. This approach was in line with ICH requirements.

HPLC/PAD for Related substances and Assay The Secretariat had identified several ways to address the challenges associated with introducing PAD methods into the BP. These included the use of a decision-tree based approach to ensure that all options had been examined before deciding on a monograph method, laboratory evaluation as required, consultation with stakeholders, etc. The technology had already been included in several Ph Eur monographs for aminoglycoside antibiotics. Commission endorsed the proposed course of action.

422 **Expression of Related substances Limits** COM(20)45

A consultation on the proposed introduction of numerical limits in BP related substances tests, rather than including limits based on comparison of peak areas, had been included on the BP website between July and September. Members were presented with a summary of the responses received, together with proposals for adopting this approach in new and revised monographs.

Responses in support of moving towards numerical limits had been received from UK and overseas users. This would bring the BP into alignment with industry, ICH and the European Pharmacopoeia and should provide greater clarity for users. In order to minimise the burden for the Secretariat if this was introduced as a global change, it had been suggested that all new monographs from the BP 2023 onwards, and those monographs undergoing revision of related substances tests, should include numerical limits.

VI EXPERT ADVISORY GROUPS / PANELS OF EXPERTS

423 **Panel VIP: Review of Membership** COM(20)46

Members endorsed the recommendation to appoint Dr Martin Ilott from the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (and formerly of the UK Veterinary Medicines Directorate) to Panel VIP: Veterinary Immunological Products.

424 **Expert Advisory Group MC2: Medicinal Chemicals** COM(20)47

The report of the EAG MC2 meeting (13:05:20) was approved and the following points were raised.

Chlorhexidine Preparations; 4-Chloroaniline The EAG had discussed appropriate limits for 4-chloroaniline in the various chlorhexidine formulation monographs, taking note of the strength and method of administration. It had been agreed that the limit should be expressed in the same way across the monograph family and that it should be in terms of the chlorhexidine content.

Identification tests Several draft monographs within the MC2 papers had included HPLC-UV/DAD identification tests. These had been agreed, subject to confirmation by the BP Commission. The use of such methods had only been included where appropriate.

425 **Expert Advisory Group HCM: Herbal and Complementary Medicines** COM(20)48

The report of the EAG HCM meeting (19:06:20) was approved.

426 **Expert Advisory Group MC1: Medicinal Chemicals** COM(20)49

The report of the EAG MC1 meeting (30:06:20) was approved. As Chair of EAG MC1, Professor Davidson acknowledged the amount of information provided by the Secretariat which had contributed to the success of the remote meeting. Revision of the paracetamol combination product monographs had been progressed at the meeting.

427 **Expert Advisory Group ABS: Antibiotics** COM(20)50

The report of the EAG ABS meeting (23:09:20) was approved and the following point was raised.

HPLC/PAD It was noted that the adoption of HPLC methods using pulsed amperometric detection would be a valuable addition to monographs for aminoglycoside antibiotics for which UV detection was not suitable.

VII EUROPEAN PHARMACOPOEIA

428 **European Pharmacopoeia Update** COM(20)51

European Pharmacopoeia Commission Members discussed items from the 168th Session of the EP Commission and advised the UK Delegation accordingly.

National Pharmacopoeia Authorities (NPA) Meetings between NPA representatives were being held monthly to discuss ways in which the pharmacopoeias could respond to the pandemic.

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

429 **International Update** COM(20)52

Members were provided with an update on international activities.

PDA Pharmacopoeia Conference The 2020 Parenteral Drug Association Pharmacopoeia Conference had been attended by Mr Pound and Mr Gibb (September/October). The conference had been free to access and had been well attended by stakeholders. There had been a wide-ranging agenda, including items relating to pharmacopoeias and challenges for medicines.

71st International Nonproprietary Names Consultations Mr Evans had attended the 71st INN Consultations which had been held by videoconference over four days in October. Over 240 names had been discussed successfully.

IX REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY AND SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR

430 **International Meeting of World Pharmacopoeias (IMWP)** Regular meetings of the representatives from the various IMWP participating pharmacopoeias continued to be held. The White Paper on the "Value of Pharmacopoeial Standards for Access to Quality Medicines "was now available on the WHO website (https://www.who.int/teams/health-product-and-policy-standards/pharmacopoeia/IMWP).

X ANY OTHER BUSINESS

431 **Pharmeuropa** A new chapter had been drafted for inclusion in the European Pharmacopoeia entitled "Implementation of Pharmacopoeial Procedures" and was available for comment in Pharmeuropa 32.4. Members were encouraged to review the draft and to provide comments as appropriate.

432 **Date of next meeting**

Monday 15th March 2021.

FOR INFORMATION:

433 **British Pharmacopoeia 2022: Text Review Dates**

The dates for reviewing the BP 2022 and BP (Vet) 2022 text using the document review tool (DRT) were provided for information.

434 **Items for Future Meetings**

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