EC COST B21
Physiological Modelling of MR Image Formation

2nd MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

VENUE
Invercarse Hotel, 371 Perth Road
Dundee – Scotland

Saturday 13th March 2004

1) R Lerski opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to Dundee.

2) Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was adopted.

3) Adoption of the Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held in Brussels on 15th December 2003 were accepted as a true record.

4) Presentation of Delegates

This was carried out during the Working Groups on 12th March.

a) 17 Countries have now signed the Memorandum of Understanding, although the status of The Netherlands is still not clear. R Lerski asked if anyone knew of any possible collaborators from The Netherlands. E Moser suggested the University of Leiden (David Norris) as a possibility.

b) R Lerski pointed out that all the countries that join in May are eligible and commented that Canada, for instance, could contribute if any possible collaborator was known and that the European Commission is quite keen to involve Canada. E Moser mentioned ICP Smith as a possible collaborator. R Lerski said that he would make contact with The Netherlands and Canada again, but also pointed out that we have to be careful not to make the group too large.

5) Status of COST B21 Action

Short Term Scientific Missions
The rules have changed slightly since COST B11. The minimum time for a STSM five days – maximum one month. The purpose of these missions is so that groups can interchange to learn new techniques etc., and it is mainly for younger people (Post docs etc.). It is also important to spread the missions around the different countries and they must be relevant to the Action. R Lerski also commented that he thought it *may* be

possible for someone from the committee to go on a STSM, but permission would have to be sought from the COST Office. Once the application is made, it then goes to a small number of the Management Committee for permission, but is then finally approved by M Pascu in Brussels. Reimbursement for the mission is made after the visit, and usually takes around one month. The Committee is urging the ESF to try to make sure the money *is* refunded within one month, but this means that all the documentation presented for a claim must be correct. The budget for each action is 70,000 Euro, with the maximum amount for one mission being 2,000 Euro, which is only for accommodation and travel. R Lerski commented that M Pascu encourages members to make as many applications as possible and that we will be told if we are overstepping the budget. H Stødkilde-Jørgensen remarked that STSMs are quite important when the final project evaluation is carried out.

Possible suggestions were made:

- Jena – Vienna
- Italy – Germany or UK
- Poland – Norway
- Rennes – Prague (a young radiologist)
- Austria – Heidelberg

Dr Lerski said he would send application forms out to the sub-group.

6) Publications

It was felt too early to discuss publications for the present Action. However, M Hajek proposed writing a textbook entitled "Texture Analysis for MR Imaging", which would be based on the work of COST B11 and B21. The book would take the following format:

Proposed Editors	-	M Hajek, A Materka and R Lerski
Technical Support	-	A Barclay and M Dezortova
Publishers	-	Could be in Prague.

Clarification will be sought from the Commission as to whether or not they will pay any of the publication costs for this book. R Lerski asked for comments and whether everyone thought this was a good idea – which they did.

M Hajek carried on the discussion by explaining that he would like to prepare the textbook with many graphics and an explanation of how texture can be used in MR plus other fields of medicine. There are already 30 publications from our group, so there is already enough material to make a start, although the issue of copyright was raised. M Hajek said that 50% of the text in the publications would have to be changed and the figures modified. H Stødkilde-Jørgensen pointed out that, from the COST Committee's point of view it is a very good idea to write a book, but once the commitment is made you *have* to carry it through. M Hajek stated that negotiations have been started with a publishing company in Czech Republic and suggested that we *may* get some support from the Commission to buy some publications, and that we could maybe also try to get sponsorship from a company.

M Hajek then asked for suggestions as to how we could organise three chapters and thought it might be an idea to make certain people responsible for certain chapters, as follows:

Chapter:

1	What is the Texture	-	A Materka
2	MaZda	-	M Strzelecki
3	Texture Features	-	J de Certaines
4	Statistical Methods	-	M Petrou
5	Influence of Resolution and Signal to Noise	-	L Schad + A Lundervold
6	Phantoms	-	D Jirak
7	Modelling	-	J de Certaines
8	Clinical Application	-	R Lerski to organise a group
9	Food Analysis	-	A Karlsson
10	Advanced Techniques of TA 3D	-	To chapter 3

Deadlines:

- Short key words or extracts of what people involved think should be in each chapter.
- Data will be summarised and a final Abstract will be compiled by Thursday 15th April. This will be a maximum of one page and will be circulated around the whole group.
- Distribution of topics of chapters – 15th May 2004
- Chapter size – approximately 30 pages each (A4 size)
- Final deadline for the manuscript for the book should be March 2005.

7) Website

A Santos volunteered to establish a website – the Commission will not pay for this.

8) Update on Work Plan

Working Group 1:
A presentation was given by J Reichenbach entitled "Measuring Techniques: Tissue Parameters and Physiological Data". This is attached as Appendix I.

The outline was accepted.

Working Group 2:
A Materka gave a presentation. This is attached as Appendix II.

Working Group 3:
WG3 has the objective of testing and organising clinical trials on methods and procedures arising from WG1 and WG2. It was recognised that, in this early phase of the Action, no new trials could be organised.

Results on texture analysis obtained by the Prague group during their multicentre trial highlighted the difficulty of comparing results from different machines, even when made by the same manufacturer. In the long term, this problem will need to be solved, but the discussion during the working group identified that it might be possible to look at *relative* changes in parameters that occur as a result of well defined tissue changes.

It was agreed that groups participating in WG3 would review their data and report back in due course with the results of these studies.

9) Agreement of Working Group Meetings

It was decided that it would be better, at present, to continue to meet as a large group rather than hold meetings of individual Working Groups. R Lerski proposed two more meetings for this year. S Voinova commented that the last one should be held before 15th November or it would come out of next year's budget. Application will be made to hold the meetings as follows:

- June 26th 2004 – Brussels

  ⇒ Arrival Friday 25th
  ⇒ Meeting of working Groups Saturday 26th (No MC meeting)
  ⇒ Departure Sunday 27th
  ⇒ Agenda to be done by J Reichenbach
  ⇒ The focus of the meeting will be WG1 and the text book

- October 1st and 2nd 2004 – Cyprus

  ⇒ Arrival Thursday 30th September
  ⇒ Meeting of WGs 1st and 2nd October
  ⇒ Meeting of Management Committee 2nd October
  ⇒ Departure Sunday 3rd October
  ⇒ The main focus will be to discuss the progress of WG2 and WG3

10) Place and Date of Next Meeting of Management Committee

2nd October 2004 in Cyprus

11) AOCB

A Santos announced that he has some money for a Ph.D student to go to Madrid. The interest would be in either PET, small animals or molecular imaging. He has good contacts with the hospital, so this could also be clinical.

A Barclay
22 March, 2004