ANXIETY DISORDERS RESEARCH NETWORK (ADRN)

January 2012

Topics

Three anxiety disorders have formed the focus of collaboration: panic disorder, social phobia, and obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD). The launch of the ECNP-NI network for OCD and related syndromes provides an opportunity for the ADRN to extend its interests to generalized anxiety disorder (GAD).

Main Goal and Aims of the network

Our overall goal is to help address currently unmet needs in anxiety and related disorders, through the development of an independent collaborative network. The specific aims of the ADRN include:

1. developing an independent collaborative network for research into anxiety and related disorders
2. harmonising research and clinical databases and refining research methodologies
3. evaluating innovative interventions, particularly in previously neglected patient groups
4. building a platform for pragmatic randomised controlled effectiveness trials

The burden of anxiety disorders and the need for an independent collaborative European network were described in the annual report to the ECNP-NI executive committee, dated February 2011. The recent but already influential review of epidemiological studies of mental disorder within the 27 European Union countries, conducted on behalf of the European Brain Council, has demonstrated that when grouped together anxiety disorders had an estimated 12-month prevalence rate of approximately 14.0%. Using estimates to calculate the size of the population in the European Union that would be affected (69.1 million people), it was estimated that in 2010 anxiety disorders (excluding post-traumatic stress disorder) cost close to 66 billion Euros. As ‘mental disorders are the core health challenge of the 21st century, implementing measures to reduce the impairment and burden associated with anxiety disorders would contribute significantly to meeting that challenge.

The 2010 ADRN ‘manifesto’ argued that currently unmet public health, clinical and research needs in anxiety disorders could be addressed by developing an independent collaborative European network. This could help harmonize research and clinical databases, improve research methodologies, refine prediction of clinical outcome, encourage evaluation of innovative interventions, and establish optimal approaches in important but often neglected patient groups: such as those in the early stages of illness; with co-morbid mental or physical disorders; and those who have not responded to initial treatment approaches.

General Methods Used

Research priorities for the ADRN are reached through group consensus. At its inception, collaborative research projects were planned in panic disorder, social phobia, and OCD. These disorders were selected primarily to align with the interests, experience and expertise of ADRN members, but also because it is important to compare a disorder characterised by unexpected panic attacks with one in which panic attacks occur only expectedly; and to compare these disorders with OCD, in which panic attacks are unusual, and which lies on the outer margins of the anxiety disorders. Ideas for innovative investigations include characterising differing endophenotypes across diagnoses; using neuroimaging, genetic polymorphism analysis, and psychological and pharmacological challenge techniques to bridge the gap between preclinical and clinical studies; and investigation of the neurobiological correlates of the response to psychological interventions. Other potential endeavours include conducting case-controlled investigations of anxiety disorder patients with or without co-morbid depressive or substance use disorders; identifying predictors of clinical outcome and treatment response using dimensional and other approaches; and establishing a wide platform to support pragmatic randomised effectiveness trials in patients with resistant illnesses. Further ideas will be developed in consultation with representatives from relevant international user and carer organisations (see below).

Description of the main studies implemented (since the 2011 annual report)

1. The EUSARNAD study

Background
establishing firmer research collaboration with the University of Cape Town (UCT). The research exchange will share knowledge and expertise among participating centres, in order to ensure a comprehensive translational research approach in anxiety disorders, relevant to the needs of developed and developing societies. This scheme allows South African researchers gain detailed first-hand experience of certain research methodologies in European centres; helps European investigators deepen understanding of the origin of anxiety disorders and problems in their management within an emerging country; and thereby enhances the relevance of translational research activity jointly conducted within Europe and South Africa to other developed and developing societies.

**Objectives**

The exchange scheme has three broad objectives. First, to provide exchange researchers with a range of training opportunities to gain experience in innovative investigations in anxiety disorders. Opportunities will be spread across participating centres, and currently include characterisation of differing endophenotypes across diagnoses; using neuroimaging, genetic polymorphism and other techniques to bridge the gap between preclinical and clinical studies; and identifying predictors of clinical outcome and treatment response using dimensional and other approaches. Second, to develop a collaborative international database for detailed characterisation of clinical and other characteristics of large patient samples, across the range of anxiety disorders. The third objective is to establish a firm platform to support subsequent pragmatic randomised effectiveness trials in patients with anxiety disorders who have not responded to previous pharmacological or psychological treatment interventions.

**Progress**

The proposal successfully completed the ‘negotiation’ phase with the Commission in January 2011, and was approved by the Commission Ethics Review Committee in August 2011. Contractual negotiations were completed in October 2011, with an agreed grant of Euros 268,800. The first exchange researcher from UCT was placed in Southampton between October 2011 and January 2012; and the second will be placed in Leiden between January and March 2012. Arrangements for the placement of exchanged researchers in Tartu and Hertfordshire are in advanced stage of discussion. It should be emphasised the funding for the scheme relates only to additional costs of participating exchanged researchers being placed at a distance from their usual institution: these additional costs are principally due to flights and accommodation, **no funds are provided for salaries or administrative support**.

**2. The EU-ROCC study**

The ADRN supported an application through the EU FP7 scheme, led by Naomi Fineberg, for funding for collaborative research into obsessions and compulsions in childhood and adolescence (the ‘EU-ROCC’ study). This proposed to investigate paediatric and adolescent obsessive compulsive disorder and pathological gambling, and comprised an integrated interdisciplinary translational research programme, bringing together experts in preclinical animal and human research, with experts in clinical trial design and therapy. The outline proposal passed through the first stage without difficulty, and the full proposal was submitted in February 2011. Unfortunately the proposal was not selected for funding in the second stage.

**3. Research into onset of illness and treatment latency.** The ECNP-NI approved funding (Euros 3,000) for a collaborative investigation into the duration of illness and latency of treatment at its meeting in Paris in April 2011. Colleagues from the Santander centre will offer advice on the development of the questionnaire, which is being led by the Milan centre (Altamura, dell’Osso). Other ADRN centres will become involved in the further development of the questionnaire, following the acquisition of pilot data. Funding for the project was transferred from the ECNP-NI to Milan in December 2011.

**4. Meeting of the ADRN during the 24th ECNP Congress, Paris, 4th September 2011**

Eleven ADRN members met to review ADRN activities and discuss future collaborative work. The minutes of this meeting are attached as Appendix 1. Since the meeting during the 2010 ECNP Congress in Amsterdam, the ADRN had expanded to include centres in Amsterdam (Denys), Florence (Pallanti), and Muenster (Domschke and Zwanzger). Dr Danielle Cath (Groningen) has expressed an interest in applying for inclusion within both the ADRN and the OCD and related disorders network.

**5. Commissioning of the textbook, ‘Anxiety Disorders’**

As part of its ‘Trends in Pharmacopsychiatry’ series, Karger publishers have commissioned the ADRN Chair to edit a textbook titled ‘Anxiety Disorders’, with contributions from ADRN members, to provide a compendium of what is known, and what remains unknown, about the treatment of anxiety disorders. This is due for publication in late 2012, and will highlight the support of the ECNP and ECNP-NI, in facilitating the development of the ADRN. First
draft manuscripts for the chapters are expected by March 2012. ADRN members are collaborating across centres in the writing of chapters, the overall contents for the book being attached as Appendix 2.

Worksteps

Phase I comprises development of a common database, focusing on cross-sectional measures of symptom severity and 'co-syndromology', together with longitudinal characteristics such as duration of symptoms and disorders, and record of previous interventions. Phase II would see pooling of genetic data (from patients with anxiety disorders and possibly their first-degree relatives), and evaluating results of simple treatment interventions. Phase III will include complex investigations, such as neuroimaging studies and psychological or pharmacological challenge tests. Initial support for some aspects of Phase I has been provided through the ECNP-NI, largely funding for a part-time administrative assistant (Miss Catherine Carr, working 0.2 WTE) to support Professor Baldwin, and based in Southampton. Miss Carr played a pivotal and commended role in coordinating the submission of the EUSARNAD study. She left Southampton in December 2010, but continued to support the ADRN until the end of February 2011. The ADRN has not drawn on allocated funds for its administrative support since March 2011 (but will seek confirmation of funding for February and March 2012, as well as applying for a further 12 months).

Outcome and results already obtained

February 2011 Submission of full version of EU-ROCC study to EU Commission.

March 2011 Participation of ADRN at Anxiety Disorders Association of America, New Orleans. 'Patients, primary care and policies – a view from across the pond'. Presentations by Professor Allgulander and Dr Davies.

March 2011 Participation of ADRN in European Psychiatric Association Congress, Vienna. 'Anxiety Disorders – Research and Treatment in Europe'. Presentations by Professors Baldwin, Bandelow, den Boer and Domschke.

March 2011 Participation of ADRN in event coinciding with Hungarian Presidency of EU, Budapest. Presentations by Professors Baldwin and Bandelow. European Psychiatric Association, Vienna. Manuscripts from this meeting are intended to be submitted to form a supplement to European Neuropsychopharmacology.

August 2011 Confirmation of funding for EUSARNAD study


October 2011 EUSARNAD research exchange commences.

December 2011 Transfer of funding to Milan centre to support collaborative research into onset of illness.

Timelines for the next 12 months

February 2012 Site meeting to explore collaborative research, Leiden University Medical Centre.

March 2012 Receipt of chapter manuscripts for ADRN book.

April 2012 Meeting of ADRN members participating in Managing Anxiety in Practice meeting, London.

May 2012 Meeting of ‘lay expert panel’ (venue to be confirmed).

June 2012 6-month review of research into onset of illness and treatment latency.

September 2012 Annual report on EUSARNAD scheme sent to funding agency.

October 2012 Second year of EUSARNAD scheme starts.
October 2012  Meeting during 25th ECNP Congress, Vienna.

October 2012  Intended publication of ADRN book.

December 2012  12-month review of research into onset of illness and treatment latency.

Proposed new projects for 2012-2013

The EUSARNAD scheme represents the major area of collaborative research activity involving ADRN members. In addition, we wish to strengthen the network by seeking continuing support for an administrative assistant (0.2 WTE, i.e. one day per week) based in Southampton, and some support for the formation of a 'lay expert panel', and development of a panel consensus statement, designed to accompany the ADRN manifesto. External funding has been confirmed, for the costs of transport and accommodation for those participating in the expert panel meeting, but funding is being requested for involvement of a qualitative researcher, needed to help develop the statement.

1. Strengthening the ADRN through continued administrative support

The ADRN has already benefited from 'pump priming' funding from the ECNP, through the ECNP Network Initiative. This funding was used to support the salary of an administrator (Catherine Carr), based in Southampton, until February 2011. The administrator role facilitates good communication between ADRN members, and played a pivotal role in the development of the proposal for the EUSARNAD study. In addition, the administrator developed an online computerised collaborative database to be used for future studies involving ADRN members, until her departure in February 2011. Funding for the ADRN administrator has previously been approved for the period March 2011 until February 2012, but has not been drawn on, since the departure of Catherine Carr. An embargo on appointment of administrative staff within the University of Southampton meant that it was not possible to advertise for a replacement for Catherine Carr until October 2011, and an appointment could not be made until December 2011. A new research administrator (Magdalena Novak) has now been appointed in Southampton, and funding is being requested for the period March 2012 until February 2013 (as well as for the already agreed month of February 2012).

2. Development of a 'lay expert panel' for research in anxiety disorders

We intend to develop a suitable 'lay expert panel' of representatives from patient self-help organisations, linked to some ADRN centres, to guide development of future research proposals and to facilitate dissemination of research findings to as wide an audience as possible. The aim of this initiative is for those present to discuss currently met and unmet needs in the management of anxiety disorders, addressing public health aspects as well as the management of affected individuals in primary, secondary and tertiary health services. Following these discussions, a consensus statement would be prepared with a view to seeking its publication in a peer-reviewed journal. We hope this would result in a document which would accompany the 'manifesto' which proved influential in helping the ADRN secure funding from the European Union through the Marie Curie IRSES scheme.

The pharmaceutical company Pfizer has agreed to make available some financial support (up to £8000), to help representatives attend a one-day meeting, to be held either in Southampton or in Paris early in 2012. Pfizer has agreed to defray the costs of flying people in from a number of centres, accommodating them for one night, the costs of any meals, and of other travel expenses. To be able to reflect the range of opinions, current guidance suggests such a meeting would work best with representatives from around 8 organisations.

The ADRN is keen to maintain its independence and Pfizer would have no influence on the choice of who is invited, or on the nature of the discussions, or the content of the subsequent report. The support of Pfizer would be acknowledged through the provision of an 'unrestricted educational grant'. During the meeting of ADRN members at the ECNP Congress in Paris, it was suggested that the mechanisms for the transfer of this funding would be through the ECNP Foundation, thence to the ECNP-NI and thence to the ADRN. but those present in the meeting were not fully aware of the mechanisms used by the ECNP for this kind of activity, and obviously wished that standard policy and procedures would be adhered to rigorously.

We are seeking support from the ECNP-NI for the involvement of a qualitative researcher, charged with helping facilitate the focus group component of the meeting and to conduct a subsequent thematic analysis of the matter raised during the interview. As this part of the work involves involvement in the discussions with patient representatives, and subsequent analysis of data and themes it does not seem appropriate to request funding for this from Pfizer, and so funding is being sought directly from the ECNP-NI.

Summary of funded activities in 2011-2012

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Although provision was made for three activities in the 2011/12 financial year (provision of administrative support; support for collaborative research into duration of illness and treatment latency; research exchange between Leiden and Southampton), the ADRN has not drawn fully on these allocated funds. No funding for administrative support has been requested for the 11-month period of March 2011-January 2012 (though it is intended to request £362 i.e. €431 for the month of February 2012, for administrative support); and the exchange visits between Leiden and Southampton will be limited to the visit to Leiden in February 2012. The duration of illness project has been funded fully, Euros 3000 having been transferred to the Milan centre in December 2011.

Funding requested for March 2012- February 2013

1. Strengthening the ADRN through continued administrative support
Based on calculations undertaken by the Finance Department of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Southampton, the cost of continuing to support the salary of ADRN Administrator on the basis of 0.2 WTE (i.e. 1 day per week) for the period 1 March 2012- 28 February 2013 is £4627, i.e. €5504.  

   Anticipated cost €5504

2. Development of a 'lay expert panel' for research in anxiety disorders
Based on a calculation of the time involved for the qualitative researcher, judged to be 10 hours in total (4 hours in the meeting, 4 hours of analysis and 2 hours of report writing), the anticipated cost is £400, i.e. €500.

   Anticipated cost €500

David Baldwin, on behalf of the ADRN
February 2012
MODERN TRENDS IN PHARMACOPSYCHIATRY

‘Anxiety Disorders’, edited by Professor David Baldwin and Professor Brian Leonard

A total of 180 printed pages is available (equivalent to 270 manuscript pages)

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Appendix 2. MEETING OF THE ANXIETY DISORDERS RESEARCH NETWORK (ADRN)

Sunday 4th September 2011, 1700 – 1830 hrs, during the 24th ECNP Congress, Paris

Present. Carlo Altamura (CA), David Baldwin (DB, Chair), Hans den Boer (HdB), Patrice Boyer (PB, ECNP-NI), Simon Davies (SD), Damiaan Denys (DD), Katharina Domschke (KD), Naomi Fineberg (NF), Stefano Pallanti (SP), Nic Van der Wee (NdvW), Peter Zwanzger (PZ).

Apologies. Christer Allgulander (CA), Jules Angst (JA), Borwin Bandelow (BB), Bernardo dell’Osso (BdO), Mats Fredrikson (MF), David Nutt (DN), Jose Luis Vazquez Barquero (JLVB), Joseph Zohar (JZ).

1. To record those present and note apologies for absence.

2. Minutes of previous meeting, 29th August 2010, during 23rd ECNP Congress in Amsterdam. These were circulated following the Amsterdam meeting, and again in the week before the Paris meeting.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Amsterdam meeting.
   a. Computerised version of the MINI. There was some uncertainty whether BB had sent a copy of the computerised version of the MINI and its associated rating scales to Catherine Carr, or indeed whether BB had received the files from David Sheehan. Members remain keen to have access to the computerised MINI. Action point. DB to liaise with BB (and if necessary with David Sheehan), to obtain the computerised version and make this available to the ADRN.
   b. Progress with QuestionMark computerised database. Catherine Carr installed additional scales and questionnaires as recommended by ADRN members in Amsterdam. DB has tested the system and found it satisfactory if a little slow. Due to ethical and regulatory factors, relating to the sharing of information between centres within and outside the European Union, it is not possible to institute a collaborative database at this stage. PB informed the meeting that another ECNP-NI network had sought clarification about this matter, and had obtained legal advice through the ECNP. Members thought it would be helpful to see a copy of this advice. Action point. NdvW to liaise with Alexander Schubert in the ECNP office, then to circulate a copy of that advice to ADRN members.
   c. Award of funding to EUSARNAD study through EU FP7 IRSES (August 2011). After a protracted process, involving two submissions to the EU ethics committee, it was confirmed that the EUSARNAD study would be funded through the Marie Curie International Research Staff Exchange Scheme. Those present congratulated DB for his determination in this endeavour and DB thanked all those involved in the submission for their commitment to the cause. The rather late agreement to fund the study and the requirement that the study start in October 2011 will necessarily make the early months of the project a little hectic but matters should hopefully settle, providing Dan Stein is able to identify suitable staff members to come to Europe, and we are able to reciprocate. Not all ADRN centres are involved in the EUSARNAD study and as such it was agreed that DB would contact those who are involved separately. Action point. DB to provide more detailed guidance on exactly what is expected and when, to EUSARNAD collaborators.
   d. Submission of EU-ROCC study to EU FP7 programme and its assessment. The ADRN had supported an application through the EU FP7 scheme, led by NF, involving collaborative research into obsessions and compulsions in childhood and adolescence (the ‘EU-ROCC’ study). The proposal passed through the first stage without difficulty but unfortunately was not funded in the second stage. A number of those present (DB, DD, SP) were co-applicants in EU-ROCC and commended NF for her success in leading a proposal of excellent quality and undoubted clinical and public health impact. They commiserated with her in the disappointing news that it was not successful and expressed surprise that another project, seemingly with less scope and potential impact, had been funded.
   e. Award of funding to Milan centre for research into onset of illness and treatment latency. Following the Amsterdam meeting DB had received a proposal from BdO and CA for a collaborative investigation into the duration of
illness and latency of treatment. The ECNP-NI approved funding for this project at its meeting in Paris in April 2011. Colleagues from the Santander centre would offer advice on the development of the questionnaire, which is leading by the Milan centre. CA welcomed the potential involvement of other ADRN members in the development of the project. BdO had previously indicated that he hoped the project would start in the autumn of 2011. Action point. DB to liaise with BdO regarding the logistics (including the transfer of funds, in consultation with PB) of the study.

f. ADRN session during ADAA, 26th March 2011. SD provided an account of the ADRN session at the ADAA (Anxiety Disorders Association of America) meeting held in New Orleans, which had been shared with CA. Funding for travel and accommodation for SD had been sought and provided from sources other than ECNP-NI, in accordance with its arrangements. CA had made alternative provisions. SD emphasised the high profile of the ADAA meeting and its generally good content, whilst acknowledging that some logistics aspects were sub-optimal. If the ADRN were to submit a proposal for a session at a future meeting it would be important to ensure it were ‘punchy’ and well advertised.

g. Incorporation of Professor Damiaan Denys and Professor Peter Zwanzger into the ADRN. As recommended in the Amsterdam meeting, DB approached both DD and PZ regarding their potential inclusion within the ADRN. In accordance with our usual procedure they were asked to read the ADRN ‘Manifesto’ and indicate whether they concurred with its basic tenets. Both concur with the manifesto and as such had been invited to join the ADRN.

PB highlighted current draft procedures regarding the development of networks within the ECNP-NI, the roles and responsibilities of network Chairs, and the criteria and mechanisms by which applicants for potential membership of networks would be judged. These criteria will soon be finalised and once agreed by the ECNP executive would then be circulated among all networks and placed on the ECNP website. ADRN members welcomed this development. Action point. PB to provide the agreed criteria and mechanisms to DB once available, then DB to circulate these within the ADRN.

h. Representation from the Zurich centre. Professor Angst has supported the ADRN from its original inception and has remained involved through collaborative work with DB in GAD and NF in OCD. Members welcomed his continuing involvement but also recognised his seniority and wondered whether he might be invited to nominate a colleague from Zurich for potential inclusion within the ADRN. Action point. DB to liaise with JA regarding this matter.

i. Formation of ADRN lay expert panel and potential financial support for its meeting. DB described the recent discussion and subsequent email correspondence with Pfizer regarding their potential support through an unrestricted educational grant, of the travel and accommodation requirements for representatives from a number of anxiety disorder patient organisations to attend a lay expert panel with a view to producing a consensus statement. Members were supportive of this initiative but sought clarification regarding the potential involvement of Pfizer in the meeting and its subsequent outputs. The arrangements for financial support were also discussed it being agreed that any funds being made available would be transferred to the ECNP Foundation, thence to the ECNP-NI office, rather than directly to the ADRN. Action point. DB to continue discussions with Pfizer and then to provide ADRN members with details of the potential arrangements, for their approval.

4. Provision of local research administrator (Southampton) to support ADRN development. Catherin Carr continued to provide administrative assistance to the ADRN one day per week, until the end of February 2011. Reorganisation of administrative staff within the University of Southampton precluded the appointment of new employees until the beginning of August and as such DB has had no dedicated administrative support for ADRN matters for approximately six months. That reorganisation is now complete and a new ADRN administrator should be appointed soon. DB thanked colleagues for their forbearance during this transition.
5. **Implementation of EUSARNAD study exchange, from October 2011.** This is addressed in 3.c. above.

6. **Proposed contents of ADRN Anxiety Disorders book, published by Karger (see accompanying sheet).** The proposed contents list was circulated prior to the meeting. DB thanked everyone for agreeing to contribute to this book – some members being involved in multiple chapters. KD indicated her willingness to be included within the authorship of the chapter on genetics of anxiety disorders, and HdB reiterated the need for his chapter to be written with the help of a local co-author. It was felt reasonable to ask contributors to submit their manuscripts within six months of the final agreed contents list. **Action point.** DB to liaise with all contributors and the publishers separately, the intention being to receive submitted manuscripts by the end of March 2012.

7. **Raising awareness of ADRN through presentations at scientific congresses.** Members of the ADRN have drawn attention to the network and its activities during sessions at a number of scientific meetings, including the Congress of European Psychiatric Association, Vienna, 14th March 2011 (presentations from DB, BB, HdB and KD), the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest, 18th March 2011 (presentations from BB and DB), and the ‘Managing Anxiety in Practice’ meeting, Paris, 24th June 2011 (presentations from BB, SP and DB), in addition to the ADRN session at the ADAA, 26th March 2011, described above (presentations from CA and SD).

8. **Inclusion of Professor Domschke (Muenster) and Professor Pallanti (Florence) within ADRN.** Following the Amsterdam meeting, Professor Stefano Pallanti was approached to establish whether he wished to join the ADRN, in November 2010. Following the EPA meeting, Professor Katharina Domschke had been approached for the same purpose, in March 2011. The CV of both was distributed among the network, and members wished to extend membership to both colleagues, providing they were in agreement with the ‘manifesto’. Both had indicated that this is the case and as such joined the network. Members welcomed them both and look forward to a fruitful collaboration.

9. **Potential inclusion of Dr Danielle Cath within ADRN.** Following a presentation on the ADRN during the Managing Anxiety in Practice meeting (June 2011), Dr Danielle Cath had approached DB to establish whether she might apply for membership of the ADRN. DB described the current mechanisms involved in considering applications and Dr Cath has provided a copy of her CV and current interests, and is happy for these to be circulated among ADRN members. She has already read the ‘manifesto’ and agrees with its statements. **Action point.** DB to circulate her CV and summary of interests to ADRN members.

10. **Proposal to ECNP-NI for additional network for research into obsessive-compulsive syndromes.** Given continuing interest in the relative positions of obsessive-compulsive disorder, other obsessive-compulsive syndromes, and anxiety disorders, and reflecting current developments in the potential categorisations of these conditions, a proposal has been submitted to the ECNP-NI for the formation of a new research network for investigation of obsessive-compulsive syndromes. A preliminary meeting regarding this proposal was held earlier in the ECNP congress (attended by DB, PB, NF, NvdW and JZ), with consideration of the relationship between the proposed network and the ADRN. That meeting was supportive of the development of the new network, believing that the incorporation of a new network within ECNP-NI would be mutually beneficial. The proposal was discussed again during the ADRN meeting and members were fully supportive and encouraging of its development. It was thought helpful if the new network could provide the ADRN with a copy of the minutes of its initial meeting. **Action point.** NF to send the minutes from that meeting to DB.

11. **Potential collaborative projects, from April 2012.** As in previous years, the ECNP-NI wishes to receive proposals for collaborative projects designed to strengthen networks, for the period April 2012–March 2013. The deadline for receipt of these proposals by the ECNP-NI office is early January 2012 and as such ADRN members wishing to put forward a proposal should submit these to DB by Friday 16th December. DB emphasised that the potential sum made available is relatively small, and cannot be used to support a research project at an individual centre: rather, proposals should involve a number of centres, and be aimed at strengthening the whole network. **Action point.** DB to remind ADRN members of the deadline in early November.
12. Any other business.
   a. DD drew attention to the International Anxiety Disorders Symposium (IADS), organised by himself and Dan Stein, at which many ADRN members had already spoken. An IADS meeting planned for Stockholm in Spring 2012 had to be deferred; instead a meeting is intended for the autumn of 2012, probably in South Africa. DD and Professor Stein were keen for the ADRN to be involved in the process of organising the IADS meeting and had discussed this matter informally with DB prior to the meeting. Members welcomed this development, believing the ADRN could have a role in identifying potential speakers and in publicising the meeting, thereby helping with securing delegate registration. The fledgling OCS network could also have such a role. **Action point.** DB, DD and Dan Stein to canvass ADRN members for suggestions for potential speakers and sessions, and explore mechanisms for highlighting the meeting and facilitating registration.
   b. ECNP-NI website. NvdW drew members’ attention to the ECNP-NI website, which in due course will include summaries of the aims and activities of all networks, including details of how to apply for membership. In addition there will be a ‘secure environment’ (password protected) in which members of networks can communicate and potentially have access to a data management system suitable for all networks. **Action point.** NvdW to provide DB with details of this development, as they become available.

13. Proposed date(s) of next meeting(s). During the ECNP Congress in Vienna in October 2012 (probably Sunday 14th October), and potentially during an IADS meeting, if one is arranged in 2012.

David Baldwin, on behalf of the ADRN

7th September 2011