

BRITISH SOCIETY FOR CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH

MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held at Heriot-Watt University Conference Centre, Edinburgh
on Thursday 28 October, 1993 at 5.30 p.m.

There were approximately 35 members present.

- 1. **Quorum** The quorum for this General Meeting was set at 30 members.
- 2. **Minutes** The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were signed by the Chairman as a true record of the proceedings.
- 3. **Matters Arising** There were no matters arising.
- 4. **Chairman's Report**
 - a **Meetings and Workshops** Two main Meetings and two Workshops had been held during 1993 (see Appendix 1 - Annual Report 1992/93).
 - b **Joint meetings with other Societies** A joint meeting with the French GRRC was being planned for April, 1994 in Montpellier. The BSCR was also arranging a joint session on Preconditioning at the British Cardiac Society meeting in Torquay in May, 1994.
 - c **Travel Bursaries** Several bursaries had been awarded to PhD students to attend meetings but there was still scope for a greater use of this scheme.
 - d **Sponsorship** Continuation of the sponsorship arrangement with Rhône-Poulenc Rorer had been confirmed for 1994.
 - e **Links with the British Cardiac Society** The members present were asked to vote on a proposal from the Committee that the BSCR accept an invitation to become an "affiliated group". There was unanimous support for acceptance of this proposal.
- 5. **Treasurer's Report**
 - Presentation of accounts** The Treasurer presented accounts for the period April 1992 to March 1993 (see Appendix 1 - Annual Report 1992/93). He emphasised that the accounts had not yet been audited, and that the apparent excess of income over expenditure was a consequence of monies having been received from Rhône-Poulenc Rorer before the end of March 1993, but not yet expended on Scientific Meetings. The Treasurer expressed his thanks to his Secretary, Marie Hancock, for all her work in maintaining the BSCR accounts.
- 6. **Secretary's Report**
 - a **Membership**
Although some existing members have not renewed their subscription, over 70 new members joined the Society during 1993. As a result the total membership continues to grow and is now over 500.
 - b **Results of Elections**
Committee At the end of 1993, in accordance with the constitution of the Society, the Chairman, George Hart, and two other members, Trevor Powell and Derek Yellon retire from the Committee. During 1993 nominations were sought, a postal ballot

was held. The results of the postal ballot were as follows. A total of 108 ballot papers was received by the Secretary by the deadline, and the number of votes cast for each candidate was as follows:

Gordon Ferns	44
Suzanna Hardman	63
Ken MacLeod	59
Chris Thiemermann	42
Cherry Wainwright	68

It was confirmed that Cherry Wainwright, Suzanna Hardman and Ken MacLeod had therefore been duly elected to serve on the Committee from 1 January 1994 for three years.

Honorary Officers It was announced that the Committee had selected Dr Peter Cummins, Head of the Molecular Cardiology Unit at the University of Birmingham to serve as the new Chairman from 1 January 1994 for three years. In addition, Professor Gianni Angelini had been co-opted on to the Committee (to maintain a minimum of three clinicians) and had agreed to act as Deputy Chairman for a period of one year in the first instance.

The Secretary concluded by thanking those members retiring from the Committee for their contribution to the running of the Society.

7. **Bulletin Editors' Report**

On behalf of the Editors, Jeff Allen reported the continued success of the Bulletin. During the last year, issues have contained a number of review articles, laboratory profiles and meeting reports. A request was made for more meetings reports along with the continued submission of other items.

8. **Any Other Business**

On behalf of the Society, Derek Yellon gave a vote of thanks to the outgoing Chairman, George Hart.

9. **Date of the next AGM**

The next AGM will be held during the Winter 1994 meeting in Bristol.

Signed:



Date:

9/12/94



ANNUAL REPORT 1992/93

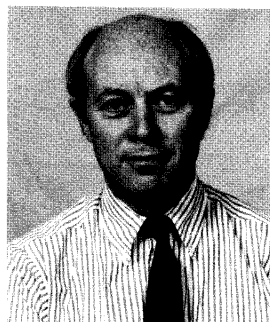
The BSCR continues...

During the last year the BSCR has continued to thrive. Since the last annual report was compiled there have been three main meetings of the Society and two workshops. Details of these are listed on the back page. In addition to being able to participate in meetings and workshops, all members receive the BSCR Quarterly Bulletin.

Membership Although some existing members have not renewed their subscription, over 70 new members joined the Society during 1993. As a result the total membership continues to grow and is now over 500.

Committee At the end of 1993, in accordance with the constitution of the Society, the Chairman, George Hart, and two other members, Trevor Powell and Derek Yellon retired from the Committee. We are indebted to them all for their contribution and in particular, special mention must be made of the significant achievements of the retiring Chairman George Hart. During 1993 nominations were sought, a postal ballot was held and new Committee members elected. The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on 28 October during the Winter meeting of the Society. At the

AGM the results of the postal ballot were announced. A total of 108 ballot papers was received by the Secretary by the deadline and the number of votes cast for each candidate was as follows: Gordon Ferns 44; Suzanna Hardman 63; Ken MacLeod 59; Chris Thiemermann 42; Cherry Wainwright 68. It was confirmed that Cherry Wainwright, Suzanna Hardman and Ken MacLeod had been duly elected to serve on the Committee from 1 January 1994 for three years.



Dr Peter Cummins

It was also announced at the AGM that the Committee had selected Dr Peter Cummins the Head of the Molecular Cardiology Unit at the University of Birmingham to serve as the new Chairman from 1 January 1994 for three years. Peter is a previous Secretary of the Society and has served on Committee recently.

BSCR Quarterly Bulletin The Bulletin Editors, Jeff Allen and Kathy Ryder deserve hearty congratulations for continuing to maintain a high standard and for ensuring that a variety of interesting articles and news items are included in each issue. This year has seen the publication of scientific review articles on *Delayed rectifier potassium channels*, *Stress proteins and myocardial protection*, *The pacemaker syndrome*, *Ischaemic preconditioning* and *The effects of stretching on single cardiac cells*. Laboratory profiles from groups at Glasgow Royal Infirmary, Harefield Hospital and Washington University, St Louis, USA have been published. The Bulletin has also contained reports of various scientific meetings, "Travellers' Tales", listings of British Heart Foundation Grant Awards and information on forthcoming meetings.

Finally, it is now 20 years since the first meeting of the Cardiac Muscle Research Group and for the first time, thanks to the efforts of one of the founder members, David Hearse, a history of the Society has been published (BSCR Quarterly Bulletin, Vol.6,(4) 7-12, 1993). This article makes fascinating reading for all members, whether new or not so new!

Susan J Coker (*Secretary*)

Report from the Treasurer

1993 has seen a major and very exciting new development in the financial affairs of the Society. During 1992, thanks to the magnificent efforts of our retiring Chairman George Hart, we secured very generous funding for the Society of £25,000 per year for three years from Rhône-Poulenc Rorer. This funding started at the beginning of 1993, and we very gratefully acknowledge the generosity of Rhône-Poulenc Rorer in providing this Educational Grant to the Society.

With this support from Rhône-Poulenc Rorer we have been able to make major changes in the way in which Society Meetings and Workshops are funded. Until this year, the local organiser(s) for each meeting were responsible for raising the majority of funding for the meeting, from whatever sources they could find, with the Society contributing only if there was a shortfall. Often the meeting organiser did not know in advance of the meeting exactly how much funding he would receive. The grant from Rhône-Poulenc Rorer now funds the whole of each meeting's expenses to a maximum of £10,000 per meeting, with the exception of some additional charitable funding provided for selected meetings by the British Cardiac Society and the British Heart Foundation for named lecturers. Additionally, we are able to provide complete funding for workshops, to a normal limit of £1,000 per

workshop. Meeting and workshop organisers now have a guaranteed budget for speakers in advance, allowing them to invite the highest quality speakers from around the world, and to make the Society meetings among the best in the cardiovascular field in the U.K. They can also concentrate on the scientific and organisational aspects of meetings, rather than being concerned predominantly with fund-raising. In addition, the Society is also able to fund more travel bursaries and support more workshops than previously, to produce a high quality Bulletin, as well as undertaking a range of other activities to promote the Society.

A second important change which has taken place over the past 18 months, with the Society becoming a Registered Charity, is that the accounting period for the annual accounts has been moved from the calendar year (1 Jan. to 31 Dec.) to the tax year (1 April to 31 March). The accounts presented below therefore are for the period 1 April 1992 to 31 March 1993. This period overlaps with the accounts presented by my predecessor as Treasurer in the 1991/1992 Annual Report, which covered the period 1 Jan. to 31 Dec. 1992.

You will see from the Accounts that the Society is in a very healthy position financially, and is able to undertake all its activities with

complete financial security. However, with the accounting period ending on 31 March, the Total Balance as shown in the Accounts gives a somewhat optimistic picture of the Society's financial situation. This is because the Accounts were prepared immediately after receipt of the grant from Rhône-Poulenc Rorer, but before any major expenditure was incurred on meetings during 1993 (the Spring meeting did not take place until 29/30 March). However, I am projecting a small excess of income over expenditure for 1993, with the balance at the end of 1993 projected to be approximately £14,000. With the guarantee of funding from Rhône-Poulenc Rorer, we can therefore look forward to the Society being able to organise meetings and workshops of the highest quality.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my most grateful thanks to my Secretary Marie Hancock, who has maintained all of the details of the Society accounts, chased up members who insist on paying the wrong amounts for their subscription or who have let their subscription lapse, and taken on the might of the National Westminster Bank when necessary. She has also maintained and corrected the database of Society members, and has spent many hours helping in the preparation and checking of the Accounts.

Paul J England (Treasurer)

**BRITISH SOCIETY FOR
CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH**

ACCOUNTS:- APRIL 1992 - MARCH 1993¹

Balance Brought Forward	£9,920.69
Income	
Subscriptions ²	£6,649.00
British Cardiac Society	£2,200.00
British Heart Foundation	£1,000.00
Rhône-Poulenc Rorer ³	£18,750.00
Spring 1992 Meeting	£1,220.47
Interest	£412.10
Advertising	£57.34
Total Income	£30,288.91
Expenditure	
Scientific Meetings ⁴	£3,895.00
Committee Members' Travel	£118.70
Secretary's Expenses	£2,181.05
Chairman's Expenses	£129.95
Bulletin	£2,686.42
Insurance	£205.27
Accountancy	£205.63
Bank Charges	£154.68
Miscellaneous	-
Total Expenditure	£9,576.70
Balance at 31 March 1993	
Previous balance	£9,920.69
+ Income	£30,288.91
- Expenditure	£9,576.70
Total Balance⁵	£30,632.90

Notes on the Accounts

1. These Accounts have been prepared with the assistance of a qualified accountant, but have yet to be independently audited as required by the Charity Commission and the Inland Revenue. Auditing will take place over the next two months, when fully audited

Accounts will be presented to these bodies.

2. The subscription income reported is for the BSCR only. Any income received from those members who have joint BSCR and ISHR membership in respect of the contribution to the ISHR is not included, since this is forwarded to the ISHR

and does not form part of the BSCR Accounts. For your information, approximately 160 BSCR members are also members of the ISHR.

3. The Educational Grant from Rhône-Poulenc Rorer is received as a direct payment from Rhône Poulenc Rorer of £18,750, and the BSCR as a charity then reclaims tax at 25% from the Inland Revenue. Since the tax refund of £6,250 from the Inland Revenue was not received until 1 June, 1993, this sum does not appear in the present Accounts.

4. The expenditure on Scientific Meetings for this accounting period does not include any meetings funded in toto by the BSCR using the grant from Rhône-Poulenc Rorer, since the first meeting under the new system did not take place until end March 1993. Thus the Meetings expenditure reported in these Accounts covers only the disbursement of the funds from the BCS and BHF plus miscellaneous expenses for the meetings held in 1992.

5. The majority of the funds are kept in an interest-receiving Business Reserve Account, and a working balance of less than £2,000 is normally kept in the Current Account.

Paul J England (Treasurer)

This Annual Report which covers the period 1 December 1992 to 30 December 1993, was edited and prepared by Dr SJ Coker, Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, University of Liverpool, PO Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BX. The views expressed in it are not necessarily those of the BSCR.

Registered Charity No. 101141

BSCR Activities 1992/93

3-4 December 1992. Winter meeting on "Myofilaments and Contractility" at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, London. Organised by Dr Jon Kentish. Free oral and poster communications. Invited speakers included C Orchard, G Vassort, C Rüegg, S Marston, G Pfitzer, S Wray, K Morgan, D Miller, P England and J Herzig. Prof J Solaro gave the 4th British Cardiac Society Lecture.

29-30 March 1993. Spring meeting on "Biology of the Vascular Wall" at Churchill College, Cambridge. Organised by Dr Peter Weissberg. Free poster communications. Invited speakers included A Newby, G Ferns, M Bennett, D Grainger, D Yang, J Pearson, I Charles, A Davenport, P Weissberg, A Henney, N Samani, J Mullins, J McEwan and C Jackson. The 5th British Cardiac Society Lecture was given by Prof J Wilcox.

9 August, 1993. Workshop on "The Biology of the Microcirculation" at the University of Wales College of Medicine, Cardiff. Organised by Dr Chris Jones.

6 October, 1993. Workshop on "Preconditioning of the Ischaemic Myocardium" at University College Hospital London. Organised by Dr Michael Marber, Dr David Walker and Prof Derek Yellon.

28-29 October, 1993. Winter meeting on "Cardiac Ischaemia - Underlying Cellular Mechanisms and Cardioprotective Strategies" at Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh. Organised by Dr Jim McCormack and Dr Leslie Patmore. Free oral and poster communications. Invited speakers included D Feuvray, G Lopaschuk, P Cobbold, E Marban, D Terrar, D Escande, D Hearse and R Ferrari. Prof P Corr gave the 6th British Cardiac Society Lecture.

Sponsorship

The 1992 Winter meeting of the Society was sponsored by The British Heart Foundation, ICI Pharmaceuticals, SmithKline Beecham and The Wellcome Trust.

All the activities of the Society during 1993 have been supported by a generous Educational Grant from Rhône-Poulenc Rorer.