

BRITISH SOCIETY FOR CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH

MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held at Bristol Royal Infirmary, Bristol
on Friday 9 December, 1994 at 12.30 h

There were approximately 40 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**
 - i) Two main meetings had been held during 1994, both in Bristol, one in April on "Cardiac Ion Channels, Exchangers and Symports" and the current meeting on "Drugs for the Heart".
 - ii) Two workshops were also held during 1994: "The Enigmas of Atrial Fibrillation" (London) in January and "Inflammatory Process in the Heart" (Loch Lomond) in March. Reports have been published in the Bulletin.
 - iii) Representatives of the BSCR had spoken at the GRRC meeting in Montpellier in April 1994. The GRRC had requested that the BSCR nominate a speaker for their Spring 1995 meeting on "Cellular Stretch". Three members of the GRRC have been included among the invited speakers for the Winter 1995 BSCR meeting.
 - b **British Cardiac Society**
 - i) The BSCR now has a 90 min session at every BCS meeting. This year a very successful session on "Preconditioning" had been organised by Derek Yellon and Keith Fox.
 - ii) In 1995 at the Harrogate meeting there would be a session on "Arrhythmias" organised by Suzanna Hardman.
 - iii) Members were asked to make suggestions for sessions at future BCS meetings.
 - iv) The BSCR had been asked to nominate a member for the BCS Abstract Committee. Peter Weissberg had agreed to fill this role.
 - c **Travel Bursaries**
Between 5 and 10 applications were being received for each meeting. Eight awards had been made for this meeting.
 - d **Sponsorship**
Thanks were extended to Rhône Poulenc Rorer (RPR) for continuing to sponsor the Society during 1994.



- 5. **Treasurer's Report**
 - a **Presentation of accounts**
Accounts for the financial year April 1993 to March 1994 were tabled (attached). These appear to show a net loss due to the late arrival of sponsorship money from RPR. The meetings turnover appears larger because it is gross not net as in previous years. The reserve will help maintain the Society beyond the current activity.
 - b **Subscription rates**
There will be no change to subscription rates for 1995, but the Treasurer warned that the ISHR subscription will increase the following year.

- 6. **Secretary's Report**
 - a **Membership**
The mailing list had peaked at just over 550 this year. However, there were only 354 fully paid up members in 1994, of whom 152 were also members of the ISHR. Over 200 others were in arrears.
Committee membership
None of the present members of the Committee is due to retire this year. However, there will be at least 3, and possibly up to 5 vacancies next year.

- 7. **Bulletin Editors' Report**
On behalf of the Editors, Jeff Allen reported that there had been a very good response to the request for meeting reports, with 16 being published in the last year. Three review articles had also been included and the Editors were keen to receive more. Information of other meetings was also requested for inclusion in the Diary section.

- 8. **Any Other Business**
None

- 9. **Date of the next AGM**
The next AGM will be held on 18 or 19 December, 1995 during the Winter meeting in London.

Signed: 


Date: 19th Dec. 95

BRITISH SOCIETY FOR CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH

**TREASURER'S STATEMENT:- APRIL 1993 - MARCH 1994
(Unaudited)**

Balance Brought Forward £30,632.90

Income

Subscriptions*	£6,072.00
British Cardiac Society Donations (net)	£2,663.00
British Heart Foundation (net)	£3,400.00
Rhône-Poulenc Rorer Donation†	-
Income from Scientific Meetings	£15,500.51
Interest Received	£483.19
Tax Rebate‡	£6,250.00
Other Donations Received	£250.00

TOTAL £34,618.70

Expenditure

Scientific Meetings	£37,121.91
Bulletin Costs (incl. secretarial)	£5,678.25
Expenses - Committee	£1,061.23
Expenses - Other	£40.00
Insurance	£196.90
Accountancy	£250.00
Bank Charges♥	£268.04
Sundries	£78.59

TOTAL £44,694.92

Balance at 31 March 1994

Previous Balance	£30,632.90
+ Income	£34,618.70
- Expenditure	£44,694.92

TOTAL £20,556.68

- * Subscriptions for BSCR (net of refunds and ISHR subs)
- † RPR grant received July 1994
- ‡ Rebate for RPR 1993 donation
- ♥ Foreign currency transaction charges



ANNUAL REPORT 1994/95

More BSCR activity...

Since the production of the last Annual Report the Society has been busy. This "annual" report actually covers nineteen months of the Society's life. During 1994 the Committee met on three occasions and dealt with a substantial amount of business. At one of these Committee meetings it was decided that future Annual Reports should be based on the financial year rather than the calendar year to facilitate formal presentation to the AGM. This change in timing allows the inclusion of the finalised accounts for the most recent financial year. As a result of this change, financial statements for 1993/94 and 1994/95 are presented with the Treasurer's Report overleaf.

As in previous reports, details of the main meetings of the Society and the Workshops are listed on the back page. Normally, as specified in the Constitution, the proceedings of the meetings of the Society are not published. However, as an experiment, an exception was made for the Winter 1994 meeting. The organisers sought, and obtained the agreement of the Committee to have the abstracts of free oral and poster presentations published in a reputable journal. All submitted abstracts were scrutinised by a sub-committee and those

accepted for presentation at the meeting were published in the November 1994 issue of the *Journal of Molecular and Cellular Cardiology*, the official journal of the International Society for Heart Research. This experiment led to the presentation and publication of 38 abstracts. This is almost twice as many abstracts as has been submitted to any previous meeting of the Society. Whether this larger number of submissions was a consequence of the offer of publication or a reflection of the wide range of topics covered by the invited speakers at this particular meeting remains to be determined. It will be interesting to note the level of submission of free communications at future BSCR meetings.

Early in 1995 a survey of the membership was conducted to obtain opinion on the format of our meetings. The findings are reported in full in the BSCR Quarterly Bulletin 8 (No 3), 10-11, 1995. The main finding was that the vast majority of respondents wanted to retain the informal atmosphere that prevails at our meetings. Although about two thirds of those who replied were in favour of publication of abstracts the Committee is not yet suggesting that our constitution should be amended to allow publication. One of the reasons for

maintaining the status quo at present, is the difficulty in making arrangements for publication of abstracts in a suitable journal. The costs of publication in 1994 were very reasonable but similar arrangements were not available for 1995. The Committee will be keeping these issues under review in the future.

During 1994 the rules relating to Workshops were revised, (BSCR Quarterly Bulletin 7 (No 2), 4, 1994). In addition, the Travel Bursary scheme for graduate research students was also amended to allow claims of up to £100 based on estimates of actual costs.

As in previous years the BSCR Quarterly Bulletin continues to keep members informed about all the activities of the Society. The Editors do a splendid job in maintaining the quality and content of the Bulletin and a more detailed picture of recent activities of the Society is contained within its pages.

Susan J Coker (*Secretary*)

This Annual Report which covers the period 1 January 1994 to 31 July 1995, 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.

Report from the Treasurer

For both 1994 and 1995 the BSCR has seen the continuation of the major funding of the Society by Rhône-Poulenc Rorer to the level of £25,000 per year. These are the second and third years of such funding, and once again we wish to gratefully acknowledge the generosity of Rhône-Poulenc Rorer in providing their Educational Grant to the Society.

With this guaranteed support from Rhône-Poulenc Rorer we have maintained our policy of completely funding Society meetings and workshops from the Society's central account. We have operated at the level of £10,000 per full meeting, with some additional charitable support for specified lecturers from the British Cardiac Society and the British Heart Foundation, and we are very grateful for this support from these organisations. Funding for workshops has continued at the level of £1,000 per workshop. We have also been able to increase our provision of Travel Bursaries to allow graduate students to attend BSCR meetings.

The accounts presented below are for the periods 1 April 1993 to 31 March 1994 and 1 April 1994 to 31 March 1995, which correspond to the tax years as required by the Charity Commission and the Inland Revenue. Some important points of explanation of these Accounts are necessary, in addition to

the associated Notes on the Accounts.

All financial operations for the Society have now been centralised, to relieve Meeting and Workshop organisers of the need to open separate bank accounts and to keep detailed records, and also to comply with Charity Commission accountancy rules. The amounts shown under Meetings Income and Meetings Expenditure are considerably larger therefore than in previous years, since these headings include not only the costs of speakers, but also costs of accommodation and food paid by meeting attendees, and meeting venue charges, etc. The average turnover for a main BSCR meeting is approximately £18,000, although the net cost to the Society is approx. £10,000

For the period covered by the 1993/4 accounting period the Society had a net excess of expenditure over income of £10,076. However, this apparent deficit was caused by the grant from Rhône-Poulenc Rorer for 1994 being paid after the end of the 1993/4 financial year, and hence not appearing in this set of accounts. The 1994 grant from Rhône-Poulenc Rorer appears in the 1994/5 accounts, while the Rhône-Poulenc Rorer grant for 1995 will appear in the 1995/6 accounts, having been received by the Society after the end of the 1994/5 tax year. In the 1994/5 tax year

the Society had a small excess of income over expenditure of £2,608. To indicate the Society's sound financial position, at the end of the 1994/5 tax year the Society's Cash Balance was £23,165, providing a very strong basis on which to continue the Society's activities.

Based on the strong financial position of the Society, your Committee has decided not to increase the Ordinary or Student membership subscription for 1996. However, those BSCR members who are also members of the European section of the International Society for Heart Research will have to pay an increased subscription to the latter, caused mainly by the depreciation of the £ against many European currencies. The new subscription to the ISHR will be £25 for 1996, and members will be receiving a reminder and standing order form to amend their payments.

Once again I would like to take this opportunity to express my most grateful thanks to my Secretary Marie Hancock, who has continued to keep accurate records of all of the details of the Society accounts, and who has dealt very effectively with all of the normal and unusual queries which seem to be a feature of the position of BSCR Treasurer.

Paul J England (Treasurer)

BRITISH SOCIETY FOR CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH
TREASURER'S STATEMENT:- APRIL 1993 - MARCH 1994¹

Balance Brought Forward	£30,632.90
Income	
Subscriptions ²	£6,072.00
British Cardiac Society Donations (net)	£2,663.00
British Heart Foundation (net)	£3,400.00
RPR Donation	-
Interest Received	£483.19
Tax Rebate ³	£6,250.00
Other Donations Received	£250.00
TOTAL	£19,118.19
Expenditure	
Scientific Meetings (net)	£21,621.40
Bulletin Costs (incl. secretarial)	£5,678.25
Expenses - Committee	£1,061.23
Expenses - Other	£40.00
Insurance	£196.90
Accountancy	£250.00
Bank Charges ⁴	£268.04
Sundries	£78.59
TOTAL	£29,194.41
Balance at 31 March 1994⁵	
Previous Balance	£30,632.90
+ Income	£19,118.19
- Expenditure	£29,194.41
TOTAL	£20,556.68

BRITISH SOCIETY FOR CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH
TREASURER'S STATEMENT:- APRIL 1994 - MARCH 1995¹

Balance Brought Forward	£20,556.68
Income	
Subscriptions ²	£6,414.50
British Cardiac Society Donations (net)	£2,100.00
British Heart Foundation (net)	-
RPR Donation	£18,750.00
Interest Received	£288.34
Tax Rebate ³	£6,250.00
Other Donations Received	-
Cash Held on Behalf of Mammalian Myocardium	(£3566.51)
TOTAL	£30,236.33
Expenditure	
Scientific Meetings (net)	£19,071.78
Bulletin Costs (incl. secretarial)	£4,732.97
Expenses - Committee	£217.25
Expenses - Other	-
Insurance	£254.25
Accountancy	£300.00
Bank Charges ⁴	£165.60
Sundries	£36.00
Travel Bursaries	£745.00
Printing/Postage/Stationery	£1961.95
Miscellaneous Travel	£143.40
TOTAL	£27,628.20
Balance at 31 March 1995⁵	
Previous Balance	£20,556.68
+ Income	£30,236.33
- Expenditure	£27,628.20
TOTAL	£23,164.81

Notes on the Accounts

1. These Accounts have been prepared by a professional accountant, and comply with the requirements of the Charity Commission. They do not require auditing.

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.

3. The Educational Grant is received as a direct payment from Rhône-Poulenc Rorer, and the BSCR as a charity then reclaims tax at 25% from the Inland Revenue. The tax refund of £6,250 from the Inland Revenue shown in the 93/94 Accounts is for the 1993 Rhône-Poulenc Rorer (RPR) grant received in the tax year 1992/3. The tax refund shown in the 94/95 Accounts is for the 1994 RPR grant received in the tax year 1993/94. As noted in the main report, the 1994 Grant from Rhône Poulenc Rorer was received in July 1994, and as such appears in the 1994/95 accounts rather than 1993/4 accounts.

4. Most bank charges arise from foreign currency transactions for payment of overseas speakers.

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.

BSCR Activities 1994/95

16
7-8 April 1994. Spring meeting on "Cardiac Ion Channels, Exchangers and Symports" at Clifton Hill House, Bristol. Organised by Prof R Chapman, Dr TJA Allen and Dr A Levi. Free poster communications. Invited speakers included F Hoffman, W Trautwein, R Eckert, M Dunne, G Rodrigo, J Reeves, A Levi, T Allen, R Vaughan-Jones, Y Earm, S Suleiman, A Halestrap, E White, R Kozlowski, O Tripathi and A Gurney. Prof H Fozzard gave the 7th British Cardiac Society Lecture.

26 January 1994. Workshop on "The Enigmas of Atrial Fibrillation" at the Wellcome Foundation, London. Organised by Dr SMC Hardman.

21 March 1994. Workshop on "Inflammatory Processes in the Heart" at Ross Priory, Loch Lomond. Organised by Dr CL Wainwright and Dr KA Kane.

17 May 1994 Affiliated Group Session on "Preconditioning the Myocardium" at the British Cardiac Society meeting at Torquay. Organised by Prof DM Yellon and Prof KA Fox. DM Yellon, DJ Hearse, G Gross, J Downey and R Kloner were the invited speakers.

8-9 December, 1994. Winter meeting on "Drugs for the Heart" at Bristol Royal Infirmary, Bristol. Organised by Prof GD Angelini and Dr SJ Coker. Free oral and poster communications, abstracts published in the *Journal of Molecular and Cellular Cardiology*. Invited speakers included D De Bono, E Carmeliet, JJ McMurray, MG Collis and MJ Brown. Prof KR Karsch gave the 8th British Cardiac Society Lecture.

18 January 1995. Workshop on "Signal Transduction Pathways controlling Cell Growth and Differentiation" at St Thomas' Hospital, London. Organised by Dr G Brooks and Dr P Sugden.

24 May 1995. Affiliated Group Session on "Arrhythmias: from Basic Mechanisms to Clinical Application" at the British Cardiac Society meeting at Harrogate. Organised by Dr SMC Hardman. M Boyett, D Eisner, M Janse, P Taggart, P Schwartz and R Campbell were the invited speakers.

10-11 July 1995. Spring meeting on "Muscle Specific Regulators and Differentiation" at the University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield. Organised by Dr PJ England. Free communications. Invited speakers included SM Hughes, E Olson, T Mohun, D Pennica, G Goldspink, PJR Barton, CG Proud, WH Lamers and K Schwartz.

Sponsorship

All the activities of the BSCR during 1994/95 have been supported by a generous Educational Grant from Rhône-Poulenc Rorer.

Additional financial support for specific meetings or invited lecturers has been granted by the British Cardiac Society and the British Heart Foundation.