

Minutes of Annual General Meeting Tuesday 8th September 2015 • University of Glasgow

1. Quorum

There were 30 BSCR members present including members of the current committee, so the AGM was declared quorate.

2. Minutes of the Previous Annual General Meeting

These were approved as being a true record of the proceedings.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising that were not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

4. Treasurer's Report

Membership

Total membership has remained stable since 2014 at 405 comprising 293 full members and 112 student members. Once approved, student membership is now valid for the duration of the relevant course without need for annual renewal.

Current financial situation

Total funds currently stand at ~£232K including the Marshall Prize legacy with a general balance of ~£59. This represents a recovery from 2014 due to a significantly reduced expenditure of ~£10,600. The committee continue to actively explore avenues to increase income to the society.

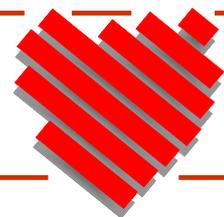
Financial summary for Autumn 2014 meeting

The Autumn meeting reported a loss of ~£3,700 despite attracting a large sponsorship income of ~£17K, for which the organisers were congratulated. Rather, the reported loss was due to large number of delegates, for which registration was free, and a significant number of which did not attend the meeting. This has resulted in the introduction of a small registration charge for the Autumn 2015 meeting in order to cover directly-incurred delegate costs, such as catering, which will apply to all future Autumn meetings. It was highlighted that these meetings still represent extremely good value for money compared to those of other societies.

The 2014/15 accounts were ratified by the attending BSCR members.

Membership payment

The current PayPal system for membership payment will be replaced in 2016, most likely by WorldPay which will facilitate recurring payments and their collection on 1st January of each year. In addition, the BSCR has now been approved for receipt of Gift Aid which will be linked to the new payment system. All members were encouraged to give permission for the BSCR to claim Gift Aid on their annual payments (both retrospective and prospective) as this would generate some additional income for the society.



5. Chair's Report

Meetings

The Chair highlighted 4 BSCR meetings which have taken place in 2015: (1) the annual BSCR/British Atherosclerosis Society (BAS) Spring meeting at the British Cardiovascular Society (BCS) in Manchester (8-9 June), organised by Sarah George, Ashley Miller, Margaux Horn and Yvonne Alexander; (2) a joint meeting with the British Society for Gene and Cell Therapy in Glasgow (BSGCT, 11-12 June), organised by Nicola Smart and Yvonne Alexander (together with Stuart Nicklin, Andy Baker and Colin Berry on behalf of the British Heart Foundation (BHF) Centres for Regenerative Medicine/BSGCT); (3) a BSCR session at the European Society of Cardiology in London (29 August), chaired by Karen Porter on behalf of the BSCR; (4) the BSCR Autumn meeting in Glasgow (7-8 September), organised by Colin Berry, Ashley Miller, Scott Johnstone and Sanjay Sinha.

Sponsorship

The Chair thanked the BHF for their continued support of the joint BAS/BSCR joint Spring meeting and commercial sponsors for their support of the Autumn meeting. He also advised that a corporate sponsorship agreement with Astra-Zeneca for £15K over 3 years was currently being finalised which had arisen as a direct result of the Autumn meeting.

Profile of the BSCR

The Chair highlighted continued links with the BCS and BAS and an established reciprocal arrangement with the British Pharmacological Society (BPS) comprising a BSCR-organised session at the BPS Winter meeting and inclusion of a BPS named lecture at the BSCR Autumn meeting. He also highlighted important interaction with the BSGCT and BHF Centres for Regenerative Medicine at the recent joint meeting in Glasgow.

Bernard and Joan Marshall Awards

The Chair highlighted the names of the 2015 Distinguished Investigator, Research Excellence Prize winner and Young Investigator Prize finalists who were congratulated.

Public engagement

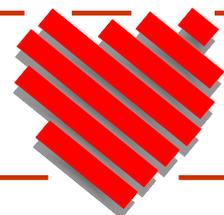
The Chair highlighted the lecture on public engagement presented by Professor Yvonne Alexander (Manchester Metropolitan University) as part of Session 7 of the BSCR Autumn 2015 meeting.

Heart Basic Science

The Chair advised that abstracts from the Autumn meeting would continue to be published in an online supplement in Heart. A reduced publication rate has been negotiated in return for designation of Heart as the official journal of the BSCR and appropriate advertising opportunities.

Opportunities for Young Investigators

The Chair encouraged eligible BSCR members to apply for the BCS Michael Davies Early Career Award. In addition, student members were reminded of the BSCR travel bursary scheme to support presentation at main BSCR meetings and the Bulletin travel award scheme to support attendance at relevant (inter)national cardiovascular meetings.



BSCR Fellowships

Attending members were reminded of the BSCR Fellowship scheme and advised that nominations should be submitted through the BSCR website which would be considered by the Fellowships committee.

Closing remarks

The Chair encouraged colleagues to join the BSCR and to continue to support and contribute to its' Spring and Autumn meetings. He also requested proposals for future meetings and thanked the BSCR committee for their continued support.

6. Secretary's Report

Committee meetings

Over the past year the committee had met on three occasions: 19th January 2015 (Birmingham), 8th June 2015 (Manchester) and 7th September 2015 (Glasgow).

Committee elections

The Secretary advised that 1 committee member, Mike Dodd, was coming towards the end of his 3-year term, and advised that the committee had agreed to extend his appointment for another 3 years, without the need for re-election, due to the key role that Mike plays with both the Bulletin and BSCR website. Mike's appointment was ratified by attending members. The committee composition and office bearers from 1st January 2016 will be as follows:

Chair

Colin Berry (Chair) University of Glasgow Term end: December 2017

Secretary

David Grieve (Secretary) Queen's University Belfast Term end: December 2016

Treasurer

Melanie Madhani University of Birmingham Term end: December 2016

General committee

Sam Boateng University of Reading Term end: December 2016

Andrew Bond University of Bristol Term end: December 2016

Carolyn Carr University of Oxford Term end: December 2017

Sean Davidson University College London Term end: December 2017

Michael Dodd University of Oxford Term end: December 2018

Alicia D'Souza University of Manchester Term end: December 2017

Paul Evans University of Sheffield Term end: December 2017

Derek Hausenloy University College London Term end: December 2017

Margaux Horn University of Manchester Term end: December 2016

Pasquale Maffia University of Glasgow Term end: December 2017

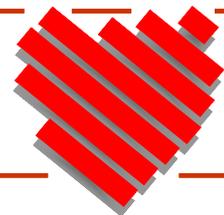
Karen Porter University of Leeds Term end: December 2016

Sanjay Sinha University of Cambridge Term end: December 2017

Nicola Smart University of Oxford Term end: N/A (co-opted)

Sarah Withers University of Manchester Term end: December 2017

The Secretary thanked Tony Cavalheiro for continued administrative support, particularly with the BSCR Autumn meetings and advised attending members that he would be



retiring from this long-standing role at the end of 2015. A potential replacement has been identified and it is hoped that they will be able to take up post in January 2016.

BSCR meetings since the last AGM

- BSCR symposium at Pharmacology 2014: “Targeting metabolism – exploring new therapeutic strategies for the heart” December 2014, Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London, Organisers: Sean Davidson, Derek Hausenloy.
- Joint BSCR/BAS/BCS Spring Meeting: “New frontiers in cardiovascular science” June 2015, Manchester Central, Organisers: Yvonne Alexander, Margaux Horn.
- Joint BSCR/British Society for Gene and Cell Therapy Conference: “Cell therapy for cardiovascular disease in the 21st century: a reflective and prospective and update” June 2015, Technology Innovation Centre, Glasgow, Organisers: Yvonne Alexander, Nicola Smart.
- BSCR Autumn Meeting: “Translation of cardiovascular science to the clinic” September 2015, University of Glasgow, Organisers: Colin Berry, Scott Johnstone, Ashley Miller, Sanjay Sinha.

Forthcoming BSCR meetings

- BSCR symposium at Pharmacology 2015: “Targeting cardiotoxicity” 16 December 2015, Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London, Organisers: Sean Davidson, David Grieve.
- Joint BSCR/BAS/BCS Spring Meeting: “New frontiers in cardiovascular science” 6-7 June 2015, Manchester Central, Organisers: Paul Evans, Pasquale Maffia.
- BSCR Autumn Meeting: “Cardiovascular Disease and Diabetes” 5-6 September 2016, University of Leeds, Organisers: Karen Porter, Neil Turner, Stephen Wheatcroft, Sandra Jones.

7. Bulletin Editors’ Report

Mike Dodd reminded members that the Bulletin was now online only with 4 issues published per year with submission deadlines of 1st December, 1st March, 1st June and 1st September.

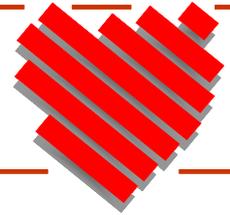
A new co-editor (Sarah Withers, University of Manchester) has now joined the team.

The Bulletin archive (since December 1987) is now complete and available through the BSCR website.

Members were reminded that all contributions to the Bulletin in the form of review articles, opinion pieces/letters, laboratory profiles and travel reports (for which up to £300 travel awards are available) are welcomed. Potential contributors should contact Nicola Smart or Mike Dodd in the first instance.

8. Webmaster’s Report

Mike Dodd reported that the new BSCR website is now live and has received a significant number of page views (~7000) in 2015, which represents a large increase since its upgrade. However, he informed attending members that it is impossible to determine the number of unique visitors from this data.



The website is helping to generate additional income for the society, particularly through providing advertising opportunities for Autumn meeting sponsors.

Attending members were encouraged to improve the website by providing content relating to e.g. job advertisements, conferences/seminars, articles, and reminded them that this is all free of charge.

Members are requested to provide constructive feedback on the website to Mike Dodd: michael.dodd@dpag.ox.ac.uk.

9. Any Other Business

Junior committee members

The Chair suggested that junior clinician scientists should be invited to join the committee and/or attend meetings, with the aim of improving clinical engagement. The Secretary advised that 2 early career members had recently been elected to the committee but agreed that this would be added as an agenda item for their next meeting. The Secretary also suggested that the size of the committee should not be increased and that any additional appointments should be made at the expense of existing positions.

10. Date of the Next Annual General Meeting

The next AGM will be held in Tuesday 6th September 2016 at the University of Leeds.