

## Minutes of Annual General Meeting Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2016 • University of Leeds

### 1. Quorum

There were 51 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 numbers have decreased slightly since 2015 and currently stand at 366 comprising 251 ordinary members and 116 student members. This may have been as a result of confusion over the membership renewal process which will hopefully be simplified by introduction of a new payment system (see below). The subscription fees remain at £25 for ordinary members (£65 joint with the ISHR) and free for students (£20 joint with the ISHR).

#### Current financial situation

Total funds currently stand at ~£228K including the Marshall Prize legacy with a general balance of ~£76K (although this figure may be slightly inflated due to pending payments associated with the Autumn 2016 meeting). Nonetheless, this represents a clear recovery compared with 2015 and 2014 and reflects reduced annual expenditure of ~£9,196, which was helped significantly by introduction of a small delegate registration charge for the Autumn meeting.

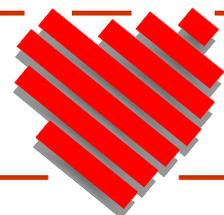
#### Financial summary for Autumn 2015 meeting

The Autumn 2015 meeting reported a small profit of £980 and good attendance despite introduction of a delegate charge (£60 for ordinary members, £30 for student members). This is in line with the expectation that future BSCR Autumn meetings will be at least cost neutral thereby avoiding significant impact on the society's finances.

The 2015/16 accounts were ratified by the attending BSCR members.

#### Membership payment

Plans to replace the current PayPal system for membership payment with World Pay have been delayed and will now be introduced by 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017. This will facilitate recurring payments and their collection on a regular date in January each year. Gift aid approval will also be incorporated in to the new membership application form and members are encouraged to give permission for the society to reclaim 25% tax on all future and retrospective (from 6 September 2011) payments made. In 2015/16, this has resulted in



over £1K additional income for the BSCR. The committee have also decided that retired members with at least 5 years previous paid membership will be eligible for honorary free membership of the society.

## **5. Chair's Report**

### Meetings

The Chair highlighted 3 BSCR meetings which have taken place since the last AGM: (1) BSCR symposium at Pharmacology 2015: 'Targeting cardiotoxicity' 16 December 2015, Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London, Organisers: Sean Davidson, David Grieve; (2) Joint BSCR/BAS/BCS Spring Meeting 2016 : 'New frontiers in cardiovascular science' 6-7 June 2016, Manchester Central, Organisers: Paul Evans, Pasquale Maffia; (3) BSCR Autumn Meeting 2016 : 'Cardiovascular disease and diabetes' 5-6 September 2016, University of Leeds, Organisers: Karen Porter, Neil Turner, Stephen Wheatcroft, Sandra Jones.

### 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 the previously negotiated corporate sponsorship agreement with Astra-Zeneca for £15K over 3 years had been reduced to a single payment of £5K for specific support of the Autumn 2015 meeting further to drugs coming off patent. Other avenues for core income to the society continue to be investigated.

### 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 British Society for Gene and Cell Therapy (BSGCT) and BHF Centres for Regenerative Medicine.

### Bernard and Joan Marshall Awards

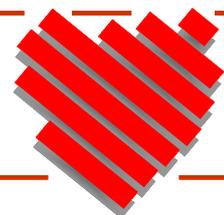
The Chair highlighted the names of the 2016 Distinguished Investigator, Research Excellence Prize winner and Young Investigator Prize finalists who were all congratulated on their notable achievements.

### Public engagement

The Chair highlighted a BSCR-badged public engagement event at the European City of Science week in July 2016 entitled 'Blood vessel ageing in cardiovascular disease' and organised by Professor Yvonne Alexander and Dr Fiona Wilkinson (Manchester Metropolitan University). He outlined the importance of public engagement to the BSCR and requested that members make the committee aware of forthcoming cardiovascular events in their institutions. It was suggested that a tab could be added to the BSCR website in order to capture relevant public engagement activity.

### Heart

The Chair advised that Heart has now been adopted as the official journal of the BSCR. This includes an agreement to publish abstracts from the BSCR Autumn meeting and a 50% discount on personal subscriptions to the online edition for BSCR members.



#### 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.

#### Closing remarks

The Chair encouraged colleagues to join the BSCR and to continue to support and contribute to its' Spring and Autumn meetings; this included a request for proposals for future meetings. The Chair also outlined the newly introduced BSCR Ambassador programme and encouraged increased engagement of the BSCR membership. Finally, the Chair 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: 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016 (Birmingham), 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016 (Manchester) and 5<sup>th</sup> September 2016 (Leeds).

#### Committee elections

The Secretary advised that 3 committee members will reach the end of their 3 year terms in December 2016 - Sam Boateng, Margaux Horn and Karen Porter. Five nominations for new committee members were received which necessitated an election, the result of which was as follows:

Number of voting members: 79

Number of votes received:

Dr Karen Porter	67
Dr Thomas Krieg	44
Dr May Azzawi	42
Dr Ricardo Carnicer Hijazo	39
Dr Masliza Mahmood	16

It was therefore recommended that Karen Porter, Thomas Krieg and May Azzawi are elected to the BSCR committee from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 for a 3-year term. This was ratified by attending members.

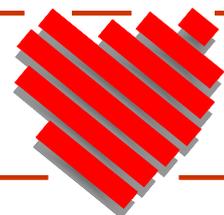
#### Committee co-option

The Secretary advised that the committee has agreed to extend the terms of Melanie Madhani (Honorary Treasurer) and Andrew Bond (Membership Representative) for a further 3 years due to their key roles on the committee. In addition, Daniel Moreno-Martinez (Manchester Metropolitan University) has been co-opted to the committee to lead on the development of both social media and the BSCR website.

#### Proposed amendment to BSCR Constitution

The Secretary proposed the following amendment to the BSCR constitution (underlined):

5.5 The period of Committee membership shall be three years. The maximum consecutive period of committee membership shall be nine years, including any time spent as an Honorary Officer of the Society. However, if appropriate the Committee



may vote to extend the appointment of an Honorary Officer out with this period for an additional fixed term.

The Secretary advised that the constitution had been amended several years ago to limit the period of time that committee members could serve. He stated that he has been in the role of Secretary for the last 3 years and now feels that the time invested in learning and developing this post justifies extension for a further 3-year fixed term. In the absence of volunteers to take on this role, the committee have agreed to approve amendment of the constitution to allow extension of Officer roles for an additional term fixed term which will allow the current Secretary to continue in this role until December 2019. The maximum 9-year term for ordinary committee members will remain. This proposed amendment to the constitution was ratified by attending members.

The committee composition and office bearers from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 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 2019

**Treasurer**

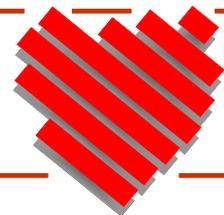
Melanie Madhani                      University of Birmingham              Term end: December 2019

**General committee**

May Azzawi	Manchester Metropolitan Uni	Term end: December 2019
Andrew Bond	University of Bristol	Term end: December 2019
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
Thomas Krieg	University of Cambridge	Term end: December 2019
Pasquale Maffia	University of Glasgow	Term end: December 2017
Daniel Moreno-Martinez	Manchester Metropolitan Uni	Term end: December 2019
Karen Porter	University of Leeds	Term end: December 2019
Sanjay Sinha	University of Cambridge	Term end: December 2017
Sarah Withers	University of Salford	Term end: December 2017

The Secretary highlighted the recent gradual growth of the committee and indicated that numbers may be reduced to a more appropriate number over the coming years. Nonetheless, he indicated that several committee members will complete their current terms at the end of 2017 and that nominations will be sought from the general membership in due course.

The Secretary thanked Nicola Smart for her longstanding and significant contribution to the BSCR committee and Bulletin, a role from which she has recently stepped down. He also introduced Gayle Halford as the new BSCR Administrator (from January 2016) and thanked her for her critical support of the society.



#### Forthcoming BSCR meetings

- BSCR symposium at Pharmacology 2016: 'Biased agonists at G-protein coupled receptors' 14 December 2016, Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London, Organisers: Sean Davidson, Anthony Davenport.
- Joint BSCR/BAS/BCS Spring Meeting 2017: 'New frontiers in cardiovascular science' 5-6 June 2016, Manchester Central, Organisers: Pasquale Maffia, David Grieve.
- BSCR Autumn Meeting 2017: 'Cardiac metabolic disorders and mitochondrial dysfunction' 11-12 September 2017, University of Oxford, Organisers: Carolyn Carr, Mike Dodd, Lisa Heather, Alicia D'Souza.

The Secretary advised that for the first time the Autumn 2017 meeting will incorporate an Early Career Symposium to be held on the morning of Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September at no additional cost to attending members. Further details will be circulated in due course.

#### **7. Bulletin Editors' Report**

The Secretary introduced Sarah Withers as new co-editor of the Bulletin together with Mike Dodd. Sarah reminded members that the Bulletin is now available online only with 4 issues published per year with submission deadlines of 1<sup>st</sup> December, 1<sup>st</sup> March, 1<sup>st</sup> June and 1<sup>st</sup> September.

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. In order to promote wider engagement with the Bulletin, each institution is now permitted to only submit two articles per year. Potential contributors should contact Sarah Withers or Mike Dodd in the first instance.

#### **8. Webmaster's Report**

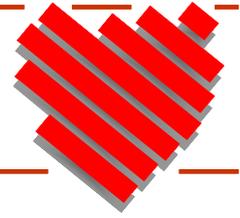
Mike Dodd reported that the BSCR website continues to receive a significant number of page views (~2000 since the Spring meeting), which represents a large increase since its upgrade.

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

The webmaster advised of plans to migrate the BSCR website to Wordpress in order to increase content and make it easier to edit. Daniel Moreno-Martinez (Manchester Metropolitan University) has recently joined the committee and will work with Mike Dodd to develop the BSCR website over the coming months.

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



**9. Any Other Business**

None.

**10. Date of the Next Annual General Meeting**

The next AGM will be held in Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at the University of Oxford.