

BRITISH SOCIETY FOR CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

held in the Fitzpatrick Hall, Queens' College, University of Cambridge
on Thursday 21 September 2006, starting at 13.10h

1 Quorum

The quorum for this meeting was set at 30 members.

2 Minutes of the Last Annual General Meeting

These were approved and signed by the Chairman, Professor David Eisner, 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 Chairman's Report

Professor Eisner started his report by highlighting a number of developments over the past year, specifically: (i) enhancement of the BSCR website to include announcement of Young Investigator Prize awards, committee member profiles, advertisement of vacant positions and other cardiovascular meetings; (ii) further contribution to NICE Health Technology Appraisals; (iii) increased interaction with the British Cardiovascular Society (BCS) and affiliate groups, particularly the British Atherosclerosis Society.

4.1 Annual Report:

The accounts had been prepared and were being looked at by an independent examiner. The Annual Report covering the period April 2005 to March 2006 had been circulated to members prior to the meeting and would be submitted along with the audited accounts to the Charities Commission in October 2006.

4.2 Past and Future Meetings / Workshops:

Spring 2006 meeting: A meeting on the subject of 'Cardiovascular Genomics' was held at the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute in Cambridge under the direction of Drs Andrew Grace, Jane Rogers and Willem Ouwehand on 27-28 March.

Autumn 2006 meeting (joint with the British Atherosclerosis Society): Professor Dorian Haskard, Dr Peter Weinberg and Dr Qingbo Xu had organized the current meeting entitled "Biomechanical signalling in atherosclerosis" (21–22 September at Queens' College, University of Cambridge).

Spring 2007 meeting: "Emerging therapeutic targets and technologies for the treatment of cardiovascular disease" will be the focus of a meeting to be held on 29-30 March at the University of Reading, organized by Dr Katrina Bicknell and Professor Gavin Brooks.

Autumn 2007 meeting: After initial arrangements had fallen through, Dr Michael Curtis had kindly agreed at short notice to arrange a meeting at St Thomas' Hospital, London.

There have been no proposals for workshops submitted for quite some time. It was suggested that the topic of '*In vivo* pharmacology' might generate significant interest and could be developed to appeal to drug company sponsors. This idea would be publicized to members.

4.3 British Cardiovascular Society:

At the annual meeting in April 2006, the BSCR teamed up with a number of other groupings to provide sessions which interfaced basic science with clinical problems. Along with Heart Rhythm UK, a 'Teach-In' was held on Trainees' day (Monday 24th) on 'The humble ECG'. On CPD day (Tuesday 25th), the BSCR supported a symposium 'Update on lipids: from LDL to HDL' organized by the British Atherosclerosis Society (BAS) and BSCR / BAS in conjunction with the British Cardiovascular Intervention Society put on a plenary session 'The use of troponin in defining AMI'.

In June 2006, a call was made to the general BSCR membership for proposals for symposia for BCS 2007. Four had been received and were being considered by the BCS programme committee.

The possibility of the BSCR holding its Spring Meeting within the BCS annual scientific meeting was being discussed and it was thought likely that this could be arranged for 2008.

4.4 Travel Bursaries for Postgraduate Students:

A total of £1184 had been awarded in bursaries for the two main meetings in 2006.

4.5 Sponsorship:

The Society received generous financial contributions from a number of sources. Pfizer provided an educational grant of £15K for the period Oct 2005 - Sept 2006. Meeting organizers obtained additional funding and awards were obtained from the BHF, EPSRC, GlaxoSmithKline, Astra-Zeneca, Orbus and other commercial companies. The journal, Clinical Science, continued to sponsor a Young Investigator Award of £250 at each main meeting.

5 Treasurer's Report

5.1 Presentation of Accounts:

The financial position was particularly sound, as demonstrated by total funds of £100,075 (at 19.9.06). In the preceding year, however, expenditure (mainly to support scientific meetings) had exceeded income by approximately £20K, the reason being that pledged sponsorship of £15K had not been lodged during this accounting period.

Funds, income and expenditure presentation had been changed to reflect the layout presented by the accountant in the audited account. From 2007 the financial report based on the annual audited account would be presented annually to the committee and the AGM at the autumn meeting. The appearance of the final audited account had become increasingly delayed owing to a variety of factors. The progress of auditing will be closely monitored in 2007 and appropriate action taken if required to ensure future timeliness of the process.

5.2 Membership:

The total membership at March 2006 was 405 (vs. 367 in March 2005); this increase was accounted for by a greater number of applications from students (95 vs. 77, respectively) and for joint ISHR / BSCR membership (143 vs. 124, respectively).

5.3 Subscription Rates:

Subscription rates would remain as in 2006: £15/£40 (ordinary membership – BSCR / BSCR & ISHR), £9 / £34 (student membership - BSCR / BSCR & ISHR) for payment by direct debit or with a £5 surcharge for payment by cheque.

6 Secretary's Report

6.1 Committee Meetings:

Over the past year the committee had met on two occasions: 27.3.06 (Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, Hinxton, Cambridge) and 20.9.06 (Queens' College, Cambridge).

6.2 Committee Membership and Office Bearers:

The current committee membership was considered and it was noted that there would be no retirements from the committee on 31.12.06. A number of vacancies would arise at the end of the following year and so nominations would be sought mid 2007.

7 Bulletin Editors' Report

Nicola Smart reported that all was going well with getting suitable material and meeting publication deadlines.

8 Any Other Business

None

9 Date of the Next Annual General Meeting

The next AGM would be held at the Autumn meeting in 2007.