

## Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018 • University of Sheffield

### 1. Quorum

There were 22 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.

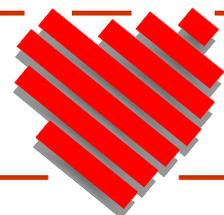
### 4. Treasurer's Report

#### Membership

Whilst the total number of BSCR members has remained relatively constant over recent years (currently standing at 407), the proportion of those who are non-paying students has progressively increased and is now 56%. Consequently, membership income has steadily declined from £4,675 in 2013 to £2,550 in 2018. Attending members were therefore asked to encourage their students to convert to ordinary membership at the end of their studies; they will continue to be contacted by the Secretary at the end if their student membership. The committee will discuss approaches to promote better retention of student members which is critical in order to ensure future stability of the society. Subscription fees are currently £25 for ordinary members by recurring payment (£65 joint with the ISHR) and £35 for those choosing single one-off payment, and free for students (£20 joint with the ISHR), but will be reviewed once the accounts for 2017/18 have been finalised.

#### Current financial situation

The Treasurer advised that the society's new auditor is Sharon Bellingham (Self Employed Accounts Ltd, Otford, Kent). She has produced a draft of the accounts for 2017/18 which need to be reviewed prior to finalisation and approval. The Treasurer indicated that the Society was likely to be in financial deficit for 2017/18 largely due to a drop in paying ordinary members and expenditure associated with meetings. As such, the committee will discuss approaches to ensure the future financial stability of the society. Provisionally, total funds currently stand at ~£206K including the Marshall Prize legacy with a general balance of ~£68K at the end of financial year 2016/17, although it was noted that the BSCR are yet to be reimbursed by the BHF for significant incurred expenses for the Spring 2018 meeting. One of the attending members highlighted the large amount of funds associated with the Marshall legacy and questioned whether the society are allowed to hold such significant funds. The Treasurer confirmed that it was quite normal for charities to maintain significant donations within the terms of the original bequest. The Secretary advised that the committee has highlighted the need to be more proactive



with regard to securing core sponsorship for the society and has agreed to reinstate the post of sponsorship representative who will work with a small team, including the Chair, to move this forward as a matter of priority.

The 2017/18 accounts were ratified by the attending BSCR members.

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

### Meetings

The Chair highlighted 3 BSCR meetings which have taken place since the last AGM: (1) BSCR symposium at Pharmacology 2017: 'Cardiovascular pleiotropy: fact or fantasy?' 11 December 2017, Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London, Organisers: Karen Porter, Sean Davidson; (2) Joint BSCR/British Atherosclerosis Society (BAS)/British Cardiovascular Society (BCS) Spring Meeting 2018: 'New frontiers in cardiovascular science' 4-5 June 2018, Manchester Central, Organisers: Andrew Bond, David Grieve; (3) BSCR Autumn Meeting 2018 (incorporating Early Career Symposium): 'Inflammation and repair' 10-11 September 2018, University of Sheffield, Organisers: Paul Evans, Endre Kiss-Toth, Victoria Ridger, Heather Wilson.

### Sponsorship

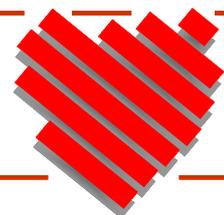
The Chair thanked the BHF for their continued support of the joint BAS/BSCR joint Spring meeting and commercial sponsors for their support of the Autumn meeting, highlighting that the latter were largely cost-neutral thanks to the hard work of the meeting organisers and committee. She reiterated continued difficulties in obtaining commercial sponsorship whilst stating that this would be a key priority for the committee over the coming year.

### Profile of the BSCR

The Chair highlighted established links with the BCS and BAS and a continued relationship with the British Pharmacological Society (BPS), which over recent years has comprised a BSCR-organised symposia at the BPS Winter meeting (reviewed in competition with other proposals) and a BPS named lecture at the BSCR Autumn meeting. The BSCR also has links with the International Society for Heart Research, British Society for Gene and Cell Therapy, BHF Centres for Regenerative Medicine, and Scottish Cardiovascular Forum.

### Bernard and Joan Marshall Awards

The Chair advised that the committee had agreed (in consultation with the Marshall family and Prof David Harse) to restructure the Bernard and Joan Marshall Awards. The Research Excellence Prize has been discontinued due to continuing difficulties in attracting applicants, whilst the Young Investigator Prize has been renamed as the Early Career Investigator Prize with extended eligibility criteria (5-years post-PhD/MD) and an expanded competition (5 finalists were shortlisted in 2018). This is in line with the society's aim to specifically support young cardiovascular researchers. The Chair highlighted the names of the 2018 Distinguished Investigator (Prof Hanjoong Jo, Emory University, Atlanta) and Early Career Investigator Prize winner (Dr Marwa Mahmoud, City College of New York) and runners-up (Dr Scott Chiesa, University College London; Dr Tom Kaier, King's College London; Dr Filippo Perbellini, Imperial College London; Dr Sophie Saxton, University of Manchester) who were all congratulated on their notable achievements.



#### BSCR Publications

The Chair advised that abstracts from the BAS/BSCR Spring meeting will continue to be published in Heart, whilst highlighting the additional expense associated with publication of Autumn meeting abstracts in the journal. As such, the committee has now agreed that abstracts from the Autumn meeting will be published in Cardiovascular Drugs and Therapy (CDT) with no charge to the BSCR. They will appear in the second issue of 2019 together with invited review articles from the 5 shortlisted Marshall Early Career Investigator finalists who have all agreed to contribute a manuscript. In addition, CDT has now included a 'BSCR member submission' article type on their online system. Potential contributors should liaise with the Bulletin editor who will co-ordinate article preparation and submission to CDT. Links to accepted published articles will be included within the BSCR online Bulletin.

#### Opportunities for Young Investigators

The Chair encouraged eligible BSCR members to apply for the Young Investigator Prizes and both the Spring and Autumn meeting and also 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 (whilst noting that there is a limited budget) 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 and early career symposia. The Chair also highlighted the BSCR Ambassador programme whose aim is to encourage increased engagement of the BSCR membership. Finally, the Chair thanked the BSCR committee and membership for their continued support.

## **6. Secretary's Report**

#### Committee meetings

Over the past year the committee had met on three occasions: 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018 (Birmingham), 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018 (Manchester) and 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018 (Sheffield).

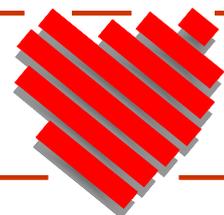
#### Committee elections

The Secretary advised that 1 committee member (Paul Evans) will reach the end of their 3 year terms in December 2018. Six nominations for new committee members were received for 2 places which necessitated an election, the result of which was as follows:

Number of voting members: 72

Number of votes received:

Dr Catherine Wilder	35
Dr David Greensmith	31
Dr Davor Pavlovic	28
Dr Guy MacGowan	17
Dr Mark Nixon	11
Mr Brian Wang	6



It was therefore recommended that Catherine Wilder and David Greensmith are elected to the BSCR committee from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 for a 3-year term. This was ratified by attending members.

#### Committee composition

The committee composition and office bearers from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 will be as follows:

#### **Chair**

Karen Porter (Chair)                      University of Leeds                      Term end: December 2020

#### **Secretary**

David Grieve (Secretary)                  Queen's University Belfast                  Term end: December 2019

#### **Treasurer**

Melanie Madhani                              University of Birmingham                      Term end: December 2019

#### **General committee**

Helen Arthur                                      University of Newcastle                      Term end: December 2020

May Azzawi                                        Manchester Metropolitan                      Term end: December 2019

Andrew Bond                                      University of Bristol                              Term end: December 2019

Carolyn Carr                                        University of Oxford                              Term end: December 2020

David Greensmith                                University of Salford                              Term end: December 2021

Thomas Krieg                                        University of Cambridge                      Term end: December 2019

Daniel Moreno-Martinez                        Manchester Metropolitan                      Term end: December 2019

Sanjay Sinha                                        University of Cambridge                      Term end: December 2020

Daniel Stuckey                                      University College London                      Term end: December 2020

Christina Warboys                                Imperial College London                      Term end: December 2020

Catherine Wilder                                University College London                      Term end: December 2021

Sarah Withers                                        University of Salford                              Term end: December 2020

The Secretary highlighted that over the coming years the committee will be gradually reduced in size with more equal spacing of term end dates. Nonetheless, a call for nominations for new committees should still be made each year.

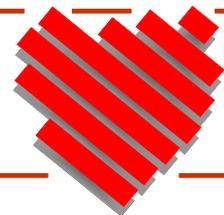
The Secretary thanked the one outgoing committee member, Paul Evans, for his valued contribution over the past 4 years.

#### **New BSCR Officers**

The Secretary advised that in December 2019 David Grieve (Secretary) and Melanie Madhani (Treasurer) will reach the end of their final terms. Nominations for these Officer roles were therefore invited from the committee with 1 nomination for new Secretary received from Carolyn Carr and 1 nomination for new Treasurer received from Sarah Withers. As such, there was no need for an election and their appointments to these roles were approved by the BSCR committee at ratified by attending members at the AGM. Carolyn Carr and Sarah Withers will therefore take up the respective roles of BSCR Secretary and Treasurer from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 for 3-year terms and will shadow the current Officers for the preceding year.

#### **Forthcoming BSCR meetings**

- BSCR symposium at Pharmacology 2018: 'Cardiac non-myocytes; emerging therapeutic targets' 19 December 2018, Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London, Organisers: Daniel Stuckey, Patrizia Camelliti.



- Joint BSCR/BAS/BCS Spring Meeting 2019: 'New frontiers in cardiovascular science' 5-6 June 2019, Manchester Central, Organisers: Melanie Madhani, David Grieve.
- BSCR Autumn Meeting 2019: 'Heart failure – New therapeutic strategies' (incorporating Early Career Symposium) 9-10 September 2019, University of Cambridge, Organisers: Thomas Krieg, Sanjay Sinha.

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

The Bulletin editor reminded members that the Bulletin is now online only and that, further to completion of the new BSCR website, a new integrated format is being developed. She reported that all of the Bulletin budget for the current financial year has been allocated and that she is happy that a number of articles have been received from a range of institutions. Further to the appointment of the current Bulletin editor as BSCR Treasurer from January 2020, Christina Warboys will take over the Bulletin at this time. Members were reminded that all contributions to the Bulletin in the form of review articles (which will now be considered for publication by CDT), opinion pieces/letters, laboratory profiles and travel reports (for which up to £300 travel awards are available) are welcomed. Potential contributors should contact Sarah Withers, [s.b.withers@salford.ac.uk](mailto:s.b.withers@salford.ac.uk).

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

The Secretary reported on behalf of the webmaster that the new website is now finalised. Migration from /wp has been completed so the address has reverted to [www.bscr.org](http://www.bscr.org). All subdomains have been updated, whilst the website privacy and cookie policy management is GDPR compliant. The 'Future Meetings' page has also been restructured in order to make BSCR events more visible and member contributions are now published in the eBulletin. The committee has agreed purchase of a SSL certificate in order to ensure adequate website data encryption and protection for the lifetime of the website. The webmaster also made several recommendations to improve effectiveness of the website: (1) meeting organisers to work closely with the eBulletin and website to ensure development of appropriate and deliverable sponsorship packages, (2) BSCR meeting webpages to be managed by event organisers in order to minimise delivery times and miscommunications, (3) it may take up to 15 days for new information to be added to the website although the webmaster will do his best to deal with any requests in a more timely manner. Members were encouraged to provide constructive feedback on the new website to Daniel Moreno-Martinez, [d.moreno-martinez@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:d.moreno-martinez@mmu.ac.uk).

#### **9. Any Other Business**

None.

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

The next AGM will be held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at the University of Cambridge.