

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 10th September 2019 • University of Cambridge

1. Quorum

There were 50 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

Current financial situation

The Treasurer indicated that whilst the financial situation of the Society had stabilised over recent years it is proving to be increasingly challenging to avoid an annual deficit. This is largely due to a progressive drop in paying ordinary members and increased expenditure associated with meetings. Provisionally, total funds currently stand at ~£205K including the Marshall Prize legacy with a general balance of ~£68K at the end of financial year 2018/19. The committee continue to discuss approaches to ensure the future financial stability of the Society. The 2018/19 accounts were ratified by attending BSCR members.

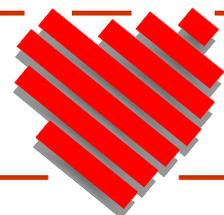
Membership

Whilst the total number of BSCR members has remained relatively constant over recent years (currently ~400), the proportion of those who are non-paying students has progressively increased and is now ~60%. Consequently, membership income has steadily declined. Attending members were reminded to encourage their students to convert to ordinary membership at the end of their studies. The Treasurer advised that the committee has recommended an increase in membership fees from January 2020 including introduction of a small fee for students, as follows: ordinary membership - £30 recurring payment (£40 one-off payment); student membership - £10; joint BSCR/ISHR ordinary membership - £70 recurring payment (£80 one-off payment); joint BSCR/ISHR student membership - £30. The proposed membership fee increases 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 2018: 'Cardiac non-myocytes; emerging therapeutic targets' 19 December 2018, Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London, Organisers: Daniel Stuckey, Patrizia Camelliti; (2) Joint BSCR/British Atherosclerosis Society



(BAS)/British Cardiovascular Society (BCS) Spring Meeting 2019: 'New frontiers in cardiovascular science' 3-4 June 2019, Manchester Central, Organisers: Melanie Madhani, David Grieve; (3) BSCR Autumn Meeting 2019 (incorporating Early Career Symposium): 'Heart failure - new therapeutic strategies' 9-10 September 2019, University of Cambridge, Organisers: Sanjay Sinha, Thomas Krieg, Ana-Mishel Spiroski, Tian Ziao.

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. In this regard, the Chair advised that a committee sub-group had been established to investigate new sources and to maximise existing sources of sponsorship.

Profile of the BSCR

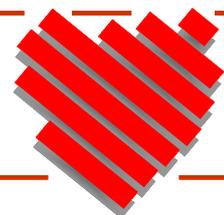
The Chair highlighted established links with the BCS and BAS and a continued relationship with the British Pharmacological Society (BPS), which currently comprises a BSCR-organised symposia at the BPS Winter meeting (reviewed in competition with other proposals) and a BPS named lecture at the BSCR Autumn 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 highlighted the names of the 2019 Distinguished Investigator (Prof Joseph Wu, Stanford University) and Early Career Investigator Prize winner (Dr Michael Preedy, Queen Mary University of London) and runners-up (Dr Andrew Lewis, University of Oxford; Dr Francesco Mazarotto, Imperial College London; Dr Kerstin Timm, University of Oxford) 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 abstracts from the Autumn 2018 meeting were published in Cardiovascular Drugs and Therapy (CDT) with no charge to the BSCR. They were published in the second issue of 2019 together with invited review articles from the 5 shortlisted Marshall Early Career Investigator finalists. It is hoped that this arrangement will continue for at least the Autumn 2019 meeting. The Chair also reminded attending members that CDT has a dedicated '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 e-Bulletin. Attending committee members were encouraged to consider submitting articles for consideration by CDT (e.g. PhD student literature reviews) as this will help to strengthen the relationship between with the BSCR and hopefully support continued free-of-charge publication of Autumn meeting abstracts.



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: 14th January 2019 (Birmingham), 3rd June 2019 (Manchester) and 9th September 2019 (Cambridge).

Committee elections

The Secretary advised that 4 committee members (May Azzawi, David Grieve, Thomas Krieg, Melanie Madhani) will reach the end of their 3 year terms in December 2019. Four 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: 95

Number of votes received:

Dr May Azzawi	57
Dr Mairi Brittan	48
Dr Davor Pavlovic	42
Dr Neena Kalia	28

It was therefore recommended that May Azzawi and Mairi Brittan are elected to the BSCR committee from 1st January 2020 for a 3-year term. This was ratified by attending members.

Committee composition

The committee composition and office bearers from 1st January 2020 will be as follows:

Chair

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

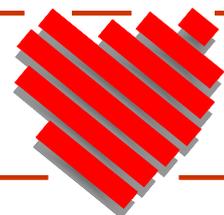
Secretary

Carolyn Carr (Secretary) University of Oxford Term end: December 2022

Treasurer

Sarah Withers University of Salford Term end: December 2022

General committee



Helen Arthur	University of Newcastle	Term end: December 2020
May Azzawi	Manchester Metropolitan	Term end: December 2022
Rob Bell	University College London	Term end: December 2022
Andrew Bond	University of Bristol	Term end: December 2019
Mairi Brittan	University of Edinburgh	Term end: December 2022
David Greensmith	University of Salford	Term end: December 2021
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

The Secretary noted that the committee membership has been gradually reduced in size towards a total of 12 including officers which highlighted the need for clinically-qualified members. In this regard, it was agreed to co-opt Dr Rob Bell on to the committee.

The Secretary thanked the three outgoing committee members for their valued contributions to the Society.

New BSCR Officers

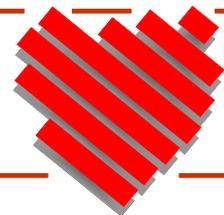
The Secretary congratulated Carolyn Carr and Sarah Withers on their appointments as BSCR Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. They will take up these roles from 1st January 2020 for 3-year terms. The Secretary also highlighted that the current BSCR Chair, Karen Porter will reach the end of her 3-year term in December 2020. BSCR tradition dictates that the next BSCR Chair will be a clinician and Dr Sanjay Sinha has put himself forward for this role and his nomination has been accepted by the committee. It was therefore recommended that Sanjay Sinha will take up the role of BSCR Chair from 1st January 2021 for a 3-year term and his appointment was ratified by attending members.

Forthcoming BSCR meetings

- BSCR symposium at Pharmacology 2019: 'Detecting endothelial cell dysfunction towards identification of novel therapeutic targets' 15 December 2019, Edinburgh International Exchange Conference Centre, Organisers: May Azzawi, Steve White.
- Joint BSCR/BAS/BCS Spring Meeting 2020: 'New frontiers in cardiovascular science' 1-2 June 2020, Manchester Central, Organisers: Helen Arthur, Sarah Withers.
- BSCR Autumn Meeting 2020: 'Tissue engineering and regenerative medicine in cardiovascular disease' (incorporating Early Career Symposium) 7-8 September 2020, University of Bristol, Organisers: Andrew Bond, Anita Thomas, Raimondo Ascione, Paolo Madeddu.

7. Bulletin Editors' Report (presented by the Secretary on behalf of Christina Warboys)

The Bulletin editor reminded attending members of the new e-Bulletin format which is being gradually integrated with the BSCR website. 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 Christina Warboys, cwarboys@rvc.ac.uk. The Bulletin Editor advised that two thirds of the Bulletin budget for the current financial year has been allocated and that the majority of applications have been to support travel to international



conferences. As such, applications to attend UK and European meetings were specifically encouraged. The Bulletin Editor also advised a change to the travel bursary application process, whereby applicants must have been a member of the BSCR for at least 1-year prior to application.

8. Webmaster's Report (presented by the Secretary on behalf of Christina Warboys)

The BSCR website has been updated and the homepage now includes links to funding and careers opportunities, the Marshall awards and meetings/sponsorship. The 'Get in Touch' button is now functional and provides direct contact to the BSCR officers, webmaster, social media officer and sponsorship officer. Member contributions are published in the eBulletin and links to the latest articles are published at the bottom of the home page. The website runs in parallel with the BSCR Twitter account, @BSCRResearch, which now has 540 followers. Attending members were encouraged to provide relevant content and to retweet in order to maximise exposure of the Society. The webmaster specifically highlighted the possibility for members the use the BSCR website/Twitter to promote job advertisements, studentship opportunities, cardiovascular meetings, awarded grants, published papers etc. Members should send relevant content to Christina Warboys, cwarboys@rvc.ac.uk, who will continue to manage the BSCR Twitter account whilst on maternity leave in 2020. Helen Arthur and Dave Greensmith will assist with e-Bulletin and webmaster management during this period.

9. Any Other Business

None.

10. Date of the Next Annual General Meeting

The next AGM will be held on Tuesday 8th September 2019 at the University of Bristol.