

British Society for Matrix Biology

Annual General Meeting 2008 Minutes

York University

Monday, 7th April 2008

The meeting was convened at 5.55pm by the Chairman, Prof. Bruce Caterson. 26 members were in attendance including officers of the Society.

Agenda

1. It was reported that the minutes of the 2007 BSMB AGM held at Sheffield Hallam University, 2nd April 2007 have been published on the BSMB website. These were accepted by general acclamation as an accurate and true record of the meeting.

2. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

3. **Secretary's Report**

Prof. John Couchman, BSMB Honorary Secretary reported that there had been a slight drop in membership from 429 in 2007 to 370 in 2008, which can be attributed partly to those people who were just letting their unused memberships continue, but now there has been an increase they have decided to let it lapse. Some members have advised us that they have left the field or retired and there were a few who objected to the increase in subscriptions. John reported that we still have around one hundred members at the current time who have paid the old subscription fee of £10 or £2 but have yet to pay the remaining fee. These members have been given email requests but if they fail to pay their memberships will lapse. This action will therefore reduce our possibly slightly inflated membership total to reflect the **active** members of the society. We currently have 8 honorary members and of the 370 members 82 were student members.

Various members reacted to this drop in membership and asked why we don't change our payment system from Standing Order to Direct Debit as we could effectively change our subscriptions easier that way. The BSMB Treasurer reported that in order to collect subscriptions by Direct Debits the society would incur costs and as this had been the first/last increase for many years it was felt an unnecessary expense.

BSMB Communications:

Two newsletters were published on the website over the past year. Connective Issues No. 70 appeared on the website in July 2007 and Issue 71 in January 2008. All Connective Issues are published on the new website including back issues.

A new completely revamped BSMB website is now up and running. We are grateful to Dr. Graham Riley, Dr. Bob Lauder and Mr. Mike Booker (an external web company) for the new design and for implementing the smooth transition to our new website. The website has been given a new, modern,

and much more streamlined look which is easier to navigate. It also now includes on-line registration for all meetings including on-line payment and abstract submissions.

BSMB Meetings:

Two meetings were held in 2007.

The Spring meeting which was held in Sheffield Hallam University was a joint meeting with the Biochemical Society on 2-3rd April 2007. This meeting was organised by Dr Dave Buttle with assistance from the Biochemical Society secretariat. The abstracts and meeting report have been published in IJEP Dec 2007 issue. A total of seven bursaries were awarded. Presentation bursaries were awarded to: Olajumoke Adeniji, Helen Fielder, Darren Plumb and Siyuan Li. Reporter bursaries were awarded to: Gavin Jones, Martin Reid and Chidi Molokwu.

The Autumn meeting was held on 3-4th September 2007 at the University of Keele. This meeting was organised by Dr Nikki Kuiper, Dr John Wardale and Professor Alicia El Haj. The abstracts and meeting report are in press and will be published in IJEP June 2008. A total of seven bursaries were awarded. Presentation bursaries were awarded to: Rebecca Harrison, Matthew Farren, Amy Wilson and Blandine Poulet. Reporter bursaries were awarded to: Natalie Gabriel, Sara Griffiths and Simon Tew.

Both meetings were a great success and the organisers are to be congratulated for arranging superb events.

Future BSMB Meetings:

The Autumn 2008 meeting will be held at Cardiff University on 8-9th September 2008. This meeting is being organised by Professor Bruce Caterson, Dr Emma Blain, Dr Clare Hughes & Prof Vic Duance. This will be a special meeting to honour the academic achievements of Professor Tim Hardingham, and entitled "Cartilage metabolism and cell based therapies for tissue regeneration". There will be a satellite meeting held the day before, 7th September 2008 under the auspices of "Back-to-back". It is entitled "Cell therapies for the intervertebral disc".

For the first time, it has been decided to hold only one meeting next year instead of the usual two. This will be a joint meeting with the Bone Research Society at University College London on 15-16th June 2009. This is being organised by Dr Andy Pitsillides. Sessions to include: Vascular roles in cartilage/bone development, Cancer and bone, Extraskelatal Matrix Development, Hypoxia, Skeletal Development/Dysplasias, and Calcification

FECTS 2008

This year the FECTS meeting is being held on 9th - 13th July in Marseille, France.

Bursaries:

Dr. Ray Boot-Handford suggested that we offer more bursaries and John Couchman reported that it is sometimes difficult to actually award the ones on offer. We offered 12 bursaries for the FECTS 2008 meeting in Marseilles, France on 9-13th July 2008. We actually awarded 7 bursaries and then re-advertised them. This netted only two more bursary applicants by the revised closure date.

4. Treasurers Report (Graham Riley)

Graham Riley reported that the auditors were happy with our financial returns for 2007.

The BSMB fund started the year with a balance of £57,651. The fund balance closed at the end of December 2007 at £52,455. .

Overall we spent around £5000 this year. Of that figure around £2900 was for deposits/advance payments for the meetings in York and Cardiff in 2008. We awarded £1000 to our Young Investigator of the year and awarded bursaries (6 conference reporter, 8 conference presenter) totalling £1620. Our annual membership fee of the Biosciences Federation accounted for £280.

The Society now pays £3000 per annum for a part-time Administrator (Jane Lohmann) who is Secretary to Professor Anthony Hollander and is based at the University of Bristol (this is based currently on five hours per week and is to be reviewed later this year). Jane currently handles new membership enquiries, subscription queries, maintains the membership website, organises committee meetings and assists the organisers with our meetings. She will also be assisting with the BSMB website.

5. **Committee Membership (John Couchman)**

Current BSMB Committee is composed as follows:

Officers:

Chairman: Professor Bruce Caterson

Honorary Treasurer: Dr. Graham Riley

Honorary Secretary: Professor John Couchman

Elected Members:

Dr. Ann Canfield, Dr. David Young, Dr. Jelena Gavrilovic, Dr. Andy Pitsillides,

Dr. Nikki Kuiper, Dr. John Wardale, Dr David Buttle

Co-opted Members: Prof. Anthony Hollander

Ex-officio Members: Dr. Bob Lauder, Dr. Philippa Parsons, Dr. Emma Blain

Postdoctoral representative: Dr. Darren Plumb

Student representative: Ms Yashithra Mahalingam

The following elected members have now completed their full term of three years on the committee: Dr. Dave Buttle and Dr. John Wardale. The Society thanks them for their valuable contributions to the BSMB Committee.

The Committee received two nominations for election onto the committee:

- ❖ Dr. Mandy Plumb (University of Aberdeen)
- ❖ Dr. Wael Kafienah (University of Bristol)
- ❖ No election was required - the two candidates are therefore elected to the Committee for three years.

Student representative Ms Yashithra Mahalingham (Imperial College London) has now completed her one year internship on the Committee and she is replaced by Mr Chris Watson (University of Manchester).

The Society thanks Yashithra for her valuable contributions to the BSMB Committee.

Also leaving the committee this year will be Dr Philippa Parsons who kindly stayed on for an extra year as an "Ex-officio member" to organise the York Spring 2008 meeting. We have another "Ex-officio member" Dr Emma Blain who is involved in the organisation of the Cardiff Autumn 2008 meeting.

6. **Any other business (Bruce Caterson)**

In reference to the healthy balance reported by the treasurer in his report, Dr. Donald Salter asked why we couldn't spend our interest instead of increasing the subscriptions. The treasurer responded that costs will continue to rise and the interest on our funds absorbs those increases. We also give back to our younger members with reduced registration charges at our meetings and conference dinners.

Prof. Tim Hardingham suggested that we should plan to give back around £1500 - £2000 at the meetings.

Dr. Jay Dudhia suggested that fluctuations in finances are normal. Prof. Anthony Hollander suggested that more money could be spent on invited speakers, which would result in more interest and more people would attend, thus more profit would be made.

Meeting closed at: 6.40pm