

# **BRITISH SOCIETY FOR MATRIX BIOLOGY**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2011**

### **Minutes**

**Wills Memorial Building, University of Bristol  
Monday 11th April 2011**

Present: Ray Boot-Handford, John Couchman, Andy Pitsillides, David Young, Mandy Plumb, Wael Kafienah, Anthony Hollander, Simon Tew, David Buttle, Jelena Gavrilovic, Chris Murphy, Josephine Adams, Bruce Caterson, Sophie Gilbert, Emma Blain, Jay Dudhia, Tim Hardingham, Nick Avery, Eleanor Jones, Aileen Crawford.

#### **1. Minutes of the last AGM**

The meeting was convened at 2.43pm by the Chairman, Ray Boot-Handford. 20 members were in attendance including officers of the Society. It was reported that the minutes of the 2010 BSMB AGM which was held at the University of Manchester on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2010 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 (Ray Boot-Handford)**

No matters arising.

#### **3. Secretary's report (John Couchman)**

John Couchman announced that he has now finished his tenure as Secretary. Andy Pitsillides was introduced as the new Secretary of the Society. The committee nominated Andy and as there were no other nominations he was appointed for a tenure of three years.

Ray Boot-Handford is now in his second year as Chairman of the Society and David Young has now completed one year as Treasurer. Wael Kafienah comes off the committee after completing his three year tenure and Jo Adams was nominated and appointed as a new member of the committee as again there were no other candidates nominated. The Society thanked Wael for his hard work and welcomed Jo Adams.

It was reported that the Society currently has 197 paid up Full members, 81 paid up Student members and 10 Honorary/Retired members. There were two BSMB newsletters circulated by email during the past year. Connective Issues No. 76 - July 2010 and Connective Issues No. 77 – January 2011.

The Society successfully held a Spring Meeting at the University of Manchester on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> March 2010 entitled "Vascular Matrix in Health and Disease" which was organised by Dr Ann Canfield and Anna Fildes. Abstracts and a meeting report was

published in the December 2010 issue of the International Journal of Experimental Pathology (Vol 91, No. 6).

Ten conference bursaries were awarded at this meeting, three reporter bursaries: Gareth Hyde, Andrew Marsden, Megan Murray, and seven presenter bursaries: Kate Williamson, Andrew Hamilton, Jennifer Veevers, Amit Patel, Jennifer Barra, Elena Okina, Blandine Poulet.

The Society also held another interesting Autumn Meeting at the University of East Anglia in Norwich entitled "Inflammation Meets Matrix Biology" which was organised by Dr Jelena Gavrilovic. Abstracts and a meeting report are currently in press and expected to be published in the April 2011 issue of the International Journal of Experimental Pathology (Vol 92).

Twelve conference bursaries awarded: five reporter bursaries: Matthew Gardner, Stephanie Dakin, Douglas Dyer, Maan Al-Abbasi Nuor Jamil and seven presenter bursaries: Lisa Piccinini, Tina Manon-Jensen, Louise Kung, Chloe Yeung, Steven Woods, Lise Berg, Thomas Cox.

A successful satellite meeting was also held at University of East Anglia on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2010 entitled: "Tendon Biology and Pathology" which was organised by Dr Graham Riley. The meeting report is available on the BSMB website.

Other BSMB bursaries awarded during 2010:

Auriane Destremet (Newcastle University) and Jennifer Veevers (University of Manchester) – FECTS, Davos  
Janine Morris (UEA) – Int. Symposium on Dupuytren's Disease, Miami  
Andrew Hamilton and Kate Williamson (University of Manchester) – 4th International Meeting on Angiogenesis, Amsterdam  
Chavaunne Thorpe (Queen Mary Univ. London) and Tanja Torbica (University of Manchester) – ORS, New Orleans  
Noor Jamil (University of Edinburgh) – Get Connected, Manchester  
Rosemary Davidson (UEA) - OARSI 2010, Brussels

### **Upcoming Meetings**

The Autumn 2011 meeting will be held at Newcastle University on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> September 2011 entitled: "Matrix Signals" and is being organised by Dr David Young and Dr Drew Rowan. We look forward to another interesting meeting.

Future meetings planned:

The BSMB Spring Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> April 2012 will be a joint meeting with The German Society for Matrix Biology  
Organised by Drs. Philippa Hulley and Mandy Plumb  
(and Prof. Liliana Schaefer)  
and will be held at St. Catherine's College, University of Oxford

The XXIII FECTS meeting will be held in the Autumn – on 25-29th August 25-29 in Katowice, Poland see [www.facts.eu](http://www.facts.eu) for details

Ray Boot-Handford (on behalf of the Society) thanked John for all his hard work for the Society.

#### **4. Treasurers Report**

David Young reported that income from subscriptions was around £8002 for 2010. Income from IJEP for Fell-Muir and for the poster prizes was £1450. The interest from the Charity Bond had dropped to a poor £490 for the year. The BSMB Administrator fees paid to the University of Bristol for Jane were £4000 and Committee travel expenses amounted to £2261. Accountant's fees - £586 Online/bank Charges - £752 Bursaries, Awards & grants paid out were - £7158.

Overall the Society is showing a reduction in the total funds from the previous year.

Several of the members of the Society raised the issue that the idea of the Society is not to make a profit and that this loss was in line with the feelings expressed over the years at these AGMs by its members. Even with the current recession this was generally not considered a worry at present, although others voiced a concern that diminished bond income would strain the Society's balance for the forthcoming years and, for this reason, savings may be needed from elsewhere

The consensus was that the Society's aim of "give to get" was always successful and they have given lots to the younger generation of the Society during this past year.

David reported that the introduction of online payments and the website improvements including online registration has made a vast improvement to the smooth running of the Society over the past year.

The Society thanked Graham Riley for all his hard work as Treasurer in the past and for his continued involvement with the website.

#### **5. AOB**

Honorary members. It was unanimously agreed that Tim Hardingham (a Retired member of the Society) be awarded Honorary Life Membership in recognition of his long and distinguished contribution to the Society. He was congratulated by the members on his new status.

The meeting closed at 15:03.