

British Society for Matrix Biology

Annual General Meeting

Sheffield Hallam University

April 02, 2007

34 members of the BSMB were in attendance. The meeting was chaired by Professor Bruce Caterson.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the previous AGM held at Cambridge University, 10th April, 2006. The minutes had been published on the BSMB website and were adopted as a true record of the meeting. Approval was unanimous.

2. Matters arising. There were no matters arising.

3. Secretary's report.

Membership. The Secretary reported that full membership stood at 429, a small decrease from 458 in 2006. Student membership had held steady at 91. Seven members had received honorary membership.

BSMB communications. Two newsletters had appeared over the past 12 months. Connective Issues number 68 appeared on the website in July 2006, and number 69 in January 2007. The BSMB website is managed by Dr. Bob Lauder to whom the Society is indebted. It is available at [http:// www.bsmb.ac.uk](http://www.bsmb.ac.uk)

The on-line membership database is active and working well. The Society thanks Dr. Graham Riley for his help in setting this up.

BSMB Meetings. Two meetings were held in 2006. The Spring meeting entitled "Proteases: the Cutting Edge of Cell Biology" was held at Cambridge University on April 10 and 11, 2006 and organised by Dr. Graham Riley and Professor Gill Murphy. Conference presentation bursaries were awarded to Julie Huxley-Jones and Natalie Robinson. Conference reporter bursaries were awarded to Natalie Thompson, Mathew Jefferson and Martin Reid. The abstracts will be published in the April 2007 issue of International Journal of Experimental Pathology.

The Autumn meeting was held on September 5 and 6 at Newcastle University. The theme was "The multidimensional Matrix" and the meeting was organised by Dr. Drew Rowan. A conference presentation bursary was awarded to Olajumoke Adeniji and conference reporter bursaries awarded to Emma Blain, Mathew Barter and Mathew Farren.

Both meetings were a great success, both in terms of the attendance and quality of science. The organisers are to be congratulated for arranging superb events.

Also in July 2006, the XXth FECTS meeting, in conjunction with the ISMB was held in Oulu, Finland. For this meeting the BSMB awarded ten bursaries, and the recipients were Gavin Jones, Helen Rajpar, Mathew Rock, Lorna Fiedler, Magali Le Goff, Rebecca Harrison, Siyuan Li, Gareth Hyde, Lindsay Davies and Natasha Baker.

Future Meetings. The Autumn 2007 BSMB meeting will be entitled “Shaping and Sensing the Extracellular Matrix”, to be held at Keele University. The meeting organisers are Dr. Nikki Kuiper, [Dr John Wardale](#) and Professor Alicia El Haj. In Spring 2008, the BSMB meeting will be held at The University of York and is entitled “Where, why and how did my cartilage go? Insights into osteoarthritis.” [The meeting organiser is Dr Philippa Parsons](#). Both meetings promise excellent science and arrangements are, in each case, at an advanced stage.

4. Treasurer’s Report.

Dr. Graham Riley, Treasurer, reported that the Society’s finances are in good shape, with an increase in net assets to £57,651 at December 31, 2006. Net income from the BSMB’s two meetings was £6,967. The Society continues an active bursary programme, with three presenter bursaries and six reporter bursaries (£125 each), 1 student committee member bursary (£125) and ten bursaries to attend FECTS (£500 each). Other significant expenditures were website costs (on-line registration; £1500), on-line banking with NatWest Streamline (£100), Biosciences Federation membership (£280 per annum) and the prize for the new BSMB logo design (Adam Byron; £100).

The finances have been independently examined by Lachman Livingstone, who reported no concerns. A full report of the Society’s finances is available on the website.

5. Committee Membership

Currently the BSMB Committee has three officers, Professor Bruce Caterson (Chairman), Dr. Graham Riley (Honorary Treasurer) and Professor Anthony Hollander (Honorary Secretary). The Chairman’s term of office is due to terminate in 2009. The Committee were pleased to note that Dr. Graham Riley had agreed to a further term of office as Honorary Treasurer until 2010. Professor Anthony Hollander was standing down as Honorary Secretary to be replaced by Professor John Couchman (2007-2009). Thanks were extended to Professor Hollander for serving an extra year while Professor Couchman was moving to a new academic position.

Elected Committee members are Dr. David Buttle (2006-2008), Dr. Ray Boot-Handford (2005-2007), Dr. Philippa Parsons (2005-2007), Dr. Drew Rowan (2004-2007), Prof. John Couchman (2005 - 2007), Dr. John Wardale (2006-2008), Dr. Jelena Gavrilovic (2007- 2009), Dr. Nikki Kuiper (2007-2009) and Dr. Andy Pitsillides (2007 - 2009). Elizabeth Crawford is a student member of the committee, due to stand down this year.

Given forthcoming vacancies, it was proposed to elect two new Committee members (2008-2010). Three nominations were received, and in a vote of 160 members, Dr. Ann Canfield (University of Manchester) and Dr. David

Young (Newcastle University) were elected. The two candidates were congratulated. Regrettably, no candidates for the student Committee member had been forthcoming. It is hoped to find a suitable candidate in the near future.

6. Proposal to Increase Membership Fees

A discussion was led by the Chairman, Professor Bruce Caterson, to consider an increase in membership fees from £10 to £30 per annum for regular members, and from £2 to £10 per annum for student members. The membership fees had been unchanged for several years, and while the Society was not in a financially difficult position, increased expenditures are on the horizon. For example, part-time administrative support was now essential for the Society, for which there would be costs. Meetings are also more expensive to run, but it is still the Society's aim to support the younger members through bursaries. It is intended that this increase will further enlarge to scope of BSMB activities.

While the increases proposed may appear large, because of the administrative work involved in changing the membership fee structure, it is intended that this one significant increase will suffice for many years to come.

A lively discussion ensued, followed by a vote. The proposal to increase regular membership from £10 to £30 per annum, and student membership from £2 to £10 per annum was carried by an overwhelming majority (one vote against). The Treasurer was asked to administer the approved changes.

7. Any Other Business.

The category of Honorary Membership was discussed. Since this is a new category (2007), it is important to consider the criteria that should be met before an offer of honorary membership is extended. The Committee was in agreement that the over-riding criteria were international standing in the field of matrix biology and service to the BSMB. This category of membership was to be offered quite rarely, and to those with a long and distinguished record. Most recently, the Committee had agreed to offer honorary membership to Dr. Robin Poole.

The Meeting was closed by The Chair, Professor Bruce Caterson.