

BRITISH SOCIETY FOR MATRIX BIOLOGY

Minutes of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 16th June 2009

University College London

Present: Ray Boot-Handford, Bob Lauder, Jay Dudhia, Emma Blain, John Tarlton, Graham Riley, John Couchman, Chris Watson, Jelena Gavrilovic, Doreen Ashhurst, Anthony Hollander, Wael Kafienah, Mandy Plumb, Vic Duance, Tim Hardingham, David Young, Bruce Caterson, Hideaki Nagase, Yoshi Itoh, Francesco Dell'Accio, Maan Alabbasi, Tonia Vincent, Donald Salter, Ann Canfield, Chris Murphy, Tony Day, Dave Buttle, Aileen Crawford, Line Nymann Thomsen, Ying Cui, Olga Boubriak

1. The minutes of the last AGM

The meeting was convened at 1.45pm by the Chairman, Bruce Caterson. Thirty-one members were in attendance including officers of the Society. It was reported that the minutes of the 2008 BSMB AGM held at York University on Monday, 7th April 2008 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 (Bruce Caterson)

No matters arising.

3. Secretary's report (John Couchman)

John Couchman reported that the BSMB continue to be in a sound financial position, in spite of the drop in membership. This was due mainly to our increase in subscription rate, which counteracted the loss of inactive members. There is a marked decrease in student membership. Tonia Vincent suggested the possible addition of an online membership application facility to enable delegates to join and pay at meetings. This was trialled at a previous meeting but it resulted in many members only joining for the one year in order to obtain discounted meeting registration. The facility to join at BSMB meetings is already in place. Membership applications are put in the pack with advertising documentation and subscription payments can and are taken at the registration desk at meetings. John Couchman encouraged members to ensure their students become members also, especially noting the benefits they are eligible for after one year of membership.

There were two BSMB newsletters circulated by email during the past year. Connective Issue No. 72 in July 2008 and Connective Issue No. 73 in January 2009. These are available for download from the BSMB website.

The BSMB now has a very efficient and effective website and we can thank Graham Riley and Mike Booker for their hard work in expediting this. This can be found at www.bsmb.ac.uk

York Spring Meeting 7th & 8th April 2008

Gratitude to Dr Philippa Parsons and Dr. Liz Hutson for organising this very successful meeting was expressed.

Meeting title: "When, why and how did my Cartilage go: insights into osteoarthritis"

The abstracts and meeting report were published in the February 2009 issue of Int. J. Exp. Path. (IJEP).

7 Bursaries were awarded as follows

Conference presentation bursaries: Kistey Culley, Eleanor Jones, Andrew Marson and Natasha Baker

Conference reporter bursaries: Kate Silverthorne, Rachael Oldershaw and Lorna Fiedler

Cardiff Autumn Meeting, 8th & 9th September 2008

Grateful thanks were expressed to Prof. Bruce Caterson, Dr. Emma Watson, Dr. Clare Hughes & Prof. Vic Duance for organising this well attended and highly successful meeting.

Meeting title: "Cartilage Metabolism and Cell-based Therapies for Tissue Regeneration"

This was a special meeting to honour the academic achievements of Professor Tim Hardingham (University of Manchester). The abstracts and meeting report were published in the April 2009 issue of Int. J. Exp. Path (IJEP).

9 Bursaries were awarded as follows:

Conference presenter bursaries: Liz Canty-Laird, Gareth Hyde, Chauvanne Thorpe, Etienne O'Brien, Huidong Jia and Brendon Thomas.

Conference reporter bursaries: Nesta Hughes, Leyla Didem Kozaci and Catherine Sutton.

As part of the Cardiff meeting, there was a ***Satellite meeting held on Sunday 7th September 2008*** entitled: "Cell Therapies for the Intervertebral Disc"

The meeting was organised by Profs. Sally Roberts and Jill Urban, under the auspices of "Back-to-back"

4. Proposed change to the Constitution

The following alteration to the BSMB constitution was discussed.

"Proposed by the Honorary Secretary, Professor John Couchman and Seconded by the Honorary Treasurer, Dr. Graham Riley. "

Currently the method for election of Society Officers and other members of the Executive Committee is as follows:

Article 6 of the BSMB Constitution.

The Officers of the Society and the other members of the Executive Committee shall be elected by ballot at an Annual General Meeting for a period of three years. Nominations may be made by the Committee or by any two ordinary members and shall be sent together with the written consent of the nominee to the Secretary, so as to reach him at least two months before the Annual General Meeting. Such nominations shall be circulated with the notice of the meeting. Members unable to attend the meeting shall be entitled to vote by post. If other nominations are not received for the filling of vacancies, the Committee's nominees shall be deemed elected.

Proposed Change to the BSMB Constitution:

*The Officers of the Society and the other members of the Executive Committee shall be elected by ballot for a period of three years. Nominations may be made by the Committee or by any two ordinary members and shall be sent together with the written consent of the nominee to the Secretary, so as to reach him/her at least two months before the Annual General Meeting **at which the position is to be filled. Self nominations are allowable for Committee, but not Officer, positions. Such nominations shall be circulated to the membership where an election is required (if the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacant places). Ballots may be held at the AGM, or by post or electronic media..** If other nominations are not received for the filling of vacancies, the Committee's nominees shall be deemed elected.*

The proposal was to allow electronic balloting for elections to the committee when required. No objections were received to this portion of the amendment. However, Doreen Ashhurst raised a Charity Commission issue resulting from the "self nomination" amendment. It was agreed that this might cause a problem. It was agreed that the "self-nomination" part of the change would be deleted, but remainder was adopted.

5. Future planned BSMB meetings

Spring Meeting 29th - 30th March 2010

University of Manchester.

Meeting title: "Vascular matrix in health & disease"

Meeting organiser: Dr. Ann Canfield

Sessions to include:

Angiogenesis and Development

Vascular Pathology

Growth factors

Stem Cells, vascular engineering

BSMB Session

Autumn Meeting 6th -7th September 2010

University of East Anglia

Meeting title: "Inflammation meets Matrix Biology"

Organised by: Dr. Jelena Gavrilovic

Speakers to include:

Liliana Schaefer (Frankfurt)

Andrew Newby (Bristol)

Luke O'Neill (Dublin)

John Couchman (Copenhagen)

Treasurer's report (Graham Riley)

Graham Riley reported that the BSMB has an increase in income during 2008 i.e. £8,065 compared with £3,767 in 2007. This figure reflects the higher subscription. Our current membership stands at 290 members (216 full, 66 student and 8 honorary).

IJEP (International Journal of Experimental Pathology) donated £2090 (£900 in 2007), comprised of the Fell Muir Award and poster prizes.

Graham gave a full account of the BSMB finances, which can be found on the BSMB website. The accounts have been approved by Lachman Livingstone, Chartered Accountants, Northwood HA6 1BP.

Graham Riley requested that the BSMB members thank Professor Bruce Caterson, who is stepping down from the Chair position after many years of service to the BSMB.

6. Committee Membership (John Couchman)

The current BSMB Committee is composed as follows:

Officers:

Chairman: Professor Bruce Caterson

Honorary Treasurer: Dr. Graham Riley

Honorary Secretary: Professor John Couchman

Election of the new BSMB Chair

A call for nominations went out in Connective Issues #73

Only one nomination was received, no election was therefore necessary.

The new Chair for a three year term is Professor Ray Boot-Handford (University of Manchester)

Elected Members:

Dr. Ann Canfield, Dr. David Young, Dr. Jelena Gavrilovic, Dr. Mandy Plumb, Dr. Wael Kafienah, Dr. Andy Pitsillides, Dr. Nikki Kuiper,

Co-opted Members: Prof. Anthony Hollander, Dr. Tonia Vincent

Postdoctoral representative: Dr. Emma Blain

Student representative: Mr. Chris Watson

New Committee Members

Dr Andy Pitsillides and Dr Nikki Kuiper have now reached the end of their terms of office on the Committee. Both were thanked for their work on the

Committee and their organisation of successful BSMB meetings. In Connective Issues #73 a call was made for two new Committee members, and two nominations for election onto the Committee were received.

Dr. Tonia Vincent (Kennedy Institute for Rheumatology; Imperial College London)

Dr. Chris Murphy (Kennedy Institute for Rheumatology; Imperial College London)

No election was required - the two candidates are therefore elected to the Committee for three years.

Chris Watson (University of Manchester) has been our student representative but as he is moving on in his career, we now need a replacement on the committee. A call for a new representative will go out in the next BSMB newsletter. Chris was also thanked for his work on the Committee.

Graham Riley will end his two three-year terms of office in 2010 and a new treasurer will be required to replace him. A call will go out in the January 2010 newsletter for nominations.

Since Jelena Gavrilovic is organising the BSMB autumn meeting in 2010, her term of office is extended for one more year.

7. Installation of the new BSMB Chair

A vote of sincere thanks was given to Professor Bruce Caterson for his many years of service to the BSMB.

Professor Ray Boot-Handford was welcomed as the new Chairman of the British Society for Matrix Biology.

8. Any other business

A reminder was announced for Ann Canfield's meeting in Manchester in Spring 2010. The next AGM will revert back to its usual time of year at the Manchester spring meeting.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 2.30pm.