

BRITISH SOCIETY FOR MATRIX BIOLOGY

TREASURER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR MATRIX BIOLOGY

Legal and Administrative Information

The British Society for Matrix Biology is governed by its constitution adopted on 19th September 1980, and is a registered charity No 281399. Its registered address is the Rheumatology Research Unit, Box 194, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, CB2 2QQ. The charity's trustees during the year to 31st December 2007 were:

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|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Professor Bruce Caterson | (Chairman) |
| Professor John Couchman | (Honorary Secretary) |
| Dr. Graham Riley | (Honorary Treasurer) |
| Dr. David Buttle | (Elected Member) |
| Dr Ann Canfield | (Elected Member) |
| Dr Jelena Gavrilovic | (Elected Member) |
| Dr Nikki Kuiper | (Elected Member) |
| Dr Philippa Parsons | (Elected Member) |
| Dr Andrew Pitsillides | (Elected Member) |
| Dr. David Young | (Elected Member) |
| Dr. John Wardale | (Elected Member) |

The object of the charity is to advance the science of connective tissue and related subjects; to further public education therein; to promote study and research work on connective tissues and related areas and to publish the results of such study and research. The trustees' policy is to act as necessary on behalf of the Society; and report on such actions, as indicated, to the next meeting of the Society. The charity is dependent on an annual subscription from Ordinary Members engaged in or directing work of the nature indicated above, and on sponsorship money obtained as donations for holding Scientific Meetings and Symposia.

Review of Financial Activities by the Treasurer

The Society's net assets at the end of 2007 totalled £52,455, represented by our two NatWest Bank Charity Bonds, and by the NatWest Current and Deposit (Reserve) accounts. This is just over £5000 less than last year, and demonstrates that the committee have been (at last!) successful in their attempts to spend more money on the membership via bursaries, new awards (see below) and supporting new initiatives as well as the regular society activities. To paraphrase the words of Bruce Caterson, our Chairman, we spend the money to give back as much as possible to the membership, and this will continue to be our philosophy in the foreseeable future.

This year the spring meeting was held in Sheffield, at Sheffield Hallam University, organised by Dr David Buttle in collaboration with the Biochemical Society. The autumn meeting was held at the University of Keele, organised by Dr Nikki Kuiper, Dr John Wardale and Professor Alicia Al Haj. Both meetings showcased high quality science and were very enjoyable. They both made a small loss, in part because of the relatively low cost of registration and ongoing difficulties in obtaining sponsorship. This is an example of the benefit of having a relatively large capital sum in the bank, enabling us to provide a financial 'cushion' for the conference organisers. It should be noted that sponsorship totalling £750 for the Keele meeting will be received in 2008, which will substantially reduce the deficit.

We gave eight conference presenter bursaries and six conference reporter bursaries to members of the society to attend the spring and autumn meetings. This is a full complement of bursaries and I am pleased that we received more applicants this year and were able to give so many awards. As usual we also provided poster awards at our meetings worth £150 each, and a total of six awards were presented to young scientists in 2007, thanks to the continuing sponsorship of the International Journal of Experimental Pathology (IJEP).

In the past year the committee decided to reactivate the society's Young Investigator Award, last presented many years ago to Ian Clark, and after considering several strong candidates chose to present the award to Julie Huxley-Jones of the University of Manchester. Julie received a certificate and a cheque for £1000, and gave a presentation of her work at the Spring AGM in Sheffield. I would like to personally congratulate Julie on her award and wish her every success in her future career. This award will be given annually to outstanding young scientists, and we hope to receive many more candidates for consideration in the coming years.

The committee also awarded the first Fell Muir award to Professor Mike Grant of the University of Manchester, in recognition of his long and outstanding career in the field of matrix biology. This award was sponsored by IJEP, and

Mike received a cheque for £1000 and a commemorative plaque after giving his excellent presentation at the spring AGM in Sheffield. The Fell Muir award is intended to be an annual award and the committee will welcome nominations for consideration in the coming years.

We continued to subscribe to the Biosciences Federation, an umbrella organisation that acts in the interests of professional societies such as our own – the subscription remained at £280 for the year. In addition, we paid £3000 for the part-time secretarial and administrative services of Jane Lohmann at the University of Bristol. Jane provides excellent value for money for the society and I am very grateful for her help and support with the membership database and for dealing with all of the membership applications and enquiries. The committee are very grateful for Jane's immense contribution to the society in 2007, and we are pleased that Jane will continue in this role for the foreseeable future.

This concludes my financial report for 2007.

Dr Graham Riley
(Honorary Treasurer)

Dated: