

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 2005 were:

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| Professor Bruce Caterson | (Chairman) |
| Professor Anthony Hollander | (Honorary Secretary) |
| Dr. Graham Riley | (Honorary Treasurer) |
| Dr Ray Boot-Handford | (Elected Member) |
| Professor John Couchman | (Elected Member) |
| Dr Robert Lauder | (Elected Member) |
| Dr. Drew Rowan | (Elected Member) |
| Dr. John Wardale | (Elected Member) |
| Dr. David Buttle | (Elected Member) |
| Dr Ann Vaughan-Thomas | (Elected Member) |
| Dr Phillipa Callender | (Post-doctoral Representative) |

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 assets at the end of 2005 totalled £55,848, represented by our two NatWest Bank Charity Bonds, and by Current and Deposit accounts. This is an increase of £1712 on the previous year.

This year the spring meeting was held in Liverpool, organised by Ann Vaughan-Thomas. The autumn meeting was held in Manchester to mark the retirement of Mike Grant, and was organised by Ray Boot-Handford. Both meetings were well attended and of an excellent standard, and the organisers did a splendid job in raising sponsorship from a variety of different sources. As a result, the net income from our meetings for 2005 was £2536.

A total of fourteen bursaries were given to younger members of the society to attend the spring and autumn meetings. This is a considerable improvement on previous years, and it remains one of the most important functions of the society, to support and encourage younger researchers. We continued to provide poster awards worth £150 each, and a total of six awards were presented to young scientists at the spring and autumn meetings, thanks to the continuing sponsorship of the International Journal of Experimental Pathology (IJEP).

During 2005 the society also provided money to help support a small symposium on the inter-vertebral disc. Since this meeting was relevant to the interests of members of the society, the committee decided to reimburse the travel costs of one of the keynote speakers. Financial support of small independent meetings will continue to be considered by the BSMB committee in future, as long as such requests are presented to the committee well in advance.

The committee held two meetings in 2005 at a 'neutral' venue in Birmingham, since this was readily accessible to most members of the committee. These were considered to be highly successful and productive meetings, and only marginally more expensive than previous meetings held at Bristol or London. It is envisaged that committee meetings will continue to be held at this or similar venues in the coming year.

2005 was the 25th anniversary of the society, and to mark the occasion we purchased glass tankards engraved with the BSMB logo. These were provided free of charge to all members attending the meeting in Manchester. In addition, two of our founder members, Allen Bailey and Doreen Ashurst, produced a short history of the society, which is available on the website. On behalf of the committee I would like to express our heartfelt thanks. We are all grateful for the hard work of all of those who have contributed so much to the society in its first 25 years. Our challenge will be to ensure that the society continues to grow and develop for the next 25 years.

This concludes my financial report for 2005.

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Graham Riley (Honorary Treasurer)

Dated: March 2006