

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 2006 were:

Professor Bruce Caterson	(Chairman)
Professor Anthony Hollander	(Honorary Secretary)
Dr. Graham Riley	(Honorary Treasurer)
Dr Ray Boot-Handford	(Elected Member)
Dr. David Buttle	(Elected Member)
Professor John Couchman	(Elected Member)
Dr Jelena Gavrilovich	(Elected Member)
Dr Nicki Goodstone	(Elected Member)
Dr Andrew Pitsillides	(Elected Member)
Dr. Drew Rowan	(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 2006 totalled £57,651, represented by our two NatWest Bank Charity Bonds, and by the Current and Deposit (Reserve) accounts. This is an increase of £1,803 on the previous year, despite the committee's very best attempts to spend more money on its members!

This year the spring meeting was held in Cambridge, organised by Graham Riley and Gill Murphy. A satellite symposium on ligament and tendon took place the day before the main meeting, organised by Graham Riley and Helen Birch. Although the BSMB committee had agreed to provide up to £1500 to support the satellite symposium, enough sponsorship was obtained to make this support unnecessary. Sixty delegates attended the satellite symposium and 158 delegates attended the main meeting, and at both meetings approximately half were members of the BSMB. We obtained substantial sponsorship for the Cambridge meetings, which produced a combined profit of £4,835 for the society. The Newcastle meeting, organised by Drew Rowan and David Young, was similarly successful, attended by 115 registrants (comprising 50 students and 40 non-members of the society). The meeting was organised 'back to back' with a symposium of the Oliver Bird Rheumatism Programme, which helped bring a large number of internationally-renowned speakers to the meeting. Drew and David should be congratulated for an excellent meeting and for producing a profit of £2,132 - our net income from meetings was £6,967, an excellent result!

In the past year we gave three conference presenter bursaries and six conference reporter bursaries to members of the society to attend the spring and autumn meetings. We had funds allocated for additional conference presenter bursaries at both meetings, but there were insufficient applicants. Please encourage your students and junior colleagues to make full use of their inexpensive membership subscription and apply for these bursaries – we do want to give away BSMB money for this important purpose!

The biennial FECTs meeting was held in Oulu, Finland in 2006 and we provided 10 travel bursaries of £500 each, which is a higher level of support than in most previous years. The committee are planning to maintain this level of support for future FECTs meetings. We also gave a special ‘student committee member bursary’ for Elizabeth Crawford to attend the Newcastle meeting. This is a new initiative, recently created by the committee to encourage students to join the committee for 1 year – during the year they will receive one bursary to help them attend a meeting (either spring or autumn). Students are strongly encouraged to become more involved in the running of the BSMB, and this is one way that they can get involved and receive a substantial benefit in return. We also provide poster awards at our meetings worth £150 each, and a total of six awards were presented to young scientists in 2006, thanks to the continuing sponsorship of the International Journal of Experimental Pathology (IJEP).

During 2006 the society modernised its website to enable us to take registration payments for meetings on-line. This involved a one-off cost to a website developer of £1,500. We also incurred a one-off cost from our bank of £100 (plus VAT) to join Streamline, NatWest’s online payment service. We also signed up for ProtX, which requires payment of £20 a month while the service is active during the three months prior to each meeting. The Newcastle meeting was the first to trial the new system, and although there were a few hiccups, I can assure the society that the system worked very well, and for most people was much more convenient than the old system.

The committee decided that the Society should join the Biosciences Federation, which requires payment of an annual subscription fee of £280, based on our membership level. The Biosciences Federation is an umbrella organisation for many different professional scientific bodies, which acts to represent and promote the interests of scientists to the public, media and government. Officers of the society receive regular newsletters and briefings on the activities of the Biosciences Foundation, and we feel that it is important that our society and its interests are represented and promoted by this organisation. If any member wishes to become more involved in the activities of the Biosciences Federation, perhaps representing the BSMB on various committees, please contact an officer of the BSMB.

The committee also took the decision to modernise the logo of the BSMB, and asked the membership to provide designs, which were assessed in open competition with a prize of £100 going to the winner. The successful logo was designed by Adam Byron (well done Adam!), which you should now have seen on the BSMB website or letterhead, and I am sure you will all agree that it is a substantial improvement on the old logo. Thanks to all who participated in the logo competition and I would also like to thank all the active membership, who contributed so much to the society in past year.

This concludes my financial report for 2006.

Dr Graham Riley
(Honorary Treasurer)

Dated: