

CONNECTIVE ISSUES

NUMBER 50

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The Newsletter of the British Connective Tissue Society

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 - 6th International Conference on the Chemistry and Biology of Mineralised Tissues, Nov. 1st - 6th, 1997

BRITISH CONNECTIVE TISSUE SOCIETY

Honorary Secretary
Dr Rose Maciewicz
Cardiovascular & Musculoskeletal Research Department
Zeneca Pharmaceuticals
Alderley Park, Macclesfield
Cheshire, SK10 4TG UK
Tel: +44(0)1625-513231 (office)
Tel: +44(0)1625-516667 (local fax)
email: rose.maciewicz@alderley.zeneca.com

Honorary Treasurer
Dr John Gallagher
Christie Hospital
Dept of Medical Oncology
Christie Hospital
Wilmslow Road, Withington
Manchester, M20 9BX

Registered Charity No. 281399

1. Introduction

Greetings Members! This is the last newsletter before the BCTS meeting in York, so please take note of the information below regarding **Registration, Bursary Application**, and our **new Poster Competition** sponsored by the International Journal of Experimental Pathology. More information about the latter in item 5.

Many thanks to Professor Ian Nieduzynski and Dr. Gavin Brown for organising the Spring 1997 BCTS meeting in Lancaster. A report of this meeting is enclosed.

The Internet home page of the Society is currently being up-dated and may no longer be accessible at <http://www.wellcome.man.ac.uk/BCTS>. Apologies to members who are trying to browse this site and cannot access it or the information is not up to date. We are in the midst of trying to rectify this, so please be patient.

If anyone has items for inclusion in the next newsletter or website, these should be e-mailed or posted to Dr. Rose Maciewicz at the address on the cover page. **Please contribute if you can.**

2. Current BCTS Committee

At the recent AGM in Lancaster Dr. Rose Maciewicz was appointed to the position of Honorary Secretary replacing the retiring Honorary Secretary, Dr. Karl Kalder, while Dr. Gary Rucklidge and Prof. Jo Edwards were elected to the Committee. In addition, the Committee have recruited a young 'ex officio' member to the Committee, Dr. Louise McKenna.

The current membership of the Committee is:

Officers:

Chairman	Prof. Tim Hardingham	(University of Manchester)
Honorary Treasurer	Prof. John Gallagher	(Patterson Institute, Manchester)
Honorary Secretary	Dr. Rose Maciewicz	(Zeneca Pharmaceuticals)

Elected Members:

Dr. Alvin Kwan	(University of Wales, Cardiff)
Prof. Bruce Caterson	(University of Wales, Cardiff)
Dr. Cay Kielty	(University of Manchester)
Dr. Malcolm Davies	(University of Wales, Cardiff)
Dr. Gary Rucklidge	(Rowett Research Institute, Aberdeen)
Prof. Jo Edwards	(University College Hospital Medical School, London)

ex officio Member:

Dr. Louise McKenna	(The Royal Veterinary College, London)
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As the Chariman (TH) and four committee members (AK, BC, CK, MD) are due to retire in Spring 1999, the Committee has decided that they would attempt to space out the recruitment of new members by shortening the length of service of two current members from 3 to 2 years. Bruce Caterson and Cay Kielty have agreed to be these two members. Therefore the next election of Committee members will be held at the 1998 Spring BCTS AGM, Cardiff. Therefore we are looking for nominations for these positions. If you know of anyone who would like to be considered please nominate them and if possible get a second person to support your nomination.

Nominations for Committee Members should be sent to:

BRITISH CONNECTIVE TISSUE SOCIETY
Dr Rose Maciewicz
Cardiovascular & Musculoskeletal Research Department
Zeneca Pharmaceuticals
Alderley Park, Macclesfield
Cheshire, SK10 4TG UK

These nominations should be received no later than October 1st, 1997. If required, a postal ballot will be held in November 1996.

3. BCTS Meeting in York, 1997

Included with this newsletter is the final programme and registration information for the BCTS meeting in York, September 18th and 19th, 1997. This meeting entitled 'Folding, Processing, and Assembly of Matrix Molecules' is an international meeting with many speakers coming in from overseas. The contact person for this meeting is C.M. Kielty, School of Biological Sciences, 2.205 Stopford Building, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PT. **Note that the registration deadline is August 1st, 1997.**

People attending this meeting are encouraged to submit abstracts for inclusion in the abstract booklet and, if wished, for publication in the International Journal of Experimental Pathology. Those abstracts for publication in IJEP should be marked in pencil on the reverse side 'for publication'. Both types of abstracts (2 copies of adequate quality to permit photocopying) should be included with a completed registration form and sent to C.M. Kielty (address above). Those of you interested in publication in IJEP please send plus a copy of your abstract on a 3.5" floppy disc. **Thanks!**

To standardise the format of the abstracts, the BCTS Committee is requesting that abstracts should be of a single side of A4, 12 or 14 point and structured with separate sections as follows:

Title

Authors

Address

Introduction

Materials & Methods

Results

Discussion

Acknowledgement

References (names and initials of all authors, year of publication, full title, journal name, volume and page numbers)

Contributors are requested to take care to proof-read their abstracts and to supply a complete list of references. The funding organisation should be clearly indicated. Please follow instruction carefully, **abstracts will not be considered for publication if all requested information is not provided.**

4. BCTS Bursaries for Attending York Meeting

Young members of the Society are encouraged to apply for bursaries (up to a maximum of £75) to assist with attending the York meeting. An application form is included with this newsletter. Bursaries will only be considered if they are submitted on a current BCTS Bursary application form. Applications should be sent to the Secretary and not to the meeting organiser. **The application should be accompanied by a copy of the abstract to be presented at the meeting and a one page curriculum vitae. The deadline for receipt of bursaries is August 1st 1997.** The applications will be reviewed rapidly by the Committee and applicants will be informed of the outcome on or around August 18th, 1997. Successful applications will be announced in a future newsletter.

Criteria for Bursaries

- I. Applicants should have been members of the Society for at least 1 full year.
- II. Applicants should be submitting an abstract and presenting a poster for the meeting to be attended.
- III. Applicants should be at an early stage of their career and unlikely to have access to travel funds. Most often where support for an overseas meeting is given this is the first such meeting they attend. For this reason emphasis is always given to young researchers who are generally in short term contract positions, i.e. mainly graduate students and occasionally early post-docs.
- IV. The work described in the abstract must be novel and likely to be of a quality that would reflect well as a BCTS supported contribution.

5. IJEP Poster Competition

New for the BCTS this year is the IJEP Best Poster Competition.

As the name implies the International Journal of Experimental Pathology (IJEP) have agreed to sponsor a poster competition for young BCTS members at our York meeting. Basically the Competition is as follows:

1. It will be held once per year and at a BCTS meeting selected by the Committee.
2. The competition will be publicised well in advance and at least in the Connective Tissue Newsletter that contains that meetings Registration information.
3. The competition is opened to PhD students and recently qualified post-docs (upto 1-2 years), who must indicate prior to the meeting their intention to enter the competition.
4. Up to 3 scholarships of £100 each will be awarded, dependent on the quality of the presentations. If the quality is low, no awards will be made.
5. The posters will be judged by at least 3 Committee members who will view the posters as well as discuss the work with the poster presenter. Criteria for judging the posters will be: clarity of the presented poster; scientific content; and scientific understanding of the work.
6. The award to be used by the recipient as they choose.
7. The recipients of the award to be notified at the meeting and also to be listed in the next newsletter issue.

So if you fulfil the above criteria why not have a go and perhaps win £100 to do with as you wish. **In order to enter the competition you must let the organisers of the York meeting know your intention to be entered in the competition, and this must be prior to the meeting and no later then Augusts 1st 1997.** To do this please write in pencil on the back of your abstract 'for IJEP poster competition'. Don't forget to do this as late comers will not be allowed in! Good Luck to those you give it a go!

6. Extraordinary General Meeting, York 1997

Please note that there will be an extraordinary general meeting of the BCTS at the York meeting to discuss: the pros and cons of changing the name of the Society; and what should be the direction of the Society. Further information regarding the rationale for this meeting is described in the Lancaster AGM minutes. Please come along and add in to the debate.

7. Registration Fees for BCTS meetings

At the AGM in Lancaster, members voiced their concern for the rising registration cost of the BCTS meeting (see enclosed AGM minutes for further notes). This item was discussed at the Lancaster Committee meeting and the Committee agreed that the meeting registration should stay. The fees however would be standardised. Members would be charged £5 per meeting day and non members would pay an additional £10.

8. Future Meetings of the Society

The Spring 1998 meeting of the Society will be held in Cardiff, March 30th -31st 1997 and is being organised by Drs. Malcolm Davies and Alvin Kwan. The contact person for this is Alvin Kwan (kwanap@cardiff.ac.uk). The theme of the meeting will be 'Molecular Organisation of the ECM' and the provisional programme follows:

Monday 30th March

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|--------------|--|
| 12-13.30 | Registration and Lunch |
| | Poster to be put in place |
| 13.30-13.35 | Welcome and Introduction |
| 13.35-14.15 | D. Abrahamsen (Birmingham, Al, USA) |
| 14.15-14.55 | G. David (Leuven, Belgium) |
| 14.55-15.35 | Carmelite, (Leuven, Belgium) |
| 15.35-16.00 | TEA |
| 16.00-17.00 | Selected platform presentations (4 x 15 min) |
| 17.00-17.40 | M. Bissell (California) |
| 17.40-18:10 | Annual General meeting |
| 18:10 -19.00 | Reception/Posters/Exhibitions |
| 20.00 | Conference Dinner |

Tuesday 31st March

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|-------------|--|
| 09.00-09.40 | P. Bruckner, (Munster, Germany) |
| 09.40 10. | J. Bateman |
| 10.20-11 00 | COFFEE |
| 11.00-11.40 | D. Heinegard |
| 11.40-12.20 | A. Galloway |
| 12.20-13.05 | Selected platform presentations (4 x 15 min) |

Lunch and depart.

9. XVth FECTS meeting

The XVIth FECTS meeting will be held in Uppsala Sweden on August 1st - 6th 1998. Plenary lectures will be given in:

- Matrix proteins and proteoglycans
- Cell adhesion receptors
- Developmental aspects of connective tissues
- Growth factors and the extracellular matrix
- Pathophysiological aspects of connective tissues

The following topics will be addressed in workshops and poster sessions:

- structure and function of interstitial connective tissues function and genetic disease of interstitial connective tissues
- proteoglycan biosynthesis, cell biology of proteoglycans, bone and cartilage, cartilage proteoglycans
- matrix assembly, matrix degradation, catabolism of connective tissue compartments, mutations in transgenic animals
- structure and function of basement membranes, genetic disease of basement membranes
- development and ECM, cell-ECM interactions in muscle development and muscle disease
- receptors for ECM, bacteria and ECM, receptor-mediated signalling
- growth factors, tyrosine phosphatases, angiogenesis and neovascularisation
- autoimmune disease of the ECM, wound healing, fibrosis, Epidermolysis bullosa, Alport syndrome, muscular dystrophies

Further information can be received from:

“FECTS”, Uppsala Turist & Kongress

Fyris torg 8 S-753 10 Uppsala, Sweden

Tel:+46-18-27 48 07

Fax:+46-18-69 24 77

E-mail: kongress@utkab.se