

Connective Issues



BSMB Newsletter

Committee:

Prof. Ray Boot-Handford (Chairman), Prof. John Couchman (Secretary),
Dr. David Young (Treasurer) Dr Jelena Gavrilovich, Dr. Wael Kafienah,
Dr. Mandy Plumb, Dr. Tonia Vincent, Dr. Chris Murphy, Dr. Philippa Hulley and
Dr. Emma Blain

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Editorial

John Couchman

It's time for a change – Welcome to Connective Issues #77, my last newsletter as Secretary. The Bristol meeting will mark four years in the post, so it is time to hand over the reins. The time has passed quickly, it doesn't seem over 6 years since I joined the BSMB Committee, and it has been a very enjoyable experience. We say it often, that the BSMB has a special feel and camaraderie, and nowhere is it more obvious than being part of the BSMB Committee. I am sure I have got more out of it than I put in.

On page 7 is a call for nominations for the Secretary post. I thought I would briefly summarise the various roles of the Secretary, for anyone who may be interested in the position now or in the future. The post is probably suited for someone with BSMB Committee experience, since that provides valuable insight into the inner workings of the Society. In a nutshell, it's the Secretary's job to make sure that the Society runs. That might sound intimidating, but the great thing about this role is that it places you at the heart of the Society. There are many and varied aspects to keeping things on track. Most obvious, it has been my job to produce the bi-annual newsletter, making sure that all the key components are included, most notably announcements about our next meeting. This time we are headed to Bristol in early April and details are below.

A second generalisation is that the Secretary manages the interfaces. Important among these are interactions with the International Journal of Experimental Pathology. IJEP publishes our abstracts and meeting reports, but also underwrites the Fell-Muir prize. Proof reading abstracts and reports, editing them into the correct format and later checking the printed proofs, are probably not the most exciting parts of the job, but are certainly necessary. The Secretary is a contact for the Society of Biology, to which we are affiliated. Not a week goes by without communication from them. A brief update about the Society of Biology is on page 8. We are also building links with sister Societies in the US and

Germany, and look forward to a joint meeting in Oxford with the German Society for Matrix Biology in spring 2012.

I've worked with two terrific Chairmen, first Bruce Caterson, and now Ray Boot-Handford. Both bring special qualities to the BSMB, which has prospered under their leadership, and long may it continue. There are regular Committee meetings to plan BSMB activities for the years ahead and the Secretary's role is to keep these on track and prepare the agenda and minutes.

The Secretary is an important contact for members of the Society. Ordinarily the Secretary maintains the membership database. However, we are fortunate to have Jane Lohmann on a part-time basis, who keeps this up-to-date. I am very grateful to Jane for taking on this essential task and supporting the Society. Many of you will know Jane, since she is often manning the reception desk at our meetings.

Last, the Secretary organises and runs the BSMB Annual General Meeting. This year I shall hand over to a new Secretary. Whoever that is will find the Society in fine shape and with a supportive Committee in place. It's been a pleasure to be the BSMB Secretary and I thank all the many colleagues on the Committee, past and present, who have made this so rewarding. I also thank the membership for their vital involvement in the Society. While I have new responsibilities ahead that will keep me busy, I shall meet up with you at future BSMB meetings.

Best wishes to all BSMB members for 2011. I hope the year brings you success and good health.

Chairman's Letter

Ray Boot-Handford

Dear Members,
Let me start by wishing you a happy and prosperous New Year.

Unfortunately, the New Year brings some of the most savage cuts to the University sector

ever experienced, accompanied by unprecedented increases in fees for undergraduates in 2012. The uncertainty generated will undoubtedly dominate many of our thoughts for much of the coming year and beyond. Whilst BSMB can do nothing to address the financial deficits in Institutional funding, we are well placed to help keep the scientific cogs turning within the field of matrix biology through our sponsorship of biannual conferences, ad hoc satellite meetings, and through the provision of generous bursaries for PhD students and postdocs. Now is the time to make sure that all new PhD students and postdocs have joined the BSMB to ensure that they have been members long enough to take advantage of these benefits.

I look forward to welcoming you all to Bristol in the spring where it will be a particular pleasure to present our past chairman, Bruce Caterson, with the BSMB Fell-Muir Award 2011 for his outstanding contributions to matrix biology and to hear his address. It's bound to be a good evening! In addition, we will hold the BSMB AGM at Bristol and prior to the meeting, we make a call for new committee members to help run the Society and organise a future meeting on their chosen speciality. At present, the committee has strong and continuing representation from London, Manchester, Newcastle, Oxford and Norwich. I am particularly interested in encouraging members from other locations in the UK to consider standing for the committee – for instance, we have no representatives from places such as Scotland, the Midlands, Liverpool or Yorkshire. In addition, in recent years, the interests of committee members have been predominantly cartilage-oriented. We need people to stand for the committee who are interested in other areas such as vascular biology, cancer, fibrosis etc.

It would be remiss of me to not mention the fact that the AGM also marks the retirement from the committee of current Honorary Secretary, John Couchman. Since one of the Secretary's roles is to prepare and edit this newsletter, I will save my comments regarding John to the next issue. Suffice to say that The Society functions largely as a

result of the activities of the Secretary and John will be sorely missed.

In September, we travel to our autumn meeting in Newcastle at which we will present our BSMB Young Investigator award. Again, please look out for the call for nominations which is included below.

With best wishes
Ray Boot-Handford, Chairman BSMB.

BSMB 2011 Spring Meeting

'Advances in Musculoskeletal Repair and Regeneration'

Organised by Wael Kafienah and Anthony Hollander
April 11th – 12th
Wills Memorial Building, University of Bristol

This meeting will bring together researchers at the forefront of cellular, molecular, translational and in vivo research in musculoskeletal repair and regeneration. The programme includes excellent international keynote speakers, interactive poster sessions and short oral communications selected from the abstracts. Sessions include bone, cartilage, tendons and ligaments, muscle and a BSMB Society session which includes talks from outside the major theme of the meeting. Prof. Bruce Caterson (Cardiff University), the recipient of this year's Fell-Muir Award to honour his achievements in the field of Matrix Biology, will also present a lecture entitled: 'The Glycobiology of GAGs; fun for a few but a headache for some'. In addition, a presentation on funding and fellowship opportunities available from the Medical Research Council (MRC UK) will be given (to be confirmed) by Dr Harriet Warburton (Programme Manager for musculoskeletal, reproductive and renal medicine). An outline of the meeting is shown below:

Session 1 – Bone

Prof. Gordana Vunjak-Novakovic (Columbia University, New York, USA)

Prof. Molly Stevens (Imperial College London, UK)

Session 2 – Cartilage

Prof. Michael Buschmann (Polytechnique Montréal, Canada)

Prof. Susan Chubinskaya (University of Chicago, USA)

Session 3 – Tendons and Ligaments

Prof. David Butler (University of Cincinnati, USA)

Prof. Karl Kadler (University of Manchester, UK)

Session 4 – BSMB Open Session

Prof. Clemens A. Van Blitterswijk (University of Twente, The Netherlands)

Dr Harriet Warburton (MRC UK)

Session 5 – Skeletal and Cardiac Muscle

Prof. Doris Taylor (University of Minnesota, USA)

Prof. Johnny Huard, University of Pittsburgh, USA)

Each session will also include **short talks selected from the abstracts**. This includes the open BSMB session where all topics related to matrix biology will be covered. Poster sessions will be an important component of the meeting, and as with the open BSMB session, are not restricted to musculoskeletal repair, but open to all aspects of matrix biology. There will be **two extended poster sessions** (with refreshments), and the invited speakers have kindly agreed to judge the posters eligible for prizes.

The BSMB Annual General Meeting will be held during the course of the meeting. All BSMB full, student and honorary members are encouraged to attend.

Meeting venue: The meeting will be held at the historic **Wills Memorial Building** which is part of the University of Bristol campus and is located in Bristol city centre near many pubs, restaurants and city attractions. Accommodation can be booked with nearby hotels at competitive rates available only to the delegates. Free Wi-Fi is available in Wills Memorial Building.

The **conference dinner** will be held in the **[Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery](#)**, situated next to the meeting venue. A pre-dinner wine reception will be held in the Great Hall in Wills Memorial Building. Access to Ancient Egypt and Assyria Display and the Wildlife Photographer of the Year Exhibition will be allowed before the Dinner. This will be followed by a 3 course dinner with wine in the Back Hall of the Museum. The dinner will be catered by **[Millburns](#)**, a leading catering local company that prides itself on the ethical sourcing of local and sustainable, seasonal produce. Entertainment will be set up during the meal and a cash bar will be provided.

Key Dates

- Registration will open on **10th January 2011** and closes **12th March 2011**. After this date, a late fee of £30 will apply. Please register now!
- Abstract submission closes **28th February 2011**.
- Bursary application closes **28th of February 2010**. Successful applicants will be notified on or shortly after March 7th 2011.

Please go to <http://www.bsmb.ac.uk> for details and further meeting information.

Meeting Contacts: Mrs. Jane Lohmann J.M.Lohmann@bristol.ac.uk and Dr Wael Kafienah w.z.kafienah@bristol.ac.uk

Conference Bursaries from the BSMB

Mandy Plumb

Young members of BSMB are encouraged to apply for bursaries to assist in expenses associated with attending the Spring or Autumn BSMB meetings or other selected meetings such as those organized by the Federation of the European Connective Tissues Societies (FECTS). Applicants should be at an early stage of their career and, therefore, emphasis is given to young

researchers such as graduate students and early post-docs. The BSMB bursary scheme has two distinct application routes:

Conference Presentation Bursaries

The BSMB will offer 4 'Conference Presentation' bursaries for young researchers wishing to present their research at BSMB meetings. The research must be relevant to BSMB **but need not be on the 'theme' of the meeting**. Applications for a bursary must be accompanied by the abstract of the research to be presented. Where application numbers exceed available bursaries, the quality and impact of the science to be presented together with previous bursary support will be taken into account.

Conference Reporter Bursaries

The BSMB will offer 3 'Conference Reporter' bursaries for BSMB meetings. Applicants undertake to write a report on the talks at the conference for publication on the BSMB website and subsequently in the International Journal of Experimental Pathology. This is an excellent opportunity for individuals to develop their scientific writing and reporting skills. If desired, reports on each talk can be attributed to the individual reporter responsible, enabling the resulting publication to be used by authors as examples of their output within their Professional Skills Development Portfolio. Applicants need not be presenting a poster at the meeting. In the case of application numbers exceeding bursaries available, previous bursary support will be taken into consideration.

The bursaries (of up to £200) will cover conference expenses (e.g. registration, accommodation, conference dinner) and a contribution towards travel costs. In exceptional circumstances, a request for further assistance with travel costs may be considered by the committee.

Qualification criteria

To qualify for a bursary, applicants need to have been members **at least 3 months prior to the opening of registration** for the meeting.

Application procedure

- All applications must be sent by e-mail to Dr Mandy Plumb (m.plumb@brookes.ac.uk)
- Closing date for the BSMB Spring Meeting: 28th February 2011, with decisions on or shortly after 7th March.
- Full details and application forms are available at <http://www.bsmb.ac.uk/> under 'Bursaries'.

2010 BSMB Young Investigator Award to Dr. Adam Byron



Adam Byron receives the Young Investigator Award from BSMB Chairman, Ray Boot-Handford (right) and Secretary, John Couchman (left). Adam gave his talk entitled "Quantitative proteomic profiling of adhesion receptor signalling" at the Autumn meeting of the BSMB at the University of East Anglia.

BSMB 2010 Meeting Reports and Abstracts

Abstracts and the meeting report from the BSMB 2010 spring meeting held at The University of Manchester have been published in the December issue of the International Journal of Experimental Pathology (Vol. 91 [6], A1-A42). The abstracts and meeting report from our autumn meeting in Norwich are In Press, and should appear in the spring of 2011. The

journal and the editor, Dr. David Katz are gratefully acknowledged for their continuing support, especially of the BSMB Fell-Muir award, which in 2010 was presented to Professor Gill Murphy. The meeting reports can be also accessed on the BSMB website (<http://www.bsmb.ac.uk>)

2010 BSMB Autumn meeting, University of East Anglia. Poster Prize Winners



BSMB Treasurer, Dr. David Young (second from left), with, from left-to-right, the poster prize winners Ching-Yan Chloe Yeung (University of Manchester), Thomas J. Duncan (Cardiff University) and Richard J.R. Kelwick (University of East Anglia).

Meetings in 2011

In addition to our spring meeting in Bristol, the **BSMB autumn meeting** will be held on September 8th and 9th in Newcastle. The theme of the meeting will be "Matrix Degradation and Signalling in Health & Disease", and the organiser is BSMB Treasurer, David Young.

In addition there are many other conferences for the matrix biology community to be held in 2011. Some of these are listed on the BSMB website. As usual, many Gordon Research Conferences have a matrix theme. This year the subjects include Angiogenesis, Bones & Teeth, Cartilage Biology & Pathology, Cell Contact & Adhesion, Collagen, Fibronectin, Integrins & related molecules, Matrix Metalloproteinases, Elastin & Elastic Fibers and Tissue Repair & Regeneration. Details for each of these meetings can be found at www.grc.org While most are held in the US, some are now located in Europe.

The 3rd FEBS Advanced Lecture Course (FEBS-MPST 2011) on Matrix Pathobiology will be held on September 2nd-7th in Spetses, Greece. Details can be found at www.febs-mpst2011.upatras.gr From October 16th - 20th the 7th International Conference on Proteoglycans will be held in Sydney, a joint meeting with the Matrix Biology Society of Australia and New Zealand. Details of this meeting can be obtained from the website www.gsbme.unsw.edu.au/proteoglycan2011.

Request for Nominations - BSMB Committee

The BSMB Committee is seeking to fill two places on its Committee that will become vacant in April 2011. The new incumbents will then take their place on the Committee at the Bristol meeting in March 2011. The usual term of office is three years.

Any current BSMB member in good standing is eligible for nomination. Committee members formulate policy for the Society and there is a major responsibility for the organisation of BSMB meetings. It is expected that each Committee member will take a major part in planning and organisation of one BSMB meeting in the course of their tenure. Committee members should be available to attend most Committee meetings that coincide with our conferences, but also attend occasional further meetings which in the past have been in Birmingham.

We encourage Society members to become involved in the future of the BSMB. Candidates should forward their CV and statement of interest to Ms. Jane Lohmann (J.M.Lohmann@bristol.ac.uk). In the event that we receive more than two nominations, an election may be held, in line with our Constitution. Informal enquiries about these vacancies can be made with the Secretary, John Couchman by e-mail (john.couchman@bric.ku.dk) or phone (+45 353 25670). Appointees to the Committee become Trustees of the BSMB. It is recommended that those interested in becoming a Committee member read both the Constitution of the BSMB and the responsibilities of Trustees. Both can be found on our website (www.bsmb.ac.uk).

**CLOSING DATE FOR NOMINATIONS IS
FEBRUARY 11, 2011.**

BSMB Secretary

The current BSMB Honorary Secretary, Prof. John Couchman, completes his term of office at the April 2011 meeting of our Society. Therefore, we have begun the search for his successor.

The Honorary Secretary is one of three Officer posts in the BSMB (along with the Chairman and Honorary Treasurer). The incumbent is responsible for the overall running of the BSMB, and works closely with the Chairman in the management of Society functions and responsibilities. A synopsis of the various roles of the Secretary can be found in the Editorial on page 2. Together with the Committee, the Secretary assists with formulating policy and has important roles in liaising with BMSB meeting organisers and the organisation of BSMB Committee meetings and the Annual General Meeting.

The Honorary Secretary shall not normally hold that office for a term of more than three years. In any case, he/she shall not hold that office for more than six consecutive years, but they shall be eligible for election to any other office in the Society. The term of office

will begin at the April 2011 BSMB meeting. It is an expectation that the Secretary will be available to attend a very high proportion of BSMB Committee meetings and conferences through his/her term of office. It is anticipated that the new Secretary will attend the April 2011 meeting to take office.

The BMSB Committee has nominated Dr. Andy Pitsillides (Royal Veterinary School, London) for this position and is delighted that he has accepted this nomination.

However, further nominations can be made by the membership. Nominations for this post can be made by any two current members of the BSMB. Nominations, together with the written consent of the proposed nominee should be forwarded to the Chairman, Professor Ray Boot-Handford, by **Friday 11th February, 2011**. Please send by e-mail to ray.boot-handford@manchester.ac.uk

In the event of more than one nomination, a ballot of the membership by e-mail will be held. To this end, it would be helpful if nominees can send a brief (one page) CV together with a short statement outlining their aspirations for the Society should they be elected.

**Ray Boot-Handford, BSMB Chairman,
January 2011.**

BSMB Young Investigator Award, 2011

The BSMB Young Investigator Award committee is now seeking nominations for the 2011 award, and I strongly encourage all of our junior members to put themselves forward.

This prestigious prize is worth £1000 to a worthy winner, as well as the opportunity to present their work at the September meeting in Newcastle. The prize is open to all qualifying BSMB members within 6 calendar years after completion of their PhD thesis, with time out for family and illness to be taken into account.

Applicants are required to submit their CV and their single best publication, together with a short (250 word) document explaining their contribution to the work and why they think the study was important. All applications should be sent to me (Graham Riley), the Chair of the BSMB YIA committee, and they will be reviewed by a sub-committee drawn from the current BSMB committee. Full application rules and eligibility requirements are available on the BSMB website: http://www.bsmb.ac.uk/awards/young_investigator.html

The closing date for applications is May 31st, and all applicants should be available to present their work at the September meeting, for which their travel and meeting expenses will be paid.

Graham Riley. Chair, BSMB Young Investigator Award committee

Current BSMB Committee

Officers:

Chairman, Prof. Ray Boot-Handford (University of Manchester; ray.boot-handford@manchester.ac.uk)
Honorary Secretary, Prof. John Couchman (University of Copenhagen; john.couchman@bric.ku.dk)
Honorary Treasurer, Dr David Young, (Newcastle University; d.a.young@ncl.ac.uk)

Elected and Seconded Members:

Dr Jelena Gavrilovic (University of East Anglia; j.gavrilovic@uea.ac.uk)
Dr. Mandy Plumb (Oxford Brookes University; m.plumb@brookes.ac.uk)
Dr. Wael Kafienah (University of Bristol; w.z.kafienah@bristol.ac.uk)
Dr. Tonia Vincent (Kennedy Institute for Rheumatology, Imperial College London t.vincent@imperial.ac.uk)
Dr. Chris Murphy (Kennedy Institute for Rheumatology, Imperial College London c.murphy@imperial.ac.uk)
Dr. Emma Blain, Cardiff University; blain@cardiff.ac.uk
Dr. Philippa Hulley (University of Oxford; Philippa.Hulley@ndorms.ox.ac.uk)

Co-opted Members:

Dr. Graham Riley (University of East Anglia; Graham.Riley@uea.ac.uk)
Dr. Sarah Howat (Postdoctoral Representative, Kings College London; sarah.howat@kcl.ac.uk)
Eleanor Jones (Student Representative, University of East Anglia; eleanor.r.jones@uea.ac.uk)

Welcome to New Members!

We welcome the following new members and student members to the BSMB.

Dr. Joanna Williams and Dr. Alex Carisey (University of Manchester), Dr. Uday Tirlapur, Ms Aasma Khan and Mr. Sharif Hala (University of Oxford), Mr. John Collins (University of Liverpool), Dr. Yasuyuki Shitomi and Ms Clare Driscoll (Kennedy Institute, Imperial College London), Dr. Joerg Bartsch (Kings College London), Ms Natalie Crow and Mr Matthew Mayhew (University of East Anglia), Ms Niina Hopper (University of Cambridge), Ms Hannah Jones, Dr. Sharon Dewitt, Ms Ayesha Al-Sabah, Mr. Duncan Thomas, Mr. Geraint Parfitt, Dr. Jim Ralphs, Dr. Sally Hayes, Ms Sian Morgan, Dr. Yadan Zhang, Ms. Elena Koudoun, Ms. Magdale Adamczyk, Dr. Karen Roddy and Ms Katarzyn Gawel (Cardiff University), Ms. Clare Leeson (William Harvey Research Institute, Queen Mary University London), Ms Lydia Murray (University of Glasgow), Ms. Rachel Williams (Newcastle University), Mr. Shang Zhang (University of Bristol).

We hope you find membership to be both rewarding and enjoyable.

The Society of Biology

The Society of Biology was formed by the merger of the Biosciences Federation, with which the BSMB was affiliated, and The Institute of Biology in 2009. The BSMB Committee believe that it is important to be affiliated with the Society of Biology since it is

the single UK body representing biological science to other professional bodies and has a key role in lobbying Government on behalf of our profession. As an affiliate, we receive numerous e-mail newsletters covering education, science policy, interactions with Government and outreach. Currently we do not send these newsletters out to all BSMB members, since many contain information and requests for information that are peripheral to the functions of the BSMB. Moreover, we prefer to be selective in our bulk e-mailing to members. Those interested in the Society of Biology can find more information on their website www.societyofbiology.org

Drs. Graham Riley and Wael Kafienah are BSMB's representatives with responsibility for external relations. BSMB members with interest or questions can contact them for further information.

John Couchman

John Chapman

We have been informed that John Chapman passed away recently. A tribute to John is planned for the next newsletter.

British Society for Matrix Biology Spring Meeting

Advances in Musculoskeletal Repair and Regeneration

Wills Memorial Building, University of Bristol, UK

11-12 April 2011

Local Organisers: Dr Wael Kafienah and Prof Anthony Hollander

Confirmed Plenary Speakers:

Gordana Vunjak-Novakovic (Columbia University), **Molly Stevens** (London), **Michael Buschmann** (Montreal), **Susan Chubinskaya** (Chicago), **David Butler** (Cincinnati), **Clemens A. Van Blitterswijk** (The Netherlands), **Johnny Huard** (Pittsburgh), **Doris Taylor** (Minnesota) and **Karl Kadler** (Manchester)



Fell-Muir Award (*Bruce Caterson*, Cardiff)



For more information visit: www.bsmb.ac.uk

