

Connective Issues



BSMB Newsletter

Committee:

Prof. Bruce Caterson (Chairman), Prof. Anthony Hollander (Secretary), Dr. Graham Riley (Treasurer),
Prof. John Couchman, Dr. Phillipa Parsons, Dr. Ray Boot-Handford, Dr. John Wardale, Dr. Drew Rowan,
Dr. David Buttle, Dr. Andy Pitsillides, Dr. Jelena Gavrilovic, Dr Nikki Goodstone and Lizzie Crawford

Registered Charity no. 281399

No. 69 Jan 2007

Registration for the Spring 2007 Meeting in Sheffield 2nd-3rd April Is Now Open

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Editorial and Announcement of the First Winner of the Fell-Muir Award

By Anthony Hollander

Welcome to the 69th edition of Connective Issues, sporting our new logo that was designed by Adam Byron of Manchester University. He submitted this design to our open competition (advertised in the last Newsletter) and the winner was chosen by the BSMB committee. Adam has been awarded a prize of £100. The logo will now be used on all our official documents and on the website.

Several members of the BSMB committee will be stepping down at the Spring meeting as their terms of office have come to an end. Drew Rowan stepped down last year but was seconded to the committee for an additional year in order to run the Newcastle meeting along with David Young. The meeting was a great success and the committee would like to congratulate both of them. Ray Boot-Hanford and Phillipa Parsons will both be replaced through nominations and elections. However Phillipa will be seconded back on to the committee for one more year in order to run a conference in the Spring of 2008. Lizzie Crawford has completed her 1 year tenure as Student Intern and will be replaced. I am grateful to all of these committee members for their hard work. They will be missed. Procedures for nominations of their replacements are given elsewhere in this Newsletter.

At the AGM in Cambridge last year members approved the establishment of The BSMB Fell-Muir Award for outstanding contributions to matrix biology. The award will be sponsored in part by The International Journal of Experimental Pathology (IJEP). During 2007 a sub-committee was formed which included the three officers of the society (Bruce Caterson, Anthony Hollander and Graham Riley), one committee member (John Couchman) and the Editor of IJEP (David Katz). This sub-committee considered a number of nominations that were received from the BSMB committee and reached unanimous agreement on the winner. The BSMB Committee is delighted to announce that the first recipient of this award is to be Professor Mike Grant. Mike will be presented with his award at the Spring meeting in Sheffield,

where he will also deliver a lecture reviewing the field. This lecture will be published as a review article in IJEP. The committee congratulates Mike on becoming our first distinguished Fell-Muir winner.

In addition to the Fell-Muir award lecture there will be many exciting sessions at the Sheffield meeting and I would urge you all to submit abstracts and to register now via the BSMB web site.

Chairman's Report

By Bruce Caterson

First, on behalf of all of the BSMB Executive Committee members I would like to convey our wishes to all of our membership for a very productive and prosperous New Year 2007. As in the past, the Executive Committee have been enthusiastically moving forward with many initiatives that we believe will help this now well-established national scientific Research Society achieve international notoriety and recognition for its membership and its biannual meetings. Our policy is to provide excellent state-of-the-art national scientific meetings that generate funds that we can give back to our membership in many ways. This year 2007 will see the instigation and award of the Societies first Fell-Muir Award for outstanding contributions to Matrix Biology to Professor Michael Grant who has been a fantastic inspiration and mentor to many of us over the past decades. We will also be selecting and awarding our first BSMB Young Investigator Award which will be presented at our upcoming Autumn meeting in Keele. Other new initiatives to be discussed and formally approved by the Society at our AGM are the establishment of a permanent assistant (part-time) for the Honorary Secretary of the Society. Mrs Jane Lohman (Bristol) has assumed this post from Jan 2007. The objective of this decision has been to provide a permanent site for our Society's administrative office and thereby open up wider options for selection of BSMB members to take on the post of Honorary Secretary of our Society even if they do not have their own access to administrative support. I personally want to thank and express my gratitude and appreciation to Anthony Hollander for

undertaking an extra term and interim role for this position. A new Honorary Secretary will be approved at the AGM. Another matter to be decided at our upcoming AGM will be a proposal for an increase in our membership fees. At present, these are very modest and I believe that a now long-overdue increase will afford us further opportunities to provide our members with even better meetings and workshops to enhance their own careers in Matrix Biology Research. The proposed increase in fees will also allow us to commit in the long-term to support of the permanent assistant post mentioned above. I encourage all members of our Society to attend the two exciting meetings to be held in Sheffield and Keele this year and for them to encourage others to join our Society, and thereby taking advantage of the numerous bursaries and awards that we provide to our membership. Finally, I wish to thank all of the members who will be relinquishing their tenure on our very dynamic, progressive and open-minded Executive Committee, for their creative input and efforts in managing our Society.

Current BSMB Committee

Officers:

Chairman, Prof. Bruce Caterson (University of Cardiff; Caterson@Cardiff.ac.uk)

Honorary Secretary, Prof. Anthony Hollander (University of Bristol; A.Hollander@bristol.ac.uk)

Honorary Treasurer, Dr. Graham Riley (Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge; gpr1003@cus.cam.ac.uk)

Elected and Seconded Members:

Prof. John Couchman (Imperial College, London; j.couchman@imperial.ac.uk)

Dr. Ray Boot-Handford (University of Manchester; ray.boot-handford@man.ac.uk)

Dr. Phillipa Parsons (Smith-Nephew); phillipa.parsons@smith-nephew.com)

Dr. David Buttle (University of Sheffield; d.j.Buttle@Sheffield.ac.uk)

Dr. John Wardale (AstraZeneca; john.wardale@astrazeneca.com)

Dr. Nikki Goodstone (Keele University; n.j.goodstone@keele.ac.uk)

Dr Andy Pitsillides (The Royal Veterinary College; apitsill@rvc.ac.uk)

Dr Jelena Gavrilovic (University of East Anglia; j.gavrilovic@uea.ac.uk)

Lizzie Crawford (University of Manchester; Elizabeth.Crawford@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk)

Coopted Member:

Dr. Robert Lauder (Lancaster University; r.lauder@lancaster.ac.uk)

Dr. Drew Rowan (University of Newcastle; A.D.Rowan@newcastle.ac.uk)

BSMB Young Investigator Award – Call for nominations

The BSMB Committee is pleased to announce that we have established a new award for young members of the society. To be eligible for this award you must meet the following criteria:

1. Be within 6 years of being awarded your PhD at the end of the calendar year preceding the year of the award (ie December 2006 for the 2007 award)
2. Have been a member of the society for at least 1 calendar year

A CV, 1 page of supporting narrative and letter of support from a mentor (who must be a BSMB member) should be submitted.

Nominations will be reviewed by a committee consisting of the Chairman, the student intern, the organizer of the meeting where the prize will be awarded and 2 other elected committee members (ie not officers)

The prize will be £500 and a plaque. The winner will give a 30 minute lecture at the Autumn meeting and write a review that will be published in IJEP.

Please don't be shy. This is a chance to gain recognition and reward for all your hard work.

All nominations/applications should be sent to the Honorary Secretary, Anthony Hollander, to be RECEIVED no later than 28th February 2007.

Election of new committee members – call for nominations

We are seeking two new members to join the BSMB committee.

The nominee's name should be submitted to The Honorary Secretary, Anthony Hollander, by a proposer and a seconder, both of whom must be members of the society.

Deadline for Nominations: Friday 27th January 2006

If more than three nominations are received then an ELECTRONIC ballot will be organized.

Election of new student intern – call for nominations

Lizzie Crawford is stepping down on completion of her 1 year internship. Please see her report in this Newsletter for a review of her role and activities. If you are a graduate student in the third or later year of study then please apply for this exciting opportunity. The appointed student would be expected to attend and participate in all committee meetings for 1 year. In return, the intern would receive a bursary of £125 to help them attend one BSMB meeting.

If you are interested in the 2007-2008 internship, please write to the Honorary Secretary, Anthony Hollander, with your cv and reasons for applying and ask your supervisor to write a short note indicating his/her support. You should be planning to attend the Spring 2007 meeting in Sheffield, where the new intern's name will be announced.

Deadline for applications: Friday 16th February 2007

If more than one nomination is received then the committee will select an intern based on the information provided.

Publication of Meeting Abstracts

The abstracts of the Spring 2006 meeting in Cambridge will be published in the April edition of IJEP. The abstracts of the Autumn 2006 meeting in Newcastle will be published later in 2007.

Forthcoming BSMB Meetings

Please note that the information regarding 2008 meetings is different to that included in the last Newsletter.

Sheffield Spring 2007 Meeting

Joint BSMB/Biochemical Society Focused Meeting "Matrix turnover: mechanisms and common denominators", Pennine Lecture Theatre and Atrium, Sheffield Hallam University, April 2-3, 2007

Organiser: Dr David Buttle

Arrangements for this meeting are now in place, and online registration is available through the BSMB and Biochemical Society websites. **Abstract submission deadline:** 29 January 2007, **Early registration deadline:** 8 February 2007. Please make sure your PhD students take advantage of the generous bursaries on offer – closing date January 29th, decisions by February 7th. A large number of oral presentations will be chosen from the abstracts. All speakers will have their expenses reimbursed by Biochem. Soc. and will also publish an article in Biochem Soc Trans (impact factor >3). This represents a great opportunity to get your hypotheses and data across to a wider audience.

Keele Autumn 2007 Meeting

"Shaping and Sensing the Extracellular Matrix", University of Keele, September 3rd-4th 2007

Organisers: Dr Nikki Goodstone, Professor Alicia El Haj and Dr John Wardale

York Spring 2008 Meeting

Theme to be announced at a later date

Organiser: Dr Phillipa Parsons

Cardiff Autumn 2008 Meeting

Theme to be announced at a later date

Organisers: Prof. Bruce Caterson and Professor Vic Duance

one in which you are interested, please send a copy of your CV with a covering letter and a note of support from your supervisor, and you never know it could be you writing this column in the next newsletter!

Before I sign off, I must just once again reiterate the point that if anyone has any issues they would like me to raise with the committee, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above email address.

Student Intern Column

Elizabeth.crawford@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk



This is my second and final column for the Connective Issues newsletter as the student intern for the BSMB. For the past nine months I have been representing students at committee meetings, giving a perspective from the younger members of the society. It is now getting round to the time of year for opening nominations/applications for next year's representative. The position does not involve a high level of commitment outside the lab, requiring attendance at 4 committee meetings per year. What is important however is that you are willing to speak up and be heard, passing on comments to the committee that may have been raised by fellow student members and give your opinion on issues raised within committee meetings. There are 4 meetings to attend during the year, 2 of which take place during the conferences in April and September. Advantages of this position include the award of a bursary for one of the meetings during the tenure, but more importantly it gives you an opportunity to experience and understand first hand the organisation and dedication that goes into running an academic society, as well as being a useful addition to your CV.

So, if you are in the 3rd or later year of your PhD and think that this opportunity may be

