

Connective Issues

BSMB Newsletter

British Society for Matrix Biology

Committee: Prof. Bruce Caterson (Chairman), Prof. Anthony Hollander (Secretary), Dr. Graham Riley (Treasurer),
Prof. John Couchman, Dr. Philippa Callender, 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

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Editorial

By Anthony Hollander

Welcome to the 68th edition of Connective Issues. I was not supposed to be writing this any more, but circumstances have conspired against me and I have agreed to remain as Secretary for a further 12 months.

The Autumn 2006 meeting, “The Multidimensional Matrix”, will be in Newcastle on 5th-6th September and brief details can be found below. Please register NOW for this meeting. Those of you submitting abstracts for posters and oral presentations should note that your work does NOT have to be on the theme of the meeting. All matrix biology topics are welcome and oral presentations will be chosen on the basis of quality of the science. Young scientists will be eligible for a Poster prize, chosen by delegate voting.

At our most recent meeting, the committee approved a series of changes to the Newsletter format. It was agreed that starting from this issue, meeting reports, AGM minutes and treasurer’s report would now appear on the website rather than as sections of the Newsletter. You are therefore asked to visit the website to see these. In addition we will include a Chairman’s report and a section written by our student intern who is currently Lizzie Crawford.

Starting with the next issue (in January) we will also include a “scientific titbits” section and a thought-provoking review section.

If you have any other ideas for improving your newsletter then please let me know.

Your committee has also decided that it is time to freshen up our Society logo. Rather than pay an exorbitant fee for professional designers, we have decided to hold a design competition. You will find details elsewhere in this newsletter.

Chairman’s Report

By Bruce Caterson

Firstly, I would like to thank all of the members of our Society for re-electing me to another term of office. The BSMB has been and is continuing to go through an exciting phase of change and growth as a charity status biomedical research society. The young, enthusiastic and dynamic Executive Committee have in the past 5 years initiated and manifested a new level of meeting format and organisation that now brings in a cadre of outstanding national and international speakers that help to ensure very successful and stimulating conferences. Profits and monies raised from these very successful events are now being recycled back to the Society members in a number of ways; e.g. bursaries for students and postdocs to attend meetings, sponsorship for specialty area Workshops, subsidy of Conference Dinner costs for students, provision of an annual Young Investigator Award (£500; details for nominations will be circulated later in the year) and the prestigious IJEP-sponsored Fell-Muir Award (£1,000) for Outstanding Research Achievements in Matrix Biology; these latter two Awards being given at the Spring and Autumn meetings, respectively.

At our recent Executive Committee meeting held in Birmingham (July 2006) several new and exciting initiatives were discussed and these either have been or will be enacted in the very near future. Examples are as follows; the format of our bi-annual Newsletter was discussed and it was decided that we should endeavour to reduce and to focus more on the concise dissemination of news of interest to the BSMB membership (these changes are summarized in the Editorial by Anthony Hollander). Graham Riley and Bob Lauder have introduced us to a new on-line system that should facilitate registration for meetings, information exchange and Society record keeping. We have also made our new Member Application Forms more user-friendly. So PLEASE encourage your co-workers (students, postdocs & faculty alike) to become Members of our BSMB. The underlying philosophy of our Society and its Executive Committee is to “give back” as much as we can to our membership. Examples of this “give back” are cited above and also in this Newsletter. If you have any good ideas of new ways we can “give back” to our Members please contact me, or one of our Executive Committee Members.

There are several exciting Thematic and Multidisciplinary meetings planned for the next

few years (2007 & 2008 – see below). At all of these meetings there will be a BSMB Session to cover presentations from the broad field our Society's interests cover. There are also lots of subsidies for students and young postdoctoral fellows. Finally, we have decided we need a new BSMB logo. This will be solicited in the form of an open competition with a prize (see below).

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Anthony Hollander has agreed to undertake a second term of office as Secretary of our Society with John Couchman remaining as a regular BSMB Exec. Committee member. I am very grateful to Anthony for accepting this responsibility.

I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming meetings. "Onward and Upward with the BSMB".

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

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

Dr. Phillipa Callender (University of Cardiff; callender@cardiff.ac.uk)

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)

Publication of Meeting Abstracts

A meeting report and abstracts for the Autumn 2005 meeting in Manchester was published in the February 2006 edition of The International Journal of Experimental Pathology (IJEP; impact factor 1.94).

The meeting report and abstracts of the Spring 2006 meeting in Cambridge will be published in IJEP shortly. The report can also be seen on the BSMB website.

Forthcoming BSMB Meetings

BSMB Autumn Meeting
Newcastle University Medical School
5-6th September 2006

'The multi-dimensional matrix'

Registration is now open for the forthcoming meeting. These meetings are your way of supporting the BSMB and its mission to organise scientific meetings with wide-ranging programmes that cover all areas of matrix research. This meeting is more multi-themed than usual, and we have no less than 8 international speakers to ensure a high calibre meeting that covers many aspects of matrix biology. Registrants are encouraged to submit abstracts which can also be on any aspect of matrix biology, and some will be chosen for a short oral presentation during the meeting (visit our website at www.bsmb.ac.uk for more details).

The BSMB is also keen to support new, young researchers and has a bursary scheme to help cover the cost of attendance (see

website for further details). The deadline for bursaries is August 4th 2006 with decisions a week later.

Early warning of future meetings:

Spring 2007 April 2-3rd 2007, Sheffield Hallam University; Dr Dave Buttle, Joint BSMB/Biochemical Society Focused Meeting: "Matrix Turnover - Mechanisms and Common Denominators"

Autumn 2007 Keele University. "Shaping and Sensing the ECM" organized by Niki Goodstone.

Spring 2008 UEA Norwich. Title to be confirmed.

Autumn 2008 Cardiff University. Title to be confirmed.

Student Intern Column



Elizabeth.crawford@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk

My name is Lizzie Crawford. I am currently in the second year of my PhD, studying chondrocyte differentiation in relation to osteoarthritis, at Manchester University supervised by Ray Boot-Handford and Gillian Wallis.

As your new student representative on the BSMB committee, I have been asked to put a few words together for this newsletter. I was appointed to this position at the AGM in April at the Cambridge meeting, having replied to a request written in this newsletter. Taking on the position of student representative means that I attend all committee meetings for 1 year and get a bursary to attend the Newcastle meeting in September. In April 2007, a new student representative will be appointed and you will be kept up to date with the process of

application through this newsletter nearer the time.

During the next 9 months it is my task to put across to the committee any ideas or suggestions student members may wish to raise. In particular, I am keen to raise the profile of students within the society and increase the involvement of students at meetings.

To encourage attendance of students at meetings the BSMB provides a reduced rate for the conference dinner as well as awarding bursaries to help with travel and accommodation expenses. Currently, there are 7 bursaries available for members to apply for (3 reporting bursaries and 4 presenting bursaries) and these are primarily granted to young researchers to promote participation in meetings. These bursaries not only provide the opportunity to present your work at BSMB meetings, but the abstracts are published in the International Journal of Experimental Pathology. The deadlines for the bursaries are well publicised on the website. To be eligible for these bursaries you have to have been a member of the BSMB for at least 3 months so it is important to keep your membership up to date particularly after completing your studies and moving on to post-doc positions.

If anyone has any issues or ideas with regards to the role of students in the society please don't hesitate to contact me on the email address above or alternatively at the next conference in Newcastle in September, and I will be happy to raise them at the next committee meeting.

Design a New Logo Competition

The logo currently used on our web site and on all official documents (see below) is rather out-of-date and lacking in quality when used electronically

We have therefore decided to hold a competition for the design of a new logo.

The competition is open to members or their friends/family, however the entry should be submitted via a member.

All entries must be digital images that can be used electronically or printed out in colour or black and white. Your entry should be shown on a single page and saved as a JPEG file. All entries should be emailed to Anthony Hollander (A.Hollander@Bristol.ac.uk) by the end of August. The BSMB committee will select a winner. The winning entry will be announced at The Newcastle meeting and will be used in all future publications. You will be asked to assign copyright of the image to the BSMB. The winner will receive a small prize.



Current Logo