



AGM MEETING

Lecture Theatre 1, School of Chemistry, University of Bristol, UK
Thursday 10th April, 2014 – 17.15pm

1.0	<p>Approval of Minutes</p> <p>Minutes of the AGM meeting held on 23rd July, 2013 at IUPS, Hall 7, ICC, Birmingham were approved as a true and accurate record.</p>
2.0	<p>Report on BMS 2014 – Andy Salmon</p> <p>Andy reported that the Bristol meeting comprised 78 submitted abstracts (58 poster and 20 oral communications), 7 invited talks (3 international; 4 national) and 1 practical demonstration on glomerular fluid dynamics (Dr Chris Neal). 115 delegates and 8 exhibitors were registered for the meeting with 102 attending the Society dinner. A designated panel of BMS Committee members selected 4 of the submitted abstracts for oral presentations in an Early Career Investigator (ECI) Prize category (£100 each from profits of the meeting). Further awards included an ECI poster prize (£100 from profits of the meeting); BMS Best Oral Communication (£100); 2 x BMS Best Poster Communications (£50 each); Terence Ryan Best Clinical Oral Communication (£100 to be taken from his annual donation); 2 x Moor Instruments Awards (£125 each - decided to split the annual £250 donation). Financial support for the meeting was secured from the BHF (£3000), KRUK (£2000), BPS/Phys.Soc. (£1000) and from 8 exhibitors (£500 each). The University of Bristol contributed £350 towards the drinks reception at the Society Dinner. Andy thanked the various sponsors of the meeting for their generous contributions. The members thanked Andy for organising a superb meeting which is forecast to make a significant profit (~ £6K)</p>
3.0	<p>Progress Report on BMS 2015 – Andrea Murray, University of Manchester</p> <p>The venue will be the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester on the 16-17 April, 2015. The chosen theme for the meeting is 'Imaging the Microcirculation' which will showcase a number of cutting edge and developing techniques. Invited speakers include David Atwell (UCL), Stuart Allan (Manchester), Wolfgang Drexler (Vienna), Martin Leahy (Galway), Jean Luc Cracowski (Grenoble), Maurizio Cutolo (Genova) and David Buckley (Leeds). Proposed registration was anticipated to be £100 Members, £55 Students and £200 Non-Members. Arrangements have been made for the conference dinner to be held at the Manchester Town Hall at a cost of £50. Approximate loss/profit forecasts were made and were not deemed inappropriate by the Society. 3 Institutes at the University of Manchester have already pledged £500 each for the meeting – the Institutes of Biomedical Imaging, Neuroscience Research and Photon Science. A designated webpage for the meeting was being constructed with plans to submit abstracts and register for the meeting /dinner online. The Society were grateful to Andrea for attending the AGM during her maternity leave to provide a progress report.</p>
4.0	<p>Update on Future Microcirculation Meetings</p> <p><u>BMS 2015:</u> Dr Andrea Murray, University of Manchester - confirmed <u>BMS 2016:</u> Professor Helen Arthur, University of Newcastle - confirmed</p>

BMS 2017: Dr Lopa Leach, University of Nottingham – TBC

BMS 2018: Professor Stuart Egginton, University of Leeds – TBC

BMS 2019: Professor Nicola Brown and Dr Carolyn Staton, Sheffield – TBC

It was highlighted that the national BMS meetings calendar was currently very 'northern' and that 2019 could be a meeting in NI or London rather than Sheffield.

Joint Meetings:

There was lengthy discussion on the possibility of combining the above meetings with a Young Investigator's Symposium (YIS), The Physiological Society and MCS. It was agreed that a YIS should precede the annual BMS conferences at regular intervals, especially in light of the very successful event held in Warwick (when BMS was incorporated into IUPS). In the absence of progress with the Phys.Soc. (see President's Report) there were discussions about approaching the British Pharmacological Society (BPS) for joint meetings. Nicky Brown was keen to pursue this through further discussions with Chris Garland (Oxford). It was noted that less BMS members were BPS members.

Nicky informed the Society that Jeff Frisbee (current MCS President) was interested in pursuing a joint MCS/BMS meeting to be held in July 2016, San Francisco. It was agreed that the east coast (ideally New York) would be cheaper. Concern was raised about the commitment of the American membership to these meetings in light of the fact that more BMS members attended the joint meeting in the States than MCS members attended Oxford. The Society suggested that 2016 was too soon after a year of international meetings in 2015. The possibility of hosting a joint BMS/MCS conference in 2017 was also raised but the Society was reminded that this will be the year of an ESM. The best option appeared to be 2018, in which case it would be instead of our annual meeting and not in addition to it. Bearing this in mind, it was agreed that sponsoring a YIS in 2018 to retain the slot of our national meeting was ideal. Although this is a while away, it was more than sufficient time to commence organisation if both Societies were in agreement. Nicky will be meeting Jeff Frisbee at Experimental Biology later in the year and our discussions will be forwarded to him.

International Microcirculation Meetings

The Society were reminded of the calendar of events for upcoming international microcirculation meetings. It was noted that it was 'unfortunate' that there were 2 international meetings in 2015 (WCM/Kyoto ; ESM/Pisa) in addition to our own national meeting. The recently released dates for abstract submission and early registration, as well as the registration costs ESM were presented.

The Society were informed that Dr Shaun Sandow (Sydney, Australia) was organising an 'International Young Investigators Symposium' for the WCM. This would comprise YI's from the BMS/ESM/ANZMS/MCS/Asian societies, with the respective societies funding their own YI(s). The BMS Committee had agreed to support one YI from its membership. There were discussions as to whether the BMS could fund a whole YIS at either international meeting in a similar manner to that supported at IUPS. However, it was agreed that the Society could not afford to do so presently and so supporting an individual was an excellent means of ensuring BMS presence in Japan. The Society was informed that they should encourage YI's to apply for a Terence Ryan Overseas Conference Grant which could also be used to support an additional YI at these meetings.

It was agreed by all that BMS presence at these two international meetings must be apparent. Geraldine Clough and Giovanni Mann informed the Society that they had submitted a symposium to the WCM, although it is understood that 3 symposia were

	<p>submitted by BMS members. The Society was informed that there was still time to submit proposals for symposia to these meetings even though the deadline had passed for ESM. Concerns were raised as to where funds could be sought to support these. Giovanni advised that symposia should be submitted and funds could be identified afterwards - the science should come first. Geraldine (Deputy Editor for <i>Microcirculation</i>) informed the Society that Wiley will be supporting up to three symposia at WCM that involve both established and early career featured speakers.</p> <p>Whilst discussing Wiley, it was noted that it was unfortunate that they had not continued to support the Basic Science Lecture at the BMS meetings. Giovanni offered to pursue why this was the case – this sponsorship had been secured by him during his term as President. Geraldine raised some concern as to what more we expected Wiley to fund - they were publishing our annual conference Proceedings. She stated that since other Societies had also officially adopted the journal (NZ/Aus), Wiley may wish to drop supporting the Basic Science Lecture as otherwise there would be an expectation to do so for all other Societies. Geraldine reminded the Society of the impact factor (IF) of the journal and suggested that reviews should be submitted by BMS members to boost the IF. She also informed the Society that Wiley have some funds to support international microcirculatory meetings and that we should consider approaching them for our next joint BMS/MCS endeavour.</p>
5.0	<p>Society Awards and Grants – change to the Constitution The Society approved the below addition to the Constitution:</p> <p><i>Grants available to junior members of the Society</i> 26.... For the Terence Ryan Microcirculation Conference Grant and the Laboratory Visit Grant, you must have been a member of the Society for at least one year or have attended at least one annual BMS conference....</p> <p>There had been no applications for the Laboratory Visit Grant or Terence Ryan Conference Grant. The Society received 12 SAS applications for the Bristol meeting and 7 awards were made totalling £1,583. The abstracts were scored by members of the Committee with no member judging abstracts from their own University. The SAS awardees for the 2014 BMS meeting were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joe Robinson (Birmingham) • Tom Keeley (KCL) • Neven Ebrahim (Nottingham) • Berit Plumhoff (Southampton) • Patricia Kelly (Coleraine, NI) • Rachael Wright (William Harvey, London) • Natia Gamkrelidze (Tbilisi Medical University, Georgia)
6.0	<p>Officers Reports</p> <p><u>President's Report – Stuart Egginton</u> Stuart informed the Society of his discussions with the CEO, President and President Elect of Phys.Soc. Although the Phys.Soc. would like to support the BMS and joint endeavours, they did feel there was a conflict of interest as most of our members were also members of the Phys.Soc. They were also concerned that supporting the BMS would create a precedence for them to support other Societies who may wish for similar 'benefits'. They were still happy to discuss the possibility of joint meetings but these meeting would be branded as a Phys.Soc/BMS meeting. As such, Stuart was concerned that the BMS would lose their own</p>

	<p>identify. The possibility of linking up with the Society of Biology (SoB) as an affiliate was explored courtesy of communications initially led by Dr Richard Siow. However, it was deemed that what the SoB was offering was not in line with what the BMS was looking for and could not be justified by the costs. Stuart thanked Richard for bringing this opportunity to the attention of the Society. The need to increase the Society's funds, potentially through corporate sponsorships, was urged and although Stuart had received many expressions of interest, nothing had materialised. Finally, Stuart voiced his pleasure at serving the Society and said he found it a great privilege to have been voted to the position of President. He was pleased to be leaving the Society having organised a joint meeting with MCS (Oxford), established stronger links with Wiley and with a confirmed calendar for the next few BMS meetings. The Society thanked Stuart for his excellent term as President – more informal thanks to follow at the Society Dinner. Nicky Brown was welcomed as the new President.</p> <p><u>Treasurer's Report – Jacqueline Whatmore</u> Total assets for the financial year ending 31st December 2013 amount to £18,057 which include £14,904 at the bank plus £3,153 paid as deposits for future meetings. Our expenditure was £23,920 and our income £21,917. Both income and expenditure reflect donations and registration fees for the YIS in Warwick that were subsequently passed onto the local organisers. Recuperation of profits (~£4000) from the YIS held in Warwick will be pursued. A Paypal account had been opened by the Society for which a reduced rate was obtained due to our Charity status. A detailed Treasurer's report is attached to the minutes.</p> <p><u>Membership Secretary's Report – Andy Salmon</u> Membership stood at 225 but would increase to 230 with 5 new members joining that week. In 2013, new members joining the Society was significantly lower compared to previous years, which may be due to the the BMS meeting being incorporated into IUPS.</p> <p><u>Editor of Proceedings Report – Alan Stitt</u> Alan will ensure abstracts from the 2014 Bristol meeting are submitted for publication immediately after the meeting. There was a possibility that one of the invited speakers or winners of prizes could contribute a special review on their subject matter for the journal <i>Microcirculation</i>.</p>
7.0	<p>Appointment of Auditors Auditors : Francis Clark Chartered Accountants</p>
8.0	<p>Committee Elections – Ordinary Members Nominations had been received from Professor Sussan Nourshargh, Professor Helen Arthur, Dr Christopher Mitchell and Dr Kim Gooding for election to the committee. Voting for 3 positions took place. Sussan, Helen and Kim were welcomed to the Committee as Ordinary Members.</p>
2.10	<p>AOB None</p>

British Microcirculation Society - Honorary Treasurer's Report for 2013

In consultation with our accountants Francis Clark our total assets for the financial year ending 31st December 2013 amount to £18,057 which include £14,904 at the bank plus £3,153 paid as deposits for future meetings. Our expenditure was £23,920 and our income £21,917. Both income and expenditure reflect donations and registration fees for the Young Investigator Symposium (YIS) symposium in Warwick that were subsequently passed onto the local organisers.

This year our income has included £10,026 from subscriptions. We have also received £1000 from Professor Terence Ryan who has kindly committed a regular donation to the Society. The Society is extremely grateful for this continuing support from Professor Ryan. The Society also extends our gratitude to Claire Clarkin, Melissa Gammons and Alessio Alfieri for all their hard work in organising the hugely successful 2013 YIS, along with Donald Singer for all his support. A special thank you should also go to Prof Ryan (again), Moor Instruments, and the Richard Bright VEGF Trust for kindly providing funds for poster/abstract prizes at this meeting.

It is evident from the accounts that expenditure has been greater than income. This is primarily because the Society is expecting a profit of £3000-£4000 from the YIS which has not yet been credited. Additionally, the Society has continued its philosophy to support young investigators; donating £2000 to support the YIS and awarding £1,661 for seven Student Assisted Awards to allow student members to attend the IUPS meeting. The Society also presented four BMS funded poster prizes (£100 each) at the IUPS meeting and two poster prizes of £50 each at the YIS. Other major expenditure has included recurring fees such as accountancy (£750), Society of Biology subscription (£459), ESM subscription (£1975) and *Microcirculation* online access fees (£3600). Additionally in 2013 the Society committed expenditure to promotional opportunities, particularly to ensure that we had a presence at the IUPS. Thus, we contributed £1000 towards the extremely successful Malpighi reception at the IUPS and also purchased BMS branded promotional material including re-usable pull-up banners and pens. The Society also presented a BMS poster prize (£50) for the best vascular biology poster at the Second European Conference on the Biology of Hydrogen Sulfide in Exeter in September, where the Society also had a stand in recognition of this donation. The Committee would especially like to thank Carolyn Staton for all her hard work in designing the promotional banners. There have been no website costs in 2013 due to the Honorary Secretary and Treasurer carrying out the required work.

Looking forward, our expenditure is likely to be less in 2014. We will have our usual recurring costs as detailed above. We have also committed approximately £1500 towards SAS awards to allow student members to attend our annual meeting in Bristol. However no other major expenditure is planned. We will of course continue to support our young researchers by offering the Laboratory Visit Grant and The Terence Ryan Conference Grant.

In summary, despite the economic climate, the BMS has continued to flourish. The accounts remain healthy, and membership has tended to balance between resignations and new members. We will see income resulting from a profit by the YIS; however, in the current economic climate the Society can no longer expect large profits from its annual meeting and, unless other avenues of income can be found, must carefully balance the amount spent on awards with income to maintain a healthy balance in the bank.

I would like to thank the rest of the committee for all their help and say goodbye and thank you to Prof Donald Singer, Dr Richard Siow and Dr Carolyn Staton who are leaving the Committee. Finally, a huge thank you to our outgoing President Prof Stuart Egginton who has been a constant support for me in my role as Treasurer.

Dr Jacqueline Whatmore
Honorary Treasurer

Note - Members paying by Direct Debit. If you change your bank details or decide to resign your membership please inform the Honorary Treasurer so that your direct debit can be amended/cancelled.