



Annual General Meeting 2012

5 July 2012: 17.30 – 18.45

O'Reilly Lecture Theatre, Sloane-Robinson Building, Keble College, University of Oxford

Chair: Lopa Leach (Honorary Secretary).

1. Prior to AGM, Dr Mark Downs FSB, FLS; Chief Executive, Society of Biology gave a short presentation about the Society of Biology, its mission statement, aims and the advantages of being an affiliate of the society.
2. Minutes of AGM 2011 (previously circulated) at William Harvey Institute London (18 April, 2011: 17.00 – 18.30;) was approved.
3. Web update : Online Access to Microcirculation, change of host

LL reported that the BMS website now had a new host JUSTHost, which was less costly and allowed greater storage of data. The transfer was seamless and the arrangement was working well. Daniel Fraser had enabled the system to extend administration rights to the Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, as well as to the social media organizer, Melissa Gammons (MG). The website now had full historical archives. Stuart Egginton thanked Professor Lawrence Smaje for his work on compiling the historical archives for the BMS website. Professor Giovanni Mann was thanked for picking up the costs related to publishing the archives

As of January 2012 all BMS members now had on line access to Microcirculation. This was now via a membership log – in.

The BMS blog (run by MG) had carried several stories. It too can be directly accessed from the BMS web page. The BMS Facebook was being accessed by younger members of the Society, who have put photos and comments on the wall. The Twitter facility was not being used but it is available for scientific meetings. In the absence of Melissa Gammons at the Oxford meeting, Professor Donald Singer has taken on the role of roving journalist and was interviewing key note speakers with a view to posting the podcasts on the web. See Appendix 2.

LL asked AGM to approve that Melissa Gammons could remain on the committee for one more year. AGM approved this.

4. Scientific Meetings

- i. Report by BMS 2012 Organiser (Professor Chris Garland, CG)

In the absence of CG, LL reported that of the registered delegates, 200 were BMS members, 46 were MCS members. There were 20 exhibitor delegates from the 15 companies with trade displays. Although full occupancy at Keble was not reached,

the number of exhibitors at the conference, the grants from various learned societies etc allowed CG to anticipate that the conference would break even. The online submission of abstracts and online registration (a first for BMS) was very successful. The Young Investigator's Symposium attracted 26 abstract submissions, 8 were chosen as oral communications. There were 121 abstracts submitted as free communications of which 93 were chosen as posters and 28 as oral communications. There were 11 invited plenary talks. The ProMoCell Lecture will be given by Professor Giovanni Mann (UK), the Danish Myo Technology (DMT) lecture will be given by Professor David Gutterman (USA) and the Wiley-Blackwell Lecture will be given by Professor Dorian Haskard (UK). The final programme had been approved by the local organising committee and the Officers of the British Microcirculation Society.

There were discussions about the registration/conference costs and how they could be lowered for future meetings. CG was thanked for all his hard work, the choice of speakers, organisation of the scientific communications, choice of venue and promotion of the conference and the Society.

ii. BMS Early Career Investigator Symposium in 2013

Dr Alessio Alfieri, on behalf of the members of the committee (Melissa Gammons, Claire Clarkin, Timea Beleznaï) thanked BMS and Professor Singer for this opportunity. The venue of the one day meeting will be at University of Warwick. They have identified a list of themes and keynote speakers. The symposia would have a "speed poster" session, oral and poster communications. There would also be a workshop offering career advice. Poster prizes from BMS would be welcomed. Funding for the meeting was being actively sought from the Physiological Society, Pharmacological Society & British Heart Foundation. The date of the meeting was chosen as 13 April, 2013 which is a Saturday. Accommodation and registration costs would be kept at a minimum to encourage attendance. Final posters would be emailed to BMS members and placed on the website.

iii. ESM/EVBO hosted by BMS at IUPS, 2013

Professor Giovanni Mann, President of ESM, reported that organisation of this was going well. A large number of symposia were proposed by BMS/ESM/EVBO members. The scientific committee of ESM/EVBO, performed an initial selection and presented these to IUPS. A total of 18 symposia were finally chosen by IUPS. The funding for registration, travel etc of invited speakers and organisers will be met by IUPS (3K per symposium). The venue of this meeting is at the International Convention Centre, Birmingham. Dates 21-26 July, 2013. Abstract submissions will be open from December 2012.

iv. BMS 2014

There was a bid from Bristol to host the annual meeting. Dr Andy Salmon would be organising this.

v. BMS 2015 and later.

There were 3 possible bids from Manchester, Newcastle and Nottingham.

4. Society Grants and Awards (LL)

LL reported that BMS has matched MCS and selected 8 awardees for the Student Assistance Scheme to attend the joint meeting at Oxford. Again, members of committee were asked to rank applications. Winners would be announced at the society dinner (Great Hall, Keble College). BMS would be giving 2 poster prizes at the meeting in addition to the Moor Instrument Award. Living Cells wanted to give a Best Oral Presentation award. Dr Carolyn Staton was chairing a judging committee; judges were invited from both sister societies: BMS and MCS. All poster and oral prizes will be presented at end of meeting. See Appendix 1.

Honorary Treasurer, Dr Jackie Whatmore, asked approval from AGM that the present Microcirculation Conference Grant would be renamed the Terence Ryan Conference Travel Grant. BMS committee wished to honour Professor Ryan and his generous donations to the BMS. This change of name was approved. It was agreed that applicants for this and the Laboratory Visit Grants should be members for at least 1 year.

5. Officers Reports

Presidents Report (Dr Stuart Egginton; SE)

SE reported that he had enjoyed his first year as the President of BMS. He has been talking to MCS and the editorial board of Microcirculation and was delighted to announce that as of January 2012 Microcirculation will be the official journal of BMS. He further informed that there would be at least 2 BMS members on the editorial board and that he has suggested that Editor-in-Chief could alternate between MCS and BMS. The Australia and New Zealand Microcirculation Society has also adopted Microcirculation as their journal. The online version of the journal was now accessible to all BMS members, the £20 fee was now included in their annual membership dues. In the last year, the committee has commissioned an overview document to identify potential special topics we would like to include in our annual meetings, both as a way of maintaining a balance among the varied interests of members and also in an attempt to help ease the task facing future meeting organisers. In addition, SE reminded AGM that BMS-sponsored sessions/symposia are considered for publication in Microcirculation to generate themed issues, a number of which are in the pipeline. SE was pleased with the recent changes on the website and was delighted that there would be a dedicated Early Career Symposium in 2013. SE thanked both the Honorary Treasurer and Secretary for all the hard work they do for the society.

Membership Secretary's Report (Professor Jim Middleton)

Professor Jim Middleton announced that there were 256 members, 85 student members and 11 honorary members. His term of office ended in 2012 and Professor Middleton was thanked by AGM for his work for the Society. The Society presented him with an engraved fountain pen.

Proceedings Editors Report (Professor Alan Stitt; AS)

AS informed AGM that online submission of abstracts had made his work easier. He abstracts have all been compiled and would be sent to Microcirculation for a possible publication in January 2013. This issue would also have reviews from key note Speakers presenting at the Microcirc2012 meeting.

Treasurer's Report (Dr Jackie Whatmore; JW; tabled)

Dr Whatmore presented her financial report. The Society's projected final balance for the year would be £19K. However, costs for online subscription of Microcirculation, £2K, has not yet been asked for by Wiley-Blackwell. JW has been investigating electronic membership payments and suggested we could offer electronic payments to members online (using PayPal) as well as offering subscriptions via Direct Debit.

6. Appointment of Auditors

Duly appointed.

7. Committee elections

There was 1 vacancy on the committee. There was 1 nomination, Dr Andy Salmon, University of Bristol. Dr Salmon was duly voted in with a unanimous show of hands. There was also an Early Career Member Vacancy (1 year tenure). Again there was only 1 nomination which was later withdrawn. LL advised that there would be a call for nominations next year prior to the 2013 AGM.

8. Any other business

None was raised

2012 BMS Committee

President, Dr Stuart Egginton (until 2014)

Honorary Secretary, Dr [Lopa Leach](#) (until 2013)

Honorary Treasurer, Dr Jacqueline Whatmore (until 2016)

Editor of Proceedings, Prof Alan Stitt (until 2013)

Membership Secretary, Professor Jim Middleton (until 2012)

Ordinary Members: Professor Christopher Garland (until 2013); Professor Donald Singer (until 2014), Dr Richard Siow (until 2014), Dr Carolyn Staton (until 2014); *Ex officio* Melissa Gammons (until 2012/3).

Appendix 1. List of Grants and Prizes

SAS (TRAVEL) AWARDS

There were 17 applications. Awards were given to the following:

A Russel (Bristol, Supervisor: Andy Salmon); S Srivastava (Kings, Supervisor:Paul Fraser); Sophie Trionnaire (Exeter, Supervisor:Whatmore); U Reem (Sheffield, Supervisor:Brown); J Castle-Miller (Bristol, Supervisor:Bates); Zachary Cole-Healy (Sheffield, Supervisor:Staton); Tabasum Mughal (Kings, Supervisor:Siow); A Shukur (Manchester, Supervisor:Azzawi). This year the award value was increased to £320 (to cover the full conference package at Keble College, Oxford).

Microcirculation Conference Award

Ellen Hughes was awarded £ 500 to attend the Experimental Biology Meeting in 2011(Washington DC). She presented 2 posters there and has written a report which was posted on the Society website.

Laboratory Visit Grant

There were no applications in January. There was 1 application to this from University of Bristol (30 June deadline). This was not awarded.

Early Career Investigator Award

This is given to Postdoctoral Assistants or PhD students and provides an opportunity to run a BMS Early Career Investigator Symposium at a World or European Microcirculation meeting. There are no planned ESM or World Congress this year and therefore there were no applications.

Conference Prizes: At Microcirc2012

BMS Poster Prize 1: Rhiannon Baggot (University of Wolverhampton, UK). VEGF-induced angiogenesis is negatively regulated by the plasma membrane calcium ATPase.

BMS Poster Prize 2: Sebastian Oltean (University of Bristol, UK). VEGF₁₆₅b slows diabetic nephropathy progression in type 1 diabetes rodent models.

Terence Ryan Best Clinical Poster: Augusto Montezano (Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, Canada). Aldosterone-induces vascular pro-inflammatory and fibrotic effects through Nox1-dependent mechanisms independently of blood pressure changes.

Wiley Blackwell Poster Prize: Timea Belezna (University of Oxford, UK). Pressure-dependent role for TRPV4 channels in modulating spontaneous endothelial cell calcium events in rat cremasteric arterioles.

Moor Instruments Innovation in Technology Prize: James Bell (Peninsula College of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Exeter, UK). Structural Changes in Loaded Blood Vessels.

Living Systems Best Oral Presentation award: Dr Andrew Salmon (University of Bristol). Altered endothelial glycocalyx links albuminuria and widespread vascular dysfunction.

Appendix 2. Update on the BMS facebook and blog site

The BMS facebook page now has 47 followers, with each post receiving over 200 views. It is linked to the BMS blog site so that blogs can be viewed through the facebook page. I have linked the blogsite to the BMS website but as yet the website has not been linked to the blogsite, this would be important to encourage non-facebook users to view the blogs.

The younger members of the society, in general, have viewed the facebook page. Posts have thus been aimed at such members advertising applications for travel grants and abstract submission deadlines. Currently other than society information such as conferences and deadlines the posts have included microcirculation related topics of interest such as 'Food in microcirculation' and 'Merry Christmas coronary,' however to further the scope of interest and increase the frequency of posts it would be good to increase the number of members writing blogs. Perhaps encouraging members to get involved with posts would help turn the blog site into more of a discussion forum, which I think would be more fruitful.

I am happy to take on any suggestions of how we could improve/expand the use of the facebook page and blog site. I think we now have a good basis with the number of members gradually expanding, but there is plenty of room for improvement. I will increase the number of topical blogs throughout the summer and next year but it would be useful to include more blogs written by others. One suggestion I have would be to ask travel grant awardees to write a short lay summary about their research or a topic of interest to them, different to an abstract format, but that could be viewed as a blog. Another would be to have a summary of the work committee members are doing in their respective institutions coupled with their scientific background and a brief description of how their career has developed, I think the younger members of the society with really enjoy reading such blogs demonstrating how different members have established their scientific career. Just an idea, but any other suggestions or criticisms would be greatly welcomed.

I am truly sorry I am missing this years' meeting I hope it proves as successful as previous meetings and interesting for all.

Melissa