

BRITISH MICROCIRCULATION SOCIETY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
18:15 Monday 1st April 2008, New Hunts House Lecture theatre 1.

AGENDA

1. **Approval of Minutes** of AGM of Monday 2nd April 2007, Peter Froggatt Centre, Room 209, Queen's University of Belfast

The minutes are attached. Further copies will be available at the meeting.

2. **Matters arising from the Minutes:**

3. **Future scientific meetings:**

- a) Plans for future BMS meetings, 2009, 2010
- b) European Society for Microcirculation meeting in Budapest 2008
- c) World Congress on Microcirculation, 2007
- d) European Society for Microcirculation meeting in 2012

4. **BMS grants:**

Report on current applications and awards

5. **Officer's reports**

President's report

Honorary Secretary's report.

Honorary Treasurer's report (precirculated)

Publications Officer's report

Communications Officer's report.

6. **Committee elections.**

Please note attached ballot paper

7. **Appointment of Auditors.**

8. **Any other business**

The annual general meeting of the British Microcirculation Society will be held on Monday 1st April at the 44th Annual Spring Meeting, from 6:15-7:15pm. If you are unable to make the meeting, please fill in the ballot paper below, and email it to Dave.Bates@bris.ac.uk by the 1st April,

Election of Honorary Secretary.

Lopa Leach

Yes

☐

No

☐

Please vote for up to TWO candidates.

Election to the BMS committee.

Justin Mason, Imperial College

Yes

☐

No

☐

Jim Middleton, Keele University

☐☐

Sally Stringer, University of Manchester

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British Microcirculation Society Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2008

18:15 Monday 1st April, New Hunts House, King's College London, Lecture Theatre 1.

Chairman: The President: Dr Geraldine Clough

1. Minutes of AGM held on Monday 2nd April 2007, Peter Froggatt Centre, Room 209, Queen's University of Belfast

2. Matter Arising. None.

3. Scientific Meetings.

- a) The current meeting has 163 registered excluding AngioNet and invited speakers. The accounts are looking like turning a significant profit – a few thousand pounds at least. There were only 18 places for the workshop, and this was oversubscribed (25 applications). PromoCell have sponsored two prizes from abstracts submitted to AngioNet symposium of £100 each. Don Whitely Scientific provided two additional poster prizes of £100 each for the main meeting. Congratulations to Dr Richard Siow for hosting such a successful meeting.
- b) The Annual Scientific meeting of the Society in 2009 will be hosted at the University of Birmingham. The meeting will follow the usual format, on the 30th –31st March 2008 (Mon-Tue), and will include a symposium on 'Stem Cells in the Microvasculature'. Six of seven speakers have confirmed: Professor Jon Frampton – Birmingham, Professor Tsvee Lapidot – Israel, Professor Stefan Massberg – Germany, Dr Phil Newsome – Birmingham, Professor Qingbo Xu – London and Constanza Emanuelli – Bristol. A workshop will also be held on the Wednesday (1st April) on stem cells.
- c) We received no applications to host the 2010 meeting. I have had three expressions of interest, from Manchester (Ariane Herrick), Imperial College (Justin Mason) and Bristol (Chris Neal), but none felt they were able to make the deadline for applications with a high enough quality bid in time. We have formally invited those three groups to apply by the end of August and then they will be considered in competition.
- d) The Society agreed to sponsor a symposium at the European Congress for Microcirculation in 2008 in Budapest that would showcase early career investigator abstracts from British Microcirculation Scientists. The Early Career Investigator Award was made to Dr Andy Salmon, who will put the programme together with the President's help.
- f). The application from Professors Mann and Pearson to host the European Congress on Microcirculation in 2012 was not successful, and the 2012 meeting will be held in Munich.

4. Society Grants

The following grants were awarded:

Terence Ryan Award, Brunella Christofaro, University of Bristol

Moor Instruments Award, Maria Machado from University of Ulster, Coleraine

BMS Laboratory Visit Grant, None

BMS Microcirculation Conference Grant, Dean Kavanagh (University of Birmingham)

BMS Student's Assistance Scheme, 8 other awards for the highest scoring applications will be made to: Dean Kavanagh (University of Birmingham), Heather Bevan (Southmead Hospital, Bristol), Caroline McGown (University of Sheffield), Joanne Ferguson (University of Bristol), Bhavna Gorsi (University of Manchester), Abigail Welford (University of Sheffield), Sarah Atkinson (University of Ulster, Coleraine), and Paolo Campagnuola (Bristol Heart Institute)

5. Officers Reports

President's Report - See attached report

Honorary Secretary's Report

We have received 37 new members since April last year (21 ordinary, 16 students). We have had 28 resignations. Current membership is at: 264 members, 9 more than last year. Membership consists of 74 students, 181 ordinary members and 9 honorary members. Geographically we have 220 members in England, 16 in Northern Ireland, 11 in Scotland 6 in Wales and 11 overseas members. Around the country we have two or more members in London 53, Bristol 37, Sheffield 27, Birmingham 20, Belfast 13, Manchester 13, Exeter 10, Nottingham 10, Southampton 9, Bath

4, Newcastle upon Tyne 4, Dundee 3, Cardiff 3, Edinburgh 3 and Co Londonderry 3, Notable poorly or absently represented Universities are Liverpool, Oxford and Cambridge (1 each), and Glasgow University that doesn't have any members. These have been tough nuts to crack.

Honorary Treasurer's Report - See attached report

Publications Officer's Report

Last years abstracts from the Belfast meeting were submitted online to Microcirculation. These abstracts were already in the exact format as per BMS guidelines and so were submitted within 1 week of the meeting. The proofs were received within a couple of months and abstracts were finally published in the September edition. I am grateful to Bill Jackson for finding the earliest slot for these proceedings and his help in how to get them ready for submission.

Some of the abstracts from this years abstracts from the Kings meeting were not re-formatted before the meeting and so will need to be sent back to authors to change. The major concern is just the length being too long for some of them. Since we have that many more abstracts this year compared to last, it is essential that we keep them to the correct length. For minor alterations, (grammar, typos etc), I will take the liberty of editing them myself. Authors who do not respond promptly to my request to reformat will be warned that they will not be submitted for publication. Overall, the quality of the research presented in the abstracts has been superb.

Communications Officer's Report.

I've update the web site with a logo/layout put together from the themes sent in by three BMS members. Over the course of the next month this will be changed and improved but the logo/layout stays until something better can be suggested/voted on (suggestions have already come in about changing fonts etc). More of the text on the front page will be hidden behind links.

I've also been investigating the possibility of abstract processing for the BMS meetings. The summary of this is that there are plenty of companies offering 'services' with a starting price of several hundreds if not thousands of pounds for meetings such as ours. At the other end of the scale the starting price is £1.50 to £2.00 per abstract. (Gio Mann offered some contacts to be followed up)

Additionally, I've taken on a 'membership secretary' role (designated proxy) relieving the Hon. Sec. of maintaining the membership list.

6. Election of Committee Members

Following a vote, the following officers and committee members were elected.

Dr Lopa Leach (Honorary Secretary)
Dr Sally Stringer (committee member)
Dr Jim Middleton (committee member)

7. Appointment of Auditors

The meeting agreed to re-appoint the current auditors (Reeves & Neylan).

8. Any other business.

The constitution was altered to allow for the job of maintaining the membership list to be delegated to the communications officer (as a designated proxy), and the term of office of the Editor of proceedings increased to five years.

The meeting closed at 19.15
Professor Geraldine Clough
President

Professor David Bates
Honorary Secretary

British Microcirculation Society
President's Report
March 2008

Over the past three years the committee has worked towards the strategic planning of themed sessions/mini symposia/workshops to engage with researchers, both members of the BMS and those outside it. To this end we have supported theoretical and practical workshops run along side the annual meeting. They have proved very successful thanks to the enthusiasm of both the organisers and those attending. The committee would welcome input from the membership regarding the future of these sessions, their timing and content.

We have spent much time exploring how we could best support our early career members and enhance communication and exchange of ideas within and across societies. One particular success has been to raise the profile of our early career scientists through the Early Career Scientist Symposia at the World Congress 2007 and the European Society meeting 2008. The format of these symposia, with speakers selected from those presenting at the Annual meeting, has provoked discussion with the executive of the ESM, who have expressed their concern that the symposia do not involve speakers from other national societies. The BMS may wish to review how we can best engage with other societies to promote our early career scientists.

As reported last year, the Society has been fortunate over the years to be able to support travel awards for early career scientists through generous financial donations from members of the Society (the Ryan Award for clinical microcirculation and the Moor Instruments award for applications of novel technologies). The travel award schemes have again proved extremely popular this year, especially as so many PhD studentships carry no travel funds. We continue to seek financial support for these awards. As a registered charity, for any donations gifted through Gift Aid, we are able to claim tax relief from the Inland Revenue, thereby increasing the value of the gift by approximately 30% i.e. an additional £250 from a gift of £1000. This allows us to provide an award for five years. I wrote to all honorary members last year in the hope that some would be able to assist us. Anyone able to help should please contact the Hon Treasurer.

The web site which has been updated thanks to the efforts of our communication officers Richard Siow and Chris Neal have improved both information exchange and image. Our closer link with the journal Microcirculation has also been very successful and we are benefiting considerably from publication in the journal of the abstracts from our annual meeting. Relations with the European Society also remain cordial although some issues concerning our commitment to them remain to be resolved.

As I step down as President, I would like to thank all of the committee and especially the Hon Secretary and Treasurer for their considerable support over the past three years. The society continues to be buoyant and active and I hope that my successor Giovanni Mann will enjoy the role as much as I have.

Geraldine Clough
March 2008

British Microcirculation Society Honorary Treasurer's Report 2008

The final income and expenditure account for the financial year ending 31st December 2007, shows a net balance of £22,309 with an income deficit of £1,717. Major items of income this financial year have been £5,562 from subscriptions and £3,076 from an extremely successful meeting both scientifically and socially in Belfast, organised by Dr Tim Curtis. Following the decision to reduce our financial reserves in 2006 we continue to support development of our students and early career scientists. As a consequence our major items of expenditure in 2007 have been the Student Assistance Scheme (£3,790), the early career scientist symposium costs for Milwaukee (£4,500), a Laboratory Visit Grant (£800) and a Conference Grant (£500).

Following discussion with the committee, a new bank account was opened in 2006 with the Bank of Scotland, to generate a higher rate of interest on accumulated funds. Indeed in 2007, £921 was gained in interest (on reduced capital) compared to £599 in 2006. The decision was taken to close the Halifax Asset Reserve Account in 2007, thus streamlining the accounting process. The Royal Bank of Scotland account is predominantly used to deposit the subscriptions collected by direct debit and any payments made through BACS. The Bank of Scotland account is used as a current account and holds the reserve capital. This account has the benefit of generating a relatively high rate of interest 3.25%, compared to other bank accounts allowing the deposit of unincorporated (Charitable) funds.

A small number of members resign each year, cancelling their direct debit instruction directly with the bank or building society, without informing either the secretary or the treasurer. This year 24 members cancelled direct debits without informing the Society. This causes extra work, as it is often unclear whether the instruction has been cancelled by the payee or whether there is a problem with the BACS system. More importantly this has cost implications for the Society. If possible the member is contacted to clarify the situation, however this is time consuming. Therefore if you resign your membership, we request you inform either the membership secretary or myself. Dr Neal and I aim to hold correct records of the current membership, as this has cost implications for our joint membership with the ESM. We need your co-operation to do this. Following our major rationalisation in 2005 of the subscription direct debits, more than 90% of the membership now pay their annual subscriptions by this method. Subscriptions are debited early in January, thus allowing maximum possible interest to accrue during the financial year. This allows further investment in our young scientists. However, I would like to encourage those members continuing to pay by cheque, to complete a direct debit mandate.

The Society membership continues to flourish and as a consequence we are actively supporting our younger members to attend BMS and associated meetings and visit other laboratories, through the student assistance scheme, conference and laboratory visit grants. However every effort should be made by all the membership to encourage new colleagues to join the society, so we continue or expansion.

Nicola J. Brown

Honorary Treasurer