

BRITISH MICROCIRCULATION SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2009

17:30 Monday 30 March 2009, Leonard Deacon Lecture Theatre, The Wolfson Centre, Medical School University of Birmingham

Chairman: The President: Professor Giovanni Mann.

1. **Minutes of the AGM** held on Monday 1st April, 2008, New Hunts House, King's College London. Approved.
2. **Matters Arising.** None.
3. **Scientific Meetings**

BMS University of Birmingham 2009. The current meeting has 208 registered delegates (a record high). The conference finances are in very good form, it may generate a significant income to the Society of just above £6,000. There are 14 trade exhibits and sponsorship from the British Heart Foundation, The Wellcome Trust and The Physiological Society. PromoCell, were the main sponsor of the meeting, and generously funded 2 poster prizes, the inaugural BMS Clinical Lecture Award (500 Euros) and additional funds towards the meeting. The healthy financial situation (due to Dr Kalia's tireless efforts) has allowed the Society to give 2 extra BMS Poster prizes (£100 each) at this meeting. Furthermore, the workshop for young investigators on *Methods for monitoring cell adhesion and migration in vivo and in vitro* (Wednesday 1 April, 2009) did not require extra funding from the BMS. Congratulations were given to Dr Neena Kalia for hosting such an extremely successful meeting.

BMS University of Exeter 2010. The 60th Annual Scientific Conference of the Society in 2010 will be hosted at the Peninsula Medical School, University of Exeter. The organisers will be Dr Jacqueline Whatmore and Professor Angela Shore. Dr Whatmore presented details about the meeting, venue and accommodation.

Post Meeting Note. After conversations with Professor Giovanni Mann (President, BMS), the symposium topic for the Exeter Meeting will be: *Diabetic microangiopathy – old players and new contenders*, and highlighting the research expertise in diabetes established in Exeter.

BMS 2011. There were no firm bids for this year. Manchester, Bristol and London were 3 possible venues. We agreed to solicit further potential organisers and members were urged to bid.

BMS 2012. There will be a joint meeting with the American Microcirculation Society. The best time for the meeting may be July or early September. Dr Kim Dora and Professor Chris Garland were interested in hosting the joint meeting at the University Oxford. Bids from other interested parties in the UK were welcome. Members were urged to contact the Honorary Secretary by end of June 2009.

ESM 2013 The venue is London. Professors Mann and Pearson will be heading this conference on behalf of the BMS and ESM. An international scientific programme committee would oversee the submission of symposia and the finalised scientific programme. Giovanni Mann, Jeremy Pearson, Prof Ulrich Pohl and Prof Axel Pries are liaising to see whether the ESM in 2013 (as the ESM 2011 in Munich) could be joint with the European Vascular Biology Organisation.

World Congress for Microcirculation 2010

9th World Congress for Microcirculation, 18 - 22 September 2010, Paris.

At the ESM meeting in Budapest, the President of the World Congress in Paris wanted a Scientific Committee formed and it was agreed that 6 nominations would be sent from the USA, 6 from Europe and 6 from Australasia. The Society consulted the membership and put forward 3 names from the BMS membership. The Scientific Committee for the World Congress has been finalised and Giovanni Mann (President, BMS) is a member.

The BMS has has proposed two symposia so far: 1) British Microcirculation Society Sponsored Symposium entitled 'Consequences of Fetal Programming on Vascular Function in Adulthood' with co-organisers Giovanni E. Mann (Cardiovascular Division, King's College London, UK) and Lopa Leach (School of Biomedical Sciences, University of Nottingham, UK). 2) A non-sponsored symposium organised by Dr Sally Stringer on 'Vascular Imaging in Zebra Fish'. BMS will also propose an Early Career Investigator Symposium (via our ECI award) and discussed co-organising a Young Microcirculation Symposium with the Japanese Microcirculation Society or other interested parties.

Lopa Leach (Honorary Secretary) will email the membership urging more submissions of symposia titles.

4. Society Grants Laboratory Visit Grant

In 2008 there were 3 applications for a Laboratory Visit Award (LVA) of which two were successful.

1. Abigail Welford (University of Sheffield). Visit to Albert Einstein College of Medicine, USA. Tumour-associated macrophage infiltration in the CSF-1 knockout mouse.
2. Kaivan Khavandi (University of Manchester), Continuation of a study at Professor Heagerty's laboratory in Manchester on The effects of perivascular adipose tissue on the physiology and pathology of the microcirculation.

The 2 Laboratory Visit Awardees would not be able to present at the AGM. Abigail Welford (University of Sheffield) has delayed her trip to Albert Einstein College of Medicine, NY, USA. Miss Welford will therefore present at the next AGM (2010).

Kaivan Khavandi (University of Manchester) also cannot attend this meeting due to his clinical commitments, but sent a summary which was tabled. His work resulted in authorships in *Circulation* and *Hypertension*. He also is the first author in a review for *Best Practice & Res Clin Endocrinol & Metabol.*

Prof David Bates was concerned that an undergraduate student (KK) wishing to extend his Honours project studies was a recipient of the LVG. It was agreed that the rules of the LVG and the application form would be altered so only postgraduate studies, visiting another lab could apply.

BMS Clinical Lecture Award (funded by PromoCell).

Professor Malcolm Reed (Consultant Surgeon, University of Sheffield) was the recipient of this prestigious award in 2009. He was invited to give this inaugural clinical lecture on The current effectiveness of anti-angiogenic strategies for cancer treatment at the Birmingham meeting.

The Moor Instruments Award

The Moor Instruments award for research conducted using novel technology was given to

Kim Reeves (University of Sheffield). **A NEW MODEL TO STUDY PROSTATE CANCER MICROMETASTASES *IN VIVO***

Student Assistance Schemes

For the Birmingham meeting, there were 21 applications, 13 were awarded:

Amanda Burnett (University of Sheffield) **REGULATION OF NEUTROPHIL FUNCTION BY THE ANGIOPOIETINS**

Cheng Xinghua (Kings College) **IMPAIRED REDOX SIGNALING IN FETAL ENDOTHELIAL CELLS IN GESTATIONAL DIABETES: CONSEQUENCES FOR Nrf2/ARE MEDIATED HO-1 EXPRESSION AND FETAL PROGRAMMING**

Dai Xu (Kings College) **IMPAIRED Nrf2/ARE REDOX SIGNALING IN FETAL VASCULAR SMOOTH MUSCLE CELLS IN PRE-ECLAMPSIA : IMPLICATIONS FOR FETAL PROGRAMMING**

Dalli Jesmond (William Harvey Research Institute). **Annexin 1 mediates the rapid anti-inflammatory effects of neutrophil-derived micrparticles.**

Dasari Shilpa (Queens University Belfast) **THE EFFECTS OF THE RECEPTOR FOR AGES (RAGE) IN A MURINE MODEL OF WET AGE RELATED MACULAR DEGENERATION**

Granesan Poo Balan (Aberdeen) **MODELING OF RETINAL VASCULATURE AND CIRCULATION**

Hoareau-aveilla Coralie (Bristol) **CHARACTERIZATION OF CIS- AND TRANS-ACTING FACTORS INVOLVED IN THE VEGF EXON 8 ALTERNATIVE SPLICING**

Peiris Maria (Bristol) **VEGF₁₆₅b REDUCES HUMAN NEUROBLASTOMA GROWTH RATE *IN VIVO***

Sage Leslie (Bristol) **BREFELDIN INHIBITS ANGIOPOIETIN-1 (ANG1)-INDUCED CHANGES IN HYDRAULIC CONDUCTIVITY (L_p)**

Kendall Alexandra (Penninsula Medical School) **ENDOTHELIAL ADHESION MOLECULE EXPRESSION AND NEUTROPHIL ADHESION UNDER FLOW ARE REDUCED BY HYPERBARIC OXYGEN IN A CHRONIC WOUND MODEL**

Parmar Kishan (Manchester) **RESISTANCE ARTERY STRUCTURE AND MECHANICS IN HYPERTENSION AND AGING - INFLUENCE OF INTEGRIN-EXTRACELLULAR MATRIX INTERACTIONS**

Turner Jamie (Dundee) **IMPAIRED MICROVASCULAR FUNCTION IN MSK_{1/2} KNOCK-OUT MICE- ROLE OF INFLAMMATION**

Williamson Kate (Manchester). **ENDOTHELIAL PROGENITOR CELLS IN VASCULAR AGEING**

Poster Awards

This year the committee decided to give 2 BMS poster awards in addition to the two PromoCell awards. Recipients were: Andy Salmon (Bristol), Kim Gooding (Peninsula); Alessio Alfieri (Sheffield), Clara O'Neil (Belfast)

BMS Early Career Investigation Award. 2008

The 2008 award went to Dr Andy Salmon (Bristol) who organised a symposium entitled EXTRACELLULAR MATRIX AND GROWTH FACTORS for the ESM 2008 in Budapest, Hungary.

2009

There were 2 applications for the 2009 award.

Claire E Clarkin. (Royal Veterinary College, London). Endothelial cell plasticity and regulation of tissue specific angiogenesis.

Felicity Gavins. (Imperial College). Crosstalk between Inflammation and coagulation.

No award was made as there was to be no ECI symposium at the World Congress in 2010.

5. Officers Reports

Communication Officer/Membership Secretary's Report

Dr Chris Neal reported that membership of BMS stood at 268. There were 181 Ordinary members, 9 Honorary members and 78 student members.

Proceedings Editors Report see below.

Honorary Treasurer's Report (precirculated) see below.**6. Appointment of Auditors**

The meeting agreed to re-appoint the current auditors.

7. Microcirculation Open Access

The journal was considering the option of open access. Prof Bates stated that this could only be a forward step for the journal and would not disadvantage the society or its members.

8. Royal Society Exhibition

The Royal Society celebrates its 350th anniversary in 2010, and planned to have a Summer Science Exhibition at the Southbank Centre in London from 26 June-4 July 2010. The society felt that this was an ideal opportunity to showcase the British Microcirculation Society by having an exhibit at the Exhibition. Professor Geraldine Clough (Past President) was invited by the BMS committee to take the lead on this and prepare an application to the Royal Society. Prof Clough reported that the exhibit could be entitled 'Big role for small vessels'. The exhibit could include archives of in vivo blood flow video-clips and static images obtained by Laser Doppler and Thermal imaging. In addition there could be an interactive stand where visitors will be able to view blood flow in their own microvessels and see how simple manoeuvres such as warming/cooling the skin can affect flow. Professor Clough would seek funding or loan of key equipment from industries such as Moor Moor Instruments and KK Technologies for the 'hands on' activities.

AGM approved this wholeheartedly.

9. Election of Committee Members

A vote of thanks was given to Professor Nicola Brown whose term of office as Honorary Treasurer ended at the AGM. The President of BMS, on behalf of the committee and all members thanked Nicola for her hard work over the 5 years, for looking after the finances so well, whilst still enabling the Society to increase the awards the society gives, especially those for the encouragement of young scientists. Her help to new and existing members of the committee was also gratefully acknowledged.

A call for a new Treasurer was sent out to the membership by the Honorary Secretary. There were two excellent nominees for the position of Treasurer – Professor Paul Fraser (University of London) and Dr Zoe Brookes (University of Sheffield). The ballot paper was emailed to the membership.

All votes were counted and the new Treasurer for BMS, Dr Zoe Brookes was duly elected.

10. Any other business

None.

The meeting closed at 18.30.

Professor Giovanni Mann
President

Dr Lopa Leach
Honorary Secretary

British Microcirculation Society Honorary Treasurer's Report 2008

The final income and expenditure account for the financial year ending 31st December 2008, shows a net balance of £18,918 with an income deficit of £3,391. Major items of income this financial year have been £5,877 from subscriptions and £2,335 from an extremely successful meeting both scientifically and socially at Kings College London, organised by Dr Richard Siow. 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 2008 have been the Student Assistance Scheme (£1,827), the early career scientist symposium costs in Budapest (£3,031), a Laboratory Visit Award (£600) and a Conference Award (£500).

The new bank account opened in 2006 with the Bank of Scotland, to generate a higher rate of interest on accumulated funds, continued to generate healthy interest in the first half of 2007. However due to the rapid decline in interest rates through the latter half of the year, the account is no longer earning interest. The new Treasurer may wish to reconsider where the Society's funds are held.

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 20 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 (Dr Chris Neal) or the Treasurer, who 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 continued to flourish in 2008 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, in particular we wish to expand our clinician scientist membership.

Finally, I would like to thank all colleagues who have served on the BMS Committee during my term of office for their assistance, guidance and friendship, and all the membership for their continued active support of the Society. I am sure we will continue to thrive in these difficult financial times.

Nicola J. Brown
Honorary Treasurer

British Microcirculation Society
Editor of Proceeding's Report, April 2009

The abstracts of the 58th BMS meeting held at Kings College London have been published and can be found in *Microcirculation* 2008, 15(7) Oct : 633-687. The number of submitted abstracts for the 2008 meeting has been the highest ever submitted to the society. A total number of 107 abstracts were submitted and subsequently accepted for oral (26) and poster (81) communications. This was a substantial increase from the Belfast meeting in which 81 abstracts were submitted in total. Furthermore, the abstracts of the 7 symposium speakers were also published. Most abstracts covered the stalwart themes of the BMS such as vascular biology, tumour microcirculation and inflammation. However, this year abstracts covering new developments in areas such as stem cell biology, gene therapy and metastasis were also submitted. This clearly highlights the success of the BMS in attracting interest from researchers working in currently topical areas.

Due to the success of the London meeting, the length of the Proceedings was much longer than previous years. *Microcirculation* Editor, Professor Bill Jackson, stated that he could not displace research articles to publish the BMS Proceedings. (The Publisher allows 96 pages per issue which is equivalent to 6 research articles. The edited Proceedings accounted for 44 pages, the equivalent of 3 manuscripts!). Therefore, in order to publish the Proceedings in the same year as the meeting and not have them split into to issues, we had to incur a cost. Although Professor Jackson requested \$1500, we paid \$750 to publish the 2008 abstracts.

Microcirculation is considering going electronic whereby PDF's of BMS Proceedings can be obtained online but would not appear in print. The BMS Members were asked in the AGM of the B'ham 2009 meeting for their opinion on having abstracts available only in electronic form. It was emphasized that for the junior researchers, having abstracts published was quite important. Since the abstracts published in the Journal would still have a DOI number, the overall consensus was that they were happy with this and that this was probably an inevitable event for most journals. This would also prevent any future publication costs. The membership were informed that Professor Bill Jackson was keen for us to cite recent publications in the journal in our own work and encourage colleagues to do so and also to submit high quality research to the Journal. He also requested that we approach him if we wished to write a review on high impact special topics. The impact factor of the *Microcirculation* is currently a very respectable: 3.495.

Overall, I am delighted with the standard of this year's submission for the 2009 B'ham meeting and thank the majority of authors for adhering to preparation guidelines. Following liaison with Professor Bill Jackson (Editor, *Microcirculation*), I will submit abstracts immediately after the meeting with publication hopefully after a couple of months. I will forward the publication reference to Dr Chris Neal (Communications Officer) for inclusion on the BMS webpage when abstracts have been published for the 2009 meeting.

Neena Kalia

Editor of Proceedings