

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2015

Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester, UK

Thursday 16th April, 2015 – 17.15pm

1.0	<p>Approval of Minutes</p> <p>Minutes of the AGM meeting held on 10th April, 2014 at School of Chemistry, University of Bristol were approved as a true and accurate record.</p>
2.0	<p>Laboratory Visit Grant Recipient – Emily McNaughton, University of Bristol</p> <p>Miss Emily McNaughton received £598 from the Society to attend the laboratory of Professor Andreas Kungl Lab, Graz Austria (01/03/15-27/03/15). The visit was to learn isothermal fluorescent titration to determine the binding affinities of novel anti-inflammatory peptides based on chemokines to heparan sulfate. Unfortunately, Miss McNaughton was unable to attend the Meeting to present her work (saving funds to attend WCM in Kyoto) and sent her apologies to the Honorary Secretary. However, she did submit a written report which was presented to the Society. <i>'I would like to thank the British Microcirculation Society for their generous grant that enabled me to travel to a laboratory in Graz, Austria. The trip has allowed me to work alongside highly specialized scientists and obtain useful feedback. I was also able to expand my network and establish a collaboration with the research group in Graz.'</i></p>
3.0	<p>Report on BMS 2015 – Andrea Murray</p> <p>Andrea reported that the Manchester meeting comprised 121 registered delegates which included : 36 YI's (19 BMS members), 43 BMS members, 24 non-members, 7 invited speakers and 11 trade exhibitors. The delegates spanned 20 institutions and 7 countries across UK and Europe. A total of 54 poster, 20 oral and 7 invited communications were included in the final programme. 83 people registered to attend the conference dinner at the Manchester Town Hall. The Committee had agreed to support 9 prizes, which included : 1 BMS oral communication prize, 3 BMS poster prizes, 2 Institute of Physics poster prizes, 2 Moor Instruments prizes and a Terence Ryan clinically relevant communication prize. 5 SAS awards had also been made (see section 6.0). These awards were in addition to the two BMS travel awards for the European Society for Microcirculation (ESM) and the World Congress for Microcirculation (WCM). 9 trade exhibitors supported the meeting and included : Moor Instruments, KK Technology, Actelion, Peprotech, Promocell, Li-Cor, Andor Bitplane, VivoSight and Cellix Ltd (sponsor only). 7 international leaders in their field were invited to give plenary lectures on a range of imaging modalities. There were two sponsored lectures ; Jean-Luc Cracowski (Grenoble Alpes University, France) and Martin Leahy (NUI Galway, Ireland) who were sponsored by Moor Instruments and the journal <i>Microcirculation</i> respectively. Plaques had been arranged to be given to these speakers. The Members thanked Andrea and her local organising team for putting together an excellent programme and for forecasting a significant profit for the Society (~£5K).</p>

4.0	<p>Progress Report on BMS 2016 – Helen Arthur, University of Newcastle</p> <p>The venue will be the Herschel Building, University of Newcastle on the 7-8th April, 2016. The chosen theme for the meeting is 'Microvessels of the Heart' with a specific focus on therapeutic angiogenesis on the heart and cardiac ischemia-reperfusion injury. The meeting hopes to secure CPD points. Invited speakers include Amedeo Chiribiri (KCL), Paolo Camici (Milan, Italy), Costanza Emanuelli (Bristol), Nikolaos Frangogiannis (New York), Sean Davidson (UCL), Michael Potente (Germany), Nicola Smart (Oxford), Qingbo Xu (KCL). Proposed registration was anticipated to be £120 for members, £80 for students and £220 for non-members. Arrangements are being made for the conference dinner to be held at the Riverside Restaurant, Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, at a cost of £50/person. Approximate loss/profit forecasts were made and were not deemed inappropriate by the Society. 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 Helen for attending the AGM and updating the members on her progress for the 2016 meeting.</p>
5.0	<p>Update on Future Microcirculation Meetings</p> <p><u>BMS 2016:</u> Professor Helen Arthur, University of Newcastle – confirmed</p> <p><u>BMS 2017:</u> Dr Lopa Leach, Nottingham – TBC or Dr Christopher Mitchell – Coleraine, NI – TBC or Joint meeting with the UK Cell Adhesion Society – TBC</p> <p><u>BMS 2018:</u> Professor Stuart Egginton, University of Leeds – TBC or Dr Christopher Mitchell – Coleraine, NI – TBC</p> <p><u>BMS 2019:</u> Professor Nicola Brown and Dr Carolyn Staton, Sheffield – TBC</p> <p><u>BMS 2017</u></p> <p>The possibility of at least 3 hosts for the 2017 meeting were brought to the attention of the Members. Lopa Leach agreed to look into non-university venues as university venues were all booked. Christopher Mitchell agreed to look into the possibility of hosting the meeting in Coleraine, NI. There also appeared to be significant support for a joint meeting with another national Society as this was considered a great means for attracting new members. Discussion followed on the possibility of combining the 2017 meeting with the UK Cell Adhesion Society (UKCAS). Sussan Nourshargh, past President of this Society, joined the BMS Committee last year. She was confident that this would be received positively by UKCAS members. The two Societies are of a similar size negating the possibility of the BMS being 'lost' within the annual conference of a larger Society. Sussan informed the members that UKCAS rotate their annual meetings between London and Birmingham and that in 2017 their meeting was scheduled to be in Birmingham. She also informed the members that the current President, Dr Ann Ager, was based in Cardiff – in light of earlier comments raised by the BMS members that we had not held a meeting in Wales, it looked as if this combination was one to consider. It was agreed that in the interest of fairness and transparency, the Society should put out an open call for bids from interested parties to host this conference. The Honorary Secretary agreed to put out an immediate call for bids to host the 2017 meeting in the next newsletter to the membership (post meeting update – a newsletter was emailed to the membership in May 2015).</p> <p><u>International Microcirculation Meetings</u></p> <p>The Society were reminded of the calendar of events for upcoming international microcirculation meetings. The Society were also reminded that Dr Shaun Sandow (Sydney, Australia) was organising an 'International Young Investigators Symposium' for the WCM. This would comprise YIs 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</p>

	<p>YI from its membership. Dr Sandow had approached the Honorary Secretary to identify a BMS (female) member who was willing to co-chair this symposium with him. Angela Shore volunteered to take on this role and was thanked. Angela was also congratulated with huge applause for her nomination and subsequently winning the ESM Malpighi Award. It was noted that she is only the second female academic (the first being Professor Olga Hudlicka) to win this prestigious award. The membership were informed that Geraldine Clough had been nominated by the BMS for this award and she was also applauded for this nomination.</p> <p><u>YIs Symposium</u></p> <p>There was yet again, lengthy discussion, on when young investigators (YIs) could host their own meeting and it was suggested that 2017 would be ideal. Although there was overwhelming support from the membership for YIs to organise their own meetings, views ranged from (i) why 2017, why not every year beginning with 2016. (i) why not always have it in the middle of the year separate from the annual BMS meeting and therefore at a venue of the YIs choice..... Concerns were raised about students presenting the same abstract at two separate meetings. The Honorary Secretary concluded that she would put out a call for YIs to submit a bid for a meeting at a time and venue of their choosing and that the meeting would be under the auspices of the BMS and underwritten by it. The ball is in the court of the YIs !</p> <p><u>Miscellaneous Item Discussed</u></p> <p>The Members were informed that the number of students/junior investigators applying for BMS grants was generally declining. Suggestions were made to place the grants available on the front page of the BMS webpage. The Honorary Secretary offered to send more email reminders nearer the deadlines and reminded the members that there was still the possibility of applying for an additional overseas conference for the WCM before the June deadline. Some members were concerned that it was not clear who could have applied for the additional ESM/WCM grants – the members were reminded that the Secretary did send very clear emails in the lead up to the current BMS meeting.</p> <p>The Society will accept nominations for Honorary members – we currently have 9 but could have 12 – members were reminded that we have no female Honorary Members.</p>
6.0	<p>Society Awards and Grants</p> <p>There had been two applications for the Laboratory Visit Grant, both from Bristol, and the sum of £598 was awarded to one applicant, Miss Emily McNaughton, to attend Austria (see Section 2.0). There had also been one application for the Terence Ryan Conference Grant and the sum of £360 was awarded to Miss Joanne Carter, Nottingham, to attend ESM. The Society received 5 SAS applications for the Manchester meeting and 5 awards were made totalling £1,235. The abstracts were scored by Committee members, with no member judging abstracts from their own University. SAS awardees for the 2015 BMS meeting were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zahid Pranjol (Exeter) • Leighton Freeman (Exeter) • Cynthia To (Exeter) • Hesham Elhegni (Bristol) • Nikita Ved (Nottingham) <p>This year, 2 additional BMS awards were made to support the attendance of early career investigators at the ESM and WCM. Miss Patricia Kelly, Coleraine, received an award of £672 to attend the ESM in Pisa, Italy. An award of £880 was made to Miss Nikita Ved, Bristol, (post-AGM addition) to attend the WCM in Kyoto, Japan.</p>

7.0**Officers Reports**President's Report – Nicola Brown

The President reminded the members that 2015 is a prominent and busy year for Microcirculation, with all three of our major meetings being held this calendar year (BMS – Manchester, April; ESM – Pisa, June; WCM – Japan, September). The reason for this occurring was due to the WCM being rescheduled from 2014 to 2015, to accommodate the new host country and allow time for organisation. Abstract and registration details had been requested from ESM but unfortunately to date no information had been received. However, to date, WCM have received 170 registrations (40 symposium speakers, 28 satellite symposium speakers and 102 poster presentations). Ahead of the abstract deadline (extended from 15 to 30 April) this was an encouraging number of delegates. Based on the financial projections and secured sponsorship, approximately 300 delegates are required for the meeting to be cost-effective. All other arrangements for WCM are progressing well. The preliminary programme looks exciting and educational with two UK-led hybrid symposium (Geraldine Clough/Giovanni Mann – Microvascular plasticity and developmental priming: impact on human health; Nicola Brown- Bone Microcirculation: a potential therapeutic target) and plenty of time for poster discussions. The organisers and affiliated International Microcirculation Societies are encouraging the attendance of early career investigators, with BMS and ESM funding one travel award each, and the Microcirculatory Society supporting six early career investigators. The President encouraged as many BMS members to attend as possible to both international meetings.

The members were informed of ongoing Committee discussions around how BMS membership could be increased. Several possible avenues are being pursued focusing on societies of a similar size, where identity loss is unlikely to be an issue (eg. UK Cell Adhesion Society, British Society for Matrix Biology). Successful joint meetings held with BACR will be continued. In addition, over the next year, the Committee will work together to identify specific academic groups, either new to the field or who have been members in the past, to try to increase membership using a more targeted approach. PI's should continue to encourage all their team to join the Society.

Whilst the Society is currently in a healthy financial position (thanks to Andy Salman and team, returning a large profit from our 2014 annual meeting) there remains the need to continue to increase the Society's funds, potentially through corporate sponsorship. Following initial approaches and positive feedback from a number of companies, nothing concrete has been finalised.

The President thanked the BMS committee members for all their hard work in the past year, in particular the Honorary Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer.

Honorary Treasurer's Report – Jacqueline Whatmore

Total assets for the financial year ending 31st December 2014 amount to £24,921 which include £21,768 at the bank plus £3,153 paid as deposits for future meetings. Our expenditure was £9,935 and our income £16,799. Income included £10,672 from subscriptions, £1000 from Professor Terence Ryan and significant profits from the annual BMS meeting in Bristol in 2014 and also from funds eventually recuperated from the YIs meeting in Warwick. A detailed Treasurer's report is attached to the minutes.

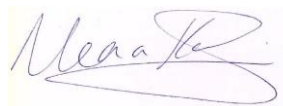
Membership Secretary's Report – Kim Gooding

Kim reported 207 BMS members. Unfortunately there had been more resignations than new memberships over the last few months. There also had not been the flurry of new members that was anticipated in the lead up to the BMS 2015 Manchester meeting.

	<p>Editor of Proceedings Report – Alan Stitt</p> <p>Unfortunately, the BMS 2014 Bristol abstracts had not been published and Alan was apologetic for this oversight ! These will be published as soon as possible with the 2015 Manchester abstracts.</p>
8.0	<p>Microcirculation Report – Geraldine Clough</p> <p>Geraldine informed the Society of the journal's current impact factor (2.263), the top cited papers from the journal in the past 3 years and which countries these were from. Information on the benefits of the journal were presented which included opportunities to guest edit a special topic issue with full support. She also thanked the members on behalf of the journal as support from the UK / BMS for the journal was increasing year on year. Some discussion followed on that fact that the journal needed to be open access in order to get publications cited more and the time it took for the final article to appear.</p>
9.0	<p>Appointment of Auditors</p> <p>Auditors : Francis Clark Chartered Accountants</p>
10.0	<p>Committee Elections – Ordinary Members</p> <p>Nominations had been received from Dr Simon Satchell (Bristol) and Dr Kenton Arkill (Bristol) for election to the committee. Voting for 1 position took place. Kenton was welcomed to the Committee as an Ordinary Member.</p>
11	<p>AOB</p> <p>The President thanked Alan Stitt for his contributions to the Committee and the Society – a small gift as a token of appreciation was made. Melissa Gammons agreed to take over as Editor of Proceeding.</p>



Professor Nicola J Brown
President



Dr Neena Kalia
Honorary Secretary

British Microcirculation Society - Honorary Treasurer's Report for 2014

In consultation with our accountants Francis Clark our total assets for the financial year ending 31st December 2014 amount to £24,921 which include £21,768 at the bank plus £3,153 paid as deposits for future meetings. Our expenditure was £9,935 and our income £16,799.

This year our income has included £10,672 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 Andy Salmon and his co-organisers in Bristol for all their hard work in organising the hugely successful and enjoyable 2014 BMS annual Meeting. A special thank you should also go to Prof Ryan (again) and Moor Instruments 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 received a fantastic profit of £3085 from the 2013 YIS meeting and also direct sponsorship into the BMS account (£2000) for the Bristol meeting.

The Society has continued its philosophy to support young investigators; awarding £1,325 for six Student Assisted Awards to allow student members to attend the Bristol Meeting. The Society also presented two poster prizes of £50 each at the Bristol meeting. We also continue to offer young investigators the annual opportunity to apply for the Laboratory Visit and Terence Ryan Conference Grants. Other major expenditure in 2014 has included recurring fees such as accountancy (£540), Society of Biology subscription (£500), ESM subscription (£1852) and *Microcirculation* online access fees (£3600). There have been no website costs in 2014 due to the Honorary Secretary and Treasurer carrying out the required work.

Looking forward, our expenditure is likely to be more in 2014. We will have our usual recurring costs as detailed above. We have also committed approximately £1250 towards SAS awards to allow student members to attend our annual meeting in Manchester, £800 to fund one of our young investigators to present their abstract at the joint ESM-EVBO meeting in Pisa in June and another £1500 for one of our junior members to present their abstract at the World Congress For Microcirculation in Japan in September. Additionally, in 2015 both the Laboratory Visit and Terence Ryan Conference Grants have been awarded. To counter these expenditures we are expecting considerable profits from both the Bristol meeting in 2014 and the Manchester Meeting in 2015.

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.

I would like to thank the rest of the committee for all their help and say goodbye and thank you to Prof Alan Stitt who is leaving the Committee.

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.