

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016

Curtis Auditorium, Herschel Building, University of Newcastle, UK

Thursday 7th April, 2016 – 17.40pm

1.0	<p>Approval of Minutes</p> <p>Minutes of the AGM meeting held on 16th April, 2015 at the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester were approved as a true and accurate record.</p>
2.0	<p>Report on BMS 2016 – Helen Arthur/Iokim Spyridopoulos</p> <p>Helen Arthur reported that the Newcastle meeting comprised 74 registered delegates which included 32 BMS members, 26 BMS student members, 16 non-members and included the 8 invited speakers. A total of 39 poster, 16 oral and 8 invited communications were included in the final programme. The 8 international leaders in the field of coronary microcirculation invited to speak at the meeting included 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). The conference dinner was arranged at the Baltic Arts Centre, where delegates would be welcomed by Robson's Choice, a small group of musicians playing the Northumberland pipes. The Committee had agreed to support 7 prizes, which included : 2 BMS oral communication prizes, 3 BMS poster prizes, 1 Moor Instruments prize and 1 Terence Ryan clinically relevant communication prize. The journal <i>Microcirculation</i> also awarded 1 poster prize. 10 SAS awards had also been made (see section 5.0). 5 trade exhibitors supported the meeting and included : Moor Instruments, Promocell, Bioline, Lonza and Licor. Additional Sponsors for the meeting included <i>Microcirculation</i>, St Jude Medical, the University of Newcastle and the British Heart Foundation. The meeting also attracted 12 CPD points. There will be a special issue in <i>Microcirculation</i> which will include 6 reviews and an editorial from the organisers (Helen Arthur and Kim Spyridopoulos). The Members thanked Helen and Iokim and their local organising team for putting together an excellent programme and for forecasting a large surplus for the Society (£7,283).</p>
3.0	<p>BMS 2017 – Neena Kalia</p> <p>The Members were informed that the 2017 meeting would again return to The Medical School, University of Birmingham (also hosted the 2009 BMS meeting) and would be a joint meeting with the UK Cell Adhesion Society (UKCAS). The meeting will be jointly hosted by Neena on behalf of the BMS and Dr Helen McGettrick, on behalf of UKCAS. The meeting dates were confirmed as: Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th April, 2017 – these dates were chosen as they fell outside of University term time but preceded the Easter holidays and school half term. The dedicated symposium for the meeting will be '<i>The Many Facets of Vascular Inflammation</i>', a theme which interests both Societies. 6 speakers have been confirmed for the meeting and include : Professor Jan Nilsson (University of Lund, Sweden), Professor Britta Englehardt (University of Bern, Sweden), Dr Joseph Skitzki (Roswell Park Cancer Institute, New York), Dr Mathieu-Benoit Voisin (William Harvey, London), Professor Yvonne Alexander (Manchester Metropolitan) and Professor Paul Kubes (University of Calgary, Canada). It is anticipated that the conference dinner will be held at the Banqueting</p>

	<p>Suite, Council House, a Grade II listed building in Birmingham city centre. The conference package costs £110/delegate for both days and includes : hire of the Leonard Deacon lecture theatre, exhibition space, poster space and boards, catering (2 x lunch, 6 teas/coffees), A/V technical support, dedicated conference website, online registration, Wi-Fi access for delegates, delegate badges, cloakroom, certificate of attendance and arrangements for conference dinner. A dedicated conference webpage has been generated and will be updated regularly – http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/facilities/mds-cpd/conferences/bms/index.aspx</p>
4.0	<p>Update on Future Microcirculation Meetings</p> <p>BMS 2018 Dr Christopher Mitchell – Coleraine, NI – TBC BMS 2019 Professor Stuart Egginton, University of Leeds – TBC</p> <p>No hosts have been confirmed for the 2018 and 2019 BMS meetings despite a number of emails soliciting interest from the Honorary Secretary. The Committee had approached Dr Christopher Mitchell (Coleraine, NI) for the possibility of hosting the 2018 meeting. It was agreed that in the interest of fairness and transparency, the Society should again put out an open call for bids from interested parties to host this conference (post-meeting note: Dr Christopher Mitchell confirmed he will host the 2018 meeting in March in Coleraine).</p>
5.0	<p>Society Awards and Grants</p> <p>The Society had received no applications for the Laboratory Visit Grant or the Terence Ryan Conference Grant. There was some discussion on how to increase submission from young investigators for these awards. NK said she would continue to send timely reminders via the newsletter and emails to the membership. Even applications for the SAS awards were low this year and a number of emails were sent to encourage applications, with the deadline for submission extended twice. Eventually, the Society received 10 SAS applications for the Newcastle meeting and 10 awards were made. The abstracts were scored by Committee members, with no member judging abstracts from their own University. SAS awardees for the 2016 BMS meeting were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lydia Eeles – Belfast • Leighton Freeman – Exeter • Jack Hurrell – Sheffield • Benedicta Iwuagwu – Aberdeen • Thomas Keeley – KCL • Patricia Kelly – Coleraine • Roger Kissane – Leeds • Adam Lokman – Birmingham • Zahid Pranjol – Exeter • Salvatore Smirni – Dundee <p>Kenton Arkill proposed that funds could be used to support the travel of Junior Academics, who are members of the Society, to attend local or international Microcirculation meetings. Jackie Whatmore suggested surplus funds could also be used to support Summer Vacation Studentships for Junior Academics in a manner similar to that offered by the Wellcome Trust. It was suggested that the BMS had sufficient funds to offer 3 awards of the latter in 2017, 2018 and 2019 at a cost of approximately £2500 (max) to the Junior Academic (must be a BMS member for at least 1 year) hosting the studentship (including ~£180-200/week for 8 weeks as a bursary for the student and the rest as consumables). Both suggestions were met with enthusiasm by the membership. It was agreed that both these suggestion would not be formally introduced into the Constitution but would be funded whilst there was a healthy surplus in the BMS account. Notification of these awards would be emailed to the membership by the Honorary Secretary.</p>

6.0

Officers Reports

President's Report – Nicola Brown

The President reminded the members of the two awards made to BMS junior investigators for ESM (Patricia Kelly, Pisa, June 2015) and the WCM (Nikita Ved, Japan, September 2015). She also informed the members that the two UK-led hybrid symposia were very well received at WCM (Geraldine Clough/Giovanni Mann – *Microvascular plasticity and developmental priming: impact on human health*; Nicola Brown- *Bone Microcirculation: a potential therapeutic target*). The members were informed of ongoing Committee discussions around how BMS membership could be increased and hoped that the joint meeting with UKCAS in 2017 (and future joint meetings) would be one route to doing this.

The Society were informed that Dr Shayn Peirce-Cottler (University of Virginia), was elected as President Elect for the American Microcirculation Society and Professor Beat Imhof (University of Geneva), was now the new ESM President and host of ESM-EVBO 2017. This meeting will take place in Geneva on 29th May -1st June 2017 (**post meeting note** – website now at: <http://esm-evbo2017.org/>; Abstract Submissions : Open: 01/09/2016; Close: 01/03/2017; Registrations Online open: 01/09/2016). The 11th WCM will take place in Vancouver, Canada in 2018, which put this conference back in its cycle of 4 years. Arrangements for this meeting are still in their infancy but it is confirmed that the meeting will be held at the Vancouver Downtown Sheraton hotel. There is a call for nominations for anyone interested in joining the Scientific committee for this meeting. The meeting will again be focused on early career investigators with hybrid symposia, a format similar to Japan – there will be calls for these nearer the time.

Nicky also informed the members of a few success stories with regards BMS members: Professor Sussan Nourshargh was unable to attend BMS 2016 as she was delivering the **APS Gabor Kaley Lecture** at MCS, Experimental Biology (EB), San Diego. At the same meeting, Professor Gerry Meininger was the recipient of the **Carl J. Wiggers Award**, presented each year to a scientist who is a Fellow of the Cardiovascular Section of APS, and has made outstanding contributions to cardiovascular research. Also, Dr Maria Machado, post-doc in Dave Bates' lab, was the recipient of an **APS Cardiovascular Section Research Recognition Award**, again presented at EB 2016. The Society was reminded of the current 9 Honorary Members (D Chambers, John Gamble, Rod Levick, David Lewis, Charles Michel, Eugene Renkin, Terence Ryan, Laurence Smaje, John Tooke) and it was noted that there were still 3 available vacancies – it was clear that a female Honorary member should be identified. Nicky proposed Professor Colin Caro, a long standing member of the Society, be nominated as an Honorary Member – there was a unanimous agreement for this. The President ended by thanking 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 2015 amount to £37,332 at the bank. Our expenditure was £14,979 and our income £30,543. Income included £9,611 from subscriptions, £1000 from Professor Terence Ryan, who was thanked for his continuing support, and significant profits from the annual BMS meeting in Manchester in 2015. A detailed Treasurer's report is attached to the minutes.

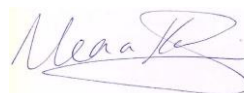
Membership Secretary's Report – Kim Gooding

Kim reported 205 BMS members – 142 Ordinary, 52 Student, 9 Honorary and 2 retired. Interestingly, there had been a 32% drop in student numbers since 2012, reflected in the decreasing number of students attending BMS annual meetings in recent years.

	<p>Editor of Proceedings Report – Melissa Gammons</p> <p>The (delayed) BMS 2014 Bristol abstracts (<i>Microcirculation</i> 22(5): 400–430, 2015) and the BMS 2015 Manchester abstracts (<i>Microcirculation</i>, 22(8): 753–781, 2015) have both been published in 2015 issues and can be found on the BMS webpage.</p>
7.0	<p>Microcirculation Report – Geraldine Clough and Jeff Frisbee (Editor-in-Chief)</p> <p>The Society was delighted that Professor Jeff Frisbee attended the conference and the AGM. He was delighted to provide £2000 support for the meeting and looked forward to the special issue that would arise from the meeting on ‘<i>Microvessels of the Heart</i>’ – guest Editors Helen Arthur and Ioakim Spyridopoulos. He announced he would be retiring as Editor-in-Chief of <i>Microcirculation</i> in August 2016 after 6 years in post. Concerns were raised as it was not clear how Wiley were making moves to identify the new Editor-in-Chief. There was some discussion that all Societies whose official journal is <i>Microcirculation</i> should collectively contact Wiley and garner information on this as a matter of urgency! Jeff informed the Society of the journal's current impact factor (2.565) which may rise again in 2016 but was still below ideal. It was tracking well with the <i>Journal of Vascular Research</i> (major competitor) and currently doing better than <i>Microvascular Research</i>. He was slightly disappointed that there were less papers being submitted from the UK (6%), with most of the major papers coming from the USA (27%) in the period March 2015–March 2016 – he encouraged more UK submissions. A suggestion was made about an opportunity to submit ‘Brief Communications’ or ‘Letters’ but Jeff stated Wiley were resistant to this as it could lower the Impact Factor. Information on the benefits of the journal were presented which included opportunities to guest edit a special topic issue with full administrative support. Nicky thanked Jeff for his tenure as Editor-in-Chief and for his generous support for this 2016 BMS meeting.</p>
8.0	<p>Appointment of Auditors</p> <p>Auditors : Francis Clark Chartered Accountants</p>
9.0	<p>Committee Elections – Ordinary Member/Treasurer</p> <p>Nominations had been received from Dr Carolyn Staton (University of Sheffield) only. In the absence of additional nominations, the Members were asked to approve / not approve Carolyn as Treasurer (in her absence). All members were in favour and Carolyn was welcomed to as the Honorary Treasurer – she will hold this 5 year post until 2021.</p>
10.0	<p>AOB</p> <p>The Members were introduced to the new BMS webpage and key features were highlighted (user friendly, online membership application, online application for all grants, BMS blog incorporated into webpage etc.). This was very well received and thanks were given by the Society to Melissa Gammons for all her hard work in putting this together. Professor Angela Shore was introduced as the President Elect. Richard Siow had requested that the Society be informed of the 2016 Physiology Society meeting in Dublin – abstract deadline details and the conference website address were provided. The President thanked Jackie Whatmore for her excellent contributions to the Committee and the Society as Honorary Treasurer – she has certainly left the Society in a very healthy financial position ! A small gift as a token of appreciation was made.</p>



Professor Nicola Brown
President



Dr Neena Kalia
Honorary Secretary

British Microcirculation Society - Honorary Treasurer's Report for 2015

In consultation with our accountants Francis Clark our total assets for the financial year ending 31st December 2015 amount to £37,332 at the bank. Our expenditure was £14,979 and our income £30,543.

This year our income has included £9,611 from subscriptions. We have also received £1,000 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 Andrea Murray and her co-organisers in Manchester for all their hard work in organising the hugely successful and enjoyable 2015 BMS annual Meeting. A special thank you should also go to Prof Ryan (again), Moor Instruments and the Institute of Physics for kindly providing funds for poster/abstract prizes at this meeting.

It is evident from the accounts that income has been considerably greater than expenditure. The reasons for this are twofold (1) return of deposits paid out for 2014 and 2015 meetings (£3,153), (2) fantastic surpluses of £10,317 and £3,505 from the 2014 meeting in Bristol and 2015 meeting in Manchester. A further £2,869 surplus from the Manchester meeting will be credited to the BMS in 2016, making the total £7,149. Since income exceeded the £25K threshold the Society accounts required an additional independent examination by our accountants this year to satisfy Charity Commission requirements.

The Society has continued its philosophy to support young investigators; awarding £1,235 for five Student Assisted Awards (all five applicants received an award) to allow student members to attend the Manchester Meeting; £672 for a young investigator (Patricia Kelly) to present at the joint ESM-EVBO meeting in Pisa and £880 for a young investigator (Nikita Ved) to present at the World Congress for Microcirculation Meeting in Kyoto, Japan. The Society also funded three poster prizes of £50 each and an oral presentation prize of £100 at the Manchester meeting. In addition a laboratory visit grant (£598, Emily McNaughton) and a Terence Ryan Conference Grant (£360 to Joanne Carter to attend the ESM-EVBO in Pisa) were awarded in 2015. Other major expenditure in 2015 included recurring fees such as accountancy (£540), Society of Biology subscription (£515), ESM subscription (£1,640) and *Microcirculation* online access fees (£3,600). Additionally, the Society is in the process of a major rebuild of the website requiring an initial payment of £2,040.

Looking forward, our expenditure is likely to be similar in 2016. We will have the usual recurring costs as detailed above. We have also committed approximately £2,500 towards SAS awards to allow student members to attend our annual meeting in Newcastle and will continue to offer young investigators the annual opportunity to apply for the Laboratory Visit and Terence Ryan Conference Grants. There will also be additional website rebuild costs.

In summary, despite the economic climate, the BMS has continued to flourish. The accounts are extremely healthy, and membership has tended to balance between resignations and new members.

Finally - this is my last report as your Honorary Treasurer. I have thoroughly enjoyed serving the Society and would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the present and past Committee members that I have worked with for all their help and support, particularly past Presidents Giovanni Mann and Stuart Egginton, Past Secretary Lopa Leach and the current Secretary and President, Neena Kalia and Nicola Brown.

Dr Jacqueline Whatmore
Honorary Treasurer