

BSMM News

July 2008



Introduction

Welcome to the summer 2008 issue of the BSMM newsletter. You'll find good news and sad news in this edition, along with the minutes from the Annual Meeting in Norwich and the usual updates on forthcoming meetings.

Sue Howell

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BSMM Travel Grant Report: 9th Candida & Candidiasis meeting

We would like to jointly thank the BSMM for the travel grants we received that enabled us all to attend the 9th Candida and Candidiasis meeting in New Jersey in March.

The conference was a fantastic opportunity to listen to a wide range of oral presentations encompassing clinical, diagnostic and molecular topics. The opening session focused on experimental models of clinical Candida infections. During following sessions a broad range of topics were covered; including genetics and evolution, morphogenesis and environmental signalling, host-pathogen interactions, diagnostics and antifungal treatments, biofilm formation, the cell wall and the cell surface.

We appreciated in particular the fact that the sessions were structured to allow a maximum number of oral presentations. This way the organisers gave many PhD students and Postdoc researchers the opportunity to present their work.. We also enjoyed a parallel evening session which offered a difficult choice between three interesting topics: antifungal drug development, fungal genome sequences and cool tools for *Candida* cell and molecular biology. All three sessions were of

outstanding interest and were presented expertly by the speakers.

A total of 281 posters were presented in this year's Candida and Candidiasis conference which enjoyed the largest turnout in recent years. The large number of posters being presented at the meeting provided a fantastic forum for active discussion of both current work and potential new collaborative opportunities. Although there were a large number of participants, the combination of scientific and social events offered good opportunities to meet and engage with other scientists. After the success of this meeting, we already look forward to participating in the next Candida and Candidiasis conference!

Lara West, Estelle Mogensen, Louise Walker, Mette Jacobsen, Veronica Veses

BSMM Annual Meeting Norwich 2008

The 44th BSMM annual meeting was held in the University of East Anglia from Sunday 30th March to Tuesday 1st April. The Annual Dinner was held at the Sainsbury centre on the Norwich campus, on Monday evening after the Annual General Meeting, and provided a fantastic opportunity to view the Sainsbury's many interesting and eclectic artefacts..

The topics covered in the meeting focussed on genetics, fungal immunity and fungus-host interactions, and there were many excellent speakers. The Foundation lecture was delivered by Dr Ben de Pauw of the Netherlands, who took the audience on a fast paced and personal account of his experiences as a physician and concepts and practices of treating serious fungal infections.

The 2nd UKCMN meeting followed the close of the BSMM meeting and included discussions on what constitutes a clinical mycologist and an update on the algorithm for reporting for dermatological specimens.

Dr Silke Schelenz organised and hosted the BSMM and shortly afterwards lost her husband to a long term illness. The BSMM Executive Committee have extended their deepest sympathy to Silke, and cannot thank her enough for professionalism and tireless work for the Society during such an emotional period.

Sue Howell

Obituaries



BETTY M PARTRIDGE MA PHD (1925-2007)

Educated at Guildford High School, She read Natural Science (Botany) at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford University, from 1943. After graduating in 1947, she stayed on in the Botany Department as a Senior Research assistant to Dr W H Wilkins on a Medical Research Council grant. The work involved collecting, isolating and screening 500 species of Basidiomycetes for antibacterial activity. This resulted in her first publication, in the *British Journal of Experimental Pathology* and she attained her MA in 1950.

In that year she left Oxford to begin her career in medical mycology as Assistant Medical Mycologist at the Institute of Dermatology, Lisle St., Leicester Square, London, under Dr R W Riddell. Here she was involved in the day-to-day diagnostic skin mycology, and published papers on the range of ringworms encountered (1952), familial favus (1955) and mixed fungal infections (1958) and the hair-penetration test (1959).

After a decade of working with dermatophytes and skin patients, her interests moved to the study of fungal pathogenicity, and she received her PhD at King's College Hospital Medical School in 1964-5 for her work on the developing chick embryo as a model for

infectious processes. She moved to take up a post as Lecturer in Medical Mycology at Charing Cross Hospital Medical School, a post in which she was able to mix her enthusiasm for fungi with the full range of clinical medicine and pathology. Early in her time there she was joined by Maire Denny, who had been working in medical mycology at the Wright Fleming Institute. The two were to form a long-lasting partnership in the mycology lab at Charing Cross. Betty was a stimulating and engaging lecturer and was heavily involved in teaching mycology to the medical students and medical staff.

Her home life was shared between her flat in Hampstead, where she had many friends, and her family home in Guildford, and she continued to commute weekly between these long after retirement. A keen sailor, she seldom missed participating in Cowes week, and crewed regularly for friends on the Hamble river. In addition, especially in the earlier years, she enjoyed skiing holidays abroad.

She was an active participant in the annual meetings of the Medical Mycology Sub-committee held by the Medical Research Council and a founder member of its successor, the British Society for Mycopathology (BSM, later to become the BSMM)) and an early member of the International Society for Human and Animal Mycology, set up in Paris in 1954. She served as Treasurer of the BSM from 1979 to 1984, and was awarded honorary membership in 1990. Long after her retirement she continued to be an active participant in the annual meetings of the BSMM. She was a prominent voice at the song sessions around the piano of Seamus O'Sullivan and later Frank Odds, with her distinctive half-lens spectacles on a chain around the neck.

Betty is remembered by many of us as a good friend and distinguished colleague, who contributed much in her own distinctive style to the British medical mycology scene.

Colin Campbell, with acknowledgements for help to Betty's colleagues, especially Maire Denny, who also provided the photograph.

PROFESSOR GABRIEL SEGRETAIN (1913-2008)

Gabriel Segretain joined the Pasteur Institute in 1938 to work in the Department of Plant Mycology and Physiology. He was made head of Department in 1960, his department became a Reference Centre for the World Health Organisation (WHO) and he was

recognised as the WHO expert on pathogenic fungi. Amongst his many publications and discoveries was the identification and naming of *Penicillium marneffeii*, which at that point was known as an agent of reticulosis discovered by Caponi and Sureau in bamboo rats in Vietnam.

With Edouard Drouhet and Francois Mariat he founded both the French Society of Medical Mycology and the International Society for Human and Animal Mycology, and served as the President of ISHAM from 1977-1981. Professor Segretain continued to receive honours for his work and dedication to science and finally retired in 1981 to his home in Meuden, where he died on 13th March 2008.

Taken from:

www.aspergillus.org.uk/secure/historical_papers/hall_of_fame/segretain.pdf.

BSMM interactions with other societies

Dr Gary Moran, the meetings secretary, is representing the BSMM at the Federation of Infection Societies (FIS) 2008 consultative committee. The next FIS meeting is in Cardiff from 2-4 December 2008 and there will be a BSMM workshop organised by Dr Richard Hobson and Dr Silke Schelnz. In addition to this, Dr John Rex will be giving an expert session on the management of candidaemia.

The BSMM is a member of the Biosciences Foundation (BSF) which is active in promoting science in the UK for education and research, and offers advice and consultation on public policy on these issues. Recent concerns raised by the BSF have included publicizing changes to the law regarding charitable status of societies. Following their Annual General Meeting the results of elections to general committee positions are:

Professor Julia Buckingham, nominated by SfE
Professor Robert Freedman, nominated by Biochem Soc
Professor Graeme Henderson, nominated by BPS
Dr Ann Prentice, Nominated by Nutrition Soc

and to the commercial position:

Prof. Lewis Smith, Syngenta

The BSF welcomed Prof Dame Nancy Rothwell as the new BSF President

For more information on the activities of the BSF please view their website at: www.bsf.ac.uk

ISHAM membership and activities

ISHAM (International Society for Human and Animal Mycology) is the only organization promoting all aspects of medical and veterinary mycology on a worldwide scale. Its activities cover all areas, from clinical science to fundamental research. Membership of the society is a must for everyone working in any of these areas, see

http://www.isham.org/Membership_Form.html

What do you get from your membership subscription?:

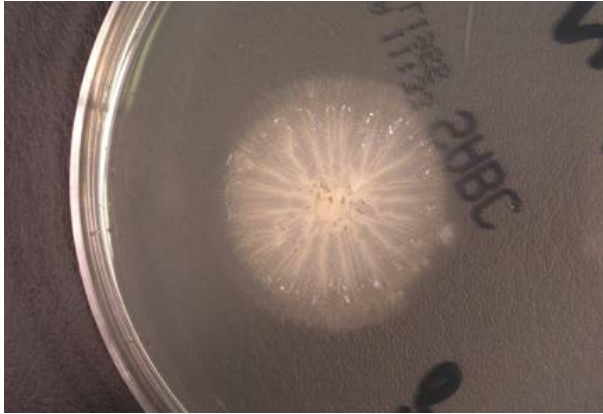
- Reduced fees for the ISHAM congress in Tokyo / Beijing, May 2009, <http://www.congre.co.jp/isham2009/>
- Free access to the journal Medical Mycology, see <http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t713694156~tab=sample> the electronic version being included in the membership fee (hard copy delivered at a small extra fee). This includes all back-issues of the journal, plus the preceding journals Sabouraudia and Journal of Medical and Veterinary Mycology, starting at Volume 1 published in 1962
- Inter-active communication tools with very regular e-mailed news alerts on anything significant in mycology, such as forthcoming congresses and courses, important literature, vacancies etc.
- Access to discussion forums where you can share points of view with your colleagues and ask advice
- An inter-active SOS-service on significant clinical cases
- Free membership of our many international networks on themes of your interest: the ISHAM Working Groups, see <http://www.isham.org/Groups.html>.
- The ISHAM website contains a growing number of free protocols to help you to apply major techniques in antifungal testing, diagnostics and molecular phylogeny.
- Sponsoring of regional courses and of young and motivated ISHAM members remains possible.

Sybren de Hoog
ISHAM-President 2006-2009

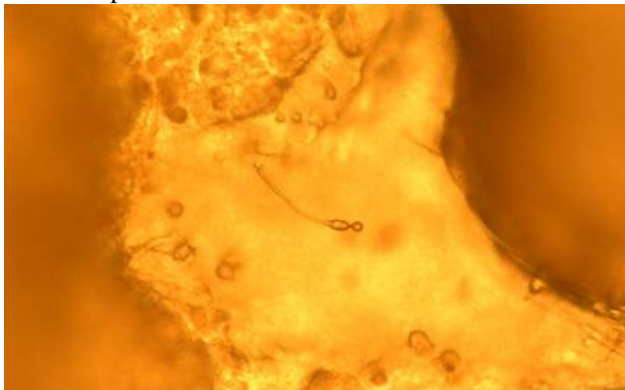
Quiz

The answer to the identification of the fungus in the quiz in the last newsletter is: *Basidiobolus ranarum*

Colony grown on Sabouraud's Dextrose agar.



Microscopic examination



If anyone else would like to submit fungal photos for a quiz please send them to Sue at susan.howell@kcl.ac.uk

Forthcoming meetings

Society for General Microbiology 163rd Meeting

8th-11th September 2008, Dublin, Ireland

Details: www.sgm.ac.uk/meetings

BSMM Annual Meeting

28-31 March 2009, London, UK

Details: www.bsम्म.org

26th International Congress of Chemotherapy and Infection

18-21 June 2009, Toronto, Canada

Details:

ISHAM Congress

25-29 May 2009, Tokyo, Japan

Details: www.congre.co.jp/isham2009/

BSMM Newsletter: Sue Howell
E-mail: susan.howell@kcl.ac.uk

Combined meeting of the Nordic Society for Medical Mycology and the Swedish Society for Clinical Mycology.

"Impact of Diagnostics on Antifungal Treatment". 22 May 2008, Stockholm, Sweden.

Details: <http://www.nsmm.nu/nsmmcalendar.html>

Nordic Society for Medical Mycology

"Histopathology in Medical Mycology: Theory to Practice. 21 May 2008, Stockholm, Sweden.

Details: <http://www.nsmm.nu/nsmmcalendar.html>

And finally...



"You shouldn't have left them in the bag since last year!"

Geoff Gadd

Items for the next BSMM Newsletter

If you have any ideas, reviewed a mycology book, or come across something that would be of interest to our community, and that would be suitable for publication in the BSMM Newsletter, please email Sue at susan.howell@kcl.ac.uk

BSMM membership

Current membership of the BSMM stands at 306 members. This is comprised of 229 UK members (including 24 honorary and 1 life member), and 77 overseas members (including 6 honorary members).

The BSMM welcomes the following members to the Society members, who have joined since publication of the last Newsletter:

Christopher Thornton (Exeter)
Christopher McKenzie (Aberdeen)
Robin May (Birmingham)
Timothy Cairns (London)

BSMM Annual General Meeting 2008

Minutes of the 44th BSMM AGM held on 31st March 2008 may be found on the BSMM website (www.bsmm.org).

Minutes

Members present: 22

1. Apologies for absence were received from 7 members.
2. **Minutes of the 43rd General Meeting held on 19th March 2007.**

The minute was accepted by those present and signed by the President.

3. **Matters arising from the minutes.**

There were no matters arising that were not dealt with in other parts of the agenda.

4. **President's report**

Dr Johnson spoke to a written report, as follows:

"It is my sad duty to report the death of Dr Betty Partridge one of the founder members of the BSMM and a past treasurer of the Society from 1979 to 1984. She was made an honorary member in 1990 and continued to attend our annual meetings well into retirement. She will be remembered as a very warm and friendly person and was particularly kind and welcoming to new members of the society, she will be missed. Colin Campbell, with the help of Donald Mackenzie, has agreed to write a short obituary for the next newsletter.

I will briefly summarise the activities of the Society since we last met at the annual meeting in Leeds last year. The Leeds meeting was a great success with a fascinating dinner venue at the Medical Museum. We owe our sincere thanks to our secretary Dick Hobson who was the local organiser and the rest of the local team for all their efforts on our behalf and of course to Gary Moran for organising such an interesting and thought-provoking scientific programme.

The BSMM/UCL Diploma/MSc in Medical Mycology continues to thrive with the first tranch of students having successfully obtained their degrees. The course is now taking overseas members and I am delighted to say we will hear more about this from Chris Kibbler, the course director, later in the agenda so I won't steal his thunder by elaborating further. As always our sincere thanks go to Chris.

Following on from the success of last years inaugural meeting of the UK Clinical Mycology Network (UKCMN), which immediately followed the BSMM meeting in Leeds, the same half day format has been adopted to follow the BSMM meeting tomorrow afternoon. Chris Kibbler will also update us on progress with this initiative.

As regards the formal working parties we will hear about developments with these later in the agenda but thanks to Silke Schelenz, as chair of the BSMM working party on standards of care for conducting an audit of the 2003 standards. I currently chair the working party for the Registry of Invasive Fungal Infection and Carol Munro is making excellent progress on improving and updating our web presence. We will consult you later in the agenda about the proposed formation of a working party to look at serological methods.

Thank you to Silke Schelenz for facilitating our 44th Annual Meeting here in Norwich and to Gary Moran who has got off to an excellent start in his first year as meetings secretary with what has started as and promises to continue to be a very interesting programme. Thank you as always to our sponsors from the pharmaceutical industry who are in alphabetical order Cape Cod Associates, Gilead, MSD, Pfizer and Schering Plough.

Finally I would like to extend my very warm thanks to the other committee members with whom I have greatly enjoyed working and particularly to Dick Hobson who this year completes his three-year stint as Secretary. Dick leaves a very well organized data base in the capable hands of Sue Howell who is to take over this role."

Acceptance of the President's report was proposed by Sue Howell, seconded by Rosemary Barnes and carried unanimously.

5. **Treasurer's report**

Dr Donna MacCallum spoke to a written report for the financial year ending 31st December 2007, the text of which was as follows:

"Before beginning my explanation of the accounts for the year ending 31st December 2007 I would like to point out an error in the accounts where the figures for the Annual Meeting held in Leeds in 2007 have been referred to as the Leeds course. This has been altered on page 2, but figures for the conference are shown against the figures for the Leeds course in note 3, on the fourth page. Page 1 of the accounts shows the balance sheet for the year ending 31st December 2007. For all of the accounts, figures for the previous financial year (2006) are shown on the right for comparison. The balance sheet shows that the current assets of the society amount to a total of £133,734 (an increase from the previous year). Accruals shown represent the accountancy fee for the year. On the second page of the accounts are the details of the financial activities for the society for 2007. In going through these activities, reference will be made to the notes which appear on the following pages. Income for the Society was made up of members' subscriptions, bank interest of £2097 and sponsorship of the Fungal Registry. Other significant income was generated by the 2007 Annual BSMM meeting which was held in Leeds, and generated a surplus of £9416. We would like to extend our thanks to Dr Richard Hobson and his team for all their hard work in organizing such a successful and enjoyable meeting. Accounts for the meeting are detailed in note 3, with the accounts for the previous meeting, held in Dublin in 2006, shown in note 4 for comparison. The Leeds course was not held in 2007, so no income was generated by this activity. Expenses of the Society for the year ending 31st December 2007 included the payment of 2 travel grants, amounting to £1016 (note 6). This level of funding was down compared to the previous year (£3868), but reflected a reduced number of applications. Other expenditure included management and administrative costs (note 2), which amounted to £3738 (2006- £4651), and included £1018 of committee expenses. Other expenses associated with our commitment to mycological education are our contribution to the Mycology Diploma (£5000) and the setting up of the Fungal Registry. We also contributed to the expenses of two of our working parties: Standards of Care (£451) and Fungal Registry (£171). Taking all of the above into account, the British Society for Medical Mycology ended 2006 with a net worth of £133,734. I would just like to finish by reminding members that I am about to enter the final year of my term as BSMM honorary treasurer. If anyone is interested in taking over the position in 2009, a job description and further information can be obtained from me and the BSMM secretary."

Acceptance of the Treasurer's report was proposed by Richard Barton, seconded by Angela Galloway and carried unanimously.

6. Secretary's report

The Secretary, Dick Hobson, reported that current Society membership was 310, of whom 233 were UK members and 77 overseas members (including the Republic of Ireland). Since the 2007 AGM the Society had gained 14 new members and lost eight members, a net gain of six members. Of the eight members lost, six had resigned, one had his membership terminated, as he had stopped paying his membership subscriptions some years previously and his location was unknown to the Society, and one, Betty Partridge, had died. Dr Hobson noted that Society membership is very dynamic. Since accessing to office, he had processed 65 membership applications.

Eight travel grants had been processed, all of which had been approved. This was a welcome increase over the six applications processed the previous year. The total amount requested was £5,938.93, and the amount awarded was 74% of this, which was £4,395.88. A single application had been received for £5,300 for a Glyn Evans Travel Award, but the application had not been approved.

The Society had issued two Newsletters in the previous year, one of which contained a membership list. The Secretary acknowledged the help of Executive Committee member Sue Howell, who had produced and distributed both these Newsletters, leaving very little work for the Secretary to do.

With the end of terms of office of three Executive Committee members it had been necessary to hold a ballot to elect their replacements. The ballot was conducted using the Electoral Reform Society version of the Single Transferable vote. Ballot papers were sent out to all Society members for whom an address was known, and 113 valid papers were returned. The election was paper-based, to allow the distribution of unique papers. This had been an extremely time-consuming exercise, and the Secretary recommended that the administration of future ballots should be contracted out to an external organisation such as Electoral Reform Services, the commercial arm of the Electoral Reform Society.

The Secretary thanked the Executive Committee and Society members for their help with his role of Secretary, and wished his successor good luck with the task ahead.

Acceptance of the Secretary's report was proposed by Elaine Bignell, seconded by Peter Troke and carried unanimously.

7. Working party reports

(i) BSMM/UCL Diploma/MSc

Prof. Kibbler spoke to a written report, as follows:

"The BSMM/UCL course in Medical Mycology was originally planned as a Diploma course. It was the consequence of concerns raised by the BSMM over the declining numbers of trained mycologists in the UK which triggered the convening of the BSMM Manpower and Training Working Party. The need for a national distance-learning course was one of two main objectives set by the committee. The course was developed by the core training working group and is taught over three to five years through sessions on DVD, web-based materials and practical modules, requiring attendance for short courses at Leeds and Bristol. The students are assessed at the end of each module (including practical assessments), by means of a project report or dissertation and by a final unseen written examination. The first students were enrolled in 2004 for the Diploma course and UCL approved the process for upgrading to an MSc in Medical Mycology last year. The MSc course requires an extra module and a more in-depth project plus a dissertation rather than a shorter project report.

This year 11 students have enrolled and these include six from overseas. We are very pleased to welcome them to the BSMM community. Three of the first cohort of students took their finals this last summer and I hope you will join the Course Committee in congratulating them all on their graduation.

Each UK student has a BSMM supervisor and we are very grateful to the 17 supervisors who are currently assisting with the course. In addition, ECMM and ISHAM have been helpful in suggesting suitable overseas supervisors for our new students. Any members of the BSMM who are interested in acting as a supervisor should contact me and I will be happy to explain what is entailed. The course is entirely dependent upon the goodwill of BSMM members.

The MSc is now well established and the majority of students seem keen to enrol or upgrade to this. The first cohort of overseas students has started and we are having considerable interest from abroad. Both ISHAM and the ECMM have advertised the course and been very supportive of it in their newsletters/web-sites. We are now in the process of revising the original DVD and web-based materials and, again, I am very grateful to colleagues around the UK who are spending their time on this. I should say that the course is well thought of at UCL. It is now serving as a model for other courses such as a distance learning course in crime analysis for the Jill Dando Institute of Crime Science and an

international UCL course in haemoglobinopathy.

We feel that the balance and numbers of students on the course is about right, although this will be kept under review in future years. We are required to renegotiate the Statement of Intent (the financial arrangement between UCL and the BSMM) this year and this is now in progress. Once the early modules have been revised we will begin on the later ones. Developments in the UCL Multimedia Department mean that revisions may prove to be cheaper than first estimated.

Once again I would like to thank the Course Committee and the module tutors, Tim McHugh (the other UCL tutor), the external examiners and Anne Dickens, our Course Administrator, for all their efforts in keeping the course running smoothly."

The President pointed out to the Society that the Diploma Working Party had in fact been disbanded and subsumed into the Curriculum Committee.

(ii) Standards of Care

Dr Schelenz was not present to give a formal report. However the President was able to inform the Society that the Working Party had carried out a UK-wide audit of the 2003 Standards of care, and it was anticipated that this would be published in due course.

(iii) Website.

Dr Carol Munro had provided a written report, which was read out by the Secretary:
"The website working party is comprised of Ruth Ashbee, Gary Moran, Gillian Shankland, Silke Schelenz and chaired by Carol Munro.

The BSMM have commissioned MyDent Multimedia to re-design the web site to enhance the web presence of the society and ensure the web site remains an important source of reference for members of the medical mycology community. The design, general look and layout of the web site were approved by the executive committee with inputs from the working party members. Progress has been made in re-structuring the BSMM web pages. Several pages will be database-driven and the major points of construction have been completed. This will enable quick and easy access and the web pages may be updated from an internet connection anywhere in the world. The website will incorporate registration for the annual meetings and in the last 2 months eCommerce has been set up through PayPal to enable web-based payments of conference fees as well as annual membership fees. Donna (MacCallum) has trialled the system and the first membership fee has successfully been paid by an overseas member with PayPal. The text from the old web pages will be

transferred to the new web site and updated in due course and I (Carol Munro) have agreed to be responsible for the maintenance and updating of the new web site with the appropriate training. I anticipate that the new website will be ready for re-launch by this summer. I hope that members will enjoy browsing through the new web pages and that it continues to be an important resource for the society. Any members with suggestions, contributions or material for the web site should contact Carol Munro or the secretary."

(iv) Fungal Infection Registry

Dr Johnson spoke to a written report, as follows:

"I am delighted to report that we had a launch meeting of the BSMM Registry of Fungal Infection in September last year during which the web-based reporting system was demonstrated to participants. Although we had blanket ethics committee approval, formal registration of individual sites required that they seek permission from their local research committees. This is now starting to happen and registered centres were granted access in January. We currently have 10 users registered at five centres and the first 20 sets of patient data have been entered. I have expressions of interest from many other centres and some are close to registering.

We are having a meeting in Dublin in June to discuss the possibility of adding centres in Ireland to the registry as it is currently limited to UK centres.

We are planning a Registry Newsletter which will be distributed shortly and will get all the registration details on to the BSMM website.

We are very grateful to Gilead for providing the £200,000 necessary for development and running of the registry and are currently discussing with other interested pharmaceutical companies the ways in which they may be able to help support data entry.

Thank you to the working party members: David Denning, Ibrahim Hassan, Brian Jones, Chris Kibbler and Caroline Sabine and to Witold Malyszczak from Gilead for all their hard work support and input during the development of the registry."

Following the Working Party reports Dr Johnson made a proposal that the Society should support a Working Party on fungal serology. There followed some discussion about the scope and proposed output of the Working Party. Discussion centred around whether the work should relate specifically to methods of antibody detection and, if so, which fungi would be covered, or

whether the work should be broadened out to include antigen and other direct detection methods. It was agreed that the scope of the work should be agreed by the Working Party after its inception, and that the output should be, at least, a peer-reviewed publication. Dr Richard Barton kindly agreed to chair the Working Party.

8. UK Clinical Mycology Network

Professor Kibbler gave a brief outline of the achievements and activities of the UK Clinical Mycology Network. The UKCMN Steering Committee had taken over the role of advising the HPA on matters relating to fungal infection from the Advisory Committee on Fungal Infections (ACFI). Among other achievements the Network had set up a website and would be holding its second Annual Meeting the following day. Through Dr Hobson, the Network was exploring with the Royal College of Pathologists the possibility of introducing some formal "credentialing" for clinical scientists and medically-qualified microbiologists, to provide evidence of subspecialty training in this area.

9. Changes to Society Rules:

(i) Proposed new Paragraph 3: None of the Society's assets may be distributed or otherwise applied (on being wound up or at any other time) except to further its charitable purpose

The Treasurer had received a communication from the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator. The Regulator had scrutinised the BSMM Constitution, and had suggested that an additional paragraph was required for the Society to meet its regulations. The specific wording suggested was: "None of the Group's assets may be distributed or otherwise applied (on being wound up or at any other time) except to further its charitable purpose". Adoption of this change was accepted unanimously.

(ii) Proposed new Paragraph 7 (will be Paragraph 8 if (i) is adopted): The Committee shall be elected for terms of three years except the Local Organisers (two years), Secretary (four years) and Treasurer (five years).

This had been discussed at the previous AGM, and was accepted unanimously. It was noted that it had also been proposed to increase the President's term of office from two to three years, but this had not been included in the agenda. This proposal would therefore be carried over, to appear as an agenda item for the 2009 AGM.

(iii) Proposed addition to Paragraph 10: In considering applications for Society membership the

Executive Committee will take into account the applicant's contribution to medical mycology in the British Isles.

This had been proposed because the Committee currently had no objective criteria available on which to approve or reject membership applications, other than personal knowledge by the proposing members and some involvement in medical or veterinary mycology. The proposal was accepted unanimously.

10. Annual Scientific Meetings

- (i) Leeds 2007. This meeting was not discussed further.
- (ii) Norwich 2008. The meeting had started and was proceeding successfully. Drs Schelenz and Moran were thanked for organising the meeting and its scientific programme.
- (iii) London 2010. The meeting would be held from 29th-31st March 2009. Most of the conference itself would be held at the South Kensington Conference Centre, which is very close to Imperial College, but sessions on the Tuesday would be held on campus. The Annual Dinner would be held at the Conference Centre, with pre -(or after-) dinner drinks by the Serpentine.
- (iv) Exeter 2010. Dr Steve Bates, the Local Organiser, reported that plans for this meeting were not yet underway.
- (v) BSMM 2011. Dr Rosemary Barnes offered to host the 2011 meeting in Cardiff, and this was received well by the Society (note added after the meeting: An offer had already been received from Dr Claire Alexander, to host the BSMM 2011 Annual Scientific Meeting in Glasgow, but the Secretary neglected to mention this at the AGM. The President would be asked to discuss this further with Drs Barnes and Alexander).

11. Election of Honorary and Life members

No nominations had been received for Honorary or Life Membership.

12. Election of Executive Committee members

- (i) Ordinary members × 3 (2008-2011).

The Secretary had received six valid nominations for Executive Committee posts, for Claire Alexander, Richard Barton, Steve Bates, Tom Harrison, Brian Jones and Carol Munro. Election papers were sent to 308 Society members, and 113 valid ballot papers were received. The election was conducted by single

transferable vote according to the 1997 Electoral Reform Society method. The successful candidates were Richard Barton, Brian Jones and Carol Munro.

- (ii) General Secretary (2008-2011)

The Secretary had received a single valid nomination for the post of General Secretary, for Sue Howell. A ballot was not required, and Dr Howell was duly elected to this post.

13. Any other business

- (i) Following the death of Betty Partridge, as mentioned by the President, the Secretary read out the following message, which had been received from Aqueel Athar, a former colleague of Betty's, and which he had asked to be recorded formally by the Society: "My wife and I have been shocked and dismayed to hear the sad news of Betty's passing. She was a kind and considerate friend. I will never forget the help she gave me during my PhD studies at the Charing Cross Hospital Medical School, University of London. May her soul rest in peace."
- (ii) Rosemary Barnes pointed out the lack of poster presentations in the 2008 scientific programme, and asked how the Society would try to address this at future meetings. The President replied that this had been discussed at the Executive Committee meeting the previous day. The Secretary reported that student delegates would be eligible for a significantly reduced registration fee, and the Society would provide a number of "scholarships" to delegates who were considered to be students or in training. Scholarships would pay for travel, accommodation and registration, and would be open to delegates making oral presentations. Scholarship recipients from overseas would receive travel expenses only from their port of entry to the UK.

Meeting papers:

Agenda item 2: Minutes of the 43rd Annual General Meeting held on 19th March 2007

The meeting closed at 17:45.