

BSMM News

February 2017

www.bsmm.org



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The President's Column



Dear BSMM members,

This is my first newsletter since becoming president of the Society in March last year. Firstly, I would like to say how pleased I was to be elected to take on this role having been a member of BSMM for 30 or more years. I have always enjoyed the annual meetings and the social continuity associated with being a member. I take this opportunity to, first of all, thank Rosemary Barnes for all her excellent work while she was president in ensuring that the society continues to thrive and fulfil its charitable role in promoting knowledge and research in medical mycology. This role was well exemplified at last year's annual meeting in Dublin, which was a joint event with the Irish Fungal Society, and the Austrian Society for Medical Mycology. It proved to be a great success. We missed Frank Odds' presence and his musical direction but look forward to seeing Frank in Birmingham at this year's annual meeting.

There will be changes in the Executive this year with Gordon Ramage and Riina Richardson completing their terms of office as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. There is a lot of voluntary work involved in these roles and I am sure you will join me in thanking both of them and welcoming in their successors during the Birmingham meeting. I also welcome Margherita

Bertuzzi as junior representative who is ensuring the production of this newsletter.

Following on from the success of previous years' courses the next BSMM Medical Mycology Diagnostic course will be held in Leeds in April this year under the direction of Ruth Ashbee. I understand that there are still some places available so I ask members to encourage their younger colleagues to register for the course.

I understand from Chris Kibbler that current students of the BSMM/UCL MSc/Diploma/Certificate in Medical Mycology are continuing to complete their educational programme satisfactorily, but as you will be aware this is the last cohort going through UCL. Discussions are still taking place with colleagues in University of Aberdeen about setting up the programme there, hopefully within the next academic year.

I attended the Royal Society Summer Exhibition and was delighted to see how well received the "Killer Fungus" exhibit was. BSMM also contributed. There were a lot of young people present who were likely getting their first exposure to how important fungi are in human disease. Many thanks to Neil Gow and his team for spearheading this contribution to such an important event.

I look forward to welcoming you all to the 53rd Annual Scientific Meeting in Solihull Birmingham during March 19th to 21st 2017.

Thomas Rogers, BSMM President

BSMM website (www.bsmm.org)

We are very happy to welcome BSMM members to our new website (<http://www.bsmm.org>). The new website has been designed to integrate BSMM Twitter and Facebook feeds in real time in a more contemporary and interactive layout. Additional new features include an interactive calendar of events and conferences, which will help our members to find the best options available to network during the year. The previous login system for members has been discontinued, but there is still a BSMM members section for accessing to the journal Mycosis, plus other resources. Login details for access to the members section will be unique for all members and circulated annually via email upon payment of the annual membership fee.

We would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to Dr. Graham Atherton (University Hospital

of South Manchester) who has been crucial for the development of the website, and to Margherita Bertuzzi who has been the driving force behind the rejuvenation of the website.

We welcome feedback and suggestions from the BSMM members, so please get in touch on our Facebook page or email us at info.bsम्म@gmail.com. Furthermore, we are looking for some additional images to use, so if you want to showcase your research, please send us your images (with a legend) and these will be included on the new website.

BSMM 52nd Annual Meeting Picture Gallery

Some pictures of the 52nd Annual meeting held in Dublin last April in collaboration with the Irish Fungal Society and the Austrian Society for Medical Mycology.



BSMM 53rd Annual Scientific Meeting Programme



53rd BSMM Annual Scientific Meeting
St John's Hotel, Solihull, Birmingham
March 19th -21st 2017



Meeting Programme

All sessions will take place in the Brueton Room, Park Suite
Posters will be displayed in the Malvern Room, Park Suite

SUNDAY 19TH MARCH 2017

- From 13.30** Registration (Park Suite Entrance)
- 14.00 -16.00** BSMM Executive Committee Meeting (Room tbc)
(BSMM Executive Only)
- 14.30 – 16.30** **WTSA Early Careers Workshop (Open to all)**
Chaired by Simon Johnston (*University of Sheffield*)
Tanya Roberts (*Senior Medical Scientist, Gilead*),
Tim Dafforn (*Chief Entrepreneurial Advisor, BEIS, UK Government*)
Georgina Drury (*Research Support Partner, University of Birmingham*)
Sheba Agarwal-Jans, (*Journal Publisher, Elsevier*),
David Brown (*Biosciences Technical Lead, Health & Safety Executive*)
Tehmina Amin (*Project Administrator, Wellcome Trust Strategic Award*)
Andy Borman (*Principal Clinical Scientist, Public Health England*)

SESSION ONE

CHAIR: LEWIS WHITE (PUBLIC HEALTH WALES)

- 16.45** Official Welcome
- 17.00** Poster Elevator Talks (6 x 5min slots)
Leenah Alaalm, Jagdish Chander, Kangzhen Dong, Robert Evans, Mariam Garelnabi, Jemima Ho
- 17.30** **BSMM Foundation Lecture, Gordon Brown**
(MRC Centre for Medical Mycology, Aberdeen)
Chaired by Tom Rogers (*Trinity College Dublin*)
- 18.30** **Poster Session 1**
- 19.30** **Dinner & Late Bar**

MONDAY 20TH MARCH 2017

SESSION TWO

CHAIR: GORDON RAMAGE (DENTAL SCHOOL, GLASGOW)

- 09.00 **Keynote 1: Jessica Quintin**
(Institut Pasteur, Paris)
- 09.30 Offered Talk 1: Josie Gibson
Cryptococcus neoformans expansion in *in vivo* infection and the role of autophagy in host phagocyte cells
(University of Sheffield & A-Star, Singapore)
- 09.45 Offered Talk 2: Margherita Bertuzzi
Single cell analysis of the *Aspergillus fumigatus* host-pathogen interaction at the alveolar epithelium
(University of Manchester)
- 10.00 Offered Talk 3: Neil Gow
Immune consequences of the spatial organization the *Candida* cell wall:
(MRC Centre for Medical Mycology, Aberdeen)
- 10.15 Offered Talk 4: Aleksandra Jasiulewicz
In vivo phagocyte responses to the opportunistic fungal pathogen *Mucor circinelloides*
(University of Birmingham)
- 10.30 Tea/Coffee

SESSION THREE

CHAIR: KERSTIN VOELZ (UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM)

- 11.00 **Keynote 2: Bill Steinbach**
(Duke University, USA)
- 11.30 Offered Talk 5: Andy Borman
Candida auris in the UK
(National Mycology Reference Laboratory)
- 11.45 Offered Talk 6: Iain Page
Cut-offs for the Siemens Immulite *Aspergillus*-specific IgG assay for diagnosis of chronic pulmonary aspergillosis in Uganda
(University of Manchester)
- 12.00 Offered Talk 7: David Denning
Update on GAFFI Activities: Global Action Fund for Fungal infections, Switzerland and UK.
(University of Manchester)
- 12.15 **Gilead Fellows Talk 1: Adilia Warris,**
(MRC Centre for Medical Mycology, Aberdeen)
- 12.30 Lunch

SESSION FOUR

CHAIR: GORDON BROWN (UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN)

- 13.30 **The Gilead Lecture: William Hope**
(Institute of Translational Medicine, Liverpool)
- 14.00 Offered Talk 8: Catherine Pashley
The lung fungal microbiome in patients with asthma
(University of Leicester)
- 14.15 Offered Talk 9: Sergio Moreno-Velasquez
The dynamic changes in the β -1,3-Glucan synthase localization caused by caspofungin involve hyphal tip-lysis coupled with intrahyphal growth and paradoxical effect in *Aspergillus fumigatus*
(University of Manchester)
- 14.30 Poster Elevator Talks (6 x 5min slots)
Simon Johnston, Paula Seoane, Volha Skrahina, Wioleta Trzaska, Leighann Sherry, Alfred Kamuyango
- 15.00 Tea/Coffee

SESSION FIVE

CHAIR: ADILIA WARRIS (UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN)

- 15.30 **Keynote 3: Anne Puel**
(INSERM, Paris)
- 16.00 **Gilead Fellows Talk 2: Darius Armstrong-James**
(NHLI, Imperial College)
- 16.15 AGM (All BSMM Members Welcome)
- 17-17.45 MSc Mycology Meeting (By Invitation Only)
- 17-18.30 **Poster Session 2**
- 19.15- late **Dinner, Dancing, Sing-along**

TUESDAY 21ST MARCH 2017

SESSION SIX

CHAIR: NEIL GOW (UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN)

- 09.30 **Keynote 4: Bernhard Hube**
(HKI Jena)
- 10.00 Offered Talk 10: Peter Cook
Dendritic cells are required to mediate and sustain type-2 and type-17 allergic inflammation against *Aspergillus fumigatus*
(University of Manchester)
- 10.15 **The Basilea Lecture: Ashraf Ibrahim**
(Los Angeles Biomedical Research Institute, UCLA)
- 10.45 Tea/Coffee

SESSION SEVEN

CHAIR: JULIAN NAGLIK (KINGS COLLEGE LONDON)

- 11.15 **Keynote 5: Duncan Wilson**
(MRC Centre for Medical Mycology, Aberdeen)
- 11.45 Offered Talk 11: Daniel Fischer
Candida glabrata persistence within macrophages
(HKI, Jena)
- 12.00 Offered Talk 12: Rebecca Hall
Adaptation of *Candida albicans* to environmental pH induces cell wall remodelling and enhances innate immune recognition
(University of Birmingham)
- 12.15 Offered Talk 13: Selinda Orr
IL-27 Induced by Select *Candida* Spp. via TLR7/NOD2 Signalling and IFN- β Production Inhibits Fungal Clearance
(Cardiff University)
- 12.30 **Gilead Fellows Talk 3: Gordon Ramage**
(Dental School, Glasgow)
- 12.45 Closing Address
- 12.50 Lunch
- 14.00 End of Conference

BSMM Travel Grant Applications

Travel Grant applications are reviewed every three months for the coming year. The criteria for eligibility and purpose of the award can be found on the BSMM website (<http://www.bsmm.org/front/grants-funding/>) along with the application form.

Upcoming deadlines: 31/01/2017, 30/04/2017, 31/07/2017, 31/10/2017.

BSMM Newsletter: Gordon Ramage & Margherita Bertuzzi
E-mail: Gordon.Ramage@glasgow.ac.uk, margherita.bertuzzi@manchester.ac.uk

Travel grant reports from grant recipients



BSMM 52nd Annual Scientific Meeting Dublin (Ireland), March 20th-22nd 2016

I applied for the travel grant to attend the British Society for Medical Mycology (BSMM) conference that took place in Dublin, 20th-22nd March 2016. My submitted abstract for this meeting was selected for an oral talk. This talk, on “Novel approaches for understanding trauma-associated fungal infections” was awarded the BSMM PhD prize.

I am very grateful for receiving this grant as it gave me opportunity to attend this conference, present my work and meet other scientists at a critical moment in my PhD. The conference was very beneficial for myself as it was a joint meeting between BSMM, Irish Fungal Society (IFS) and Austrian Society For Medical Mycology (ÖGMM) I have learn a lot from both scientific and medical fields. I am looking forward to next year’s BSMM conference.

Wioleta Trzaska



BSMM 52nd Annual Scientific Meeting Dublin (Ireland), March 20th-22nd 2016

The BSMM 52nd Annual scientific meeting took place in Dublin from March 20th-22nd 2016. I would like to thank the BSMM for awarding me a travel grant allowing me to attend this conference in Ireland. This gave me the opportunity to meet with experts within the mycology field and network with colleagues from different parts of the world. During the conference I presented a poster on the work I have been doing on the

effect of pH on the *Candida* cell wall. During the poster session I was able to discuss my research and gain valuable input and suggestions from others within the field.

Across the three days, there were talks covering a wide range of fungal pathogens from both clinical and academic perspectives. I was especially interested in hearing the opening talk of the conference from Professor Derek Sullivan ‘*Candida dubliniensis* at 21’. He gave an insightful overview of the discovery and

classification of the *C. dubliniensis* species and shared some recent findings regarding *C. dubliniensis* hyphal formation and pathogenesis. I also found Ken Haynes talk on 'functional genomics of Zygomycota' particularly interesting to consider the importance of applying mycological research tools to often overlooked plant pathogens which could have devastating effects regarding food availability. There were many other talks throughout the conference which helped me consider my own research from different perspectives and brought me up to date with developments within the field.

I would like to once again thank the BSMM for allowing me to attend this conference and also to enjoy the annual dinner and singsong at the beautiful setting of Malahide beach.

Sarah Sherrington



13th ASM meeting on Candida and Candidiasis, Seattle (USA), April 13th-17th 2016

I would like to thank the BSMM for awarding me a travel grant to help financially support my attendance at the 13th ASM Candida and Candidiasis conference, which was held in Seattle from the 13th-17th of April. As an independent research fellow initiating my own research group in Candida biology, attendance at this prestigious meeting was paramount to my career, providing an excellent opportunity to introduce our work to the Candida community. I presented our work as an oral presentation entitled "Environmental pH drives unmasking of *Candida albicans* beta-glucan, modulating the host-pathogen response" in the third session of the conference. Throughout the conference I received excellent comments and suggestions on the project, and established many new connections and key collaborations.

The conference contained eighteen sessions, with six parallel sessions, and three poster sessions, which were equally balanced between immunology and fungal biology talks and posters. The highlight of the conference for me was the double act on the structure of the fungal cell wall by Megan Lenardon and Neil Gow. Megan presented TEM topology modelling of the outer mannan fibril layer, which was a stunning piece of work and really advanced our knowledge on this key component of the fungal cell wall. Neil then followed

Megan, presenting spectacular TEM images of AmBiosome entering the fungal cell wall, and discussed the potential applications of liposome technology may hold for fungal research. The elevator sessions were an excellent opportunity to get snippets of work being presented in the poster session, and these posters were very popular in the actual poster session.

The conference dinner was a unique spread comprising of mini cones of chips and breaded scampi, Thai food in mini take-away boxes, crab cakes and clam chowder. Excess calories were shed on the dance floor in the usual ASM style. Seattle provided an amazing setting for this conference, with sufficient time in the evening to sample many of the exquisite local restaurants the city has to offer. With over 200 Starbucks located downtown, coffee was never far away. After the conference I took some time to see Seattle, and enjoyed the mini heat wave whilst visiting some of the tourist attractions, the Duck Ride was one of our favourites thanks to Caffeinated Cathy!

I would like to thank the organising committee for arranging an impressive line up of speakers and a great conference program, and the Candida community for making this an excellent conference. Again, I would like to extend my gratitude to the BSMM committee for enabling me to participate in this exciting conference program, to reacquaint with old friends and to develop new connections and collaborations.

Rebecca Hall



13th ASM meeting on Candida and Candidiasis, Seattle (USA), April 13th-17th 2016

I am extremely grateful to the BSMM for awarding me a generous travel grant to attend the ASM Candida and candidiasis meeting in Seattle where I co-chaired the Cell Biology session with Jamie Konopka.

The amazing scientific program included a fantastic keynote lecture by Judy Berman on the dynamic genome of *Candida albicans*, and sessions on fungal and host signalling, life in the host, Candida case reports, immune biology, epidemiology, evolution and the genome, diagnosis and therapies, morphology and cell biology, and biofilms and microbial interactions. Sessions run in parallel included infection models, late-

breaking hot topics, and micronutrients and metabolism, as well as molecular pathogenesis of *Candida* infections, fungal-drug interactions, and cool tools.

Highlights of the scientific program included a talk from Oliver Kurzai from Jena who kindly corrected some of the common misconceptions held by non-clinical researchers relating to the clinical need for *Candida* research, as well as the two elevator sessions with really excellent talks from the next generation of *Candida* researchers.

Special mention should also go to Ted White who put together a fabulous guide to Seattle for those of us who were lucky enough to have time to explore the amazing city. With a Starbucks on almost every corner, tourist attractions, shops, markets, restaurants, and microbreweries, there was no shortage of things to do, see, eat and drink.



I very much look forward to the next ASM *Candida* meeting in Providence, USA in 2018, and would like to again thank the BSMM for their support.

Megan Lenardon

preceded by a one-day Transplant Infectious Disease conference, which was very well attended.

Solid organ transplant recipients receiving varying degrees of immunosuppression to maintain graft tolerance, ranging from calcineurin inhibitor monotherapy for many renal allografts to augmented triple therapy including steroids and anti-proliferative agents in heart and lung transplantation. This confers varying degrees of susceptibility to opportunistic pathogens, and this was reflected in the fascinating infection sessions at TTS. A notable case vignette for me was a case of cryptococcosis seemingly presenting as treatment-resistant lower limb cellulitis in a renal transplant recipient, which on further investigation, revealed entirely subclinical, disseminated disease sampled from mediastinal lymph nodes and cerebrospinal fluid. Also of great interest from a fungal epidemiology perspective, was a large pneumonia case series from a tertiary renal transplant centre in North India, where fungal pathogens comprised the most commonly-detected organisms by bronchoscopy (25.5%), outnumbering tuberculosis (16.1%), bacterial (12.9%) and viral (9.6%) infections, with *Aspergillus* spp most implicit.

I had the opportunity to present the latest findings of our research into the mechanism of the dendritic cell response to *Aspergillus fumigatus* infection in lung transplant recipients, where we found that calcineurin inhibitor delay *A. fumigatus*-mediated DC maturation and stimulation of T-cells. This was followed by stimulating debate on the difficulties of achieving a balance between activating an appropriate T-cell response to fungal infection versus the need to maintain graft tolerogenesis.

The meeting provided a valuable insight into prevalence and burden of fungal disease, which was both region- and organ-specific. It was encouraging to observe both concordant approaches to management between geographical locations, as well as a shared enthusiasm for improving fungal diagnostics in this challenging patient cohort.

Amit Adlakhia



26th International Congress of The Transplantation Society, Hong Kong (China), August 18th-23rd 2016

I had the privilege of attending TTS 2016, the Transplant Society's biennial Congress, in Hong Kong last month, and am grateful to the BSMM for support in the form of a travel grant. The main meeting itself was

BSMM Newsletter: Gordon Ramage & Margherita Bertuzzi
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Gordon Research Seminar and Conference, Immunology of Fungal Infection, Galveston (USA), January 14th-15th, 2017

I was privileged to attend the GRC Immunology of Fungal Infection this 2017 which took place from 14th to 20th of January at the Hotel Galvez, Galveston, TX USA. The theme of this year's conference was "Fundamental Insights and Therapeutic Potential: Advances in Understanding the Host-Fungus Interaction" and I am grateful to the BSMM for their support in the form of a travel grant. GRC Immunology of Fungal Infection is held every other year and convenes up to 200 scientists from all over the world, in a friendly and thought provoking environment.

The main conference was preceded by a one-day seminar series (Gordon research seminar, GRS) Immunology of Fungal infection focused on the theme "Exploring the Hosts' Weaknesses: New Insights from Basic Mechanisms to Complex Host-Pathogen Interactions to Combat Fungal Infections". This session was uniquely designed for graduate students, post-docs and young faculty from around the globe to discuss and exchange new data and cutting edge ideas in a semi-informal atmosphere. The highlight of GRS was the next generation mentoring session where the younger scientist and graduate students could meet with current senior scientists working at the forefront of innovative research in medical mycology and fungal immunology for career progress support and advice.

My PhD project focused on understanding the molecular mechanisms behind fungal invasion of the pulmonary tissues and the role of the hosts in fostering and (or) resisting the invasive processes. Attending and participating in Gordon research conference on Immunology of Fungal Infection provided me with the opportunity to present my recent findings by way of poster and oral presentation as well as engage with other senior scientists in the field. All the sessions (including the speakers) were very stimulating but the most interesting of all to me was talk by Bruce Klein titled "Lung epithelium and control of inhaled fungal pathogens" which came under Humoral and Cellular Effectors in Fungal Immunity session. Studies on the contribution of epithelial cell activities to fungal induced pulmonary tissue damage is still at infancy and

this session did well to highlight the contemporary issues related to the subject area, cutting edge researches on-going and the areas of importance moving forward. A lot of unpublished data covering all areas of fungal immunology research were presented and an insight on what to expect as new publications in the near future.

The location of the conference Hotel Galvez, a beachfront hotel situated on the Texas Gulf Coast was amazing, offering luxurious conference rooms, inspiring views but still very serene to learning and articulations. The rooms were very comfortable, the staff was supportive and there were lots of things to explore in spare time such as beach run, swimming, cycling etc. I also had the opportunity to visit one of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Houston.

GRC 2017 in general was an experience that I will not forget in a hurry. It was mind fulfilling and a great opportunity to catch-up with the recent development in the research area as well as with authors and colleagues from all over the world some of whom I have read their works but communicated with only via emails. Thanks to the BSMM for making this dream come true!

Sincerely grateful
Uju Joy Icheoku



Gordon Research Seminar and Conference, Immunology of Fungal Infection, Galveston (USA), January 14th-15th, 2017

I was awarded a travel grant from to BSMM to attend a Gordon Research Conference (GRC) and Seminar (GRS) titled: "Immunology of Fungal Infections" that took place at Hotel Galvez, Galveston, Texas, USA from the 14th to the 20th of January 2017.

Over the last few decades, the incidence of fatal fungal diseases worldwide such as cryptococcal meningitis, aspergillosis and candidiasis, has risen to a point of surpassing the death tolls of malaria and tuberculosis. Afflicting primarily in the immunocompromised, there is an urgent need to expand current knowledge on host and pathogen interactions, potential antifungal drug targets, and the vaccine development.

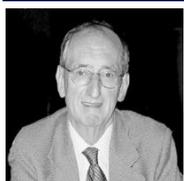
A diverse group of the international members of the fungal research community were in attendance that endowed the conference with a wide range of high quality and inspiring talks from PhD students, Post-docs and established researchers. The seminar lasted the first two days and was open to attendance by early career researchers, while the conference – open to all members of the research community - began immediately after the conclusion of the latter, and continued for the next five days.

The sessions aimed to address topics like fungal pathogen recognition by the immune system, the ability of certain fungi to switch from commensalism to pathogenicity; factors within innate and adaptive immunity that may confer susceptibility or protection from acquiring fatal infections; and attempts to uncover the immunogenetics and pathophysiology associated with these diseases. During these meetings, I had the opportunity to give both a talk and present a poster of my PhD research project titled: “The Role Of Host Variability In Determining Macrophage Responses To Cryptococcosis”. I received important feedback for both of my presentations and learnt of alternative methods to approach my research question with.

This was a valuable experience as I got the chance to meet many scientists in my subject, get feedback and ideas on my research, and build new collaborations. I am very grateful to my supervisor, Professor Robin May for supporting my attendance at this conference, and to the BSMM for awarding me the travel grant that made it all possible.

Mariam Garelnabi

Glyn Evans Award



The Society recognized the huge contribution Prof Glyn Evans made to the BSMM and mycology by providing an award to members to provide financial support to visit another laboratory for a period of training, usually to learn a specific technique. The Award contributes towards the costs of travel, accommodation and directly related expenses.

There are no set application deadlines for this award. And applications may be submitted for consideration at any time. An award will not usually be made if the

applicant has received a previous award (Travel Grant or Glyn Evans Award) less than three years before the application date.

More information at:

<http://www.bsmm.org/front/grants-funding/>

Glyn Evans Award - Recipient reports

Molecular Mycology: Current Approaches to Fungal Pathogenesis -Woods Hole (USA), 12th-28th June 2016

I am extremely grateful to the BSMM committee for granting me a Glyn Evans Award to financially support my attendance to the “Molecular Mycology” course held at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole. This intensive course, coordinated by Dr Xiaorong Lin and Dr Damian Krysan, provided an invaluable opportunity to gain a broader understanding of the current state of knowledge on human fungal pathogenesis. As students, we were treated to inspirational talks by field experts and received hands-on training in essential tools used in fungal research. Importantly, a most precious aspect of the course was the small class-size which provided numerous opportunities for one-on-one scientific (and non-scientific!) discussions with lecturers, TAs and fellow students.

Lecturers included Prof. Jack Edwards, Prof. Aaron Mitchell, Prof. Ted White, Prof. Joe Heitman, Dr. Robb Cramer, Dr. Deb Hogan, Prof. Don Sheppard, Prof. Richard Bennett, Prof. Arturo Casadevall, among many others! Topics covered various aspects relating to *Candida*, *Aspergillus* and *Cryptococcus* biology and host interactions (and how to manipulate them), as well as anti-fungal drug development, clinical practices and animal models of infection (a personal highlight). These intense academic sessions were mixed with relaxing social activities. Since this was the 20th anniversary of the course we had a special seminar where course alumni were invited to speak about their research and students presented their projects in a poster session. I was able to show my PhD findings on macrophage phagocytic temporal dynamics of different fungal pathogens to several field experts, who gave me advice on the most relevant aspects to follow up as well as experimental suggestions.

Attending this course was extremely beneficial for my academic career. I returned to my home institution with increased excitement and new ideas to apply in my project. Furthermore, after graduating I aim to return to my home country (Uruguay) and establish a Medical Mycology research line. This opportunity allowed me to expand my involvement and to develop networks with influential leaders in the fungal community enabling me to create long-lasting connections that will help me progress in this stimulating field.

Fernanda Alonso



<https://www.facebook.com/BSMM.Junior>



https://twitter.com/BSMM_Junior

We would like you the members to provide as much new material as possible to help ensure our society is dynamic, impactful and informative to the medical mycology community. Therefore, if you have material you wish to share about your public engagement, photo's from meetings, or any other relevant material then send it onto any one of the committee members.

Subscription changes & access to Mycoses online

The annual membership subscription of £25 also includes online access to the journal Mycoses. Please remember to pay your membership fees of £25 (<http://www.bsmm.org>) for 2017 using the 'Buy now' PayPal link that will allow you to pay by debit or credit card. Please note that you do not need a PayPal account in order to complete payment or to have a membership profile and password to login for payment.

There is also an option to set up a standing order yourself by internet banking. This is a bit of a u-turn from what we were trying to do last year, but changes in banking regulations and associated charges have hampered efforts for a direct debit option. If you do want to set up a standing order please contact our Treasurer Dr Riina Richardson (riina.richardson@manchester.ac.uk) or successor, who will provide the banking details.

BSMM Junior



BSMM Junior is a resource for junior medical mycologists to allow scientific discussion and communication. We have setup BSMM Junior Twitter and Facebook pages to promote the BSMM to junior members of the society and to encourage interaction between young medical mycologists. The current BSMM Junior representative is Dr Margherita Bertuzzi from the Manchester Fungal Infection group (MFIG).

Please connect with BSMM Junior on Twitter and Facebook using the links below:

New Executive Committee Members

Dr Margherita Bertuzzi joined the executive in March 2016, replacing Dr Louise Walker as the Junior Rep. As you can see from this newsletter and the new website, she has been immensely busy.

As Tom indicated in his introduction, both Gordon Ramage and Riina Richardson as due to stand down from their roles as Secretary and Treasurer. Megan Lenardon will also leave the executive committee. Therefore, we have 3 important executive roles to fill. We hope you engage with the elections at this year's AGM. It is not too late to get involved!

BSMM Course in Diagnostic Medical Mycology

The BSMM course in Diagnostic Medical Mycology will feature basic mycology and deal with the clinical features, epidemiology, pathogenesis and laboratory diagnosis of superficial, subcutaneous and systemic mycoses. This will include the characteristics and identification of dermatophytes and yeasts, serological tests and laboratory monitoring of antifungal therapy.

For registration information please contact Dr Ruth Ashbee (h.r.ashbee@leeds.ac.uk).

BSMM membership

The Society has a total of 271 normal members, and an additional 35 honorary members and 3 life members. To date 111 of our active members have paid their membership dues of £25, bringing in £2325. We encourage membership fee payment as it helps support our travel grants and other awards. We will be chasing you soon!

BSMM Newsletter: Gordon Ramage & Margherita Bertuzzi
E-mail: Gordon.Ramage@glasgow.ac.uk, margherita.bertuzzi@manchester.ac.uk

We would like to welcome the 17 new members since the last meeting. These include: Courtney Kousser (Birmingham), Kangzhen Dong (Bath), Marwa Saad (Cairo), Sergio David Moreno Velasquez (Manchester), Eloise Ballard (Aberdeen), Robert Jan Bleichrodt (Manchester), Jorge Amich (Manchester), Debra DeLoach (Bath), Katie Dunne (Dublin), Elisabeth Lowe (Newcastle), Nicole Pond (King's, London), Josie Gibson (Sheffield), Daniel Larcombe (Aberdeen), Giuseppe Buda De Cesare (Aberdeen), Dora Corzo-Leon (Aberdeen), Paula Seoane (Birmingham), Pizga Kumwenda (Birmingham).

5 members have terminated their resignation from the BSMM: Celine O'Gorman, Elizabeth Doughton, Marcin Fraczek, Lars Erwig and Paul Everest.

Items for the next BSMM Newsletter

If you have any ideas, reviewed a mycology book, or come across anything that would be of interest to our community, and would be suitable for publication in the BSMM Newsletter please email Gordon (Gordon.Ramage@glasgow.ac.uk) or Margherita (Margherita.bertuzzi@manchester.ac.uk)

Forthcoming meetings

[29th Fungal Genetics Conference](#)

Asilomar Conference Center, Pacific Grove, California, USA, March 14th-19th, 2017.

[9th International Fission Yeast Meeting](#)

The Banff Centre, Banff, Alberta, Canada, May 14th-19th, 2017.

[Fungal Pathogens Genomics](#)

Wellcome Genome Campus, Hinxton, Cambridge, UK May 11th-16th, 2017.

[7th Advanced Lecture Course on Human Fungal Pathogens \(HFP2017\)](#)

La Colle Sur Loup, France, May 13th-19th, 2017.

[12th International Meeting on Yeast Apoptosis](#)

Camera di Commercio di Bari, Bari, Italy, May 14th-18th, 2017.

[13th Yeast Lipid Conference](#)

AgroParisTech Claude Bernard campus, Paris, France May 17th-19th, 2017.

[ISSY33: Exploring and Engineering Yeasts for Industrial Application](#)

University College Cork, Ireland, June 26th-29th, 2017.

[Molecular Mycology: Current Approaches to Fungal Pathogenesis](#)

Woods Hole, Massachusetts, USA July 31st – August 16th, 2017.

[28th International Conference on Yeast Genetics and Molecular Biology \(ICYGMB\)](#)

Prague Congress Centre, Prague, Czech Republic August 27th – September 1st, 2017.

[51st Annual Scientific Conference of the German Mycological Society \(DMyKG\)](#)

Münster, Germany, August 31st - September 2nd 2017.

[8th Trends in Medical Mycology](#)

Belgrade, Serbia, October 6th-9th 2017.

[20th ISHAM Congress](#)

Amsterdam, June 30th – July 4th 2018.

Minutes from the 52st AGM Dublin April 2016

Dublin BSMM AGM – 21st March 2016 Tara Suite from 16:30 to 18:00

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Ruth Ashbee, Riina Richardson, Louise Walker, Donna MacCallum. 22 members were present.

2. Minutes from AGM meeting held on the 8th of March 2015, in the Copthorne Hotel, Aberdeen.

The minutes were reported as accurate.

3. Matters arising

Rosemary Barnes stated that there has been nobody put themselves forward for the deputy treasurer's job, and

encouraged the membership to do so. This is important given that Riina Richardson finishes her term in 2017.

There was mention a potential for joint meeting with BMS that had been discussed in 2015, but due to conflicting and busy meetings schedules this was postponed, but still to be kept on the agenda.

4. Presidents report (Rosemary Barnes)

As my term of office comes to an end, I would like to thank the Society, particularly the Committee members for their support over the past 3 years.

There have been trials and tribulations.

On the plus side membership has grown year on year and attendance at our annual meeting is on the increase. The working parties have produced high impact publications that are much cited. Most recently published were the British Society for Medical Mycology best practice recommendations for the diagnosis of serious fungal diseases. In Lancet Infectious Diseases. (Schelenz S, et al Lancet Infectious Diseases. 2015;15(4):461-74. My thanks to Silke Schelenz and all the working group for this heroic effort.

Improving public profile has become a priority. In the Spring Newsletter I told you about "Killer Fungus" exhibit at the Royal Society Summer Exhibition to be held in London July 4th-10th 2016. Neil Gow has taken the lead on this and I encourage as many people as possible to visit the exhibition.

A recent briefing from the Microbiological Society highlights the need to strengthen skills and infrastructure for clinical mycology and reiterates the need for surveillance of mycological diseases in the UK. (<http://www.microbiologysociety.org/policy/briefings.cfm/publication/human-fungal-diseases>).

On the down side, the withdrawal of University College London from the BSMM/UCL MSc/Diploma/Certificate Medical Mycology. The failure to have a full period of warning and reneging of their promise that course would continue for 2015/2016 has hit us hard. The Executive considered legal action but decided against it as we felt the Society lacked the

financial resources to risk action against a behemoth like UCL. Preparations are in place for Aberdeen University to take over the partnership with the BSMM and continue the course from this Institution. There is a lot of work still to be done and I would like to thank the team for all their efforts. Members of the Society deliver the teaching materials and perform all assessments as well as taking on the bulk of the administration and mentoring activities. This is a lot of work but the outputs and impacts from the training and expertise passed on through this course to the mycologists of tomorrow are vital for the continuation of Medical Mycology in the UK.

Following the endorsement of the Society, Ruth Ashbee independently ran the BSMM Medical Mycology Diagnostic BSMM Medical Mycology Diagnostic in Leeds last April. The course was a great success, providing not only essential modules for our Diploma and MSc students in addition to practical training for other trainees and staff, but also generating a profit for the Society. Although it has reverted back to alternate years we will be asking Ruth to provide the course again next year. I have drawn up a draft agreement for continuation of this arrangement and will be seeking your approval at the AGM.

I would like to send my best wishes to Gillian Shankland who retired earlier this year. Gillian has always been a stalwart of the Society, serving as honorary treasurer for a record breaking 10 years from 1994-2004. In addition she served as a committee member and as local meetings organizer on two separate occasions. By my calculations she served 17 years on the executive committee. Perhaps unsurprisingly, Gillian was elected as a Life member of the Society in 2004. Glasgow has hosted more Annual scientific meetings than any other city in the UK and Gillian acted as local organizer for the last two. Notably in 1998 she was the local organizer when we hosted the Fourth Congress of the European Confederation of Medical Mycology and changed history but making ECMMs first profit. I hope Gillian will continue to be involved with the society and that we will see her at meetings. On your behalf, I wish her a happy and peaceful retirement.

16/3/2016

Proposed by Liz Johnson and seconded by Megan Lenardon

5. Treasurer's report (Riina Richardson) for financial year ended 31st December 2015

This is the financial statement for the British Society for Medical Mycology for the year ending 31st December 2015. The Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the British Society for Medical Mycology is on Page 1. This report concludes that accounting records are in accordance with accounts regulations, and that no unusual items or disclosures in the accounts seeking explanation came to examiner's attention. The accounts are broken down on the five-page report. Page 1 of the accounts is a summary of the income and expenditure and page 2 shows the balance sheet for the BSMM as of 31st December 2015. The details are found in the Notes on pages 3-5 of the accounts. Where available, the figures for 2014 are shown on the far right for comparison. The figures shown in the accounts do not include VAT.

The income for 2015 (page 1) consisted of subscriptions amounting to £8,695 (£4,765 in 2014), UCL profit share £25,789 (NIL), surplus of the Leeds course £5,384 (NIL), and bank interest of £50 (£54). The 2015 51st BSMM Annual meeting held in Aberdeen appears to have made £7,754 loss. However, this is due to two significant sponsorship payments (£12,000 and £2,000) been paid early in 2014 and included in the 2014 accounts. Therefore, the Aberdeen meeting did actually make a profit whereas the Manchester meeting made a loss as expected due to the large number of invited non-paying guests for the 50th anniversary celebrations. The detailed accounts for the meetings can be seen in note 4 on page 4 of the accounts. In addition to the £14,000 sponsorship paid in 2014, the Aberdeen Annual meeting generated £6,950 sponsorship income (£35,677 in 2014 including £14,000 for 2015 meeting) and £7,913 (£13,736) from delegate fees. Expenses amounted to £22,617 (£48,869), which included £17,645 (£34,230) hotel costs, £1,743 (£11,362) other costs, and £3,229 (£3,237) for speakers' expenses. The 2015 Annual meeting was very successful – thanks to Megan, Donna and Carol for organising such a successful meeting and also thanks to the Meetings Secretary, Julian Naglik, for the meeting programme.

Therefore, total income of the BSMM for 2015 was £32,164 (£5,363 in 2014).

Expenses of the society are summarised in the lower half of page 1. Eight (7 in 2014) travel grants were awarded in 2015 amounting to £1,512 (£3,248). The BSMM awarded one (1 in 2014) Glynn Evans award in 2015 amounting to £394 (£1,140). BSMM paid £1,075 (NIL) for UK Clinical Mycology Network expenses in 2015 and £661 (NIL) for the speaker expenses for two jointly organised sessions at the 2015 Federation of the Infection Societies meeting in Glasgow. BSMM awarded one £263 (NIL) bursary for a student on the UCL MSc course. The Management and Administration costs were £2,118 (£2,135 in 2015). The detailed costs are shown in Note 2 on page 3 of the accounts.

The total expenses for the BSMM for 2015 amounted to £6,023 (£6,523 in 2014).

The net incoming resources for 2015 were £26,141 (-£1,160 in 2014). The balance sheet of the Society is shown on page 2 of the accounts and details the various bank accounts held by the BSMM. As you can see, the British Society for Medical Mycology finished 2014 with a net worth of £160,329 (£134,188 in 2014).

I would like to finish my report by extending my thanks to Mr Keith Thomson of Gardner and Partners Accountants in Aberdeen, who has been an extremely helpful and understanding accountant for the BSMM over the last 10 years.

14/3/2016

Proposed by Robin May, seconded Julian Naglik

6. Secretary's report (Gordon Ramage)

The society is continuing to grow, with 302 active members. Only 101 have paid this year, so please check your subscriptions, and if unsure contact me at Gordon.ramage@glasgow.ac.uk and I will be able to give up an update. Honorary and Life Members do not need to pay this annual subscription.

We have had 28 new members in 2014, 51 new members in 2015 and 6 new members to date in 2016.

We would like to welcome the following new members to the BSMM since our last annual meeting:

New members (in order of joining):

Kirsti Morris (Leeds), Ravinder Bhardwaj (Manchester), Norman van Rhijn (Manchester), Samuel Fayemiwo (Ibadan), Shan Brunel (Aberdeen), Patawee Asamaphan (Aberdeen), Asrah Mohamad (UCL), Samir Agrawal (Barts), Tihan Bicanic (St George's), Cameron Licence (Cardiff), Amit Adlakha (Imperial), Ambah Pradham (Aberdeen), Sharleen Braham (Aberdeen), Marian Gareinabi (Birmingham), Chibuike Ibe (Aberdeen), Ijeoma Okoliegbe (Aberdeen), Eavan Muldoon (Manchester), Ahlam Alanazi (Manchester), Faten Al-Wathiqi (Manchester), Jeffrey Chun Yi Lau (Manchester), Jemima Ho (KCL), Eleanor Townsend (UWS), Ryan Kean (UWS).

The following members have resigned: George Heron, Elaine Taylor, Howard Jenkinson and Kathy Hoole.

We also report the sad loss of one of our honorary
16/03/16

Proposed by Lewis White, seconded by Gary Moran

7. Grants and Awards

12 travel grants were received in the April, July, October, and January deadlines. 10 were awarded to the following, totalling £3404.41:

1. **Jeanette Wagner:** £500 towards attending the 19th Congress of The International Society for Human and Animal Mycology.
2. **Constance Seidel:** £200 towards attending the 2015 International Meeting on The Invasive Fungus in Manchester (7-9th September).
3. **Lucian Duvenage:** £350 towards attending the FEBS/EMBO course: Mitochondria in life, death and disease, Heraklion, Greece.
4. **Marwan Al-Maqtoofi:** £200 towards attending the 2015 International Meeting on The Invasive Fungus in Manchester (7-9th September).
5. **Iain Page:** £500 towards attending the 46th Union Conference on Lung Health, held in Cape Town, South Africa.

6. **Alfred Kamuyango:** £134.41 towards attending the BSMM Annual General Meeting, Dublin, Ireland, 20-22 March 2016.

7. **Megan Lenardon:** £500 towards attending the 13th ASM Conference on Candida and candidiasis, 13-17 April 2016, Seattle, WA, USA.

8. **Rebecca Hall:** £500 towards attending the 13th ASM Conference on Candida and candidiasis, 13-17 April 2016, Seattle, WA, USA.

9. **Sarah Sherrington:** £280 towards attending the BSMM Annual General Meeting, Dublin, Ireland, 20-22 March 2016.

10. **Wioleta Trzaska:** £240 towards attending the BSMM Annual General Meeting, Dublin, Ireland, 20-22 March 2016.

The following Glyn Evan Awards have been approved this year:

1. **Carmelina Vinci:** Up to £460 towards a visit to Elaine Bignell's laboratory to learn molecular manipulation of *Aspergillus*.

2. **Shichina Kannambath:** Up to £1860 towards visiting and collaborating with Prof. Netea's laboratory at Radboud University Medical Centre.

3. **Elizabeth Ballou:** Up to £340 towards attendance at the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Scientific Writing Retreat, Dec 2-6, 2015.

8. Working parties

Rosemary Barnes indicated that there needs to be time constraint on working groups, rather than groups maintaining a presence without activity.

Fungal serology (Richard Barton)

The working group has been inactive due to unforeseen circumstances, but will endeavour to start things moving again in 2016. It was agreed that the executive will contact Richard Barton and decide on whether to continue. We will ask for a short paper on the aims and objectives of the group, and the composition of group.

Mycology teaching to UG (Ruth Ashbee)

There has been little success with UG teaching search. I sent out about 20 emails so far and had precisely 0 replies. One thought I had, which might be more

successful, was to see if you could email round the BSMM membership and ask if they teach on any courses and if so where they are? At least that way, I know where to hunt down and pursue and it might give me an "in" with the course. Ruth will provide a questionnaire that Gordon will send out for dissemination to the membership.

9. BSMM/UCL MSc/Diploma/Certificate Course

Report from Professor Chris Kibbler

BSMM/UCL MSc/Diploma/Certificate Course – The Society's Course is now in its twelfth year and has enrolled students from five continents. There are currently 18 in the programme. UCL has now closed the course to new students, in agreement with the BSMM, as the student numbers recruited do not comply with the university's target for financially viable courses. Five students were recruited for this year's intake, versus a minimum agreed number of eight, as discussed at last year's AGM. UCL has undertaken to support the remaining students through the remainder of their studies and I, as Programme Director, will continue to supervise this process.

The Board of Examiners were pleased to award two MSc distinctions, one MSc pass and one Certificate pass this last academic year. The external examiners again commented on the high standard of the students, concluding that marking was fair and transparent and the course was well taught and balanced.

No bursaries were awarded last year.

Once again, the course has achieved a surplus, shared with UCL, which will result in a payment to the Society of £1,308.71. The formal profit sharing agreement between UCL and the BSMM continues on a 50/50 basis.

The Society is currently negotiating with Aberdeen University to transfer the course there, under the auspices of the Aberdeen Fungal Group. Donna MacCallum will update the Society further on progress with this.

As ever, this course could not run without the commitment of many members of the Society and I

would particularly like to thank the module tutors and supervisors, who give freely of their time to teach, assess, supervise and support our students. I hope that many of these will continue to support the course in its new home.

Report from Donna MacCallum

With regards to the BSMM/UCL MSc Diploma Course, Aberdeen University is keen to host the course and it will be run by staff in the MRC Centre for Medical Mycology, with me and Neil Gow running it initially.

Finalising the transfer has been slow due to the current restructuring the University school and college system (including financial responsibilities). We are now in a position to liaise with the BSMM and Chris Kibbler to begin negotiations and the transfer of materials.

Rosemary thanked Chris for all his efforts in the course. Rosemary also indicated that there should be an executive member on the BSMM not from Aberdeen.

10. Annual Scientific meetings

Dublin 2016 (Gary Moran)

Gary Moran stated that we had approximately 115 delegates at the meeting. 2 non-EU students unable to make it, 6 Austrian and 50:50 between IFS and BSMM. The sponsorship made around €34k, but still awaiting payment from Gilead and Pfizer. Gary reported that a replacement for Frank Odds at the last minute. Rosemary thanked Gary for a fantastic meeting venue and its organisation.

Birmingham 2017 (Robin May)

Robin May stated that the meeting would be 19th to 21st March near Birmingham airport at St John's hotel. There are potential clashes with the Microbiological Society, but no direct clash *per se*. Negotiations on price are at an advanced stage and more will be reported back to the executive in due course.

Bristol 2018

Andy Borman confirmed that Bristol would lead BSMM for 2018.

Rosemary Barnes thanks those involved in the current and future meetings.

11. Website update (Louise Walker)

Gordon Ramage reported on behalf of Louise Walker. He reported that members often sign up and do not come back to visit the site. There needs to be better mechanisms between secretary and IT. She also wants to encourage membership to engage with social networks, such as the Facebook and Twitter accounts. Gordon reported that he would work closely with the new Junior representative to make the website more streamlined and attractive to the membership.

12. UK clinical mycology network (Silke Schelenz)

Silke indicated that things have been quite tough, still taking members. There have been problems trying to get funding for the annual meeting. However, there were some activities ongoing, such as PCP, which was put on hold.

13. Leeds course (Rosemary Barnes)

Following the unanimous endorsement at the 2015 AGM Ruth Ashbee has kindly agreed to continue to organize the BSMM Mycology training course at Leeds which forms part of the MSc/Diploma in medical mycology as well as being open to all interested parties. Registration fees and running costs will use the local Leeds meeting account and the BSMM VAT registration number. At the end of each course a spread sheet of accounts will be prepared and submitted to the BSMM treasurer, as in previous years.

Dr Ashbee is no longer an employee of Leeds University and is self-employed so no agencies external to the BSMM will be involved. Dr Ashbee plans to externally rent the University facilities used previously, and consumables will be purchased through either the University of Leeds or hospital procurement contacts. The costs of these will be documented in the accounts along with speaker (travel etc.) and other costs.

There will no longer be any direct course payment/profit share with Leeds University but Dr Ashbee's costs will be separately invoiced to the BSMM via the treasurer at the rates agreed by the BSMM executive as an honorarium.

14. Executive committee elections

Gordon Ramage thanked Rosemary Barnes for her work over the past 3 years as president. Gordon reported that we had one nomination for the Presidential role currently held by Rosemary. Tom Rodgers was unanimously supported for his nomination and will become the new President of the BSMM after the annual meeting in 2016 ends.

Gordon also indicated that there was one nomination for the Junior representative to take over from Louise Walker. Margherita Bertuzzi was unanimously supported in her nomination and will take over immediately from Louise.

15. Election of life and honorary members

Gordon Ramage nominated Rosemary Barnes as an honorary member for all her work for the society as Secretary and more recently President. This was seconded by Julian Naglik and the entire AGM members.

16. BSMM customs and traditions

Nothing was discussed.

17. AOCB

Chris Kibbler asked about the wellbeing of Frank Odds and expressed concern. The BSMM discussed sending him something to wish him well.

Rosemary Barnes asked whether the membership would support any additional expenses required to support Riina Richardson in her treasury roles. There was unanimous agreement for this.