

BSMM News

April 2013



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The President's Column

Chris Kibbler

BSMM Travel Grant Applications

Travel Grant applications are reviewed every two months for the coming year. The criteria for eligibility and purpose of the award can be found on the BSMM website along with the application form. If you are planning to attend a meeting why not apply for some travel funds.

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.

Travel grant reports from grant recipients

11th ASM Conference on *Candida* and *Candidiasis*
The 11th ASM conference on *Candida* and *Candidiasis* took place from March 29th to April 2nd in San Francisco, USA. I'd like to thank the BSMM for awarding me a travel grant which enabled me to attend this conference. This meeting brings together the leading researchers within my field of mycology and gave me an excellent opportunity both to present my work via a poster and to learn about the ground-breaking research being carried out world-wide. Across 11 sessions, work was presented from all areas of *Candida* spp. research. Of particular interest to me were the sessions covering "Systematics and Systems Biology" and "The Evolving Genome". It was fascinating to hear how far gene expression analysis has progressed in recent years. The talk given by Vincent Bruno entitled "Simultaneous Characterisation of Host and Pathogen Transcriptome Dynamics During Infection" excellently demonstrated the power which new sequencing technologies has provided. I also feel that the meeting had a fantastic mix of speakers ranging from early stage PhD students to well-established PIs. In the final poster session, I presented my work entitled "Understanding the Significance of Allele Specific Expression in *Candida albicans*". Having this opportunity to discuss my research with other investigators has provided me with valuable feedback and ideas on how I can both improve and further my work. It was especially rewarding hearing positive comments from the researchers which founded the field in *Candida albicans*.

Alongside the conference, I was also given the opportunity to see some of the sights of San Francisco; a beautiful city which I would love to return to. Again I'd like to give thanks to the BSMM for providing me with a travel grant and making this experience possible.

Sophie Clarke

BSMM Annual Meeting Cardiff

To begin with, I am really grateful to the BSMM for the travel grant that provided financial assistance towards my attendance at the BSMM Annual Meeting in Cardiff in April 2012. This gave me a great opportunity to meet leading experts in fungal research, including Professor Ted White, Professor Pete Sudbery, Dr Robin May, Dr Elaine Bignell, Dr Helen Goodridge and Dr Steve Bates. It was particularly interesting for me to learn about the evolutionarily diverse fungal pathogens that they work on. I also enjoyed the opportunity to present my work



and was grateful for some inspiring feedback from these experts in molecular mycology.

The BSMM Annual Meeting covered a variety of aspects in fungal research including fungal epidemiology, emerging pathogens, diagnostics, fungal biology, antifungal resistance and host-fungal interactions. I was especially interested in environmental sensing and host-pathogen interaction which are a large part of my project. My favourite topics were presented by Prof Pete Sudbery, Prof. Neil Gow, Prof. Robin May and Dr. Marghe Bertuzzi. The context of these talks included the mechanics of hyphal growth in fungi, the importance of chitin in immune recognition, the interaction of *Cryptococcus* with macrophages and PacC as an important pH regulator and virulence factor of *A. fumigates*. All of these talks (and others) gave me some excellent ideas for my current PhD project and for my future work as a post-doctoral researcher. Once again I would like to express my deep thanks to the BSMM committee for the Travel Award and for supporting me in this excellent experience.

Anna Theresa Tillmann

BSMM Annual Meeting

BSMM 2013 PROGRAMME

BSMM 2013 PROGRAMME (APRIL 14th – 16th, 2013)

All sessions will take place in The County Suite, County Hotel By Thistle, Newcastle

SUNDAY 14th April 2013

- 14:00 – 17:00** Executive committee meeting (The Boardroom)
- 14:00 – 18:00** Registration (Front Lobby)
- 14:00 – 18:00** Exhibition and refreshment area (Rendez-vous Restaurant)
- 17:30 – 19:00** Evening meal (Rendez-vous Restaurant)
- 19:00 – 20:45** MAIN POSTER session and poster prize judging (Symphony Suite)
- 21:00 – 22:30** BSMM General Knowledge Quiz + Cash Bar (The County Suite)

MONDAY 15th April 2013

07:00 – 9:30 Breakfast (Rendez-vous Restaurant)

Session 1: Fungal genomics and systems biology (Chair: xxxxx)

08:45 Epidemiology and genomics of *Penicillium* and *Cryptococcus*
Matthew Fisher (Imperial College London, UK)

09:10 Complexity and dynamics of host-fungal interactions
Duccio Cavalieri (Research and Innovation Centre, Italy)

09:35 Offered paper

09:50 – 10:00 BREAK

Session 2: Novel molecular tools and models (Chair: xxxxx)

10:00 Molecular tools to investigate fungal pathogenicity
Patrick van Dijck (Institute of Botany and Microbiology, Belgium)

10:25 Modelling disseminated candidiasis using zebrafish
Craig Murdoch (University of Sheffield, UK)

10:50 Offered paper

11:05 – 11:30 COFFEE (Rendez-vous Restaurant)

Session 3: BSMM PhD student prize presentations (Chair: xxxxxx)

11:30 Offered paper

11:45 Offered paper

12:00 Offered paper

12:15 Offered paper

12:30 Offered paper

12:45 Offered paper

1:00 – 14:30 LUNCH (Rendez-vous Restaurant) and poster viewing (Symphony Suite)

Session 4: Fungal biology and pathogenicity (Chair: xxxxx)

14:30 Elicitation of host damage occurs in a temporally programmed manner during *Aspergillus fumigatus* infections
Elaine Bignell (Imperial College London, UK)

14:55 *C. parapsilosis* biology and pathogenicity
Attila Gacser (University of Szeged, Hungary)

15:20 Offered paper

15:35 Offered paper

15:50 – 16:15 Coffee (Rendez-vous Restaurant)

16:15 – 17:45 BSMM AGM (The County Suite) or POSTER viewing (Symphony Suite)

Session 5: Foundation Lecture (The Mozart Suite)

18:00 – 19:00 Drinks reception

19:00 – 20:00 Host Cell Invasion by *Candida albicans*
Scott Filler (Los Angeles Biomedical Research Institute at Harbor - UCLA, USA)

BSMM ANNUAL DINNER (The Mozart Suite)

20:00 – 00:00 Dinner, prizes for best poster and student oral presentation and sing song!

TUESDAY 16th April 2013

07:00 – 09:30 Breakfast (Rendez-vous Restaurant)

Session 6: Gilead Fellowship talks (sponsored event) (Chair: xxxxx)

09:00 Offered paper

09:15 Offered paper

09:30 Offered paper

09:45 Offered paper

10:00 – 10:20 Coffee (Rendez-vous Restaurant)

Session 7: Host-fungal interactions (Chair: xxxxx)

10:20 The fungal mycobiome and its importance in health and disease
David Underhill (Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, USA)

10:45 Fungal-phagocyte interactions: visualisation of phagocytosis and phagosome maturation
Lars Erwig (University of Aberdeen, UK)

11:10 Offered paper

11:25 Offered paper

11:40 – 11:50 BREAK

Session 8: Fungal immunity (Chair: xxxxx)

11:50 A systems biology approach to *Candida*-host defence interaction
Mihai Netea (Radboud University, Netherlands)

12:15 Th17/IL17 and mucosal candidiasis
Heather Conti (University of Pittsburgh, USA)

12:30 Offered paper

12:45 – 14:00 LUNCH (Rendez-vous Restaurant)

EXTRA Session: Wellcome Trust Strategic Award for Medical Mycology and Fungal Immunology

14.00 – 17.00 Career Workshop for Young Medical Mycologists

Open to all BSMM members, in particular students and postdoctoral research assistants attending the BSMM. The workshop will cover the following topics:

- (1) Defining a Career path – presentations on different career routes (academic, clinical/medical, transition to non-scientific careers)

Dr Janet Quinn, Institute for Cell and Molecular Biosciences, Newcastle University + 2 other speakers to be confirmed

(2) Personal development plans and CV writing
Professor Alistair Brown, Aberdeen Fungal Group, University of Aberdeen

If you wish to attend the workshop, please register by sending an email to MMFI-Hub@abdn.ac.uk, giving your name, University/employer, position (e.g. PhD, Postdoc etc) and contact details.

END OF OFFICAL PROCEEDINGS

UKCM BSMM/UCL MSc/ Diploma Course

The BSMM/University College London MSc/Diploma Course in Medical Mycology Applications are invited for this unique distance learning based course. The programme is based at University College London and run jointly by UCL and the BSMM. Teaching is provided by the leading UK experts in mycology, by means of DVDs, web-based materials and practical courses, and includes a research project conducted at the student's home institution.

A bursary may be available from the British Society for Medical Mycology to support the costs of this course. Details are available on the BSMM website.

Places are limited, so if you wish to find out more please contact Anne Dickens, the course administrator at a.dickens@medsch.ucl.ac.uk as soon as possible to register your interest. Further details may also be found on the BSMM website at www.BSMM.org

Forthcoming meetings

The 6th **Trends in Medical Mycology (TIMM)** will be held 11-14 October, 2013 in Copenhagen, Denmark. For further information go to: <http://www.timm2013.org/>

8-9 April, Utrecht, The Netherlands: the ECMM-ISHAM Working Group on **Zygomycetes and Zygomycoses**.

11 April, Amsterdam, The Netherlands: the ISHAM Working Group on **Fungal Nomenclature** will have an afternoon session as part of the CBS Spring Symposium "One Fungus / Which Gene" (10-11 April).

12-13 April, Utrecht, The Netherlands: The ISHAM working group on **Barcoding Medical Fungi**. New developments and revolutionary techniques are

presented, and some examples of taxonomic groups will be shown

23rd ECCMID 27 April 2013, Berlin, Germany

16-18 May, Innsbruck, Austria: The ISHAM Working Group **Pseudallescheria / Scedosporium Infections**

2nd Fungal Biofilms Meeting. 20 May 2013 Glasgow, Scotland

2nd Fungal Biofilms meeting 20-21 May 2013, Glasgow

Molecular mechanisms of host-pathogen interactions and virulence in human fungal infections. 25 May 2013 La Colle Sue Loup, France

Society for General Microbiology autumn conference is on 2-4 September 2013, University of Sussex, with a joint symposium with the BSMM

British Mycological Society: **Fungi and the environment**. Cardiff 10-13 September 2013

2-4 October, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: The ISHAM Working Group on **Sporothrix and Sporotrichosis**.

28-30 November, Guangzhou, China: The ISHAM Working Groups on **Black Yeasts and Chromoblastomycosis**.

Links to Societies and webpages of interest: http://www.rms.org.uk/events/Forthcoming_Events for events sponsored by the Royal Microscopical Society

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

Currently the Society has 357 members. There are 275 UK members and 78 overseas members, including 28 honorary and four life members

The Society would like to ensure that it acknowledges the contributions of its members and welcomes nominations for life and honorary membership. Life

and honorary members have all the privileges of ordinary membership but are exempt from paying any annual subscription charges. The Constitution states that “Members of at least 10 years standing, who have retired from active practice, shall be eligible to become life members. Members who have made a notable contribution to medical or veterinary mycology and/or to the work of the Society, shall be eligible for nomination to honorary membership.”

A member can be nominated for either life or honorary membership by the Committee or by two members, as long as the nomination is received by the General Secretary two months before the AGM. The award of life or honorary membership is then voted upon at the AGM.

The minutes of the AGM welcome a number of new members, but since the meeting a further 8 members have joined the Society and are welcomed: Gordon Brown (Aberdeen), Kerstin Voelz (Birmingham), Janey Quinn (Newcastle), Leanne Stones (Birmingham), Jonathan Richardson (London), Rita Oladele (Lagos), Alireza Abdolrasouli (London), and Marta Moulis (Hove).

Three members resigned this year: Dr Rhiannon Pusall (Birmingham), Roderic Warren (Shrewsbury), and John Mullins (Penarth). The Society wishes them well in their future projects.

Minutes from the 48th AGM in Cardiff April 2012

48th Annual General Meeting – Minutes

The meeting was held on 30th April 2012 at the Mercure Hotel in Cardiff, commencing at 16:15 and chaired by Professor C Kibbler (President).

Members present

28 members were in attendance at the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from:

Dr Veronica Hearn and Dr Ruth Ashbee,

Agenda items

1. Apologies – see list above
2. Minutes of the 47th AGM held on 17th April 2011
The minutes were agreed by the membership as an accurate record and approved by the President.
3. Matters arising from the minutes

Any matters arising were included under existing agenda items.

4. President’s report

The Society remains in good shape, both financially and academically. Last year's meeting in Glasgow was a great success and I would like to formally thank Gillian Shankland and Julian Naglik for putting together such a great event. This one is promising to be of the same high standard.

The activity of our members continues to enhance the good name of the BSMM. I would like to particularly congratulate Professor Neil Gow and his consortium for his success in securing a large Wellcome Strategic Award for training the medical mycologists of the future. This is extremely important for the mycology community and Society members will be heavily involved in this programme.

Since we last met, there have been a number of meetings relevant to mycology, the largest of which were TIMM in Valencia and ECCMID in London. We were well represented by Liz Johnson and Rosemary Barnes on the respective scientific committees and I know that many of you participated in these and other conferences.

Last month saw yet another successful BSMM course in Leeds and the Society is very grateful to Ruth Ashbee for the huge amount of work involved in running this course.

A number of working parties have been running on your behalf and these will be discussed later in the AGM. There are no proposals for new ones, but please let the Executive Committee know if you feel there is a worthy topic.

The Fungal Registry has been on line for several years now and remains funded at a reduced rate. Liz Johnson will seek your views about this later.

I have represented you at several ECMM Council meetings during the past year. Most of the business has been around the new website design and the transfer of the journal “Mycoses” to the Confederation. A portal for accessing the on-line version should be available within the next few months and once the increased subscription has been paid, members should be able to access “Mycoses” from a member’s only section.

This was to have been the last report of my three year term, but in view of some issues with the seeking of nominations for my successor, I have been asked to stay

on by the Executive Committee for a further year. I am honoured to be asked and happy to do so, although we will now be asking for nominations for President, Secretary and Meetings Secretary to commence in office after the next AGM.

Thank you to Rosemary Barnes for organising our 48th Annual Meeting here in Cardiff and to Julian Naglik who has again provided able assistance in putting together a very interesting programme. Thank you as always to our sponsors from the pharmaceutical industry who are in alphabetical order: Astellas Pharmaceuticals, Cape Cod Associates, Gilead, MSD and Pfizer

Questions arising from the report: What was the deadline for nominations for President and Secretary? -- The President responded that it was intended to close nominations at the end of June, and should there be more than one nominee an election would be held in the autumn for approval at the AGM in April 2013.

Proposed by Prof Rosemary Barnes, and seconded by Dr Julian Naglik

5. Treasurer's report

Treasurer's report for financial year ended 31st December 2011. Due to unforeseen circumstances Dr Amanda Barnes was unable to assume the post of Honorary Treasurer in 2011. Dr Riina Rautemaa-Richardson has now volunteered to take over the post and so this will be my final report as the honorary Treasurer of the BSMM.

This is the financial statement for the British Society for Medical Mycology for the year ended 31st December 2011. The accounts are broken down on the five page report. Page 1 is a summary of the income and expenditure and page 2 shows the balance sheet for the BSMM as at 31st December 2011. As I go through the accounts I will refer to notes, the details of which are found on pages 3-5 of the accounts. Where available, the figures for 2010 are shown on the far right for comparison. The figures shown in the accounts do not include VAT.

Beginning with the income of the BSMM for 2011 (page 1), income consisted of subscriptions amounting to £3083 and bank interest of £47. Other income was generated by the various activities of the Society, which I will discuss now.

The BSMM Annual meeting in 2011 was a hugely enjoyable and successful meeting held in Glasgow, and organised by Dr Gillian Shankland. The detailed accounts for the meeting can be seen in note 4 on page 4 of the accounts. Before discussing the meeting accounts I would like to point out that the sponsorship amount

listed for this meeting includes an outstanding £2000 sponsorship payment recovered by Dr Elaine Bignell for the London 2009 meeting. Because only the accounts for the previous year are shown for comparison it was easier to include this payment with the Glasgow meeting sponsorship. The Annual meeting generated income of £33,974, which included sponsorship of £13,000. Expenses totalled £21,664, which included £3518 for speakers' expenses (many of whom were initially asked to speak at the Exeter meeting). The Annual meeting, therefore, generated a profit of £12,310 – thanks again to Gillian for organising, almost single-handedly, such a successful meeting and to our meetings organiser, Julian Naglik, for the meeting programme.

Returning to page 1, the other income source for the Society was a profit share payment from UCL from the BSMM/UCL Medical Mycology MSc/Diploma course, which amounted to £11,892.

Therefore, total income of the BSMM for 2011 was £29,332.

Expenses of the society are summarised in the lower half of page 1. Three travel grants were claimed in 2011 amounting to £1620. This was a much lower level of award compared to the previous year. These travel grants allowed Nicola Smith to attend ECCMID in Milan and Julian Naglik and Kathy Lee to attend the FEBS course in Nice. The BSMM awarded a Glynn Evans award to Deborah Whitehead to allow her to travel to the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota to learn how to test for Histoplasma, Coccidioides and Blastomyces. Reports from recipients of these awards can be found in the December 2011 newsletter.

Other expenditure of the Society included maintenance costs associated with the Fungal Registry database (£6895; the same cost as the previous year). The Society would again like to thank Dr Liz Johnson for her continued association with the Fungal Registry. Three working parties were active this year, with costs of £242 associated with the antifungal drug monitoring working party, £808 with the fungal serology working party and £180 with the Candida syndrome working party.

The BSMM also continued its support of students on the BSMM/UCL MSc/Diploma course, with payments totalling £1955 being made to two individuals who had been awarded BSMM bursaries. This level of payment was reduced from the previous (£7195), but is a reflection of the modules being taken by bursary awardees in that year.

Management and administration costs for the year increased to £7331 in 2011. The detailed costs are shown in Note 2 on page 3 of the accounts. The actual committee expenses were only £208 (further reduced from the previous year), with other costs representing payment of subscriptions to the ECMM and the Society

of Biology, newsletter costs, accountancy costs, bank charges and BSMM sponsorship of other meetings. The major cost under management and administration was an investment in the BSMM website, which amounted to £5305. The BSMM would like to thank Dr Carol Munro for her continued involvement in the website redesign.

The total expenses for the BSMM for 2011 amounted to £19,031 (£23,556 in 2010).

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 2011 with a net worth of £140,453.

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 the most fantastic, patient and understanding accountant for the BSMM over the last 6 years and also to wish my successor Riina Rautemaa-Richardson all the best during her term as Honorary Treasurer of the BSMM.

Questions arising from the report: How is the money received from UCL for the Certificate /Diploma /MSc spent?

-The Committee aim to spend much of the money from UCL on student bursaries. Each year applications for bursaries are reviewed and funding given to those with little access to resources and those who would benefit from support to complete a mycology training. Each application is reviewed individually. Furthermore, several of the students on this programme have become members of the BSMM and have contributed to the Society.

Proposed by Prof Rosemary Barnes, and seconded by Dr Elizabeth Johnson

6. Secretary's report

Membership

The total membership is 352 with 271 UK and 77 overseas members, of which 27 are honorary and 2 are life members. Our membership has increased by 7 this year, and the Society would like to welcome its new members: Jason Hart (London), Sarah Morgan (Aberdeen), Filomena Nogueira (Aberdeen), Anna Johns (Manchester), Darel Anne MacDonald (Manchester), Shirley Tang (London), and Pankaj Mehrotra (Aberdeen). One member resigned this year: Dr John Reuther.

Grants and Awards

The Society continues to offer funding for members to attend meetings via Travel Grant applications, or to gain experience and training in another laboratory through

the Glynn Evans Mycology Award. Since the last AGM one Glyn Evans award was granted for £480 to Lynn Brown to learn sequencing methods. Seven Travel Grants were granted totalling £3421.83. Meetings attended included the BSMM, the Wood's Hole course on Molecular Mycology, the European Summer Mycology course in Hungary, the ASM and ISHAM.

One BSMM/UCL MSc bursary was granted for £7259 and this student commenced study in Autumn 2011.

The applications forms for the Glyn Evans award and Travel grant will be revised shortly. The Glyn Evans application will give more space for a detailed description of the work or project to be undertaken in the host laboratory. This is to allow the Committee to better appreciate why the award will be useful and reduce the need to send requests for further detail or explanation. The Travel Grant conditions will be revised to encourage recipients to submit meeting reports promptly.

Newsletters

Two newsletters were published last year and emailed to as many members as possible to cut down on production costs. I am still trying to locate members whose email addresses no longer work. If anyone would like to contribute an article on news, job opportunities, or is trying to track down a book or reference please do contact the Secretary for inclusion. Any photos from the Annual meeting would also be welcome.

Executive Committee Membership

Unfortunately Dr Amanda Barnes was unable to take on the reigns as Treasurer and Dr Donna MacCallum kindly filled the gap. The Executive Committee identified a willing successor as Treasurer in Dr Riina Richardson, and she will be taking over from Donna after this meeting.

The positions of President, Meeting Secretary and General Secretary will be dealt with under item 11.

Lastly we would like to thank Prof Rosemary Barnes for her hard work making this meeting in Cardiff so successful, and welcome Dr Julian Rutherford as the local organiser for the meeting in Newcastle in 2013 and Dr Malcolm Richardson as local organiser for Manchester in 2014.

Proposed by Dr Julian Naglik and seconded by Dr Peter Troke.

7. Working party reports

i). BSMM/UCL certificate / Diploma / MSc – Report from Professor Chris Kibbler
The course has now been running for eight years and continues to recruit well. We currently have 26 students on the course, with 5 joining this year. The Society awarded one bursary this year to a new student on the course.

Module one was taken as a CPD option for the first time this year and there are plans to add several other modules which should bring in additional income to the Society. Once again, the course has achieved a surplus, shared with UCL, which will result in a payment, yet to be calculated, to the Society in the near future. 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, those responsible for running the practical modules and Anne Dickens, our able administrator.

ii). Fungal Infection Registry – Report from Dr Elizabeth Johnson

The BSMM Fungal Registry Working group which I chair was initiated in 2006 and includes: Professors David Denning and Chris Kibbler and Drs Brian Jones and Ibrahim Hassan, in addition Professor Caroline Sabin was co-opted to provide statistical advice and support. The group worked together with Abacus International, and with financial support from Gilead, to design a user friendly data base for the capture of possible, probable and proven invasive fungal infection for centres within the UK. Blanket ethical approval was granted and the launch meeting was in September 2007 during which the web-based reporting system was demonstrated to potential participants. Since that time although there has been intermittent interest formal registration and data entry has been minimal. We currently have 10 centres registered with 25 potential users and 174 patient data sets entered, but even this sounds better than it is, as the majority of these patients are from a single respiratory clinic and there has not been any data entry for a long time. However, in recent months Pfizer have agreed to provide support for data entry on a couple of large sites in London and the logistics of this are being addressed. Moreover, Brian Jones has expressed an interest in using the registry for analysis of patient data in a large Scottish candidaemia study which is currently underway. This will entail some work on the site to include additional questions and the plan is to consult the members of the working party by email to discuss these.

I have recently approached Abacus for a quote to support and host the site for a further six months after which time we would like to have it handed over in a

form that can be run from a PC. The quote for this was £3,265.

Following the report the membership were asked whether the Registry should continue to be supported via Abacus until the completion of Dr Jones' Scottish candidaemia study or whether support should be withdrawn and an alternative database for PC set up. After much discussion the agreed approach was that the funding should be stopped at the earliest opportunity, that a new database should be created by the BSMM for PC (collecting the same data included on the Infection Registry), and that the existing data should be typed in. The database creation and data input could be funded by the BSMM and should still cost less than the ~£10,000 currently quoted by Abacus for one year for maintenance and conversion to a PC version. The person sponsored by Pfizer could continue to complete data input for the London centres, but input the data into

ii). Fungal serology working party

Dr Barton confirmed that the group would be looking to conduct a meta-analysis on cryptococcal antigen and aspergillus antibody as no meta-analyses had been done for these topics, and he would be seeking funding from NIHR to assist with this,

Feedback from this report included a suggestion by Prof Denning that publications from this work could be in two parts, what is not known about serology and what is known.

iii). Guidelines for azole drug monitoring

Dr Hope was not present at the meeting, but Dr Malcolm Richardson reported that Dr Hope and Dr Ashbee were in the process of drafting the report which would be circulated to the working party in due course.

iv). Candida syndrome

Professor Frank Odds presented the following report to the meeting:

Members of the Working Party (asterisk indicates member present at meeting of September 27, 2011)

Professor Frank Odds (Chair)*

Dr Peter Cowling (Secretary)*

Professor Rosemary Barnes*

Dr Elizabeth Johnson

Dr Tom Lewis*

Dr Abid Hussain

Dr Beryl Oppenheim*

After preliminary correspondence by email, the working party met in Birmingham on September 27, 2011.

Discussion focussed on assessing the need for a position paper on “chronic candidiasis syndrome”. Although there were arguments in favour of the group writing such a document (a service to doctors and other professionals, logical successor to the BIA borreliosis position paper, etc.), it was felt that other considerations outweighed the need. These included concerns about the legal risks associated with publication of a position paper on a contentious topic, the rationale for taking a position on a disease that does not exist, and (from the BIA) a worry that the society might begin to look like an organization “looking for trouble”.

The group considered that a more valuable exercise would be to produce guidelines on the diagnosis and management of *Candida* infections in general practice. However, when members learned that such guidelines already exist on the website of the UK Clinical Mycology Network, this suggestion was abandoned. The Working Party formally disbanded itself in October 2011 with the approval of the executive committees of the two organizations involved.

Discussion around this topic included that the Clinical Mycology Network (and the CKS website) might have good publications on their websites, but few clinicians are aware of this resource, therefore better publicity of their websites is needed. There was discussion around patients with deeper problems or underlying diseases needing good resources, and the need for clinicians to be alerted to good information of the diagnosis of these conditions. Professor Odds reported that there were already good resources in existence – Dr Fungus and Wikipedia – and that these should be placed on the Clinical Mycology Network website, and links to all three should probably be put on to the BSMM website.

v). Revision of Standards of Care

Dr Silke Shelenz was not at the meeting, but Professor David Denning provided an update. Over the last 6-8 months there has been a lot of activity in the revision of the standards and substantial amendments are being drafted. This revision will not be presented as guidelines but as standards to be followed, and as such any area where there is no scientific evidence, or if something is impractical or unavailable in the UK it has been removed from the report. A substantial draft is expected to be completed in June 2012.

There was then some discussion on whether the document should go to review of the BSMM membership prior to external professional review before publication. It was agreed that a final draft should be posted on the BSMM website (in a members only area) for a specified period to invite Society feedback, and subsequently sent to the Royal Colleges for consultation prior to publication. The consultation was felt to be essential to ensure professional buy-in to the proposals.

8. UK Clinical Mycology Network – Prof Rosemary Barnes

Professor Rosemary Barnes reported that she has continued to discuss the revival of the UKCMN with the HPA, but confirmed that there would be no central support from the HPA for anything other than for an annual meeting. Maintenance of the member database, and administration for the organisation would have to come from the Mycology Reference Laboratory in Bristol. Potentially Dr Chris Linton has been identified as someone who would be suitable to provide administrative support, as an HPA employee at MRL it would be possible for him to be given access to the HPA website.

Both Prof Kibbler and Prof Barnes suggested the involvement of the National Commissioning Groups in England, Wales and Scotland to help support the UKCMN, although how this would be achieved was unclear at the moment.

9. Annual Scientific Meetings

i). Cardiff 2012

Prof Barnes reported that she had been given a remit not to set out to make a profit, and had therefore kept registration costs very low. This was assisted by very generous sponsorship from the pharmaceutical companies. While she was hoping not to report a loss on the meeting she did not expect there to be any substantial contribution to the Society’s funds. Prof Barnes thanked Lorna Vale and Lewis White for their support in the organisation and running of the meeting, and members of her own family for their assistance and support.

ii). Newcastle 2013

Dr Julian Rutherford is the local organiser for this meeting, and he confirmed the dates of the meeting would be the 14-16th April 2013. The location was likely to be in a hotel in Newcastle and he expected to finalise the location in the coming month.

iii). Manchester 2014

Dr Malcolm Richardson is the local organiser for this meeting. It is early days in the preparations, but he suggests the meeting will be in a hotel in Manchester, and is considering locations for the annual dinner. He advised that the weather is highly likely to be damp! This meeting also marks the 50th anniversary of the Society and suggestions to mark this occasion included a historical perspective, photos of founding and early members, or perhaps a commemorative award, bursary or lecture to mark the occasion.

iv). Aberdeen 2015

Dr Donna MacCallum and Dr Carol Munro have agreed to be local organisers for this meeting.

10. Election of Honorary and Life members

i). Dr David Warnock was nominated by the Executive Committee for life membership in recognition of his contribution to mycology during his career in the Mycology Reference Laboratory in the UK and as Head of Mycology in the Centre for Disease Control in Atlanta in the USA. Dr Warnock has been a member of the Society for over 30 years and is due to retire in the autumn.

ii). Dr Ruth Ashbee was nominated by the Executive Committee for honorary membership in recognition of her services to the Society and her continued dedication to running the biennial BSMM Mycology Course.

The meeting unanimously approved these nominations.

11. Election of Executive Committee members

The President formally welcomed Dr Riina Richardson as Treasurer for the Society.

At the last Executive meeting in October 2011 it was agreed to extend the term of office for the Meeting and General Secretaries for one year to prevent a potential turnaround of three major contributors to the Committee in the same year. Only one nomination for President for Prof Kibbler was received, and he has kindly agreed to remain as President for one further year, meaning that in 2013 all three positions were due for re-election. Dr Julian Naglik offered to serve a second term as Meeting Secretary, and the Executive Committee accepted. The Committee agreed that the position of Secretary should go to election with the position of President with newly elected members starting after the annual meeting in 2013.

Action point: The Dr Sue Howell to invite nominations for the position of President and General Secretary, and to organise elections as required.

12. ECMM journal

It has been previously reported that standing orders were frequently discontinued by the banks resulting in lack of subscription payments. These errors were often not detected until a member drew attention to the matter. Furthermore, trying to change subscription rates by standing order was very involved and required the signed approval of each member, who have often changed their postal address without updating the

Society. Arranging for payment by direct debit would enable the Society to make amendments to the subscription fee without having to get authorisation from each member, and would permit the Society to cancel subscription when a member leaves the Society rather than them having to remember to cancel their own standing order. Enquiries last year showed that setting up the Society as a direct debit originator would cost 32p per direct debit.

As the Society will need to increase subscription rates in the near future to enable members to have online access to *Mycoses* from Wiley, it was felt this would be an opportune time to transfer subscriptions to direct debit. Online access to *Mycoses* will cost €5, which with the current exchange rates would be less than £5, and the conversion difference should cover the cost of setting up a direct debit for members. It is therefore hoped to be able to complete the two processes at the same time by changing the subscription rate to £25 from 1st Jan 2013 and simultaneously beginning member online access to *Mycoses*.

The process of arranging for online access has already begun, with the redesign of the website and receipt of the necessary web codes from Wiley. The new look website will have a members only area where access to *Mycoses* will be located, along with a number of other member features.

The meeting approved this approach and the increase in subscription to include access to the *Mycoses* journal.

13. Any other business.

None

The meeting closed at 17:50.