

BSMM News

February 2014



www.bsmm.org

Contents

The President's Column.....	1
New BSMM website.....	1
BSMM 50 th Annual Scientific Meeting.....	2
Travel grant applications.....	2
Glyn Evans Award.....	2
Subscription changes & access to Mycoses online.....	3
BSMM Junior.....	3
Travel grant report from grant recipients.....	3
BSMM Executive Committee Members.....	5
Guidelines for antifungal drug monitoring.....	5
The Fred Griffith Prize.....	5
BSMM/UCL MSc/Diploma in Medical Mycology.....	5
BSMM Membership.....	5
Items for the next BSMM Newsletter.....	6
Forthcoming meetings.....	6
Minutes of the BSMM 49 th AGM.....	6

The President's Column



My first few months as president have confirmed what a vibrant and active community of mycologists we have in the UK.

The Newcastle meeting set the scene with northern hospitality and we thank Julian Rutherford for arranging the mounted police guard to welcome us into his city – perhaps ‘We predict a riot’ should be incorporated into the BSMM song sheet. Nonetheless the meeting went smoothly and was a great success with the hallmark combination of good science and social engagement

The BSMM milestone 50 year anniversary will be marked in style at the Manchester meeting in April. This promises to be an exciting meeting and all honorary and life members of the Society have been invited to attend so there will be plenty of time for reminiscing as well as celebrating the ongoing achievements of the BSMM.

Speaking of which, the BSMM working party of therapeutic drug monitoring published their guidelines in the Journal of Antimicrobial therapy (doi:10.1093/jac/dkt508). They have been well received with positive comments from clinicians, pharmacists and other members of the medical profession. Congratulations go to Ruth Ashbee and William Hope for all their hard work. Similarly Silke Schelenz and others have worked tirelessly on updating the BSMM Standards of Care and these have been submitted for publication.

New initiatives are encouraged; a survey of undergraduate teaching of mycology in the UK and guidance for diagnosis and management of fungal peritonitis have been put forward and will be discussed at the next AGM.

With help from the BSMM to support speaker travel expenses, the UK Clinical Mycology Network has been able to continue its regeneration and run a meeting. As I write this it is to be held this month in London and with over 80 registrations it looks like it will be a successful event – providing rain and floods do not isolate London from the rest of the country.

On the research front, it appears that the major funding bodies are walking up to the importance of medical mycology. The MRC held a strategic review of fungal disease research in the UK. Key challenges, global burdens and unmet need for new drugs, diagnostics and vaccine development were discussed.

The Aberdeen Fungal Group continues to expand and with its Wellcome Trust Strategic Award helps coordinate mycology research and training in the UK. They will be holding a Career Workshop for Young Medical Mycologists as an additional session at the BSMM meeting in Manchester. The BSMM MSc/Diploma/ Postgraduate Certificate in Medical Mycology in collaboration with UCL remains successful.

All this is boosted by increasing public awareness and initiatives such as the Global Action Fund for Fungal Infection (GAFFI) and Leading International Fungal Infection Education (LIFE), led by prominent BSMM members, raise the profile of mycology.

I thank all the members for their continued support and active participation.

Rosemary Barnes

P.S. Did you know that fungi were responsible for the extinction of the dinosaurs?

New BSMM website (www.bsmm.org)



For those members who have yet to engage with our new website, please could you visit it and create a membership profile (<http://www.bsmm.org/membership>). Even if you are a longstanding member or a new member, you will still

need to fill in the details. New members are required to provide the names of two nominators. Existing members have their details on record, so this is not required. You will also need to pay online at the same time (see membership subscriptions). Once your membership details have been confirmed and payment is received then you will receive a password.

BSMM 50th Annual Scientific Meeting

Registration is now open for the BSMM meeting in Manchester, April 27-29, 2014.

Abstracts must be submitted by March 14 and discounted registration deadline is March 22nd.

More information can be found at:
<http://www.bsmm.org/conferences>

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME OUTLINE:

Sunday 27th April 2014

Registration

50th Anniversary Foundation Lecture: Our Society: a memoir
Frank Odds (University of Aberdeen, UK)

Monday 28th April 2014

Session 1: BSMM 50th: past to present

Session 2: Novel molecular tools and models

Session 3: BSMM PhD student prize presentations

Session 4: Fungal biology and pathogenicity

Session 5: Foundation Lecture

BSMM ANNUAL DINNER & SING SONG

TUESDAY 16th April 2013

Session 6: Gilead Fellowship talks

Session 7: Host-fungal interactions

Session 8: Fungal immunity



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

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

- 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
- 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.

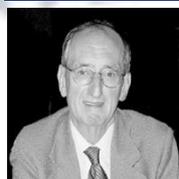
END OF OFFICAL PROCEEDINGS

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 (<http://www.bsmm.org/node/7>) along with the application form.

Upcoming deadlines: 31/03/2014, 31/05/2014, 31/07/2014.

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/node/7>

Subscription changes & access to Mycoses online

The new 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/membership>) for 2014 using the 'Buy now' link which will allow you to pay by debit and credit card, or by cheque. Please note, you do not need to have a membership profile and password to login.

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 Rinna Richardson (riina.richardson@manchester.ac.uk), who will provide the banking details.

BSMM Junior



BSMM Junior is a new 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 Louise Walker from the Aberdeen Fungal Group.

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



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



https://twitter.com/BSMM_Junior

Travel grant reports from grant recipients



6th EuPA/BSPR Scientific Congress.

The 6th joint European Proteomics Association/British Society for Proteome Research Scientific Congress took place in Glasgow, 9-12 July, 2012. The theme of the meeting was 'New Horizons and Applications for Proteomics'

and, accordingly, the scientific programme was focused around the newest cutting-edge mass spectrometry technologies, multi-omics, and the assessment and interpretation of protein networks. The four days allowed an exhaustive insight into the recent advances in the field.

My predominant impression from the meeting was that we, as scientists, are becoming increasingly well poised to step outwith the classical linear 'single protein/single function' considerations. Tantalisingly, current mass spectrometry based approaches seem to be well placed to holistically gauge complex molecular processes governing the living cell. Indeed, there has been impressive progress in both label-free and label-based proteome quantification methods, as well as techniques that allow interrogation of protein interaction partners, protein sub-cellular localisation, and the effects the various post-translational modifications within a single molecule exert on one another.

The ever-expanding technological capacity for data acquisition is accompanied by the imminent challenge of dealing with the 'data mountain' that is being generated. It has been noted on more than one occasion during the meeting, however, that reaching the computational limit for data processing is not the real challenge. Instead, the most daunting task has always been asking the right scientific questions to make the most of the wealth of the data acquired. Since our perception and, thus, understanding of the biological processes is limited, we will indeed need to stretch our scientific imagination to the limit.

In my own research project I am using MALDI MS imaging to investigate changes in the protein complements of both the pathogen (*Candida albicans*) and the host (mouse) in developing systemic infections. I found the ideas and investigative approaches presented during the Congress thought provoking. I would like to thank the BSMM for their generous support with a Travel Grant that allowed me to attend such a stimulating and relevant meeting.

Joanna Potrykus



Molecular Mycology: Current Approaches to Fungal Pathogenesis Course at the Marine Biological laboratory, Woods Hole, 2012.

The Molecular Mycology course on Current Approaches to Fungal Pathogenesis took place between the 1st and the 17th of August 2012 at the Marine Biological laboratory in Woods Hole, USA. The BSMM very kindly supported me in this excellent experience by providing me with a travel grant that enabled me to attend this prestigious course. This course is held annually and combines practical exercises and research

seminars, providing a great opportunity to 18 students (grad students, postdocs and PIs) to broaden their knowledge in fungal pathogenesis research. This is achieved in a friendly and stimulating environment by meeting some of the greatest experts in fungal research, by learning both standard and innovative techniques and by getting inspiration and feedback on current work and future career perspectives.

Laboratory exercises were remarkably organised by the course directors, Prof. A. Alspaugh and Prof. D. Hogan, in collaboration with several of the lecturers and with the aid of the most experienced and patient instructors. Practical activities were mainly focused on *Candida albicans*, *Aspergillus fumigatus*, and *Cryptococcus neoformans*, ranging from genetic manipulation, *in vitro* and *in vivo* pathogenicity assays, and advanced antifungal susceptibility testing, to RNA expression analysis, comparative genome analysis, and microscopic analysis. This year, lecturers included Prof. J. Edwards, Prof. A. Mitchell, Prof. J. Heitman, Prof. T. White, Prof. G. Brown, Prof. B. Hube, Prof. S. Filler, Prof. J. Stajich, Prof. J. Konopka, Prof. A. Nantel, Prof. T. Doering, Prof. A. Gladfelter, Prof. A. Ibrahim, Prof. C. Munro, Prof. E. Mylonakis, Prof. A. Sil, and Prof. R. Wheeler. Panel discussions were also organised to explore medical mycology, research ethics, and career development, which gave significant insight into the structure of grant applications (especially if considering a career in the US), paper writing, networking and establishing collaborations.

Days were very busy, combining excellent technical sessions and research seminars, with other activities such as the very important task of designing this year's Woods Hole T-shirt, which I will be proudly wearing at every conference from now on. The location of the course is amazing, the perfect setting to discuss new ideas and establish new collaborations with the other students and the faculty members. Woods Hole is quiet but still offering several options in the spare time, such as the aquarium where you can see the seals, Bumper and LuSeal, and the local pubs, in particular the famous Captain Kidd. We also had organised events all together: for example, bowling, and to see the Falmouth Road race which had nearly 13,000 participants this year.

Participating in this course was definitely an incredible opportunity to share my ideas and work with other researchers, expand my knowledge, and learn new techniques used not only in *A. fumigatus*, with which I work daily, but in other fungal species such as *C. albicans* and *C. neoformans*, which I have never had the chance to work with before. As it is pertinent to my current subject of interest, I found extremely beneficial

to extend my knowledge on every aspect relating to host-pathogen interactions, the fungal response mechanism in place to adapt to the mammalian niche, and the investigation of fungal virulence factors and for that reason I especially enjoyed the research seminars by Prof. A. Alspaugh, Prof. A. Mitchell and Prof. S. Filler. On a more practical level, I particularly enjoyed learning more about antifungal susceptibility with Prof. T. White, using fungal microscopy with Prof. A. Gladfelter, using the programs available for bioinformatics analysis with Prof. J. Stajich and the analysis of microarrays data with Prof. A. Nantel.

I'm very grateful to the BSMM for supporting me.

Margherita Bertuzzi



**Bacterial-Fungal Interactions:
A Federative Field for
Fundamental & Applied
Microbiology, Roscoff, France**

The 1st Bacterial-Fungal Interactions: A Federative Field for Fundamental and Applied Microbiology took place from the 7th – 11th of December in Roscoff, France. I would first like to thank the BSMM for awarding me the travel grant, enabling me to attend this conference and present my work in an oral communication. With the air traffic control failure a relatively simple journey was turned into odyssey of trials, which unfortunately meant us arriving in Roscoff at the dead of night.

The meeting brought together a wide selection of microbiologists studying bacterial-fungal interactions ranging from agriculture and land reclamation, through to medical microbiology. It was particularly interesting for me to see the level of complexity that agricultural microbiology has in understanding bacterial-fungal interactions, with special note being given to bacteria using fungal hyphae as 'highways' as presented by Dr Lukas Wick.

This working model of bacteria adhering to hyphae is medically relevant as presented by Dr Bastiaan Krom. Bastiaan presented the interaction of *Staphylococcus aureus* adhering to *Candida albicans* hyphae, thereby allowing the *S. aureus* to disseminate systemically in a murine model of co-infection.

Presentations on bacterial-fungal interactions in the context of Cystic Fibrosis was presented by Professor Gordon Ramage, Professor Deborah Hogan and Professor Fergal O'Gara and were of particular interest to me. Deborah presented work on the influence of *C. albicans* derived ethanol and its potential signalling role

with *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, resulting in a change in the spectrum of small molecule phenazines produced. Finally work presented by Professor Mylonakis Eleftherios of the *Salmonella enterica* serovar Typhimurium and *C. albicans* interplay in *Caenorhabditis elegans* showed the alternative outcome in bacterial-fungal interaction with antagonistic effects being observed enhancing host survival.

In closing I would like to again thank the BSMM for awarding the travel grant and giving me the opportunity to present my work as an oral communication. In addition I was able to experience the delights of French cuisine and culture in Brittany, something that is rather special and well worth experiencing!

Shaun Robertson

New Executive Committee Members

The executive committee is seeking two new members. Dr Richard Barton will be due to stand down after the AGM in Manchester, and Prof. Gordon Ramage's role has yet to be replaced as he has moved to his current role as Secretary. If you think you can help and make a difference in the Society then please consider putting yourself forward for nomination to the committee. A nomination proforma can be obtained from Gordon Ramage (Gordon.Ramage@glasgow.ac.uk).

In the event that we have more nominations than places on the committee then an election will take place.

Guidelines for antifungal drug monitoring

Guidelines for antifungal therapeutic drug monitoring from the BSMM have recently been published in the Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy.

<http://jac.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2013/12/28/jac.dkt508.long>

The Fred Griffith Prize



Congratulations to Professor Neil Gow on receiving the Fred Griffith Prize. The prize is awarded biennially by the Society For General Microbiology (SGM) for a long and distinguished service in any area of microbiology. As part of the prize Prof. Gow was invited to give the Fred Griffith Prize Lecture, on Breaking the Mould in Medical Mycology as part of the joint SGM/BSMM Autumn conference at the University of Sussex. This prize recognises the major contribution that Professor Gow's research has made to the knowledge of the fungal

pathogen, *Candida albicans* and his international standing in the field of fungal research.

BSMM/UCL MSc/ Diploma in Medical Mycology

Applications are invited for this unique distance learning based MSc 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.

The course may be taken at MSc, Postgraduate Diploma or Certificate level.

Bursaries are 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 Lauren Collins, the course administrator at lauren.collins@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

BSMM membership

Currently the Society has 365 members including:

UK members: 286

Overseas members: 79

Honorary members: 28

Life members: 4

The Society 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 Society welcomes 12 new members: Delma Childers (Aberdeen), Stephanie Diezmann (Bath), Lars Erwig (Aberdeen), Marcin Fraczek (Manchester), Pauline Lecerf (London) (I think - checking), Rikesh Masania (Manchester), Iain Page (Manchester), Mark Randle (Leicester), Aanad Shah (London), Carmelina Vinci (London), Adilia Warris (Aberdeen) and Alexey Sergeev (Moscow).

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 Louise (louise.walker@abdn.ac.uk)

Forthcoming meetings

Institut Pasteur Medical Mycology Course
Institut Pasteur, Paris, France
March 3-28, 2014

12th European Conference on Fungal Genetics (ECFG12)
Seville, Spain
March 23-27, 2014

ASM Conference on *Candida* and Candidiasis
New Orleans, USA
March 26-30, 2014

Gordon Research Conference on Cellular and Molecular Fungal Biology (CMFB)
Holderness, NH, USA
June 15-20, 2014

Molecular Mycology: Current Approaches to Fungal Pathogenesis
Woods Hole, MA, USA
June 16-30, 2014; Application Deadline: March 5

10th International Mycological Congress
Bangkok, Thailand
August 3-8, 2014

Minutes from the 49th AGM in Newcastle April 2013

The meeting was held on 15th April 2013 at the Thistle Hotel in Newcastle, commencing at 16:15 and chaired by Professor C Kibbler (President).

CK introduced the meeting and welcomed everyone. GR was welcomed as incoming secretary and thanked for stepping into the role early because of the absence of Sue Howell.

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Sue Howell, Derek Sullivan, Gary Moran and Veronica Hearn

2. Minutes of the 48th AGM held on the 30th April 2012 (Cardiff)

The minutes were agreed by the membership as accurate and approved by the President (CK)

3. Matters arising

Any matters arising were included under existing agenda items

4. Presidents report – Chris Kibbler

This report is a brief summary of the activities of the Society since we last met at the annual meeting in Cardiff last year. That was a great success and I would like to congratulate Rosemary Barnes and Julian Naglik on their organisation of such an excellent meeting.

This has been another good year for the Society – our membership continues to expand, we are in good financial shape, we have an affiliated journal now, our own MSc Programme in Medical Mycology continues to thrive and our working parties are active and producing new guidance on behalf of the Society. All of these will, of course, be discussed in more detail later on in the AGM, but just to remind you, Liz Johnson currently chairs the working party for the Registry of Invasive Fungal Infection, Carol Munro chairs the working party on updating and improving the web presence of the BSMM, Richard Barton chairs the working party on serology, Silke Schelenz chairs the working party for the revision of the BSMM Standards and William Hope chairs the working party on therapeutic drug monitoring.

Thank you to Julian Rutherford for organising our 49th Annual Meeting here in Newcastle 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: BioRad, Cape Cod Associates, Gilead, MSD, OLM and Pfizer.

This is my final report as President and I would like to sign off by saying how much I have enjoyed the past four years and what a privilege it has been. Thank you to the Executive Committee for their tremendous support and hard work on your behalf and my very best wishes to you all and to Rosemary Barnes, the incoming President.

Proposed by Julian Naglik, Seconded by Donna MacCallum

One of our founding members Prof. Elsheikh Mahgoub expressed how happy he was at the status of the current BSMM and commented on the positivity of new generations of mycologists, and how they have progressed and expanded the field. He also commented on his regret of the passing of several of the founding colleagues. He bestowed a generous gift of £250 to the Society for which we are extremely grateful.

5. Treasurer's report – Riina Richardson

I assumed the post of Honorary Treasurer of the British Society for Medical Mycology on the 30th of April, 2012 whereby this is my first report in this role.

This is the financial statement for the British Society for Medical Mycology for the year ending 31st December 2012. 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 of 31st December 2012. As I go through the accounts I will refer to the notes, the details of which are found on pages 3-5 of the accounts. Where available, the figures for 2011 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 2012 (page 1), income consisted of subscriptions amounting to £2,513 and bank interest of £199. Other income was generated by the various activities of the Society, which I will discuss now.

The BSMM Annual meeting in 2011 was a very successful meeting held in Cardiff, and organised by Prof Rosemary Barnes. The detailed accounts for the meeting can be seen in note 4 on page 4 of the accounts. The Annual meeting generated income of £27,584, which included sponsorship of £18,000. Expenses totalled £19,638, which included £1,326 for speakers' expenses. The Annual meeting, therefore, generated a profit of £7,910 – thanks again to Rosemary for organising such a successful and meeting and also thanks to our meetings organiser, Julian Naglik, for the meeting programme.

Returning to page 1, the other income source for the Society has been a profit share payment from UCL from the BSMM/UCL Medical Mycology MSc/Diploma course. For 2012 this amounted to £14,143.96 but due to administrative changes is now invoiced in the following year and shows as £0 for 2012. Therefore, total income of the BSMM for 2012 was £14,124 (£29,332 in 2011).

Expenses of the society are summarised in the lower half of page 1. Six travel grants were claimed in 2012 amounting to £2,573. This is in line with the number and amount of travel grants granted in previous years but more than in 2011 when fewer than usual applications were received. Reports from recipients of these awards can be found in the April 2013 newsletter. The BSMM did not award a Glynn Evans award in 2012.

Other expenditure of the Society included the support of students on the BSMM/UCL MSc/Diploma course, with payments totalling £1855 being made to two individuals who had been awarded BSMM bursaries. This level of payment was in line with 2011 payments but significantly lower than in 2010 (£7195) as this depends on the modules being taken by bursary awardees in that year. A record number of applications was received and awarded (n=5) this year.

Two working parties were active this year, with costs of £34 associated with the antifungal drug monitoring working party and £180 with the fungal serology working party.

In previous years the maintenance costs associated with the Fungal Registry database were a significant expenditure. This agreement was terminated in 2012. The delay of the development of new BSMM website shows also as reduction of Management & Administration costs and were only £1,511 in 2012 (£7,331 in 2011). The detailed costs are

shown in Note 2 on page 3 of the accounts and mainly consisted of payment of subscriptions to the ECMM and the Society of Biology, newsletter costs, accountancy costs, bank charges and BSMM sponsorship of other meetings. The BSMM would like to thank Dr Carol Munro for her continued involvement in the website redesign.

Public outreach was a new initiative for BSMM in 2012. The President Prof. Kibbler, the Meetings Secretary Dr. Naglik and student member Miss Shirley Tang attended a Newstead Wood School Career's fair in Orpington, Kent and the BSMM stand attracted plenty of interest. The cost for the stand was £200.

The total expenses for the BSMM for 2012 amounted to £6,183 (£20,844 in 2011).

The net incoming resources for 2012 were £7941 (£8488 in 2011). 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 2012 with a net worth of £148,394 (£140,453 in 2011).

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 7 years. Proposed by Richard Barton, seconded by Neil Gow

6. Secretary's report – Gordon Ramage

The incoming Secretary GR reported on behalf of the outgoing Secretary Sue Howell.

Membership

The total membership is 357 with 275 UK and 78 overseas members, of which 28 are honorary and 4 are life members. The Society would like to welcome its new members: Gordon Brown (Aberdeen), Kerstin Voelz (Birmingham), Janet 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 latter two members have retired and no longer wish to maintain membership.

Grants and Awards

No travel grants were awarded between May 2012 and March 2013. A Glyn Evans award £480 has remained unclaimed so far and an update on the project and whether the grant will be used has been requested.

Five BSMM/UCL MSc bursaries were granted for £12547 for students commencing in the autumn of 2012. The bursaries will be used over the duration of the course, which can be from 3 to 5 years.

Newsletters

One newsletter has been published since the last AGM. Email messages that were returned as undeliverable were followed up with letters, but very few members were contacted in this way. It seems likely that these members have moved jobs and/or email addresses and have forgotten to notify the Society to be able to maintain contact. A list of member names will appear on the website and in future newsletters to see if anyone can give a new contact address for these members.

Executive Committee Membership

Dr Riina Richardson took over from Dr Donna MacCallum as Treasurer following the last AGM and has a busy year ahead with the changes to the membership subscription and online access.

One nomination was received each for President and General Secretary, therefore no election was required for either post. Professor Rosemary Barnes will take over from Professor Chris Kibbler as President and Prof Gordon Ramage will take over from Dr Sue Howell as Secretary.

In order to prevent too many senior posts changing in the same year Dr Julian Naglik agreed to remain as meeting Secretary for another term.

Lastly we would like to thank Dr Julian Rutherford for his hard work making the meeting in Newcastle so successful, and welcome Dr Malcolm Richardson as the local organiser for the 50th annual meeting in Manchester in 2014 and Dr Donna MacCallum and Dr Carol Munro as local organisers for the meeting in Aberdeen in 2015.

Proposed by Rosemary Barnes, seconded by Liz Johnson

CK highlighted that as GR had moved from his role on the executive into the role of secretary then there was space for a new member of the executive. Applications are sought for a replacement. GR will seek nomination through e-mail.

7. Website updates – Carol Munro

CM reports that she has been working with Jenny Bartholomew, Graham Atherton and Riina Richardson to implement the new website. CM commented that the website is almost active, it has a new members area which is password protected and has the added benefit that members can now access ‘Mycoses’ through this portal. Other new sections are included, such as a student area (e.g. Leeds course material) and facilities for electronic payments. There is also an area for archive material, which may include historical information, details of membership – ordinary, honorary and life - and a picture archive.

CM requested the membership provide her with information that could be useful and asked for suggestions for additions to the website, such as the inclusion of presentations from the annual meetings. GR will canvas the membership by email for suggestions. Frank Odds enquired about the hit rate, and whether a counter could be added. A hidden counter is apparently already incorporated. RR highlighted the website as the main portal for paying annual subscriptions. This topic was covered more fully in item 15.

CM reported that the executive committee had been in discussion with regards to recoup of funds spent on the previous website update commissioned from James Myland. Mr Myland had been paid an initial sum of £5040 but the product was never delivered, with Mr Myland citing IT technical problems. His business had since shut down and he has moved to Cornwall to work for another company. Following advice from the Citizen’s Advice Bureau and a local solicitor, CM plans to send another letter to request repayment or the Society will pursue the funds in the small claims court in Truro. The initial costs were deemed low, but caution would be taken in progressing the claim if the costs were escalating beyond the sum likely to be recovered. The membership were in general agreement, though Neil Gow highlighted the

British Mycological Society and how they had to drop a similar claim because of costs. Malcolm Richardson highlighted the importance of an audit trail for the old website, and Ruth Ashbee asked what the consequence would be of taking down the old site as evidence.

CK thanked CM for the progress and the hard work she had put into the site.

8. Working party reports

Fungal Infection Registry – Liz Johnson.
The fungal registry has been closed down. CK asked for the membership to formally accept the dissolution of the working party. Questions were asked of the status of existing data and what will be done with this. Franks Odds stated that it should be up to the individuals who inputted the data to use this. CK also felt that the members of the Steering Committee should be informed.

Fungal Serology – Richard Barton.
RB reported that there had been no obvious progress due to his involvement with the Standards of care guidelines group. A manuscript relating to the laboratory aspects of fungal serology had been drafted. The group was also looking into funding for a systematic review of Cryptococcal antigen testing and was investigating which labs in the UK were undertaking Fungal Serology

Good Practice Guidelines on monitoring azole – Ruth Ashbee.

RA reported that a manuscript had been circulated to the steering group and it was anticipated that this would dovetail with the standards of care manuscript.

Standards of care – Silke Schelenz
A draft had been sent to the Royal College of Pathologists and other learned bodies for comment. The documentation was rather lengthy despite the removal of the treatment recommendations incorporated in the previous version, given the other international guidance recently published. This document would focus purely on diagnostics. It was suggested it would be submitted to Lancet Infectious Diseases in the first instance. Rosemary Barnes enquired whether the journal should be consulted

beforehand, but this was not thought appropriate..

CK asked for any other suggestions for potential working parties. None were provided. CK also reported that the Executive Committee had discussed drawing up a set of guidelines for the steering groups in order to ensure efficiency and delivery of the objectives. Richard Barton had kindly offered to draft these guidelines.

9. BSMM/UCL Diploma and MSc – Chris Kibbler

The Society's course remains in a stable state. Once again, eight students enrolled this year and this number has been our target since the programme's inception.

For the first time this year, we will have competition from the new Medical Mycology MSc course at Manchester University. Concern has been expressed over the small student market for this specialty area and we will need to intensify our marketing activities if we are to maintain our numbers, but it is possible that we will lose some potential students. We will make every effort to keep the course viable.

Currently the programme remains financially sound and I am pleased to report that the Society received £14,143.96 from last year's fees. As previously discussed, this is mostly recycled back into bursaries for future students. This course depends upon many people for its success and as always, I would like to thank those members of the Society, particularly the module tutors and supervisors who give freely of their time to teach, supervise and support our students. I would particularly like to thank Anne Dickens, our long time administrator, who many of you know and who has been seriously ill for some time. Unfortunately, it seems that she is unlikely to return to manage the course and she will be greatly missed. I am pleased to say that we have a new UCL administrator, Lauren Collins, who is already establishing herself as a worthy successor and I am grateful to her for keeping the course on track during this difficult time.

10. UK Clinical Mycology Network – Rosemary Barnes

RB reported that the HPA withdrew support in 2010, but the network has now managed to secure support from Chris Linton and Sheila Seaton, who are funded by Public Health England (the new name for the HPA). There was a meeting last October for the steering committee and a meeting of the management committee today. The website and membership have been updated. Kent and Norwich have been welcomed, and Cambridge is awaiting revision of their application. RB encouraged interested members to go to the website to look at the algorithm for yeast diagnostics, and a guide to dermatological sample testing and reporting. RB also commented that the network ought to have a more strategic role in the UK in terms of surveillance and diagnostics, and promotion of mycology training through PHE and the Royal College of Pathologists. A educational meeting is planned for September.

11. Annual Scientific Meetings – Chris Kibbler

Newcastle 2013 – Julian Rutherford. JR stated that the meeting had run smoothly. 97 delegates had registered and that the meeting would run at a profit of several thousand pounds. A precise figure would be provided once speaker expenses had been received. CK thanked Julian Rutherford for the excellent organization and co-ordination of the Newcastle meeting.

Manchester 2014 – Malcolm Richardson. MR stated that the plans for the 50th anniversary in Manchester were progressing. The organizing committee was comprised of MR, RR, David Denning and Caroline Moore, with secretarial support from Fiona Merriman. The meeting would run from the 27th to 29th of April at the Radisson Blu at Manchester airport, which close transport links for trains. A contract is in place with the hotel. Monday evening would have a function at the National Heritage site Quarry Bank Mill. A bus would transport delegates the short distance. CK asked the membership for ideas about topics and content. Rosemary Barnes suggested we explore links with other societies. CK had suggested to MR to consider asking the President of the Society for Biology Nancy Rothwell to open the meeting on the Mon am.

David Denning suggested a lecture on the history of mycology.

Aberdeen 2015 – Carol Munro.

CM reported the local organizing committee, comprised of CM, Donna MacCallum and Megan Lenardon, have met the Aberdeen conference facility in order to scope ideas for a venue. CM would report back at the next executive of progress with venues and dates.

BSMM annual meeting 2016 – CK asked for suggestions/requests for the meeting location for 2016. Suggestions of Northern and Southern Ireland were received. The membership proposed Derek Sullivan as a potential organizer. The executive would approach Derek and an email would be set to the membership to ask for further suggestions.

Proposed use of USB instead of printed abstracts books – Chris Kibbler. CK asked the membership their views on abstract booklets and options to phase these out and replace with electronic resources. Julian Rutherford reported that the cost to Newcastle had been £470, and Rosemary Barnes had spent £900 in Cardiff. It was felt that given the development of a new website that it would be the most appropriate for the meeting booklet and abstracts to be placed there for delegates to download at their own leisure. membership formal vote was taken to support this change. It was carried unanimously. GR will disseminate this change by informing the membership by email.

12. Election of Life and Honorary members – Chris Kibbler

CK asked if there were nominations for honorary and life members. Nominations were provided for Sue Howell for honorary membership and Helen Kennedy for life membership. The membership supported both of these unanimously. The Executive committee will inform both in writing.

13. Election of Executive Committee members – Chris Kibbler

President – CK welcomed the incoming President, Prof Rosemary Barnes and wished her the best of luck in the new role. Prof

Gordon Ramage was welcomed as the incoming Secretary.

CK asked for comments from the membership for a co-opted member responsible for newsletters and communication. Neil Gow commented that it was an excellent initiative and had resulted in ISHAM increasing membership by 1/5. There was much discussion eligibility criteria. It was decided that the post should be open to junior researchers not in a permanent post. The post would be for 2 years in the first instance and nominations should be received by the Executive within 1 month (15th May 2013). Membership were encouraged to inform their junior members to canvass interest. GR will disseminate this information by email.

Changes to Constitution - CK asked the membership for their views on the constitution regarding the election of Executive committee members. A change to the constitution had been agreed at the AGM in 2008, to change the existing 2 year term of the President to a 3 year term. The formal wording of this change was not voted on by the membership at the AGM in 2009 as it was omitted from the agenda. CK has now been in term for 3 years with an additional 1 year (the equivalent of two of the previous two year terms). A vote was undertaken to confirm the change in 2008, which was carried unanimously. Neil Gow stated that 2 x 3 years term was too long and might lead to stagnation of the Executive committee. Frank Odds was in agreement. It was agreed that the membership would vote next AGM (2014 Manchester) to include a change to the constitution that excluded standing for a second term. Constitution item 7: The Committee shall be elected for terms of three years except the President and Local Organisers (two years), and the Treasurer (five years).

This will be changed to 'The Committee shall be elected for terms of three years except the Local Organisers (two years), and the Treasurer (five years). No Committee member will be permitted to stand for a second consecutive term'.

CK asked the membership for their views on the current process of voting for the Executive. He explained that Richard Hobson had previously implemented a unique numbered postal voting form, which had proved effective, but was not strictly within the terms of the Constitution. In fact, the current rule does not guarantee a fair election, because members

might be able to vote twice (by post and at the AGM). Neil Gow stated the process had to be free and open, with no bias towards certain preferred candidates. The membership agreed. CK explained that the rule change was intended to allow the Society to use the most appropriate current format to ensure fairness and minimize work for the Secretary. This would most likely be electronic. The Executive Committee will ensure the forthcoming election of the new committee member will be performed using these criteria. GR will ask the membership for nominations.

14. ECMM - Chris Kibbler

This item was covered in agenda item 7.

15. Society as a Direct Debit Originator – Riina Richardson

RR reported that at the AGM in 2012 a motion had been carried to move to direct debit. She has since been in touch with Lloyds and been informed of the workload involved and voiced her concerns. The current ways of payment were standing order, which is being phased out, electronic banking, PayPal and cheque. The latter three methods would remain. The cost of setting up the direct debit would be £423.00 and £0.40 for subsequent changes. However, only 40 individuals continued to pay by standing order.

There was debate about this, but the general consensus of the membership was to adopt the direct debit change. GR would inform the membership of the changes. Members would be encouraged to pay by electronic means or set up direct debits and to close their standing orders.

16. AOCB – Chris Kibbler

Neil Gow highlighted that ISHAM would take place in Melbourne in 2015, and asked the membership to think about the idea of hosting ISHAM 2018 in the UK.

These minutes are an accurate reflection of the AGM held in the Thistle Hotel (Newcastle) on the 15th of April 2013.