

BSMM News

February 2016



www.bsmm.org

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The President's Column



Dear BSMM members
This will be my last newsletter to you as my term of office will be coming to an end in 2016. It has been a pleasure to serve the Society and work closely with you as mycological colleagues.

Changes to the executive committee have seen Julian Naglik hand over as Meetings secretary to Lewis White. Julian has done a stalwart task during a prolonged and extended term of office and he will be a tough act to follow. Silke Schelenz has replaced Robin May as the ordinary member and Louise Walker is in her final months as Junior Rep. I would like them and all the executive committee for their hard work and support. We will shortly be looking for a new junior representative who will be tasked with not only producing the Newsletter but also maintaining and sprucing up the website.

Congratulations to Ruth Asbee who organized yet another successful BSMM Medical Mycology Diagnostic course in Leeds in April. Despite some initial concerns that the numbers of registrations was down of previous years, the course ended up with 20 delegates and generated a profit for the Society. The 2015 Annual meeting in Aberdeen also showed attendance up on previous years. An excellent programme that combined cutting edge science with clinical mycology was well received and the social events - whisky tasting, sing-song, ceilidh and

traditional Scottish hospitality made for a memorable meeting.

We are looking forward to maintaining the Celtic theme with our 2016 annual meeting in Dublin in March 20th-22nd that will be a joint venture with the Irish Fungal Society. This promises to be a truly multicultural event with a session provided by the Austrian Society for Medical Mycology.

It has not all been plain sailing and we have faced some major problems this year principally with the withdrawal of University College London from the BSMM/UCL MSc/Diploma/Certificate Medical Mycology. Fortunately the University of Aberdeen have shown interest in taking it on and progress is ongoing to have the distance-based learning courses up and running again very shortly. My thanks go to Donna McCallum for all her hard work.

Also many congratulations to Neil Gow and his team who were successful in their bid for an exhibit "Killer Fungus" at the Royal Society Summer Exhibition to be held in London July 4th-10th 2016. This public engagement event will introduce medical mycology to an unsuspecting public in the form of displays, quizzes and interactive computer games. The BSMM has been in a supportive role behind this bid and will have a presence at the event. It is hoped that following the event, other sites might be able to host the exhibit. Finally it is with great sadness that I report the death of Mary Moore on 29th November 2015. Mary was a member of the Society for many years and an honorary member since 2005. Having worked for more than 30 years at St John's Institute of Dermatology, she was an international expert in dermatophyte infection and served on society Working parties in addition to regularly attending annual BSMM meetings prior to her retirement. Our condolences go to her friends and family.

Rosemary A Barnes.

Rosemary Barnes
BSMM President

BSMM website (www.bsmm.org)



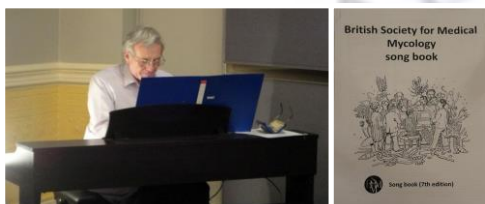
For those members who have yet to engage with our new website, please

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 you will receive a password.

BSMM 51st Annual Meeting Picture Gallery

51st Annual BSMM Sing Song



Conference Dinner, Whiskey tasting & Ceilidh dancing



51st BSMM Annual meeting



BSMM Newsletter: Gordon Ramage & Louise Walker
E-mail: Gordon.Ramage@glasgow.ac.uk, louise.walker@abdn.ac.uk

BSMM 2015 Prize winners



L-R: PhD Prize Talk Winner: Lila Kastora (Aberdeen),
 Poster Prize Winner: Bernd Kerscher (Aberdeen),
 Poster Talk Winner: Mariana Almedia (Aberdeen).

BSMM 52nd Annual Scientific Meeting Programme

Dublin, March 20-22, 2016.

SUNDAY 20th March 2016

14:00 18:30 Registration

15:00 18:00 BSMM Executive Committee Meeting

18:30 19:30 BSMM Foundation lecture:
 Prof. Derek Sullivan, Trinity College Dublin
 "Candida dubliniensis at 21"

19:30 21:00 Dinner

MONDAY 21st March

Session 1: Medical Mycology

08:45 09:15 Peter Donnelly:
 "Update on the EORTC/MSG definitions for IFD"

09:15 09:30 Offered Paper

09:30 09:45 Offered Paper

09:45 10:00 Offered Paper

10:00 10:30 Neil Clancy

"An update on the diagnosis of invasive candidal disease"

10:30 11:00 MORNING COFFEE/TEA

Session 2: Antifungal Agents

11:00 11:30 Paul Verweij

"Azole resistance in Aspergillus"

11:30 11:45

11:45 12:00 Offered Paper

12:00 12:30 Don Sheppard

"Posaconazole PK/PD"

Session 3: Poster Talks

12:30 12:55

5 min slots for selected poster presenters (six presenters in total)

13:00 14:00 LUNCH

Session 4: Gilead Plenary Session: Antifungal Stewardship

14:00 14:20 Rationale for antifungal stewardship (TBC)

14:20 14:40 Optimisation of guidelines as a driver for stewardship (TBC)

14:40 15:00 Resistance as a driver for antifungal stewardship (TBC)

15:00 15:20 Cost as a driver for antifungal stewardship (TBC)

Session 5: Joint BSMM/IFS Poster Session

15:30 17:00 Posters with Coffee/Tea

17:00 18:30 BSMM AGM

20:00 00:00 IFS/BSMM Annual Dinner & Sing Song

TUESDAY 22nd March

Session 6: Austrian Society for Medical Mycology Session

08:50 09:10 Cornelia Speth

Immunology of mould infections

09:10 09:30 Günther Rambach

Immunology of *Candida* infections

09:30 09:50 Fabian Istel

C. glabrata and gene deletion

09:50 10:10 Jutta Auberger

Clinical aspects of invasive fungal infections

10:10 10:30 Birgit Willinger

Diagnostic strategies and problems

10:30 11:00 MORNING COFFEE/TEA

Session 7: Joint BSMM/IFS Session: Fungal Genomics

11:00 11:30 Ken Haynes

"Functional Genomics of Zymoseptoria"

11:30 12:00 Ken Wolfe

"Genome evolution in deep-branching ascomycete yeasts"

12:00 12:15 Offered Paper

12:15 12:30 Offered Paper

12:30 12:45 Offered Paper

12:45 13:00 Offered Paper

13:00 14:00 LUNCH

Session 8: Irish Society of Clinical Microbiologists Case Presentations

14:00 14:15 Offered Case study

14:15 14:30 Offered Case study

14:30 14:45 Offered Case study

Session 9: IFS Session: Fungal Biotechnology

15:00 15:30 Kevin Verstreppen

"How do new genes and regulatory networks evolve?"

15:30 16:00 Fiona Doohan

"Plant responses to fungal infection"

16:00 16:15 Offered Paper

16:15 16:30 Offered Paper

16:30 17:00 IFS AGM

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/node/7>) along with the application form.

Upcoming deadlines: 31/01/2016, 30/04/2016,
31/07/2016, 31/10/2016.

BSMM Newsletter: Gordon Ramage & Louise Walker
E-mail: Gordon.Ramage@glasgow.ac.uk, louise.walker@abdn.ac.uk

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 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 2016 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 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



2015 FEBS/EMBO course: Mitochondria in life, death and disease, Heraklion, Greece.

This meeting focused on the role of mitochondria in maintaining metabolic homeostasis, and the consequences of mitochondrial dysfunction, not only in inherited disorders but also in pathogens. I attended the meeting to present some of my research on the respiration behaviour of *Candida albicans*. My PhD research aims to understand the role of the electron transport chain in response to cell wall stresses and antifungals, and the signalling pathways induced in response to mitochondrial damage. It is currently not known how electron transport chain function influences the composition of the cell wall, morphogenesis and virulence in fungal pathogens. The poster I presented highlighted my work on the alternative oxidase, which is found in many pathogenic fungi such as *C. albicans* but not in humans. Also presented was the preliminary data linking insult to respiratory function to cell wall remodelling, and consequently, resistance to antifungals such as caspofungin.

From the meeting I was able to learn more about current developments in mitochondrial protein import. Alternative oxidase must enter the mitochondria after rapidly being induced. It is induced in response to

inhibition of the classical respiratory complexes of the invading fungus, which is believed to occur within phagolysosomes by nitrosative burst. Therefore, understanding the mechanisms by which components of the respiratory chain enter mitochondria is an important consideration for finding new drug targets. Several talks stressed the importance of optimal mitochondrial function in the virulence of pathogens such as *Trypanosoma*. The assembly of the oxidative phosphorylation system was also a key theme of the meeting. Drawing from these current developments in mitochondrial research will allow for a better understanding of the role of mitochondria in virulence and host adaptation of fungal pathogens.

Lucian Duvenage



The Gordon Research conference on Immunology of Fungal infections took place in Galveston, USA between the 18th to 23rd January 2015. I'd like to thank the BSMM for awarding me a travel grant which enabled me to attend this conference. This meeting brought together researchers at the cutting edge of fungal immunology from all over the world and was an excellent opportunity to learn and discuss about the novel areas of research being carried out world-wide. Of particular note, there was an additional Gordon research seminar (GRS) prior to the conference aimed directly to PhD students and post-doctorate level scientists working within the field. This was a great opportunity to discuss research with peers from different groups and created a strong bond at a junior level prior to the conference start.

Across the conference, work was presented regarding numerous different fungal pathogens. Of particular interest to me was work by Christopher Mody's group in Calgary looking at fungal killing of cryptococcus by NK cells and a talk from Julian Naglik from King's college London on the activation of epithelial cells by a putative pore forming toxin in *Candida albicans*. It was also inspiring to hear during the GRS the work and history behind the achievements of Gordon Brown from University of Aberdeen and Teunis Geijtenbeek from the Universiteit Van Amsterdam.

Whilst at the conference I had the opportunity to present a poster on my work defining the calcineurin-dependent innate immune response in human macrophages to *Aspergillus fumigatus*. The opportunity to discuss my results and future work directly with peers and leaders in the fields of fungal immunology was invaluable.

I would highly recommend the Gordon research Fungal immunology conference to other PhD and post-docs working within the field and once again thank the BSMM for allowing me this opportunity.

Anand Shah



Union Conference on Lung Health, 2016.

It was my pleasure to present results of my research at the 46th Union Conference on Lung Health, held in Cape Town, South Africa between the 2nd and 6th December 2015. The British Society for Medical Mycology were kind enough to provide me with a £500 travel grant. The total cost of my flights, registration and hotel accommodation was £1461. I was also awarded a £500 travel grant by the Society for General Microbiology. The balance of £461 was provided by my employer. I would not have been able to access these other funds had I not been provided with the BSMM grant, for which I am very grateful.

My abstract was entitled “Chronic pulmonary aspergillosis (CPA) is a common complication of pulmonary tuberculosis: results of a cross-sectional survey”. It represents the main research outcome of my PhD and it was a privilege to present my results at the main international conference in the field of tuberculosis-associated lung disease.

My research shows that almost a tenth of all cases of pulmonary tuberculosis are complicated by chronic pulmonary tuberculosis within 7 years of completing tuberculosis treatment. This is a major new finding in the field and represents a previously unrecognized

global public health issue. The 5-year mortality of CPA is 50-85% and the disease is treatable with cheap, generic itraconazole and often curable with surgery.

My data suggest that around 1.2 million patients are currently suffering from this condition and currently going untreated. I believe that improving access to diagnosis and treatment should now be a priority in global lung health. By presenting my results at this conference I was able to convey this information to those involved in TB care at a Global level and raise the profile of chronic fungal lung disease. As the chair of my discussion session concluded “You are really challenging us with this data”.

Since applying for this award I have been awarded my PhD by the University of Manchester. I expect to receive final reports from my radiology colleagues in the next few weeks and if they confirm my results we will be submitting the study to the Lancet for publication.

Iain Page



19th Congress of The International Society for Human and Animal Mycology

The 19th Congress of The International Society for Human and Animal Mycology (ISHAM) took place from May 04th to May 08th in Melbourne, Australia. This triennial meeting brought together international experts in human and animal medical mycology, making it one of the most multifaceted meetings in the field of fungal research.

Ahead of the main congress, the Young ISHAM committee had organised a one-day symposium, filled with ‘educational talks’ from senior experts in the field which were interspersed with short presentations from Young ISHAM members. The ‘educational talks’ covered topics which included ‘How to decide on the right journal to publish your research’, ‘How to review a scientific paper’ and ‘Mycological entrepreneurship’, which, in my opinion, was the most inspiring talk of the

whole congress, given by Prof David W Denning from Manchester, UK.

The main congress covered a range of interesting topics, including basic research on innate and adaptive immunity to fungi, diagnostics and treatment of fungal infections, antifungal resistance, and the discovery and design of new antifungal drugs. The variety of investigated fungal species presented at the conference was impressive. I was especially interested in talks relating to immunity against fungal infections, host-pathogen interactions and immunodeficiencies underlying severe fungal infections. In addition, I was very interested in presentations about *Malassezia* and other dermatophytic fungi. Many of the talks during the congress expanded my knowledge as I now have learned about the transmission of *Sporothrix* from pets to humans or the shared virulence factor of human and plant pathogenic fungi, calcineurin.

I had the great opportunity to present my research, both orally and in the form of a poster to the international community during the YISHAM day and at the main ISHAM congress. I value the positive feedback I got for my research from the experts in the field. Overall, the ISHAM Congress was not only interesting, but also inspiring and I am very grateful to the BSMM, who generosity enabled me to attend this excellent meeting.

Jeanette Wagener



7-9th September 2015, The Invasive Fungus Meeting in Manchester

The Invasive Fungus meeting was held in Manchester. Around 73 splendid activities were put on stage, oral talks and poster shows. As a PhD student, going to this meeting and being a part of this academic event would never have happened without the generous support of BSMM and SGM travel grants, which covered the bulk of my flight and registration costs. Three main advantages of attending this meeting were achieved. First, the opportunity to get feedback on my research. My poster title and design grab many delegates who interested in my research particularly. Also, because I modified a rapid protocol for DNA extraction to apply for amplifying ITS regions and developing a model for

testing the benefit use of any monoclonal antibody in immunotherapy or diagnosis. Attending this special event offered me great inspirations for my own work. Second, discussion and socialisation with other participants was significantly valuable for a PhD student like me particularly I am at case looking for postdoc position within mycology field where I am interested. Discussion with attendants afterwards, sharing our research interests with each other and setting up cooperation relationships were of particular value. For that, attending this event enabled me to have a chat with such experts and who were interested in my work for future cooperation. Third, this event with small group of attendants provided me with a fantastic chance to meet, chat and make relationships with other delegates as I could also meet them during lunch or dinner. I appreciated the financial support from both BSMM and SGM. This support provided helping to popularize the benefit of getting membership in both great societies particularly their logo included in my poster under acknowledgment section.

Marwan Al-Maqtoofi

Glyn Evans Award - Recipient reports



During my visit to Dr Elaine Bignell's lab at Manchester University I observed their technique for producing *Aspergillus* knockouts and subsequent validation. They demonstrated their protocols for construct design and amplification, protoplasting, transformation, DNA extraction and knockout screening. Firstly, all solutions and growth media required for transformation were made and stored appropriately. The knockout constructs were then amplified using a proof reading DNA polymerase and purified with a PCR clean-up kit. Procedures for growth on solid media and harvesting of *Aspergillus fumigatus* were demonstrated along with growth conditions. *A. fumigatus* $\Delta ku80$ was subjected to swelling overnight in liquid media in a shaking incubator and harvested the subsequent morning. The protoplasting was performed by incubation with a Vinoflow enzymes over 4 h under

the same growth conditions, after which time swollen conidia and small hyphae were separated from mycelia, washed using KCL and transformed using PEG with purified knockout construct DNA. Transformation reactions were plated on selective media containing hygromycin and incubated overnight at room temperature, followed by incubation at 37°C for 4 days. During this time plates were observed for the development of putative transformant colonies. Potential transformants were purified by sub-culturing onto fresh selective solid media and incubated at 37°C for up to 4 days depending on growth kinetics. For screening, fungal DNA was extracted using phenol/chloroform method, after which purity was observed by analysis of bands on an agarose gel. When I returned to my lab at Imperial College I was able to run screening PCRs using the primers I designed under the Bignell lab guidance, to identify transformants with correct construct integration.

Carmelina Vinci

New Executive Committee Members

Dr Silke Schelenz and Dr Lewis White joined the executive committee as new members, to replace Dr Julian Naglik who has been meetings secretary for 2 consecutive 3 year terms, and Prof Robin May as an ordinary executive committee member.

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/UCL MSc/ Diploma in Medical Mycology

Applications are invited for this unique distance learning based MSc course. At present, 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 the programme Administrator at ii.infection-immunityadmin@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

The Society has grown by over 12% in the last year. We have 275 (20% increase) active paid members (within the past 2 years). We also have 97 (4% decrease) inactive members (greater than 2 years unpaid) - a total of 372 members. For those interested, for the UK and Ireland the active membership are made up of the following proportions: England (52.72%, Scotland (27.27%), Wales (2.91%) and Ireland (3.63%). Non-UK makes up the difference (13.47%).

We would like to welcome the 47 new members since the last meeting, of which 25 are from Aberdeen. These include:

Jehan Abdel-Moneim (Aberdeen), Syatirah Abdullah (Newcastle), Joseph Abrams (Sheffield), Mariana Almeida (Aberdeen), Leon Berge (NovaBiotics, Aberdeen), Stefan Bidula (Aberdeen), Aleksandra Bojarczuk (Sheffield), Shan Brunel (Aberdeen), David Cabellero-Lima (Sheffield), Cameron Choi (?), Aaron Crawford (Aberdeen), Emily Dixon (Birmingham), Neuza Duarte (Manchester), Peter Flanagan (Dublin), Douglas Fraser-Pitt (NovaBiotics, Aberdeen), Mohammed Haider (Aberdeen), John Haran (Dublin), Mohammed Hussein (London), Herbert Itabangi

(Aberdeen), Stavroula (Lila) Kastora (Aberdeen), Bernhard Kerscher (Aberdeen), Amy Lewis (Sheffield), Angela Maria Lopez (Aberdeen), Johanna Louw (Aberdeen), Natalie Lyall (Aberdeen), Dhara Malavia (Aberdeen), Ruby Matthews (Sheffield), Dona Nelun Perera (Leicester), Isha Rizal (Newcastle), Nessim Rodriguez (London), Amy Ross (Aberdeen), Fiona Rudkin (Aberdeen), Sweta Samantaray (Birmingham), Daniel Sayon Djofang (Aberdeen), Katja Schaefer (Aberdeen), Constanze Seidel (Manchester), Sarah Sherrington (Birmingham), Daniel Smith (NovaBiotics, Aberdeen), Prashant Sood (Aberdeen), Maria Spyrou (Aberdeen), Neil Stone (London), Reiko Tanaka (London), Wioleta Trzaska (Birmingham), Mireille Van der Torre (Manchester), Becky Wilson (ARI, Aberdeen), Duncan Wilson (Aberdeen), Tracy Young (NovaBiotics, Aberdeen).

Four members have terminated their resignation from the BSMM: Susan Howard, Andrew Swann, Elizabeth McClellan and Ali Robb.

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

ECMM Educational Symposium 'Ecology and Mycology,

Tel Aviv, Israel,
14th-16th February 2016

FEBS advanced practical course 'State-of-the-art infection models,

Jena, German,
14th-27th February 2016

Meeting of Serbian Society of Medical Mycology,

Belgrade, Serbia,
26th-27th February 2016

British Society for Medical Mycology 52nd Annual Scientific Meeting,

Dublin, Ireland,
20th-22nd March 2016

13th ASM Conference on Candida and Candidiasis,

Sheraton Seattle Hotel, Seattle, WA, USA,
13th-17th April 2016,

Molecular Mycology: Current Approaches to Fungal Pathogenesis,

Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, MA, USA,
12th-28th 2016,
Applications due 24th February 2016

PYFF6 – 6th Conference on Physiology of Yeast and Filamentous Fungi,

Lisbon, Portugal,
11th-14th July 2016

Minutes from the 51st AGM Aberdeen April 2015

Aberdeen BSMM AGM – 8th March 2015 Cophthorne Hotel (Crystal Suit) from 4:30 to 5:45pm

1. Apologies
Apologies received from Derek Sullivan and Donald Mackenzie
Approximately 30 people present

2. Minutes from AGM meeting held on the 29th April 2014 in Radisson Blu Hotel - Manchester airport

The minutes were discussed and the only item challenged was in relation to the wording of item 9 dealing with the UCL course.

“The Society’s Course has now been running for 10 years and has enrolled students from 5 continents during that time. There are currently 26 in the programme. This year another 5 students joined - fewer than last year, which may reflect the

increased competition from Manchester University.”

Riina Richardson indicated that the underlined phrase was not an accurate reflection of what was reported verbally at the meeting, though Chris Kibbler stated that it was and that this was in the written report. Gordon Ramage admitted that the verbal and written report was conflicted, as evidenced by email communication with Malcolm Richardson. Rosemary Barnes asked the membership if they felt the minute should be changed, to which only Riina agreed. It was agreed that the minute was confirmed and will not be changed.

3. Matters arising

- Constitutional changes

Gordon Ramage asked the membership to consider the following constitutional change, which had been discussed at the prior two AGM meetings. This was to take into account terms of office and ensure executive office bearers did not have prolonged terms. The suggested change was as follows:

‘The Committee shall be elected for terms of three years except the Local Organisers (two years), Secretary (four years) and the Treasurer (five years). No Committee member will normally be permitted to stand for a second consecutive term unless there are exceptional circumstances’

Robin May proposed this and Julian Naglik seconded.

Rosemary Barnes also asked the membership to consider a constitutional change to allow us to appoint a Treasurer elect to support the Treasurer in their role and enable continuity of the post. The change will alter the wording of

terms of office, but not the duration. This will be altered to the following:

‘The Committee shall be elected for terms of three years except the Local Organisers (two years), Secretary (four years) and the Treasurer (2.5 years) and Treasurer-elect (2.5 years). The Treasurer-elect will become the Treasurer at the end of their 2.5 year term, coincident with the election of a new Treasurer-elect. No other Committee member will normally be permitted to stand for a second consecutive term unless there are exceptional circumstances’

Rosemary Barnes proposed and Gordon Ramage seconded.

4. Presidents report (Rosemary Barnes)

Presidents Report March 2015

The Society continues to grow with membership up 12% in the last year. The 50th celebrations at Manchester last year have injected renewed vigour. The Society remains strong as this record attendance at Aberdeen attests. Julian Naglik has come to the end of his extended term of office as Meetings secretary and I would like to warmly thank him for all his efforts. He has worked tirelessly to produce successful meetings year after year despite some daunting circumstances and Acts of God (otherwise known as Volcanic Ash Clouds).

The BSMM Working parties have been productive with the publication of excellent guidelines for therapeutic drug monitoring of antifungal agents and submission of the updated Diagnostic standards for the management of serious fungal diseases.

Mycological Research in the UK has made some outstanding contributions and the fungal consortium arising from Aberdeen Fungal Group Wellcome Trust Strategic award goes from strength to strength and now host 5 PhD projects, 3 clinical PhD fellowships and 6 postdoctoral researchers.

However several threats hover on the horizon: Recent analysis has highlighted that mycology in the UK receives only 2% of funding allocated for research in human infectious diseases. Little of this is directed at

global health and translational research is relatively poor. The MRC Antimicrobial Resistance forum chose to focus purely on antibacterial resistance and antifungal resistant fungi and the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee did not consider the impact of azole resistance resulting from agricultural usage. Concerns regarding the future of Medical Mycology and succession planning to ensure adequate service delivery have been raised in the past and the development of the MSc/Diploma/Certificate course has been a real achievement. However the course is now threatened as UCL consolidate their finances and require substantial expansion in course numbers if we are to continue. I met with the UCL course directors and Vice Dean Education for the Faculty of Medical Sciences recently and the following actions have been agreed:

- The course would continue for 2015/2016.
- There would be a target of 6 Home/EU and 2 overseas students for 2015/2016.
- UCL and BSMM would increase engagement to market the course.
- Pharma and Biotech companies should also be a target for marketing.
- Sam Photiades to produce a business case in the next couple of months for the 2015/2016 budget.
- BSMM to be given notice that the course is at risk for 2016/2017.
- Suggestion that the AMS course could potentially use Module 1.
- Look into CPD accreditation for some of the modules.

Mycological training is also poorly signposted in many undergraduate and postgraduate curricular and underrepresented within the modernizing scientific careers agenda.

We recognize that medical mycology community relatively small and we need to work together to make real impacts. Whilst some competition is healthy, we must avoid overt rivalry between UK centres and utilize our strengths to the best of our abilities. Collaborative working with other societies with similar aims can also increase our cohesive force and make our presence felt. Gordon Ramage proposed and Elaine Bignell seconded.

5. Treasurer's report (Riina Richardson)

BSMM Newsletter: Gordon Ramage & Louise Walker
E-mail: Gordon.Ramage@glasgow.ac.uk, louise.walker@abdn.ac.uk

Treasurer's report for financial year ended 31st December 2014

This is the financial statement for the British Society for Medical Mycology for the year ending 31st December 2014. 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 2014. 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 2013 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 2013 (page 1), income consisted of subscriptions amounting to £4,765 (£3,433 in 2013), surplus of the Annual meeting £544 (£5,661), and bank interest of £54 (£61). I will discuss these in more detail now.

The 50th BSMM Annual meeting in 2014 held in Manchester and organised by Prof Malcolm Richardson was very successful. The detailed accounts for the meeting can be seen in note 4 on page 4 of the accounts. The Annual meeting generated income of £49,413 (£29,547), which included sponsorship of £35,677 (£18,000). Expenses amounted to £48,869 (£23,886), which included £34,230 (£18,733) of Hotel costs, £11,362 (NIL) other costs, and £3,237 (£4,093) for speakers' expenses. The Annual meeting, therefore, generated a profit of £544 even though of the 143 registrants, 46 (speakers, honorary and life members and retired members) had no cost to themselves – thanks again to Malcolm for organising such a successful meeting and also thanks to our Meetings Secretary, Julian Naglik, for the meeting programme. Returning to page 1, one of the other main income sources for the Society has been a profit share payment from UCL from the BSMM/UCL Medical Mycology MSc/Diploma course. The profit share for 2012 was

paid in 2013, and the profit share for 2013 (estimated some £8,000) is still pending.

Therefore, total income of the BSMM for 2013 was £5,363 (£23,549 in 2013).

Expenses of the society are summarised in the lower half of page 1. Seven travel grants were awarded in 2014 and three awards deferred in 2013 were claimed in 2014. One 2014 awardee chose to defer their funding. Therefore, travel grants totalled £3,248 for 2014 (NIL in 2013). The BSMM awarded one Glynn Evans award in 2014. None of the working parties submitted expenses claims in 2014 (£494 in 2013).

The Management and Administration costs decreased to £2,135 in 2014 (£12,230 in 2013, £1,511 in 2012 and £7,331 in 2011) mainly because of minimal costs associated with maintaining the new BSMM website in contrast to developing it. The detailed costs are shown in Note 2 on page 3 of the accounts. The BSMM would like to thank Dr Carol Munro and Dr Louise Walker for running the website.

The total expenses for the BSMM for 2014 amounted to £6,523 (£36,595 in 2014, £6,183 in 2012 and £20,844 in 2011).

The net incoming resources for 2014 were -£1,160 (-£13,046 in 2013 and £7941 in 2012). This is mainly due to the delay of payment of UCL profit share. In 2014, we aimed to address keeping the expenditure and income in balance by capping the UCL bursaries to the level of expected profit share, by capping the travel grants (£200 for national meetings, £350 for European and £500 for international meetings), by capping the executive committee travel costs to £150 and by reconsidering the membership of Society of Biology (annual cost of £1,106), as well as by encouraging timely membership fee payments. With most of these targets we have been very successful. 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 £134,188 (£135,348 in 2013 and £148,394 in 2012).

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 9 years.

Chris Kibbler proposed and Julian Naglik seconded.

6. Secretary's report

The Society has grown by over 12% in the last year. We have 275 (20% increase) active paid members (within the past 2 years). We also have 97 (4% decrease) inactive members (greater than 2 years unpaid) - a total of 372 members. For those interested, for the UK and Ireland the active membership are made up of the following proportions: England (52.72%, Scotland (27.27%), Wales (2.91%) and Ireland (3.63%). Non-UK makes up the difference (13.47%).

We still have the perennial problem of long-term members still paying with out of date standing orders of £10, £20 and £3. Can I remind members to check whether they are paying by this method.

We would like to welcome the 47 new members since the last meeting, of which 25 are from Aberdeen. These include:

Jehan Abdel-Moneim (Aberdeen), Syatirah Abdullah (Newcastle), Joseph Abrams (Sheffield), Mariana Almeida (Aberdeen), Leon Berge (NovaBiotics, Aberdeen), Stefan Bidula (Aberdeen), Aleksandra Bojarczuk (Sheffield), Shan Brunel (Aberdeen), David Cabellero-Lima (Sheffield), Cameron Choi (?), Aaron Crawford (Aberdeen), Emily Dixon (Birmingham), Neuza Duarte (Manchester), Peter Flanagan (Dublin), Douglas Fraser-Pitt (NovaBiotics, Aberdeen), Mohammed Haider (Aberdeen), John Haran (Dublin), Mohammed Hussein (London), Herbert Itabangi (Aberdeen), Stavroula (Lila) Kastora (Aberdeen), Bernhard Kerscher (Aberdeen), Amy Lewis (Sheffield), Angela Maria Lopez (Aberdeen), Johanna Louw (Aberdeen), Natalie Lyall (Aberdeen), Dhara Malavia (Aberdeen), Ruby Matthews (Sheffield), Dona Nelun Perera (Leicester), Isha Rizal (Newcastle), Nessim Rodriguez (London), Amy Ross (Aberdeen), Fiona Rudkin (Aberdeen), Sweta Samantaray (Birmingham), Daniel Sayon Djofang (Aberdeen), Katja Schaefer (Aberdeen), Constanze Seidel (Manchester), Sarah Sherrington (Birmingham), Daniel Smith (NovaBiotics, Aberdeen), Prashant Sood (Aberdeen), Maria Spyrou

(Aberdeen), Neil Stone (London), Reiko Tanaka (London), Wioleta Trzaska (Birmingham), Mireille Van der Torre (Manchester), Becky Wilson (ARI, Aberdeen), Duncan Wilson (Aberdeen), Tracy Young (NovaBiotics, Aberdeen).

Four members have terminated their resignation from the BSMM: Susan Howard, Andrew Swann, Elizabeth McClellan and Ali Robb.

Grants and Awards

Four travel grants have been received in the Jul, Oct and Jan deadlines, of 2 were awarded. Ananad Shah (£500 to attend a Gordon Conference, Galveston). Rebecca Gorton (£500 to attend ISHAM, Melbourne).

Eight special travel grants were also awarded to allow students attend the Aberdeen meeting: 1. Lucian Duvenage, Kent, £100; 2. Syatirah Abdullah, Newcastle, £90; 3. Peter Flanagan, Dublin, £100; 4. Mariana Blagojevic, London, £81.98; 5. Melanie Ikeh, Newcastle, £59.85; 6. Ryan Kean, Glasgow, £54.40; 7. Wioleta Trzaska, Birmingham, £100; 8. Meha Patel, Birmingham, £100.

Three Glyn Evan Awards have been approved this year: Lily Novak Fraser (Manchester) - £194.50 – MADI-TOF identification workshop, PHE Colindale; Ranjith Rajendran (Glasgow) - £1096 – Visit Aberdeen Fungal Group for 3 months; Robin May (Birmingham) - £800 – University of British Columbia

Gordon Ramage reminded new members that their membership begins from the month they join and not the calendar year of joining. This is important for applying for travel grants as you are not able to apply until having at least a calendar years membership.

Honorary and Life Members

Neil Gow, David Denning, Malcolm Richardson and Richard Hobson were proposed for honorary membership for either their services to the society or their wider roles in promoting mycology. These

decisions were unanimously supported by the executive and supported at the AGM by the membership.

Executive Committee Membership

Two executive members posts have come to an end. Dr Julian Naglik has been the meetings secretary for 2 consecutive 3 year terms. Robin May has also finished his term as an ordinary executive committee member. Electronic voting links were sent out, and the outcome of these will be discussed later in the agenda. We would like to thank both Julian and Robin for their dedicated roles on the committee.

Rosemary Barnes proposed and Megan Lenardon seconded

1. Annual Fungal update (Samir Agrawal)

Samir explained he has run a meeting in BARTS annually and has gone on for 10 years. It has had variable success over the years, and this year it was very successful. The meeting is more clinical than BSMM. Samir asked whether he could use the BSMM for affiliation, and whether he could use our website for communicating some of the meeting information.

Chris Kibbler mentioned another meeting – Controversies in Fungal Infections, and whether this and other meetings should get the same affiliate status. Frank Odds indicated that there may be an issue because not all BSMM members will be eligible to attend this meeting. Neil Gow suggested there should be conversations to ensure there was no conflict of topics.

Proposed by Riina Richardson and seconded by Rosemary Barnes

2. Working parties

- Fungal serology (Richard Barton) – no report provided
- Standards (Silke Schelenz) – completed and published
- Mycology teaching to UG (Ruth Ashbee) – this will be explored by contacting UG mycology teaching and conducting review of what is taught, where, and to

- what level.
- Fungal peritonitis (Fritz Muhlschlegel) – no report provided

3. BSMM/UCL MSc/Diploma/Certificate Course

Rosemary Barnes indicated that the MSc is under threat and that we have been given notice of one year. There appears to be no understanding at UCL of what is required in terms of clinical succession planning and the impact on mycological teaching. We have agreed that it shall continue for 2015-16, with targets of 6 home/EU and 2 overseas students. We need to look at scope to better marketing and communication.

Report provided by Prof Chris Kibbler:

The Society's Course is now in its eleventh year and has enrolled students from 5 continents. There are currently 24 in the programme. This year another 4 students joined - fewer than last year, which may reflect the increased competition from Manchester University and the less than adequate recruitment campaign from the UCL administrative support. This latter issue has now been addressed and support has now improved.

The programme is embedded in the Division of Infection and Immunity at UCL and the Division continues to support the course and wishes to continue to work with the Society in the coming years. However, the university has placed greater emphasis on achieving higher numbers of students this year and are disestablishing courses which fail to recruit adequate numbers.

The President and I have met with members of the Division and agreed a minimum recruitment level of 8 students for next year's intake and are preparing a business case with them to justify the continuation of the course. We are concerned to demonstrate the difference in costs of this course in comparison with a standard UCL MSc course. However, we are on notice that the course may have to be discontinued at UCL, if we fail to recruit sufficient numbers for the next academic year.

The Board of Examiners were pleased to award two MSc distinctions and one Diploma distinction this last academic year and commented on the high standard of the students.

Ten bursaries (mostly partial) have been awarded since 2009 (five for MSc and five for PGDip students) – none for the past two years. Four of the awardees have graduated (two MSc - one distinction, one merit; two PGDips – two distinctions) and six remain on the course.

Once again, the course has achieved a surplus, shared with UCL, which will result in a payment to the Society of £17,745.23. The formal profit sharing agreement between UCL and the BSMM has been renewed on a 50/50 basis for 3 more years.

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.

At present there have been 10 bursaries, mostly partial (5 for MSc and 5 certificate). Four have graduated and six still on the course. The board of examiners commented on the high standards of the course.

Rosemary Barnes reported that the administration issues with the course. It was also reported that Manchester and UCL courses were not competing with one another because the students who take the BSMM/UCL course come from the UK/EU and study part-time by distance learning, whereas the students taking the Manchester course come from overseas and are full time students.

It was suggested we develop a new working party to ensure the UCL course is maintained or if closed we would want to move elsewhere. If this was the case then it would take 2-3 years to revalidate. Chris Kibbler stated that there is a course committee, but welcomed input from other members of the society.

1. Leeds course

Ruth Ashbee reported that last April 30 students registered. Feedback has been good, which is reflected in good marks. Last year there was a profit of approximately £4000. There was a general desire for the course to run annually rather than every other year. For this year, the number of registered students is down and this may impact costs. There are implications for how the course is administered and paid for. It was suggested by the executive that the BSMM underwrite the course. Rosemary Barnes asked for the opinions as to whether the membership would support this. Riina Richardson queried the cost implications if run at a loss, to which Ruth Ashbee suggested could be around £5000. Gillian Shankland stated that it is an important educational resource and it would be prudent to keep it going. Donna McCallum mentioned that we have had historic backlogs, so also supported its continuation this year. Chris Kibbler reiterated this, suggesting we need to contact those on the UCL course. Unanimous support from the membership to support the Leeds course.

2. Annual Scientific meetings

- Aberdeen 2015 – Megan Lenardon thanked everyone for coming and stated that we are likely to be in profit, which could have been less had all students taken up the available travel grants.
- Dublin 2016 – Gary Moran welcomed membership to Dublin on 20th to 22nd March and stated that jointly with the Irish Fungal Society the meeting would be in Malahide near Dublin.
- Birmingham 2017 – Robin May agreed to host a BSMM annual meeting in Birmingham and will put together a local organising committee
- Rosemary Barnes asked for suggestions for 2018. Potential destinations include Bristol or Sheffield.

3. Joint meetings

- Joint BSMM/BMS meeting – Alex Brand looked to explore options for joint meetings with BMS, which has some level of synergy with other societies. There is a proforma for meeting

suggestions at BMS. Chris Thornton offered a meeting on Diagnostics and Therapeutics in Humans and Animals. Rosemary also mentioned that Veterinary mycology that may be worth pursuing. The meeting would be a 1 day (2 half days with overnight). Further discussions are required.

- FIS - WMA/BSMM – Rosemary Barnes reported that we support FIS and it is cost neutral. We pay for speakers travel expenses. This year we are using Welsh Mycology Association in a joint session with BSMM in Glasgow. Rosemary Barnes queried that that Scottish Mycology Association may clash. Donna McCallum will liaise with Debbie Lancaster to ensure this is not the case.
- Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition 2016 – Neil Gow reported that the Royal Society hold annual event in Westminster. You need to apply for this, which is intended to be on Medical Mycology. There is money for Public Engagement from WTSA to initiate. The funds required for a space is in the region of £70k. Summer exhibition 2016. Looking for people to support project.
- Neil Gow also reported that Royal Society – Tackling Emerging Fungal Infections in Humans, Food Security, Agriculture – position papers. Move to Critchley Hall for more scientific Mar 7-8th discussion meeting, 9-10 satellite meeting.
- Rosemary Barnes asked for general support and endorsement.

7. Website update (Louise Walker)

Louise asked membership to get in touch if they have any queries or suggestions for improvement.

8. Election of life and honorary members

Gordon Ramage reported that the electronic election had been completed. Of the 62 votes cast Silke Shelenz was voted in as the new Ordinary executive members with 20 votes, followed closely by Darius Armstrong James (19), Rebecca Hall (9) and Duncan Wilson (14).

Lewis White was unopposed and elected as new Meetings Secretary (2017-2019).

Carol Munro and Julian Naglik were proposed as honorary members.

9. BSMM customs and traditions

Chris Kibbler queries the logo's colour. It was agreed it should revert back to the original black, white and red logo.

10. AOCB

None

Meeting finished at 17:45.