Dear BSMM Members,

Having arrived in good time at Paddington station to catch the train to Bristol for last year’s annual meeting, I discovered that my train had been cancelled owing to lack of a driver. It had been a weekend of heavy snow and I feared that I might not make it to the meeting as a consequence of snowflakes on the line. I had prepared for certain eventualities but not what to do if I could not get to Cadbury House. Fortunately, my fears were unfounded and I eventually arrived in time at Yatton only to find that there were no taxis available to help me complete my journey. Luckily, some kind person took pity and offered to drive me to the hotel. It turned out that only one invited talk had to be cancelled, and I think it is fair to say that, in spite of the inclement weather, the meeting met all expectations. The scientific and accompanying social programmes achieved the high standard of previous years’ meetings. Full credit to Dr Andy Borman, local organiser, and his colleagues in the Mycology Reference Laboratory, who pulled out all the stops to ensure a successful event. And thanks to Frank Odds for his excellent piano playing during the evening’s sing along, matched only by the enthusiasm of the accompanying singers.

On day two, at the end of the scientific programme, the meeting room was filled with great sadness on learning that Ken Haynes had passed away. Ken had been a colleague and friend of many in attendance, and a loyal supporter of the BSMM in so many ways. He will be sorely missed by the Medical Mycology community.

On the Tuesday afternoon, after completion of the main meeting, we were treated to a symposium organised by the Wellcome Trust Strategic Award for Medical Mycology and Fungal Immunology.

We arranged a session at Federation of Infection Societies Annual Meeting held in Gateshead last November. It was well attended. Thanks to Lewis White for organising this.

Your Executive committee has been busy on a number of fronts. The plan to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation has been more challenging than first thought and, as part of the preparations, we have had to complete development of our GDPR policy which Rebecca Gorton has been leading on. Rebecca has also done great work bringing our membership database up to date and GDPR compliant. The plan for Incorporation has facilitated some necessary review of the Society’s Constitution. It is likely that there will be an Extraordinary General Meeting later this year to allow members to vote on the proposal for Incorporation. Thanks to our Treasurer Caroline Moore who is leading on this.

Our plan to relocate the MSc in Medical Mycology to Aberdeen, in collaboration with members of the Aberdeen Fungal Group, has been high on the Executive’s priority list.
Prof. Adilia Warris assumed the role of lead for Aberdeen in the negotiations with BSMM, and towards the end of last year advised that, since a number of the Aberdeen Group were re-locating to University of Exeter, it made sense for the MSc to do likewise. The membership were then consulted by correspondence and, as no objections to this proposal were received, it is now our firm plan to open discussions with University of Exeter with a view to getting the MSc back up and running as soon as possible. Thanks to Prof. Chris Kibbler for overseeing the completion of the UCL MSc course.

I am delighted to report that the joint bid by Prof. Adilia Warris and Prof. Neil Gow, on behalf of Aberdeen, together with BSMM, to host TIMM 2021 in Aberdeen, received the winning vote at the European Confederation of Medical Mycology Council meeting held during ISHAM last July.

As my term of office nears its completion I would like to thank members of the Executive committee for their various contributions to ensure the continuing success of BSMM, and my particular thanks go to our Officers Rebecca Gorton, Caroline Moore and Lewis White, as well as Margherita Bertuzzi, for all their hard work over the past couple of years.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the 55th BSMM Annual Meeting in Sheffield later this month.

Tom Rogers, BSMM President

Obituary: Ken Haynes

Professor Ken Haynes was a great fungal biologist with a keen eye for the Grand Vision, a loyal, supportive and hilarious friend to many in the fungal community, an inspiring mentor to innumerable junior scientists, and a loyal supporter of Fulham Football Club. He left us far too early, on 19th March this year at the age of 58, but he has entrusted us with a superb legacy in the field of molecular medical mycology.

Ken was a consummate scientist. He was also gregarious and warm-hearted. He placed a lot of importance in getting to know his fellow scientists (young and old) in the relaxed atmosphere of a bar or pub after a day of science. Ken had the unique ability to make everyone feel at ease and part of the party. Ken advanced science and the scientific community as much over a pint as over a PowerPoint slide.

Ted White, University of Missouri – Kansas City

Ken studied Microbiology at the University of Bristol, graduating in 1980. This was a fine vintage for medical mycologists such as Liz Johnston (now Director of the Mycology Reference Laboratory at Public Health England in Bristol) who was in the same class, and both enjoyed tutelage from Nick Read (founding Director of the Manchester Fungal Infection Group).

There are some undergraduates who really stand out as potential academic stars of the future. Ken was one of these individuals. He was an undergraduate at Bristol in the late 70’s when I was doing my PhD there, and I demonstrated to him in his many mycology practical classes. Besides being exceedingly bright, Ken was very passionate about his science, had strong well-argued critical opinions, naturally oozed self-confidence, and was always stimulating and, I would add, a laugh, to be around. We subsequently moved in different fields of mycology, but when we met up again 20 years later I realised we had established a really strong and long-lasting bond. I got to know Ken better, he provided lots of encouragement, and we became good pals. I will forever have strong memories of his big man-hugs, great sense of humour (which was sometimes rather weird), much laughter and, of course, great discussions about science, football, gastronomically related things and quality beer. We dearly miss him.

Nick Read – Manchester Fungal Infection Group
Ken then pursued his PhD with Tom Rogers at the Westminster Medical School, University of London, graduating in 1990. During his PhD, Ken clinically validated the diagnostic potential of *Aspergillus* antigens (which paved the way for the development of the commercial *Aspergillus* Galactomannan test) and anti-*Aspergillus* IgG antibodies associated with invasive aspergillosis. He worked with Rosemary Barnes, then a Research Registrar undertaking an MD on aspergillosis. Together they made regular trips up the Northern line to Colindale with large conical flasks concealed beneath their coats to use equipment provided by a very supportive Veronica Hearn and Donald Mackenzie. This work resulted in a Lancet publication of which Ken was justly proud, and this early work continues to be cited (Lancet 336, 1210; J Clin Microbiol 28, 2040). It is poignant, given the cause of Ken’s death, that his PhD project was, in part, funded by a grant from the Leukaemia Research Fund.

Typically, despite the seriousness of his illness, Ken was optimistic. I have so many memories of great times together with Ken – to be shared over a beer or two, but be ready for tears and laughter!

Joy Sturtevant, LSU Health New Orleans

Straight after his PhD, Ken gained his first tenured position as a Lecturer in Medical Mycology in the Department of Medical Microbiology at Charing Cross & Westminster Medical School, (succeeding Dr Betty Partridge on her retirement) in his beloved London, Although this was mainly a teaching position, Ken started to develop his own research, and he won seed funding from the Wellcome Trust to work on *Cryptococcus neoformans*.

In 1995, Ken transferred to the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, London, based in the Department of Infectious Diseases & Bacteriology. He continued to build his research on fungal pathogens while making significant contributions to teaching, developing postgraduate courses on Medical Mycology and Parasitology. In 1997, the Royal Postgraduate Medical School merged with Imperial College London. Ken continued his work on the Hammersmith Campus, and his own independent research programme gathered momentum as he started to focus on *Candida glabrata*. Funding from the Granulomatous Disease Trust was crucial for the establishment of fungal pathogenicity studies at Imperial. Ken was promoted by Imperial College to Senior Lecturer in 1999, to Reader in Medical Mycology in 2005, and to Professor of Fungal Biology in 2008.

During this period, Ken studied the regulation of pH and stress adaptation and cell division in *C. glabrata*, and he used this pathogen as a model for the development of novel antifungal drugs. At Imperial College, Ken enjoyed lively and productive collaborations with Elaine Bignell and Herb Arst, and together they established the Imperial Fungal Group, which became one of three UK centres of excellence working on fungal pathogens.

During this period, Ken, Tom Rogers and Herb Arst held a joint BBSRC project with Mick

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BSMM Newsletter: Margherita Bertuzzi & Rebecca Gorton  E-mail: info.bsmm@gmail.com
Tuite and Fritz Muhlschlegel (University of Kent, Canterbury). Herb Arst remembers “On at least one occasion, after a lively joint meeting, we enjoyed a jolly dinner with copious amounts of delicious seafood on the Kent coast. When the grant ended, the BBSRC gave us top marks on the final report (for the science, not the seafood!)”.

I was a PhD student in Herb’s lab at the Hammersmith Hospital when Ken joined our Department. His fiercely outspoken views on science, life, football and food transformed our lunch breaks and seminar programmes into very lively affairs, bringing humour and more than a touch of humanity to a Clinical Infectious Diseases Department which had become engaged in a head-on battle with emergent invasive fungal infections. Over the next 20 years his encouragement, generosity and inspirational mentorship would profoundly shape my own career. He was a loyal, witty, clever and delightfully mischievous friend. The pain of his untimely passing is greatly tempered by a legacy of enduring friendships and happy memories amongst the many colleagues he interwove inextricably into a very passionate life and career.

Elaine Bignell, Manchester Fungal Infection Group.

His productivity as a mentor delivered critical new insights into siderophore synthesis and Aspergillus virulence (J Exp Medicine 200, 1213), and the role of Dectin-1 in controlling fungal infection (Nature Immunol 8, 31), the regulation of the pH response in Aspergillus (Molec Microbiol 55, 1072), the epidemiology of Candida dubliniensis (J Clin Microbiol 35, 960), CO₂ sensing and fungal morphogenesis in Candida (Curr Biology 15, 2177), gene expression during Aspergillus infection (PLoS Pathogens 4, e1000154; J Infect Dis 200, 1341). His proficiency in securing research funding was underwritten by his drive to address grand unanswered questions in a timely fashion, the application of finely honed grant writing skills and the drive to submit grants at a prolific rate. He was awarded competitive research funding totalling over £11 million from the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, the Medical Research Council, The Wellcome Trust, Pfizer, the Fungal Research Trust and other organisations. He often asked his trainees to peer review his grant applications, an invaluable learning opportunity for those who would eventually pursue independent research careers.

“It lacks va-va-voom!” said Ken, about the first draft of our grant application. These words, borrowed from the great Arsenal striker Thierry Henry, perfectly encapsulated Ken’s love of the beautiful game, of grand, holistic, exciting science, and of teasing his friends. To help address this lack of “va-va-voom” we added, somewhat tongue-in-cheek, the immortal words “Life on this planet is dependent upon …..”. The application was funded and, as we pursued our Grand Vision of combinatorial stress responses in Candida with our CRISP team, we joked about our blatant hyperbole and we crafted other cunning tricks to extract funds from grant awarding bodies. Science, sport, ambition, friendship and humour – essential components of the great Professor Ken Haynes!

Al Brown, University of Aberdeen

Ken’s research on fungal stress adaptation and the pathobiology of fungal diseases was profoundly influential. A common theme in his research was the highly astute and timely application of technological advances to his own research questions. For example, when upscaled molecular genetics throughput in model yeasts became possible, he immediately recognised its significance for advancing our understanding of the haploid human pathogen Candida glabrata. Ultimately, this spawned a major contribution to the construction of the C. glabrata deletion collection and its use in the identification of antifungal tolerance genes (PLoS Pathogens 10, e1004211).

Ken loved collaborating with friends and colleagues. Indeed, as Ken’s research developed and accelerated, he developed a strong network of loyal friends and collaborators through his “active networking” at medical mycology
Brainstorming with Ken was always thought provoking, but also fun. He liked thinking in new ways and enjoyed the give-and-take of sharing ideas. Most of all, Ken’s scientific interactions were lively and engaging. He was blunt and direct, always letting you know where things stood. I will greatly miss being able to bounce ideas around with him.

Judy Berman, Tel Aviv University

Over the 15 years that I knew Ken we became firm friends. He made my life better, not simply because of fine dining experiences and great trips to Tokyo, but because of his inimitable attitude to science and life in general. I have never laughed so much as when Ken took it upon himself to make some C. glabrata knock-outs. He lasted almost one hour in the lab – enough time to flick the ‘dust’ (lyophilised primers) out of his tubes – before relinquishing control back to the experts! Happy times that will always be cherished.

Jan Quinn, Newcastle University

I first met Ken at a BSMM meeting in the early 1990s. I was completely new to mycology and, after what was my first ever presentation at a scientific meeting, he bought me a beer – the first of VERY many beers over what was to become a lifelong and life-affirming friendship! Following our discussions I spent a week sequencing PCR products in Ken’s lab at Charing Cross, and these data provided the final evidence for a new species, Candida dubliniensis. Ken visited Dublin many times over the years, sometimes for scientific reasons, but mainly for football. Despite his accent and love of London, Ken was actually born in Dublin and carried an Irish passport: hence his love of the Irish football team! He would have been in Russia for the World Cup and I dearly missed his regular Twitter updates on his shenanigans and the trials and tribulations of the English team. Mycology meetings will never be the same again without Ken’s booming laughter and incisive questions!

Derek Sullivan, Trinity College Dublin

Ken had a gift for connecting to people, no matter who they were. From the moment you met him, you felt like one of his ‘mates’. Sharing a meal, full of good food and his unreserved laughs, was always a memorable experience. The only thing Ken disliked was pretentiousness, which he delighted in pricking with great wit.

Mike Lorenz, University of Texas Medical School

The first thing you noticed was his laugh. You knew when Ken was around. Ken was both a fantastic colleague, ready to test any interesting hypothesis, as well as a great friend. He was wonderful person able to see the heart of people. Some knew him as Prof Ken Haynes, others as “le plus beau” or as a Fulham football club fan. Ken’s "joie de vivre" was a pleasure to share.

Guilhem Janbon, Pasteur Institute

With help from his collaborators, Ken extended his work into the genomics of C. glabrata, into systems biology and the genetic and protein-protein interaction networks that underlie stress responses and antifungal drug resistance in this pathogen. His foray into interdisciplinary collaborations was fearless – he tackled interesting questions because they should be answered, not because they were easy to
address. He was able to communicate with mathematicians and physicists and to bring their important perspectives to bear on the biological questions he wanted to address. Ken had the vision to see research in the context of the big picture bringing an impressive depth of insight.

In 2010, Ken moved to Exeter University to become the Chair of Systems Biology in the Department of Biosciences. Ken quickly established collaborations with like-minded luminaries around him such as Nick Talbot, Ivana Gudelj, Gero Steinberg and David Studholme to actively drive forward interdisciplinary and systems-wide approaches at Exeter. Ken played a leading role in the design of the new and vibrant Living Systems Institute that now graces their Campus. He also collaborated with Mike Csukai (Syngenta) and with Nick, David and Gero, exploiting his expertise in fungal genomics, to create an ORFeome for *Zymoseptoria tritici*, which has the potential to dramatically accelerate the molecular dissection of this major wheat pathogen. His ability to exploit this brilliant resource was brutally curtailed by his illness, which struck shortly after he returned home from the ASM Candida Conference in Seattle in April 2016.

Ken trained a host of young scientists, many of whom are now forging their own independent scientific careers around the globe, and many of whom have adopted the same robust and forthright questioning of models, assumptions and presumptions that we associated with Ken! Indeed, Yogesh Chaudhari (Exeter University) fondly remembers Ken’s refrain at their group meetings: “What the **** is the rationale?!”.

Ken was diagnosed with leukaemia. He underwent a bone marrow transplant in late 2016, but his immune system never fully recovered and he suffered a series of infections, finally succumbing on 19th March 2018. During brief respite between infections when he was able to see friends, Ken chatted about his scientific visions, his hopes for the Irish in the World Cup this summer, and about Karen and her girls, Jess, Melanie and Issy. Karen was “someone special” to Ken.

Ken might have left, but he leaves behind a fantastic legacy of great science, fantastic people and a wonderful medical mycology community. He was a great mentor, an incredibly loyal friend, and fantastic colleague.

**Working with Ken was one of the best decisions I have made. We would spend endless hours chatting about science, discussing grants, seeking that ‘kicker’ sentence. Ken was more than just a Professor. He was a great mentor – straight with his advice and quick with a beer to lessen the blow. When you joined the Haynes lab you got more than a mentor: you got a beer buddy, football arguer and food snob. You got Ken!**

Jane Usher, University of Exeter

We are very grateful to the many friends and colleagues who offered such great quotes and stories about Ken. We wish we could have included more. Their warmth reflects the cohesion, strength and supportive nature of our great medical mycology community.

**Al Brown**, MRC Centre for Medical Mycology at the University of Aberdeen

**Elaine Bignell**, Manchester Fungal Infection Group, University of Manchester

**BSMM website** ([www.bsmm.org](http://www.bsmm.org))

Please note that the previous login system for members has been discontinued, but there is still a BSMM members section for various resources. Login details for accessing the members section will be the same for all members and circulated annually via email. Please do not attempt to change username and/or password once logged in as BSMM member, as this might prevent other people from being able to log in.

For payment or renewal of the annual membership fee, it is not necessary to have a PayPal account. Before pressing the PayPal button, we invite the members renewing their
membership or joining the society to kindly insert their name in the textbox above the PayPal button, as a reference for the payment.

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

BSMM 54th Annual Meeting Picture Gallery
Some pictures of the 54th Annual meeting held in Bristol last March.

BSMM 55th Annual Scientific Meeting
Royal Victoria Hotel, Sheffield 17th-19th March
Sunday 17th March 2019

From 14.30 Registration (Foyer Royal Victoria Hotel)
14.00 – 16.00 BSMM Executive Committee Meeting (Midland Room, 1st Floor)

Session One
Chair: Simon Johnston
16:45 Official Welcome
17.00 Poster Flash Talks 1

Feeding on the host: how do human fungal pathogens acquire essential trace metals during infection?
Duncan Wilson

Specific human antimicrobial peptides show antifungal activity against clinical Aspergillus fumigatus isolates
Eloise Ballard

Rhizopus microsporus and Pseudomonas aeruginosa polymicrobial interactions
Sarah Sherrington

A Functional Annotation of Aspergillus fumigatus transcription factors
Norman van Rhijn

Does Cryptococcus neoformans Titan cell formation influence drug resistance?
Hanna Zafar

17.30 BSMM Foundation Lecture
Surface molecules of Aspergillus fumigatus decisive for immune evasion
Axel Brakhage
Professor of Microbiology and Molecular Biology
Institute of Microbiology, Friedrich Schiller University Jena

18.30 Poster Session 1
Monday 18th March 2019

Session Two
Chair: Adilia Warris

09.00  Offered Talk 1
*Saprochaete capitata* fungaemia in a patient with aplastic anaemia
Christopher Holmes

09.15  Offered Talk 2:
The AP-2 endocytic adaptor complex in *Candida albicans* morphology and virulence
Harriet Knafler

09.30  Offered Talk 3:
Reverse engineering of *Aspergillus* pH signalling for antifungal drug discovery
Bethany McCann

09.45  Offered Talk 4:
Visualising the innate immune response to cryptococcosis
Jacob Rudman

10.00  Keynote 1
Host Recognition and Clearance of *Pneumocystis*
Claire Hoving
Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine
University of Cape Town

10.30  Tea/Coffee

Session Three
Chair: Tihana Bicanic

11.00  Gilead Lecture
How the transformation of haematological malignancy care will change invasive fungal diseases
Russel Lewis
Department of Medical and Surgical Sciences
University of Bologna

11.30  Offered Talk 5:
Chemical-genetic Screening of a Gene Deletion Library Provides the First Insights into Hsp90 Interactions in *Candida glabrata*
Julia Crunden

11.45  Offered Talk 6:
Deciphering methionine synthase essentiality in *Aspergillus fumigatus*
Jennifer Scott

12.00  Gilead Fellows Talk 1
GB stewardship: a George's-Brompton partnership to enhance antifungal stewardship across two London NHS Trusts
Tihana Bicanic
St George’s, University of London
Darius Armstrong James
Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust
Imperial College London

12.30  Lunch

Session Four
Chair: Rebecca Hall

13.30  Keynote 2
Mycobiomics
Mahmoud Ghannoum
Department of Dermatology at Case Western Reserve University and University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center

14.00  Offered Talk 7:
Functional annotation of transcription factors driving epithelial cell damage during *Aspergillus fumigatus* infection
Sayema Khan

14.15  Offered Talk 8:
The candidalysins are a family of cytolytic fungal toxins
Jonathan Richardson

14.30  Poster Flash Talks 2
Elucidating the role of cell wall composition and hyphal morphology for host-pathogen interaction of *Candida albicans*
Stella Christou
Automated 3/4D imaging and visualisation of Aspergillus fumigatus spore uptake by macrophages
Darren Thompson

Outcomes from isavuconazole prescribing in adult haematology patients at University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust
Fiona Price

A pH-responsive molecular switch required for tissue invasion
Shadab Farhadi

Why you don’t get out what you put in: Explaining the variability in cryptococcosis
Kate Pline

15.00 Tea/Coffee

Session Five
Chair: Duncan Wilson

15.30 Keynote 3
Stress tolerance and virulence in Candida auris
Jan Quinn
Institute for Cell and Molecular Biosciences
Newcastle University

16.00 Gilead Fellows Talk 2
Cross-sectional study of respiratory Aspergillus spp. colonization or infection in patients with various stages of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) using culture vs non-culture based technique.
Sarmad Waqas
St. James’s Hospital affiliated with Trinity College Dublin

16.15 Annual General Meeting for Members of the Society

17.30-18.30 Poster Session 2

18.45-19.00 Leave for Kelham Island Museum

19.00 Drinks Reception and Engine Run

19.30-00.30 Dinner and Sing-along

Tuesday 19th March 2019

Session Six
Chair: Robin May

09.30 Gilead Fellows Talk 3
Global sequencing of azole resistant Aspergillus fumigatus isolates
Darius Armstrong-James
Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust
Imperial College London

09.45 Offered Talk 9:
Immune recognition of the cell wall of a pathogenic fungus
Neil Gow

10.00 Keynote 4
Fungal infections in wildlife and exotic animals
Mark Stidworthy
International Zoo Veterinary Group

10.45 Offered Talk 10:
Lending innate immunity a helping hand
Clare Logan

10.45 Tea/Coffee

Session Seven
Chair: Julian Naglik

11.15 TBC

11.45 Offered Talk 11:
Healthcare associated mucormycosis: Trends from a tertiary care centre in north India
Jagdish Chander

12.00 Offered Talk 12:
Adaptation of Candida albicans to acidic pH requires dynamic cell wall remodelling
Rebecca Hall

12.15 Offered Talk 13:
Meet HRMAAn - An open source, machine learning based image analysis platform to quantify fungal host pathogen interactions the single cell level
Robert Evans

12.30  
**Keynote 6**

**Difficult cases, new fungi and surprising outcomes**

Liz Johnson  
Mycology Reference Laboratory  
Public Health England

13.00  
Closing Address

13.05  
Lunch

14.00  
End of Conference

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**BSMM Travel Grant Applications**

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


Following the first round of applications in 2019, we congratulate Dr Tihana Bicanic, Dr Selinda Orr, Prof Robin May and Prof Janet Quinn, who have been awarded a travel grant to attend to the FEBS Advanced Lecture Course on Human Fungal Pathogens, 18<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

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**Travel grant reports from grant recipient**

**BSMM Annual Meeting, Sheffield 2018**

BSMM, my first experience  
The 54<sup>th</sup> BSMM annual scientific meeting, in March, was the first time I had attended this conference and my attendance was possible thanks to the BSMM executive committee and my PhD sponsor, the WTSA.  

During this meeting, I had the opportunity to present preliminary data of my research using an ex-vivo skin model to study fungal infections. The establishment of this skin model took almost a year, and allowed to reproduce infections due to six different fungal species and confirm them by histology and SEM. After infection with each fungus tissue and medium were recovered, to allow proteomic and gene expression analysis to be performed, to understand the local immune response against each fungus. This presentation allowed me to meet experts in the field and exchange opinions that nourish my knowledge and the future development of my project.  

In my opinion, the BSMM conference program was, very inclusive, with topics ranging from basic science in mycology to clinical research, always highlighting the successful achievements in the field but also unmet needs still to be explored. Several topics were discussed during the conference, from epidemiology and antifungal stewardship, emerging fungal infections such as *Candida auris*, and *Emeromyces* sp infections, immune responses against fungi to antifungal pipelines.  

After the BSMM meeting, I attended the WTSA symposium, where I also had the opportunity to present my project, and just as importantly, to witness the success and new perspectives in mycology from other young WTSA awardees, surely, the leaders of tomorrow.  

I’d like to make a special mention of two talks, one during the BSMM and one during the WTSA symposium about the successful use, in a clinical setting and in an animal model, of interferon-γ as an adjuvant during antifungal therapy. The use of this cytokine as a treatment represents a different antifungal mechanism that should be explored further and taken into account within the current available antifungal pipeline.  

I am very grateful to the BSMM for awarding me a BSMM travel grant and for giving me the opportunity to enjoy this scientific experience, I look forward for the next BSMM conference in 2019.

**Dora Corzo Leon**

Using travel money awarded by the BSMM I was lucky enough to attend and present my work at the 54<sup>th</sup> BSMM conference which was based at the Cadbury Hotel at Yatton, just outside Bristol. The venue was fantastic with large snow
covered grounds and a comfortable meeting room where the presentations took place. Despite the miserable weather, attendance was great with only a single cancelled talk. The two days of talks covered a wide variety of topics around the topic of fungal infections from medical reports and patient case studies from clinicians to fundamental biology and biochemical pathways. A personal highlight for me was Prof Matt Fisher’s (ICL) Monty Python inspired keynote entitled “What has fungal whole genome sequencing ever done for us?”

I am thankful for the opportunity to present my own research via an elevator presentation and poster which was well received. BSMM is the largest conference I have spoken at so it was great practise of my presentation skills and managing nerves.

The meeting was a good opportunity for networking and I met several key figures in the fungal field, which allowed me to put faces to names of paper authors. The event was organised and hosted by members of the Mycology Reference Lab in Bristol which was nice for me as it is where I carried out my honours project so I got to catch up with my old supervisors and co-workers as well as hear the developments that have proceeded my project.

Overall I am very thankful to both the organisers of the conference and to the BSMM for the travel grant.

**Dan Larcombe**

**ISHAM, Amsterdam, 2018**

I would like to thank the BSMM for supporting my travel to the 20th Congress of ISHAM, held in the RAI Congress Center, Amsterdam, The Netherlands from 30th June – 4th July. My first ISHAM, it was a stark reminder of the vast global burden of fungal disease.

The meeting started with a series of Young ISHAM presentations spanning diverse research areas, fungal species and methodologies. An entertaining and informative session followed, from the humorous duo comprising Karl Clemons and Peter Donnelly. They offered useful advice, from the Editor’s perspective, on manuscript preparation for publication in journals. The ISHAM Congress then opened in full, with award presentations and thereafter a talk from Rosa Kieft imparting a flavour or art and futuristic design for our consideration. Mycelial leather and self-healing bioconcrete could conceivably form a part of tomorrow’s world.

Parallel sessions over the following days covered fundamental, clinical and translational aspects of mycology, alongside opportunities for special interest working groups to meet. My highlight of the meeting was to hear Don Sheppard’s Translational Tales. This fantastic work, described how three studies arose from Aspergillosis clinical case observations, with subsequent investigation of these phenomena in the laboratory, thereafter harnessing the biology for potential therapeutic intervention. I was selected to give a short talk on macrophage interactions with the Candida albicans cell surface at a Poster Pitch session, using an interactive digital poster terminal. The meeting was a great opportunity for me to meet with current collaborators and former colleagues, enjoying a sun-drenched tour of the historic canal ways of Amsterdam, arriving by boat to the KIT Royal Tropical Institute for the Congress Dinner, served within the grand Marble Hall.

In addition to thanking the BSMM for providing funds for my travel to this meeting, I would like to extend my gratitude to the organisers of ISHAM Congress 2018 for providing an excellent scientific programme. Having attended this conference, I have established new connections and developed new ideas towards understanding fungal pathogenesis.

**Jude Bain**

Thank you for the opportunity to attend ISHAM 2018 in Amsterdam where I participated in a useful meeting of the Fungal PCR initiative (FPCRi) and presented at our working group symposium. It was a wonderful opportunity to network and see old friends with some excellent presentations and discussions.
I focused on the antifungal immunity and Luigina Romani’s presentation on the importance of promotion of tolerance to *Aspergillus* to control tissue damage was outstanding. The microbiome can contribute through metabolism of tryptophan to produce postbiotics such as aldehydes that not only strengthen epithelial barriers but can induce tolerance even in immunodeficient hosts. Tolerance is treatable, but tissue damage is not. There were excellent sessions on the diagnosis and new treatment options for mucormycosis and pneumocystis was well covered. Pneumocystis is probably an allergen producing Th2 type inflammatory responses in the human lung. It also demonstrates parasitic behaviour. Genotyping has shown diversity even in outbreaks and 70% of infections contain mixed genotypes. John Rex gave an interesting keynote lecture on drug discovery and I learned among his many accolades he is an “expert in residence” – I title I am considering putting on my front door.

The RAI convention centre in Amsterdam was greatly improved by the sunny weather and my discovery of the beach bar right behind the RAI. The was no sign of the FoG or Smog described in Judith Berman’s interesting talk on antifungal perseverance as demonstrated by the ability to grow at drug concentrations above the MIC. We are familiar with the trailing endpoints seen in clinical susceptibility testing and are aware that this tolerance is distinct from resistance but here her team have managed to standardise measurements of perseverance using the fraction of growth (FoG) in drug disk diffusion assays, or as the degree of supra-MIC growth (SMG) in broth microdilution assays for individual isolates. Whilst undoubtedly this phenomenon is a stress response, it may contribute to persistent candidaemia and FoG and SMG measurements may predict outcomes to treatment. With many parallel sessions, it was not possible to cover all presentations and I gave “Hot topics in Taxonomy” a miss and avoided the ESMM Aspergillus guideline presentations for the sake of my blood pressure and sanity.

Rosemary Barnes

**American Society of Microbiology Candida & Candidiasis meeting, Providence, 2018**

I would like to thank BSMM for awarding me with the travel grant for attending the 14th ASM Conference on Candida and Candidiasis, held in Providence (Rhode Island), where I gave the presentation “Early Proteomic Response of Candida Species to Antifungal Drugs”, during the parallel session “Fungal-Drug Interactions”. This event, gathering about more than 300 researchers from all over the world, is the biggest conference for the Candida community. It is a chance to interact with people from different backgrounds and with different expertise, nevertheless to make collaborations.

The scientific program contained insights into the current progress in the research on Candida species, ranging from basic research (e.g. Gcn5 protein function by Karl Kuchler) to diagnostics and therapies (e.g. T2 Candida system introduced by Cornelius Clancy). A prominent space has been given to the emerging pathogen *C. auris*, with an interesting presentation from Michael Kruppa (East Tennessee State University) showing differences in the mannans on the cell wall of this organism, which may also influence the immune recognition by the host. Another interesting presentation regarding this topic was from Milena Kordalewska (Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences), showing that one of the factors contributing to azole and echinocandin resistance of *C. auris* is due to the high rate of paradoxical growth occurring at relatively low concentrations of drug.
Judith Berman (Tel Aviv University) has shown another fascinating work about antifungal resistance in *C. albicans*, with an insight into the mechanisms of action of azole drugs by developing a real-time imaging system with fluorescent azole compounds. I hope I will be given the opportunity to attend again this conference (even if in a different format, as it will not be sponsored by ASM anymore) and I thank again BSMM for their support.

**Giuseppe Buda De Cesare**

The 13th ASM Conference on Candida & Candidiasis took place in Providence, USA from May 13th till May 19th 2018. This specialised conference provided an ideal platform for the Candida research community to disseminate the latest advanced in the diagnosis and treatment of Candida infections, antifungal drug research and epidemiology, cell biology of the fungus and host-pathogen interaction. This conference was of great relevance to the main subject of my PhD, and attending it provided an excellent opportunity for networking and attending talks made me aware of the latest research. Organisation of the conference was brilliant as it was segmented in several main and parallel sessions allowing a large group of early career researchers to present their work. Talks by expert senior researchers took place during the main sessions: Fungal and Host Signalling, Life in the Host, Clinical Case Reports, Immune Biology, Epidemiology, Evolution and the Genome, Diagnostics & Therapies, Polymicrobial Interactions, Morphology and Cell Biology.

The conference provided me with an opportunity to present my PhD work in front of a large crowd of renowned international senior and early career scientists. In one of the parallel sessions, “The Interacting Cell”, I was honoured to be selected to give a 15-minutes talk on my work entitled “The orchestration of chitin synthesis at the septation site of *Candida albicans*”. As a result, this allowed me to gain confidence in communicating my work to an expert audience and discussing my findings during networking events.

Actively participating in this conference was crucial for my future career especially since I am in my final year of my PhD. Being able to present my work in an international conference of this magnitude and discuss my data with internationally known researchers specialising in my field was inspiring, motivational and provided an excellent opportunity for networking and future collaborations.

**Maria Spyrou**

Gordon Research Conference (GRC) of Cellular and Molecular Fungal Biology, New Hampshire, 2019

I would like to thank The British Society for Medical Mycology for awarding me with the travel grant for attending the Gordon Research Conference (GRC) and Gordon Research Seminar (GRS) of Cellular and Molecular Fungal Biology in New Hampshire in June 16-22, 2018. I was fortunate to be selected for an oral presentation. My talk was titled ‘Noncanonical signaling mediates changes in fungal cell wall PAMPs that drive immune evasion’ and present a poster at GRC.

The entire duration of the Gordon Research conference was very well organised. First 2 days were especially designated for the Gordon Research Seminar where only PhD students and Post Doctorate researchers gathered to talk our own research and exchange our research expertise. The last day there was an amazing
Career Planning group meeting. The Pioneers from the fungal research and industry such as Judith Berman, Luis Larrondo, Nicholas Talbot, DawnAnne Thompson to name a few were able to give us tips which will help us for enormously to plan my future after our PhD.

The Gordon Research Conference (GRC) of Cellular and Molecular Fungal Biology in New Hampshire is one of the most prestigious and unique conference which only focuses on fungal research. The well-renowned scientists in this field from all over the world attended this conference. The scientific program contained insights into the current progress in the research on various fungal species, ranging from basic research (e.g. Nutritional signalling in expression of virulence factors of Candida albicans by Julia Koehler) to diagnostics and therapies (e.g. Challenges of Re-Engineering Yeast Central Carbon metabolism for Industrial Chemical Production by Annie Tsong). A special session exploring late-breaking topics in fungal was really eye-opening.

As a PhD student, this was the biggest platform for me to present and understand the current trends in global fungal research. Presenting my research in front of this renowned audience helped me gain novel and exceptional insight and advice regarding my research. Furthermore, this meeting helped me familiarize myself with the cutting edge techniques and advances emerging not only in my area of research but also in a broad area of other plant and animal fungus. Presenting my research finding in GRC was definitely a stepping stone in my research career. I am really looking forward to explore new scientific adventure which I will come across after my PhD. The other important aspect of this meeting was to meet excellent scientists and able to strengthen my networking. This gave me an enormous boost in confidence which will help me to find my path beyond my PhD.

Finally, I would like to thank my supervisor Prof Al Brown and my group members in Aberdeen Fungal Group for all the support.

I hope I will be given the opportunity to attend this conference again in 2020 and thank you once again The British Society for Medical Mycology for making it happen this time.

Thanking you.
Sincerely,
Arnab Pradhan

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.


Glyn Evans Award - Recipient reports

Supported by the BSMM Glyn Evans award, I attended the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, to receive in depth bioinformatics training from Dr Christina Cuomo, an expert in the genomics field and leader of the Fungal Genomics Group.

During my time at the Broad, I worked on understanding the relationship between pathogenic Mucoralean fungi, their bacterial endosymbionts and host innate immune cells. I took a bioinformatics approach to explore this interaction, an area in which Christina provided considerable expertise. The Broad’s focus on open accessibility of analytical tools gave me a wonderful environment in which to learn. The
computational resources and insightful seminars available enabled me to gain knowledge on a range of analytical techniques and tools, equipping me to carry out my own analysis.

The research visit provided me with the skill set required to analyse the complex data set we produced in the lab. As a result, exciting insights have been realised rapidly. This project has formed part of an ongoing collaboration, and one which I look forward to continuing. I hugely enjoyed my time at the Broad, and very much appreciate the time and knowledge shared with me. I would like to thank the BSMM for enabling the visit and helping to further this project, as well as Christina for hosting me and supporting me.

Poppy Sephton Clark

BSMM Subscription

Subscription to the BSMM allows discounted rates for the registration to the BSMM annual meeting and other meetings organised by ECMM (society to which we are affiliated). BSMM members are eligible to apply for the BSMM Travel grants and Glyn Evans Award. The annual membership subscription is £25.

Please remember to pay your membership fees of £25 (http://www.bsmm.org) for 2019 using the 'Buy now' PayPal link that will allow you to pay by debit or credit card. Please note that you do not need a PayPal account in order to complete payment or to log in as a BSMM member for payment. Before pressing the PayPal button, we invite the members renewing their membership or joining the society to kindly insert their name in the textbox above the PayPal button, as a reference for the payment.

BSMM Junior

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

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

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/BSMM.Junior
Twitter: https://twitter.com/BSMM_Junior

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

BSMM Executive Committee Members

Current posts and tenures:

Thomas Rogers– President (2016-2019)
Rebecca Gorton– Secretary (2017-2021)
Caroline Moore– Treasurer (2017-2022)
Lewis White – Meetings Secretary (2018-2021)
Margherita Bertuzzi – Website and junior rep (2016-2019)
Silke Schelenz – executive member (2016-2019)
Duncan Wilson – executive member (2017-2020)
Rohini Manuel (2018-2021)
Simon Johnston - meetings organiser (2017-2019)
Darius Armstrong-James (2018-2020)

BSMM Course: Diagnostic Medical Mycology

The next BSMM course in Diagnostic Medical Mycology will take place this year. The course includes practical sessions with lectures, clinical case studies and discussion groups and is aimed at biomedical scientists and specialist registrars. It starts with basic mycology and then deals with the clinical features, epidemiology,
pathogenesis and laboratory diagnosis of the superficial and systemic mycoses. This will include the characteristics and identification of dermatophytes, other moulds and yeasts, immunodiagnostic tests and laboratory testing and monitoring of antifungal therapy.

For further information and registration, please consult our website or please email Dr Ruth Ashbee (h.r.ashbee@leeds.ac.uk).

BSMM membership

The society has 274 members.

The current BSMM membership is comprised of 249 UK members and 25 overseas members.

Within the BSMM membership we have 38 honorary members and 4 life members.

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.

New members:
The Society would like to welcome its 27 new members since the last AGM: Christopher Donaldson (Sheffield), Aize Pellon (London), Jacob Rudman (Sheffield), Darren Thomson (Manchester), Shara Palanivel (London), Harriet Knaffler (Sheffield), Abeer Alghamdi (Glasgow), Shadab Farhadi Cheshmeh Morvari (Manchester), Theresa Wacker (Aberdeen), Ffion Hammond (Sheffield), Chloe Pelletier (Aberdeen), Hannah Zafar (Birmingham), Ellen Main (Aberdeen), Gabriella Mol Avelar (Aberdeen), Jamie Canedo (Sheffield), James Bradford (Sheffield), Katherine Pline (Sheffield), Jennifer Scott (Manchester), Leonard Farrugia (Aberdeen), Jessica Price (Bristol), Patrick McCluskey (Dublin), Julia Crunden (Bath), Sayema Khan (Manchester), Natasha Motsi (Manchester), Tyng Hwey Tan (Aberdeen), Takanori Furukawa (Manchester), Xin Zhou (Birmingham) and Zoe Ross (Aberdeen).

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 Dr Rebecca Gorton and Dr Margherita Bertuzzi at info.bsmm@gmail.com.

Forthcoming meetings

14th Annual Fungal Update
The QE2 Conference Centre, London, March 15th -16th 2019

29th ECCMID
Amsterdam, Netherlands, April 13th-16th 2019

30th Fungal Genetics Conference
Asilomar Conference Center, Pacific Grove, California, USA, March 12th-17th, 2019.

Fungal Pathogens Genomics
Wellcome Genome Campus, Hinxton, Cambridge, UK, May 7th-12th, 2019

FEBS Human Fungal Pathogen
La Colle sur Loup, France, May 18th -24th, 2019

14th Yeast Lipid Conference
Ljubljana, Slovenia, May 22nd – 24th, 2019

Molecular Mycology: Current Approaches to Fungal Pathogenesis
Woods Hole, Massachusetts, USA  
July 17th – August 2nd, 2019

29th International Conference on Yeast Genetics and Molecular Biology (ICYGMB)  
Gothenburg, Sweden, August 18th – 22nd, 2019

53rd Scientific Conference of the German speaking Mycological Society (DMykG)  
Mannheim, Germany, 5th -7th September 2019

9th Trends in Medical Mycology  
Nice, France, October 11th-14th, 2019

9th Advances against Aspergillosis and Mucormycosis  
Lugano, Switzerland, 27th – 29th February 2020

Candida and Candidiasis  
Montreal, Canada, 19th – 23rd April 2020

5th ECMM Educational Symposium  
Iasi, Romania, 18th-19th June 2020

Minutes from the 54th AGM Bristol 2018

Cadbury House, Bristol  
18th March 2018

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Derek Sullivan and Perera Nelun

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 20th March 2017 in Birmingham

The minutes were accepted as a correct record by the members present.

3. President’s report (Tom Rogers)

TR opened his report with the news that the BSMM will be undergoing a change to become a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO). Caroline Moore, Treasurer would give further information on this later in the meeting. The main reason for the change is to protect members of the Executive Committee from liability charges that could arise against the charity. This change to CIO status will require a vote by the membership (see appendix A for an explanatory slide presented to the membership).

He also highlighted changes to the constitution that had been made in 2005, and had been agreed at the 2005 AGM but these had not been uploaded as an amended constitution on to the BSMM website. The correct constitution will be uploaded in due course. Rebecca Gorton and Margherita Bertuzzi to action this.

There are changes to the membership of the Executive Committee, in that Ruth Ashbee (RA) has completed her term of office. TR thanked RA for her valuable service to the committee which had been very positive over six years. TR also mentioned that his term as president of the BSMM will be completed next year and a communication to this effect will be sent out to the membership in advance of next year’s AGM. RG to action.

TR informed the membership that the new Oxford Textbook of Medical Mycology has been published. TR congratulated the editors and authors involved, as this book is an excellent educational resource. A 40% reduction in the cost to BSMM members had been negotiated so that the book is only £75.00. So far there had been nine responses to the communications from RG offering this to the membership at the reduced price.

TR also announced the sad news of the passing of Professor Donald Mackenzie, past President of the Society. The BSMM have written an obituary which was published on the BSMM website and in the BSMM newsletter.

4. Treasurer’s report (Dr Caroline Moore)

CM presented her report to the membership, which had been sent out to the Executive ahead of the AGM as follows:

Treasurer’s report for financial year ended 31st December 2017
This is the financial statement for the British Society for Medical Mycology for the year ending 31st December 2017. The Independent Examiner’s Report to the Trustees of the British Society for Medical Mycology is on the first page. 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 the examiner’s attention. The accounts are broken down on the following 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 2017. The details are found in the Notes on pages 3-5 of the accounts. Where available, the figures for 2016 are shown on the far right for comparison. The figures shown in the accounts do not include VAT.

The income for 2017 (page 1) consisted of subscriptions amounting to £5,098 (£2,603 in 2016), surplus from both the Leeds course of £2,712 (£8,551) and the 2017 Annual Meeting of £10,270 (£3591), together with UCL profit share (relating to MSc course) of £12,179 (£0) and a small amount of bank interest of £25 (£205). Thanks must undoubtedly go to our new Honorary Secretary, Rebecca Gorton, for her fruitful efforts in chasing membership payments. As stated, the Leeds Mycology course was run again in 2017, making £2,712 profit. The detailed accounts for the course can be seen in note 3 on page 4 of the accounts. Our sincere appreciation goes to Ruth Ashbee for her continued dedication in running this course for almost 20 years.

The 2017 53rd BSMM Annual Meeting held in Birmingham made £10,270 profit, due to having to pay far fewer travel expenses than anticipated. The detailed accounts for the meeting can be seen in note 4 on page 4 of the accounts. Thanks to Robin May and Jude Williams for organising such a successful meeting, and thanks also to the Meetings Secretary, Lewis White, for the meeting programme.

Profit share for the UCL course for academic years 14/15 and 15/16 was £12,179 (£0 in 2016). We are very grateful to Chris Kibbler and his team for such tremendous efforts over the past 14 years in running this course.

Therefore, total income of the BSMM for 2017 was £30,284 (£14,950 in 2016).

Expenses of the Society are summarised on the lower half of page 1.

- Seven (11 in 2016) travel grants were awarded in 2017 amounting to £3,167 (£4,028 in 2016).
- The BSMM made one (1 in 2016) Glyn Evans award in 2017 amounting to £850 (£1,096 in 2016).
- Speaker expenses for jointly organised meetings amounted to £350 for FIS (£0 in 2016).

There were no expenses in 2017 for the UK Clinical Mycology Network (£0 in 2016) and no bursaries for the UCL MSc course were awarded in 2017 (£1,139 in 2016).

The Management and Administration costs were £5,089 [£11,875 (£10,000 for Killer Fungus Exhibition) in 2016]. The detailed costs are shown in Note 2 on page 3 of the accounts. Increased costs are primarily due to three extraordinary events: Charity Trustees’ training costs (£979), new website design and training costs (£1,155) and travel costs for the Executive Committee Strategic Away Day (£253).

The total expenses for the BSMM for 2017 amounted to £9,456 (£18,138 in 2016).

The net incoming resources for 2017 were £20,828 (£-3,188 in 2016). The balance sheet of the Society is shown on page 2 of the accounts and details the various bank accounts held by the BSMM. The British Society for Medical Mycology finished 2017 with a net worth of £177,969 (£157,141 in 2016).

I would like to take this opportunity to inform the membership about our HSBC bank accounts.
The Society had two accounts, amounting to some £75,000. Historically these accounts had not been used for a considerable length of time, and as a result, were unexpectedly closed by HSBC. The funds have been fully claimed from HSBC, and will be transferred to a new bank account, mindful of the Deposit Compensation Limit of £85,000. Steps will be taken to ensure that this situation cannot happen in the future.

I would like to finish my report by extending my thanks to two individuals. Firstly, to the previous Honorary Treasurer, Riina Richardson, for her help and encouragement during my first year as Honorary Treasurer, and to Mr Keith Thomson of Gardner and Partners Accountants in Aberdeen, who has been an extremely helpful accountant for the BSMM over the last 12 years, and especially for his patience and understanding during my first year.

Manchester, 16th March 2018

Dr Caroline Moore

Honorary Treasurer for the British Society for Medical Mycology

The finance report was proposed by Dr Donna McCallum and seconded by Dr Julian Naglik and approved by membership present.

Feedback from the membership on the financial report:

- Professor Chris Kibbler highlighted that as a charity we shouldn’t accumulate money.
- Professor Neil Gow asked what the BSMM policy is for maintaining the accounts balance for the BSMM in expenditure and investment. Professor Neil Gow stated we need a policy as a charity for how the BSMM finances are managed. RG replied that, as part of incorporation, policies will be written for all BSMM functions.

5. Secretary’s report

Rebecca Gorton gave the following report “This first year of tenure as the BSMM honorary secretary has been challenging but has gone well. I would like to thank Professor Gordon Ramage for his support in the transition period which has been vital to learning the ins and outs of the secretary role.

I would like to express my apologies for the confusion in the last year with the recent email address changes and to remind all members that the BSMM general email had migrated last year to the address info.bsmm@gmail.com. If anyone needs to contact me this is the email address to use. This information has been emailed out to the membership again and hopefully moving forward will enable contact to be secure and streamlined.

The next item for discussion is the changes required in the BSMM to meet the requirements of the GDPR information security act which will activate in May. The changes include implementing an upgraded GDPR database and a new GDPR information security policy. It is important as a charity that we are in line with GDPR and have the correct processes in place for the storing and use of personal data. In the coming months the changes will be put in place and once ready the information security policy will be published on the website and sent out to the membership along with a request for instruction on how members can inform the BSMM on how they would like their data to be used.

Update on the membership: RG informed the members present that we have managed to streamline the membership by removing any members who have not paid their fees for more than 3 years. In total the BSMM has on record 305 members which is made up of standard paying members 87.2% (266/305), honorary members 11.8% (36/305) and life members 1% (3/305). Figure 1 details the breakdown of payments made across the 305 members.
Discussion with the membership focused on how to progress with the membership database, with the consideration that 39 members have not paid their fees for 3 years. Professor Neil Gow stated that these members should be removed from the database and it was not necessary to contact them. Professor David Warnock seconded this and it was felt by many that it was not necessary to contact members if they have not paid for three years or more, but to remove them from the database. RG agreed this would be the course of action she would take after the meeting.

The good news is that the membership has grown by 24 new members in 2017-2018. The table below details the new members and RG welcomed them to the society.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BSMM new members</th>
<th>2017 (10)</th>
<th>2018 (14)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nada Alghamdi</td>
<td>Leeds</td>
<td>Rhys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khaled Aloiaid</td>
<td>Kuwait</td>
<td>Joanne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthias Backx</td>
<td>Cardiff</td>
<td>Stella</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anna Goodman</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>Ruth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helen Heany</td>
<td>Aberdeen</td>
<td>Sara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maire O’Sullivan</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Olivia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selinda Orr</td>
<td>Cardiff</td>
<td>Harriet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aiysha Thompson</td>
<td>Cardiff</td>
<td>Catherine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Ward</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>Bethany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emmanuel Wey</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>Christopher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Christina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Nikolaospolou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Elena</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Shekova</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bryn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Short</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Fandra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sudradjat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Travel grants/awards: Rebecca Gorton informed the membership that over the last year fourteen grants were awarded to BSMM members equating to £5,550 in total, as detailed in table 2 below. The breakdown was as follows:

- 6 travel grants awarded 2017
- 1 Glynn Evans award 2017
- 7 Travel grants awarded 2018

Table 2. Travel grants and awards given to BSMM members in 2017/2018
Proposed change to Incorporation of the charity

CM explained the CIO structure and the legal entity component of having an identity as a charity. This is a crucial change required to protect the Executive Committee members (see appendix A for a slide presented to the membership). CM stated that the Executive hope to have the support of the membership for this change.

Professor Rosemary Barnes asked how much it costs and how it is different to a Ltd company structure. Professor Barnes recalls a Federation of Infection Societies issue when they became a Ltd company. In response TR explained this was not a concern, as financially it will not cost anything other than possibly hiring a consultant to guide us through the process. He added that other charities, e.g., Healthcare Infection Society, have undertaken the CIO conversion with success.

TR asked what the membership thought about the proposed change. Professor David Warnock stated that asking people to volunteer to become a member of the Executive Committee under the old non-CIO structure will be very hard so this is a good change to allow future executives to be elected ‘risk free’. It was suggested that the BSMM Executive should put out a document on pros and cons of the CIO. Professor Chris Kibbler agreed this is the way to go.

TR explained that the membership most likely need to vote on the proposed change. TR asked the membership if they prefer a postal vote or an extraordinary meeting to vote? Professor Gow stated this instruction should be in the constitution and we would need to dissolve the charity, therefore we should get a majority vote. TR suggested using the electoral reform society but there is a cost to this. RA suggested the cost is about £1500. This will be taken back to the Executive to decide.

Aberdeen & BSMM joint bid to host TIMM 2021 in Aberdeen (Tom Rogers/Adilia Warris)

The joint proposal to bid for TIMM 2021 was introduced by TR, who explained that Dr Adilia Warris and Prof Neil Gow had approached the BSMM to support the TIMM 2021 bid and that a proposal has been submitted. AW said the TIMM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Applicant</th>
<th>Conference/course</th>
<th>Applied</th>
<th>Awarded</th>
<th>Membership</th>
<th>Contribution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Dhara Malavia</td>
<td>HFP advanced lecture course 2017</td>
<td>873</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>Talk at the elevators session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Eleanor Townsend</td>
<td>ECCMID 2017, Vienna, 22nd – 25th April</td>
<td>£401.63</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>1.2 years</td>
<td>None stated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Aaron Crawford</td>
<td>Course on Human Fungal Pathogens</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>1.8 years</td>
<td>Presented a poster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Ryan Kean</td>
<td>Eurobiofilms 2017, Amsterdam</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>Poster Presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Chibuike Ibe</td>
<td>Fungal Cell Wall Conference 2017, Mexico</td>
<td>£811.04</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>Presentation at the BSMM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Ali Abdolrasouli</td>
<td>Research visit to Aberdeen</td>
<td>£1,000</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>BSMM 2014 WGS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Courtney Kousser</td>
<td>8th Advances Against Aspergilosis</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>Poster session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Daniel Elliott</td>
<td>BSMM 54th meeting</td>
<td>£355</td>
<td>£200</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>Poster presentation BSMM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Dora Corzo Leon</td>
<td>BSMM 54th meeting</td>
<td>£305</td>
<td>£200</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>Poster presentation BSMM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Giuseppe Buda De Cesare</td>
<td>14th ASM</td>
<td>£950.40</td>
<td>£500</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>Poster presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Maria Spyrou</td>
<td>14th ASM</td>
<td>£871.91</td>
<td>£500</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>Poster presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Judith Bain</td>
<td>ISHAM</td>
<td>£289</td>
<td>£350</td>
<td>7 years</td>
<td>Poster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Rosemary Barnes</td>
<td>ISHAM</td>
<td>£390</td>
<td>£350</td>
<td>34 years</td>
<td>Presented FPCRI session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Lily Novak Fraser</td>
<td>ISHAM</td>
<td>£360</td>
<td>£350</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>Presenting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
conference had not been held in the UK for some years and this would be the 10th anniversary meeting. She added that ideas were being formulated on how to celebrate the event which would be held in the new Aberdeen Conference Centre, and they want to do this in close collaboration with the BSMM. AW confirmed that at the moment there is no additional work to do, but if the bid is successful they will need to form a Local Organising Committee. The LOC will require a nice balance of all the centres in the UK and a scientific organising committee, this is done with the EORTC-IDG and ECMM groups who have a team of people to manage this process to form the executive committee. The vote for who is awarded TIMM 2021 will be on 2nd July at ECMM Council during ISHAM. No financial liability will be placed on the BSMM and it will receive some share of any surplus funds. TR stated a written agreement with Aberdeen will be required going forward. AW stated that Aberdeen University are not involved, as Congress Care does the organising. TR suggested this is a good development for the society. Prof Gow stated the new conference centre is state-of-the-art, and close to the airport. This is a huge plus point. He added that Adilia Warris had secured a very good financial deal with the conference centre.

8. Working parties

Serology: Prof Malcolm Richardson will be approached as lead for Fungal Serology so we are going to come up with some aims and the little black book will be revised. Prof. Rosemary Barnes stated that the working parties should be time-limited, TR agreed and we will discuss it with the working party leads.

Mycology Teaching: RA explained that 4 people only had responded to the teaching survey RA thanked those who contributed. RG will send out the survey again and then we will try to boost responses to this working party so that we can have a productive output

TR stated we are in a wind down phase of the old UCL MSc course and we are entering a new dawn for the newly proposed MSc course. Prof. C Kibbler has sent a written report as detailed below:

**BSMM/UCL MSc/Diploma/Certificate Course**

The Society’s Course is now in its fourteenth year and has enrolled students from five continents. The course has been closed to new students at UCL since 2015, as the student numbers recruited did not comply with the university’s target for financially viable courses. UCL has undertaken to support the remaining students through the remainder of their studies and I, as Programme Director, will continue to supervise this process. The most recently recruited students potentially have another year to complete the course after this current academic year, although all have expressed an intention to graduate this year. There are currently 6 remaining in the programme.

The Board of Examiners were pleased to award two MSc merits, one MSc pass, one PG Diploma distinction, one Diploma merit and one Diploma pass, one Certificate distinction and one Certificate merit this last academic year. The external examiners again commented on the high standard of the students’ work and attainments, concluding that marking was fair and transparent, and the course was well taught and balanced. They had no recommendations for changing any of the assessments or course content.

The Society’s 50% profit-share for 2016-17 was £1,393.29. No bursaries were awarded last year.

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

As this is likely to be the final year of the programme at UCL, I would like to especially...
thank all those from the Society who have contributed vast amounts of their time and effort over the years. In particular, I am enormously indebted to the Module Tutors: Gillian Shankland, Andy Borman, Rohini Manuel, Ruth Ashbee, Sue Howell, Liz Johnson, Brian Jones, Rosemary Barnes, Neil Gow, Donna MacCallum, Tim McHugh and Richard Barton, but there are many more who have contributed lectures, acted as supervisors, conducted assessments and generally supported our students. To all of you I apologise for my frequent hassling, but I hope you agree it has been worth it and I hope that many of you will continue to support the course in its new home.

Prof C Kibbler thanked everyone for all their support with the UCL course. TR thanked Prof Kibbler for all his work with 74 graduates as the legacy of the course. TR explained there have been discussions with Aberdeen and Donna McCallum/Adilia Warris to continue the course. Dr Donna McCallum made a brief supporting comment to say she is excited about the course coming to Aberdeen. The university has a great platform for online courses. Dr McCallum is happy that they have the right model for the course. The main considerations are now to identify the BSMM members who want to (continue to) be involved, and we need to review arrangements for the Leeds and Molecular courses. In September the plan is to get the first two modules up and running. TR suggested we need to confirm that Richard Barton, who runs the molecular course is willing to continue, or if not we will need to find a replacement. Dr McCallum also stated that the Oxford text book will be used for the post-graduate certificate. Professor Ramage asked if the negotiations for the course have to wait for the BSMM charitable status to become CIO etc? TR and Dr Donna McCallum confirmed that no it doesn’t and we can go ahead with plans for the MSc. Dr Silke Schelenz asked if trainee clinical staff can subscribe to the modules rather than the whole course. DMcC explained that this would be the case.

10. UK Clinical Mycology Network (UKCMN)

Dr Silke Schelenz reported that the UKCMN has 19 members, this year there have been 3 new applications from laboratories. The last educational meeting held by the UKCMN was in 2015. Public Health England have withdrawn funding and it has been hard to find other sources of funding to support the UKCMN meetings.

A possible BSMM and UKCMN joint meeting in September was one idea that was suggested and Bart’s colleagues have expressed an interest to have the UK CMN meeting as a shared meeting with Fungal Update. The Executive will consider this proposal at their next meeting.

With respect to guidance on clinical topics and fungal diagnostics the UKCMN has had a pivotal role in the writing of SMI and Dr Riina Richardson has been involved. ESPAUR has set up a fungal group for surveillance of diagnostics and the UK CMN is represented in this group. The survey output is pending for the BSMM best practice guidance and will be published. Anti-fungal stewardship through the NHS CQUIN initiative is imminent and the policies require guidance from the UK CMN.

Finally, all laboratories in the UK CMN have been contacted and asked to feed back to the UK CMN on what they think should be the network’s aims and this is now hopefully leading to a meeting of the UK CMN.

11. Leeds course

RA reported on the Leeds BSMM Mycology course that ran last year, with 22 delegates which is a reduction compared to previous years. RA suggested that care needs to be taken over the costs involved. From the feedback she had received from participants she stated that the course length should not be shortened, therefore a decision has been made to keep the 5-days length for the course. Last year the profit was £2,700. RA thanked all those who lecture on the course including: Richard Barton, Gillian Shankland, Rosemary Barnes, Chris Kibbler, Silke Schelenz and Elizabeth Johnson. The
venue for the course is going to change to the Leeds Beckett University but RA still needs to get a date confirmed for the 2019 course and get more people enrolling. TR asked how long it has been running – RA confirmed it’s been 22 years. Professor C. Kibbler asked if we could offer bursaries and TR agreed that, yes, we can if those applying have been a member of BSMM for more than 2 years. RA stated the money is not the only issue as the time away from work is also difficult to arrange. The point was made that NHS labs are reluctant to release people for 5 days. This is the sticking point. Professor Neil Gow asked if we could link this with e.g., the Royal College of Pathologists. RA said it was hard to compromise the course length but she understood the issues involved.

12. Annual Scientific meetings

Bristol 2018 feedback

TR said he was sure all would agree that this meeting has been a huge success and gave thanks on behalf of the membership to Dr Andy Borman and his colleagues who supported him.

AB reported that the meeting had 120 full-time attendees and 6 or 7 day delegates. There were 12 industry partners. The meeting is expected to make £4500 - £6000 profit.

Sheffield 2019

Dr Lewis White stated Sheffield is the confirmed venue for 2019 Annual Meeting and 3 venues are under investigation. Costs were being worked out in collaboration with Dr Simon Johnston, local organiser.

London 2020

TR said that London had been proposed by Dr Darius Armstrong-James as venue for 2020 but an issue may be higher costs which is currently under investigation.

13. Website update – Margherita Bertuzzi

MB reported a successful year with the website. MB would appreciate more pictures linked to BSMM activity; if members have any pictures they want to post then they can be sent to MB. Feedback on the website is always welcome. TR thanked MB for the great work she has done to improve the website. Her efforts are very much appreciated.

14. Election of life and honorary members

TR announced that the Executive has recommended to make Professor Gordon Ramage and Dr Riina Richardson honorary members of the BSMM in acknowledgment of their contributions to the Society including being officers on the Executive. For the future, the Executive have decided that an effort to transfer honorary to life members where appropriate will be made, but also the Executive will start to look to make the specifications for honorary membership stricter and clearer as a large proportion of the membership are now honorary members. Prof David Warnock raised the point that any changes need to be in the constitution. This was noted by TR, RG and CM.

15. Executive Committee membership

TR confirmed that RA has completed her term of office on the Executive. Dr Rohini Manuel was proposed as a new member of the Executive by TR and her nomination was seconded by Prof. C. Kibbler. As no one came forward to contest the re-election of Dr Lewis White he will continue as Meetings Secretary for a second term.

16. Any Other Business

TR mentioned that he represents BSMM on the ECMM Council, which generally meets once a year. He thought it would be good if the minutes could be requested from their meetings in order to circulate these to BSMM membership. Martin Hoenigl is the new President and TR agreed to
approach the ECMM to see if they will agree to this. ECMM are actively appointing new Fellows and new Centers of Excellence according to their pre-set criteria (on ECMM website).

Appendix A

**Charitable Incorporated Organization (CIO)**

- Is a new legal form for a Charity.
- Will only require registration with the Charity Commission.
- The governing document will be a constitution.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unincorporated</th>
<th>Incorporated (CIO)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trustees are <strong>personally liable</strong> for an unlimited amount</td>
<td>The trustees are protected in most circumstances against contractual liabilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The group cannot enter into contracts in its own name</td>
<td>The charity has a legal personality of its own, enabling it to conduct business in its own name, rather than the name of the trustees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>It will not be as straightforward as running an unincorporated association or a charitable trust.</td>
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