Dear BSMM members,

It was a privilege for me to have been nominated to stand as President of the BSMM and then to be elected into this post. I was very aware that as President, I was following in the footsteps of an extended series of world renowned colleagues and friends whose company I have enjoyed, who acted as my advisors and mentors and who carried the medical mycology torch so well. We are a small society – but one that will continue to have an incredibly important role in protecting and nurturing a field that is well below the size and capacity that it should be. The BSMM (or as it was when I first joined, The British Mycopathological Society), has had a career long influence on me. I am certain for those who are now just beginning to find their vocation in medial mycology, you will also find, a welcoming and enthusiastic community of people in our society with whom you will likely enjoy long lasting and important relationships. As a member, you will also be exposed to great science and our unrivalled tradition of informality and collegiality, encapsulated by our annual singsong that makes us unique.

The work of members of the BSMM has done much to level the playing field in medical mycology, so that national funders now recognise the true global impact of fungal disease. However, we cannot rest of any successes of the past. We remain vulnerable because of our small size, but we no longer need to be concerned that our discipline is not seen as being important or competitive or that others do not appreciate that our members deliver vital clinical and diagnostic advice and services. The quality of research undertaken in our discipline sits comfortably alongside the very best in the infectious diseases sector as a whole. Our annual meetings, training courses, support structures and network of colleagues and mentors are critical resources for all of us. As members of the BSMM we are amongst likeminded and similarly passionate advocates of a discipline of major clinical importance. We do however depend absolutely on each generation of new members to become actively involved and contribute to the workings of our society, and for all of us to encourage those who would benefit from our patronage to join up as members. Every one of our members has a role to play in this common endeavour.

There is lots to look forward to in the next year. We will be co-hosts in London of a major meeting Mycology2020 that has been put together by the BSMM and the Fungal Update meeting. This will be an exciting and important international meeting that brings together clinicians, industrial and academic [http://mycology2020.co.uk/]. We are also the local hosts for TIMM 2021 – the tenth TIM – a meeting that will take place in Aberdeen’s brand new conference centre. If you saw this year’s Sports Personality of the Year programme on the BBC you will have sight of what to expect of this venue. This newsletter will inform you or other BSMM-led initiatives.

Whilst there are formal things on the agenda, the BSMM is always highly receptive to receiving
suggestions from our members of ideas and new projects that we might support. We are committed to being a society whose role is to support our members and the art and science of medical mycology. Nothing more, nothing less. If you wish to contribute your thoughts, please do get in touch. In the meantime, I look forward to seeing many of you at the QE2 Centre in London on March 13th and 14th.

Prof Neil Gow
BSMM president

The rapid emergence of SARS-CoV-2, the cause of COVID-19, has happened so quickly that this has had to be added as an addendum my column in the newsletter. Despite this, the Mycology2020 meeting is going ahead this week - and we will enjoy almost the original programme with the help of Skype to link us to some of the delegates who were prevented from travelling. To me this extraordinary event also reminds us of the vulnerability of us all to infection, the fact that corona virus has instantly become part of the world conversation, and know that the burden of fungal infections will remain very high but will receive little press coverage. Also, as with this new viral pathogen, that we have no vaccine against any fungal pathogen. The COVID-19 pandemic will be a milestone in microbiological history no doubt – and it should also underscore our resolve as medical microbiologists in general to contribute to tackling global infection threats.

Prof Neil Gow
BSMM president

BSMM website (www.bsmm.org)

Please note that the previous login system for members has been discontinued, but there is still a BSMM members section for accessing the BSMM resources. Login details for accessing the members section will be the same for all members and circulated via email upon subscription. Please note that these details are general for the membership: please do not change. 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 55th Annual Meeting Picture Gallery

Some pictures of the 55th Annual meeting held in Sheffield last March.

Birthday celebration for the Executive Committee member Dr Duncan Wilson from the University of Exeter
Poster prize winner Dr Takanori Furukawa, University of Manchester

**Mycology 2020 programme**


**13th March**

08:30 Registration and Coffee

09:30 Welcome and opening remarks
*Neil Gow and Samir Agrawal*

**KEYNOTE LECTURE**
*Chair: Neil Gow*
09:45 Host susceptibility to pathogenic fungi
*Agostinho Carvalho - View Bio*

**Parallel 1: Haemato-oncology 1: IFD prophylaxis and management**
*Chair: Nicole Bijlevens*
10:20 Cologne, Germany
*Philipp Köhler - View Bio*
10:40 Turin, Italy
*Alessandro Busca - View Bio*
11:00 London
*Samir Agrawal*

**Parallel 2: Offered Papers**

*Chair: Adilia Warris*
10:20 Interdependency of host and pathogen protein persulfidation governs disease severity in experimental and human aspergilloses
*Jorge Amich - View Bio*
10:40 Dual role of peroxynitrite in *A. fumigatus*-host interactions
*Elena Shekhova - View Bio*
11:00 Comparative genomic analyses of *A. fumigatus* strains reveals disease-specific pathogenicity drivers
*Sara Gago - View Bio*
11:20 Q&A

11:40 Refreshments, networking & poster viewing

**Parallel 1: Invited Lecture - Haemato-Oncology 2: Is there an optimal IFD protocol?**
*Chair: Mansour Ceesay*
12:05 Haemato-Oncology 2: Is there an optimal IFD protocol?
*Johan Maertens - View Bio*

**Parallel 2: Offered Papers**
*Chair: Lewis White*
12:05 *Cryptococcus* as a model system for gene expression regulation: control of protein abundance and structure by alternate start codons and their sequence context
*Edward Wallace - View Bio*
12:25 Gilead Fellows Talk 1: New insights into antifungal modes of action
*Elaine Bignell*

12:50 A Foray with Fungi: what our experiences teach us about managing fungal infections – Symposium supported by Gilead

13:30 Lunch, Networking and Poster Viewing

14:20 Evolving epidemiology and treatment approaches for invasive infections in Solid Organ Transplant Patients
*Symposium supported by Pfizer*
*Anand Shah - View Bio*
PLENARY: KEYNOTE PRESENTATION - SUPPORTED BY ISHAM
Chair: Malcolm Richardson
14:50 Medical mycology at a cross-road: the role of international organizations
Arunaloke Chakrabarti - View Bio

Parallel 1: Diagnostics
Chair: Lewis White
15:25 Performance of different lateral flow assays for rapid detection of aspergillosis
Martin Hoenigl - View Bio
15:45 Assays for rapid detection of antifungal resistance
Paul Verweij - View Bio
16:05 Next generation sequencing for invasive fungal disease
Julianne Kus - View Bio
16:25 Q&A

Parallel 2: Meet the Pathogen
Chair: Elaine Bignell
15:25 Pneumocystis jiroveci Alexandre Alanio - View Bio
15:45 Cryptococcus gattii and long distance virulence
Robin May - View Bio
16:05 COFUN: An update on the construction and use of genome wide-knockout library in A. fumigatus
Mike Bromley - View Bio
16:25 Q&A
16:30 Refreshments, networking & poster viewing

Parallel 1
Chair: Johan Maertens
16:55 Fungal adaptation in CF and CPA through parasex: How to survive without sex.
Eveline Snelders - View Bio

Parallel 2: Flash talks
Chair: Rebecca Gorton
16:55 An evaluation of the performance of the IMMY sona Aspergillus Galactomannan Lateral flow assay when testing serum to aid in the diagnosis of invasive aspergillosis.

17:05 Identification Of Drug Combinations To Entrap In A Carrier For The Treatment Of Onychomycosis
Arunaloke Chakrabarti - View Bio

Parallel 1: Interactive case studies Mycology 2020
Chair: Jonathan Lambourne
17:25 Case Study 1
17:35 Case Study 2
17:45 Case Study 3

BSMM
17:25 Annual General Meeting
18:00 Close of day 1
19:00 Invited dinner at the House of Lords, Palace of Westminster – pre-booking is essential OR BSMM Sing Song and buffet supper at Kings head pub 10 Stafford Street, London

14th March

Parallel 1: NGS and Mycobiome
Chair: Malcolm Richardson
08:30 Microbiome-mycobiome interactions and human disease
David Moyes - View Bio
08:50 Host next generation sequencing and risk of fungal disease
Oliver Kurzai - View Bio
09:10 Gilead Fellows Talk 2: Triazole resistance mechanisms in Aspergillus fumigatus: what do we learn from full genome sequencing?”
Darius Armstrong-James
09:20 Q&A

Parallel 2: Offered Papers
Chair: Paul Verweij
08:30 Who regulates the regulator? – Kinase mediated regulation of the molecular chaperone Hsp90 and its role in fungal virulence
08:45 Toward new insights into the role of the lung microbiota in invasive pulmonary aspergillosis
Anaïs Hervaux - View Bio
09:00 Epithelial uptake of Aspergillus fumigatus spores drives efficient fungal clearance in vivo and is aberrant in Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) patients
Margherita Bertuzzi - View Bio
09:15 Q&A

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION
Chair: Neil Gow
09:30 C-type lectins in anti-fungal immunity
Gordon Brown - View Bio

Parallel 1: Fungal infections in CF and bronchiectasis
Chair: Rohini Manuel
10:15 Diagnosis of fungal pathogens in CF
Andrew Jones - View Bio
10:40 Sensitization in Non-Cystic Fibrosis Bronchiectasis
Micheàl Maìc Aogàin - View Bio
11:00 Managing non-Aspergillus mould infections
Anand Shah - View Bio

Parallel 2: Offered papers
Chair: Darius Armstrong-James
10:15 Immune characteristics of patients with influenza associated pulmonary aspergillosis (IAPA)
10:35 Characterisation of Cryptococcus gattii derived extracellular vesicles and their role in fungal virulence
Gerard Sheehan - View Bio
10:50 Calcium sequestration by fungal melanin reprograms macrophage metabolism toward glycolysis and antifungal immunity
Samuel Gonçalves - View Bio
11:10 Gilead Fellows talk 3

PLENARY: BSMM V FUNGAL UPDATE DEBATE
Chair: Samir Agrawal
11:45 Optimal fungal management – Immunology not microbiology
Frank Van de Veerdonk and Silke Schelenz
12:30 Plenary sponsored Session – Bruker
12:45 Rezafungin: a Novel, Once-Weekly Echinocandin in Phase 3 Development for Treatment and Prevention of Invasive Fungal Disease. Session sponsored by Cidara Therapeutics
Varun Mehra

13:00 Lunch, networking & poster viewing

PLENARY KEYNOTE PRESENTATION
Chair: Darius Armstrong-James
13:45 Influenza and Aspergillosis co-infection – an update
Frank Van de Veerdonk - View Bio

Parallel 1: Immunity and clinical impact
Chair: Duncan Wilson
14:35 SNPs and risk stratification for the clinic
Lewis White - View Bio
14:55 Host response to Aspergillus in asthma and allergic lung disease
Peter Cook - View Bio
15:15 Aspergillus fumigatus Cell Wall Promotes Apical Airway Epithelial Recruitment of Human Neutrophils
Jayin Vyas - View Bio
1535 Q&A

Parallel 2: Oral presentations from selected abstracts
Chair: Adilia Warris
14:35 Reverse engineering of Aspergillus pH signalling for anti-fungal drug discovery
Bethany McCann - View Bio
14:55 Improvement in Diagnosis of Dermatophytosis through (Lean) Real-Time Molecular Techniques
Prospective evaluation of T2MR for the diagnosis of Invasive Candidiasis in ICU patients

Q&A

Plenary:

Presentations of prizes for winning posters

Darius Armstrong-James

Closing remarks

Samir Agrawal and Neil Gow

BSMM Travel grant applications

The next travel grant deadlines will be 1/03/2020, 1/09/2020 and 1/03/2021.

More information at:
http://www.bsmm.org/front/grants-funding/

Travel grant reports from grant recipients

Human Fungal Pathogens 2019 Advanced Lecture Course, La Colle sur Loup, France

With the support of the BSMM Travel Award, I was able to attend the 8th FEBS Advanced Lecture Course on Human Fungal Pathogens - Molecular Mechanisms of Host-Pathogen Interactions and Virulence that took place in La Colle sur Loup in France, from 18th-24th of May 2019. In this course, I was selected by the event organisers to present the findings of my PhD in a poster with the title “Characterisation of the C-type Lectin, MelLec, in antifungal immunity” during poster session B. This was an excellent opportunity for me to present my work and receive feedback from the experts in this field. This meeting, which is one of the foremost meetings in the fungal pathogenesis field, gathers medical mycologists and fungal immunologists from all over the world to discuss the molecular mechanisms by which fungal pathogens cause virulence and serious diseases. It is a course aimed at promoting interactions between students and principal investigators.

Over the 6 days of the course, I attended the seminars in all 7 sessions, workshop and elevator talks as well as keynote lectures. The talks that stood out for me from this course were the one from Salomé LeibundGut-Landmann from University of Zürich who showed that type 17 immunity is required for fungal control in Malassezia-infected skin, and the one from Axel Brakhage from Hans Knoll Institute who showed that melanin of Aspergillus fumigatus inhibits the formation of lipid drafts, which are required for vATPase assembly on the phagolysosome membrane of bone-marrow derived macrophages.

A fascinating lecture was also given by one of the keynote speakers, Jack Edwards from University of California, who shared the development of the fungal immunotherapeutic vaccine, NDV-3A, for the treatment of recurrent vulvovaginal candidiasis. Importantly, he showed that anti-NDV-3A mouse antibodies bind to the strains of the emerging fungal pathogen Candida auris and sera from NDV-3A vaccinated mice inhibit biofilm formation of C. auris and enhances opsonophagocytosis. The work being performed by all these amazing scientists is very inspiring! During this course, I was also able to visit Monaco Monte-Carlo in one free afternoon. Altogether it was a fantastic scientific and personal experience and I would like to thank the BSMM again for their support.

Christina Nikolakopoulou
University of Exeter

Human Fungal Pathogens 2019 Advanced Lecture Course, La Colle sur Loup, France

In May 2019, I had the privilege of attending and presenting at my first international conference, the Human Fungal Pathogens 2019 Advanced Lecture Course, in La Colle sur Loup, France. As a bit of a homebody, this was a huge deal to me, I didn’t even have a passport before this conference! I’d also never presented on an actual stage, to such a large audience before.

The research I presented was about the environmental stress resistance of Candida auris compared to other pathogenic Candida species, particularly in relation to the stresses associated
with the hospital laundering process. I was absolutely terrified about presenting this work in an elevator talk and as a poster (my first ever poster) in an evening session. However, it went really well! I got lots of positive feedback and lots of interesting questions at my poster. It was a really encouraging and supportive environment, with lots of opportunity to network in informal settings, such as, over coffee or dinner. I have never been in the same place as so many scientists from all around the world before, it was an amazing atmosphere, and made me feel like a real part of the wider scientific community. It also gave me the opportunity to get different perspectives on my research and explore collaboration possibilities.

The large range of presenters and attendees also meant that not only did the talks & posters deepen my knowledge of the fungi I work with, but also expanded my knowledge into other fungi, such as, *Cryptococcus, Curvularia, Histoplasma* and *Aspergillus*. This breadth of knowledge is priceless and really highlighted to me, not only the similarities and vast diversity between fungal species, but also the worldwide impact of pathogenic fungi as a whole. Many talks also gave fascinating insights into both immunology and fungi in the human gut, which is helping inform my current research, looking into the interactions between *Candida* and commensal gut bacteria in humans.

Thank you so much to the BSMM for facilitating my attendance at this conference, I feel like a gained so much knowledge and confidence there.

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Helen Heaney
Aberdeen Fungal Group

Human Fungal Pathogens 2019 Advanced Lecture Course, La Colle sur Loup, France

I was an invited speaker at the eighth FEBS Advanced Lecture Course on Human Fungal Pathogens in La Colle Sur Loup, just outside Nice, France, from 18th-24th May 2019. This highly popular and well-attended residential course (>200 participants) is aimed at young scientists (PhD and postdoctoral level) within the fungal field and covered topics including fungal genomics, evolution and epidemiology, molecular and cell biology, novel research tools, host pathogen interaction and antifungal strategies. My talk was in this last session and covered the evolution of antifungal drug treatment for cryptococcal meningitis, including clinical trials and promising new agents in the drug development pipeline.

UK Mycology was very well represented with PIs and their groups from Aberdeen, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Exeter and Edinburgh. Unlike many seasoned veterans of this meeting, it was my first HFP meeting. As a clinical scientist, I initially felt a bit of an impostor, but was soon made to feel very welcome and introduced to folk I did not know- it was great to put faces to
famous’ fungal names I had only known by reputation/publication.

There were two excellent keynote lectures by Judy Berman (Tel Aviv, Israel) on genotypic and phenotypic mechanisms of antifungal resistance and Jack Edwards (UCLA, USA) on the decades-long journey towards development of a Candida vaccine. Overall, the course struck a good balance between invited lectures by established PIs as well as shorter (workshop) talks and 5-minute elevator talks at which young scientists did a highly focused job (often more so than their PIs!) in pitching their research for lively poster sessions held in the evenings after a few drinks.

As a 5-day residential meeting at a small hotel (almost like a French Butlin’s outside of season) located within a pine forest on the outskirts of a Provençal village, some of the most memorable moments were the relaxed discussions over mealtimes and at the bar in the evening, forging the basis for new friendships and potential future collaborations.

Tihana Bicanic
St George’s University of London

Human Fungal Pathogens 2019 Advanced Lecture Course, La Colle sur Loup, France

I would like to thank the BSMM for the award of £350 towards my attendance at the FEBS Advanced Lecture Course on Human Fungal Pathogens in Nice in May 2019.

The BSMM travel award gave me the opportunity to attend the FEBS Advanced Lecture Course as an invited speaker. The meeting was a great mix of talks on fungal pathogens and the host antifungal immune response. Several world-leading scientists presented their research at this meeting in addition to the excellent presentations by students and post-docs. As this conference covered the pathogen and host response, it facilitated further interactions with individuals who would not normally attend fungal immunology meetings. Attendance at this meeting provided both the opportunity to develop ideas for new projects and the chance to meet potential collaborators for these new projects. It was a great opportunity to meet with current collaborators and to establish new collaborations. My student and I are currently pursuing two significant new collaborations that have occurred due to our attendance at this conference. In addition, it was a very interesting to meet several PhD students and post-docs and to discuss their exciting research and their future career plans.

The financial aid provided by the BSMM travel award was instrumental in facilitating my attendance at this conference. Once again I would like to thank the BSMM for this funding and for providing me with this valuable opportunity.

Selinda J. Orr
Cardiff University

19th Congress of Mucosal Immunology (ICMI) 2019, Brisbane, Australia

The 19th Congress of Mucosal Immunology (ICMI) was held in Brisbane, Australia this year. This international conference was attended by leading scientists in the fields of respiratory, oral and gut immunology with a focus on infection and disease, microbiome communities and vaccinology. I was able to present my work on host responses to Candida albicans infection of the oral cavity, following which, I was able to establish connections with scientists and researchers previously unknown to me. These interactions provided consideration of different perspectives of my work and I am now excited to initiate new projects based in these discussions, in the coming months. The conference provided an
excellent overview of the exciting research being conducted within the mucosal immunology field and has successfully piqued my interest into new areas that I have been hitherto less familiar with. I am very grateful for this BSMM Travel Grant for supporting my attendance at this hugely informative and beneficial event.

BSMM annual meeting 2019, Sheffield, UK
I am hugely grateful for the BSMM travel grant which made it possible for me to attend the 55th Annual Meeting British Society for Medical Mycology, held in March 2019 in Sheffield, UK. As the UK’s premier mycology conference, this is a highlight in the calendar of mycologists in the UK and beyond. I considered this as a fantastic opportunity to present my work orally at a conference for the first time, network with others researchers well as to hear on recent advances in fungal research and meet the groups behind such discoveries.

The first session of the three-day event, started on Sunday, 17th March 2019 with the poster flash talks. These were incredibly insightful and provided a gist of the research on the posters presented at the event. The foundation lecture given by Prof Axel Brakhage on the ‘Surface molecules of Aspergillus fumigatus decisive for immune evasion’ was inspirational, explaining the importance of cell wall molecules in host-pathogen interaction. It was relevant to my research and provided me with vision for my future research work. In the evening was the quiz I very much looked forward to, made worthy with compering by Jacob Rudman, I had no idea that there could be so many questions on fungus alone! On the second day, Monday, 18th March 2019, there were offered talks over four sessions chaired...
by leading researchers in the field and ranging from work on Candida, Aspergillus, Mucor and Cryptococcus as well as presentations in the clinical realm of fungal diagnosis and treatment. It was exciting to hear on outstanding findings and cutting edge techniques in the field of fungal research. I had the opportunity to present my findings as a 10 minute oral presentation titled ‘Functional annotation of Aspergillus fumigatus transcription factors driving epithelial damage during infection’. This session was chaired by Prof Tihana Bicanic, one of the top researchers in the field. I was in my first year of my PhD and had collated some preliminary results that set the foundation for my current research. I shared my results on optimising two robust high-throughput assays to identify the regulators of epithelial damage during A. fumigatus in vitro infection. Having identified the drivers of epithelial damage during A. fumigatus infection was a fundamental discovery in understanding the mechanism of pathogenesis as well as in recognising new gene targets for anti-fungal therapy. This was my first oral presentation at a national conference amidst a league of seasoned mycologists. As a new researcher in the field, I felt welcome and comforted by a friendly audience and with a wonderful applause and encouraging feed-back. I was pleased that the end of the day was a visit to the Kelham Island Museum where we witnessed a memorable steam engine run, followed by a lovely evening of delicious food highlighted by the sing-along. It was a delightful night and a perfect ice-breaker session to network with research peers. And I sang ‘Let it go’ to my heart’s content!

The final day, Tuesday 19th March 2019 was a fitting end to the conference with some stimulating talks, one by Prof Neil Gow on the cell wall of Aspergillus fumigatus which provided me with guiding facts on my research. One memorable presentation was the ‘personal snapshot of fungal infections in captive wildlife’ filled with stunning images of fungal infections in animals, something that I never appreciated before. Another one by Liz Johnson on ‘new fungi’ opened my eyes to new fungal threats in the field.

I thoroughly enjoyed my first BSMM conference and I am thankful to the BSMM travel grant initiative for offering me this opportunity of an amazing scientific experience. The discussions and feedback around my work were extremely valuable for my PhD and I returned not only with beneficial additions to add strength to my work but also inspirations from networking with both new and veteran researchers of the field. And I drove back to Manchester humming all the lovely songs from the sing-along on the night before…

Sayema Rahman Khan
University of Manchester

BSMM annual meeting 2019, Sheffield, UK

Thanks to the BSMM Committee for awarding me a travel grant I was able to attend the 55th Annual meeting 2019 held in Sheffield. This was a fantastic opportunity to network with others within the field and to present the work I have carried out within the Hall Lab as a research technician. My project is focused on the antifungal effects of Pseudomonas aeruginosa with fungal pathogen Rhizopus microsporus. I was very grateful to have the opportunity to present my work and to receive the prize for best poster flash talk. There were many interesting talks on a wide range of fungal pathogens with a mix of clinical and academic based work. The Foundation lecture presented by Axel Brakhage was a highlight, covering exciting work on the recognition of Aspergillus spores and interactions with the immune system, all the way to the development of novel diagnostics and therapies. It was fascinating to hear from researchers from such a wide variety of backgrounds. There was a keynote talk from Mark Stidworthy from the International Zoo Veterinary group. I also enjoyed hearing the citizen science project carried out by PhD student Jenny Shelton who was able to collect hundreds of environmental fungal samples from citizen scientists through the power of social media and enthusiasm for scientific research. The conference also included an added bonus of
visiting Kelham Island Museum where we were able to see the country’s largest steam engine in operation and also stay for dinner and of course the annual sing-along. Overall the conference was a huge success and I would like to thank again the BSMM committee, the local organisers in Sheffield and my supervisor Rebecca Hall for encouraging me to attend.

Sarah Sherrington
University of Birmingham

Glyn Evans Award

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

There are no set application deadlines for this award and applications may be submitted for consideration at any time. An award will not usually be made if the applicant has received a previous award (Travel Grant or Glyn Evans Award) less than three years before the application date.

More information at:
http://www.bsmm.org/front/grants-funding/

Subscription charges

The annual membership subscription is £25. Please remember to pay your membership fees of £25 (http://www.bsmm.org) for 2020 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.

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.

Executive Committee Members

Current posts and tenures:
Neil Gow– President (2019-2022)
Rebecca Gorton– Secretary (2017-2021)
Caroline Moore– Treasurer (2017-2022)
Lewis White – Meetings Secretary (2018-2021)
Margherita Bertuzzi – Website and junior rep (2019-2021)
Clare Logan – Clinical junior rep (2019-2021)
Duncan Wilson – Executive member (2017-2020)
Rohini Manuel – Executive member (2018-2021)
David Moyes – Executive member (2019-2022)
In 2020, the society will be seeking for nominations for a treasurer elect and an executive committee member to replace Duncan Wilson in September 2020. In 2021, the society will be seeking for nominations for secretary, meeting secretary, an executive committee member and Junior rep. to replace respectively Rebecca Gorton, Lewis White, Rohini Manuel and Margherita Bertuzzi.

**BSMM membership**

The society has on record 274 members currently. The membership database is under review and an updated membership profile will be announced at the AGM with all non-paying members >2 years removed from the membership.

We welcome our new members for 2019/2020 are:

- Aize Pellon (London)
- Darren Thomson (Manchester)
- Harriet Knaffler (Sheffield)
- Shadab Farhadi Cheshme Morvari (Manchester)
- Theresa Wacker (Aberdeen)
- Ffion Hammond (Sheffield)
- Shadab Farhadi Cheshmeh Morvari (Manchester)
- James Bradford (Sheffield)
- Jamie Canedo (Sheffield)
- Ellen Main (Aberdeen)
- Katherine Pline (Sheffield)
- Leonard Farrugia (Aberdeen)
- Patrick McCluskey (Dublin)
- Sayema Khan (Manchester)
- Natasha Motsi (Manchester)
- Tyng Hwey Tan (Aberdeen)
- Takanori Furukawa (Manchester)
- Danielle Weaver (Manchester)
- Arianne Muscat (Malta)
- Gerard Sheehan (Birmingham)
- Laura Mansell (Norfolk)
- Bright Ocansey (Ghana)
- Maxine Hoft (Cape Town)
- Gallego Cortez (London)
- Don Wickramasinghe (London)
- Lea Lortal (London)
- Marah Jnied (Edinburgh)
- Lilly Millyard (Birmingham)
- Luigi Galea (Malta)
- Elliot Mahoney (Exeter)
- Diana Tamayo (Birmingham)
- Nihal Bandara (Bristol)
- James Griffiths (London)
- Remi Hatinguias (Exeter).

**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**

**ECCMID 2020**  
18th-21st April 2020, Paris (France)

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

**ISHAM Asia 2020 Congress**  
7th -9th May 2020, Bangkok (Thailand)

**Fungal Pathogens Genomics**  
11th-16th May 2020, Wellcome Genome Campus (UK)

**International Conference on Cryptococcus and Cryptococcosis (ICCC 2020)**  
1st – 5th June 2020, Kampala (Uganda)

**5th ECMM Educational Symposium**  
11th-12th June 2020, Iasi (Romania)

**GRC Cellular and Molecular Fungal Biology.**  
21st – 26th June 2020, Holderness School, New Hampshire, USA

**Molecular Mycology: Current Approaches to Fungal Pathogenesis**  
17th July – August 2nd 2020, Woods Hole, Massachusetts, USA

**British Mycological Society Conference**  
15th – 17th September, Cranfield, UK

**54th Scientific Conference of the German speaking Mycological Society (DMykG)**  
16th – 19th September 2020, Würzburg (Germany)
Second Balkan Fungus (Balkan Fungus 2020)
15th – 17th October, Thessaloniki (Greece)

Fungal Genetics Conference 2021
9th-14th March 2021, Pacific Grove (US)

FEBS Human Fungal Pathogen
TBC, La Colle sur Loup (France)

Yeast Lipid Conference
2nd-4th June 2021, Göteborg (Sweden)

10th Trends in Medical Mycology
8th-11th October 2021, Scotland (UK)

Minutes from the 55th AGM Bristol 2019

Annual General Meeting of the British Society for Medical Mycology

Monday 18th March at 16:15h, 2019

Royal Victoria Hotel Sheffield

1. Apologies for absence
Prof. Derek Sullivan, Prof. Malcolm Richardson, Dr Ruth Ashbee, Prof. Frank Odds, Dr Margherita Bertuzzi all gave their apologies.

Members in attendance at the meeting included: Dr Simon Johnston, Prof C Kibbler, Dr Elizabeth Johnson, Sheila Seaton, Dr Rohini Manuel, Dr Duncan Wilson, Prof Adilla Warris, Prof Robin May, Prof Julian Naglik, Dr Darius Armstrong-James, Dr David Moyes, Prof Neil Gow, Dr Lewis White, Dr Caroline Moore, Dr Silke Schelenz, Prof Tom Rogers.

2. Minutes from Annual General Meeting held at Cadbury House Bristol on 19th March 2018
The minutes were approved by all members present. Dr Rebecca Gorton stated that no requests for change have been made from members not present. Therefore, the minutes of the 2018 AGM are final.

3. Matters arising (not on the agenda)
   - Discontinuation of the Mycoses subscription for BSMM members.

   Prof Tom Rogers reported that we had recently discovered that the BSMM’s free access to Mycoses journal that has been enjoyed by all members had been discontinued. After enquiry by MB with Dr Martin Hoenigl, President of ECMM, it was explained that the reason is Mycoses is no longer the official journal of the ECMM. The ECMM are currently without an official journal.

   Action: Dr Rebecca Gorton to email the membership to fully inform them of this change.

4. President’s report (Tom Rogers)

   Prof Tom Rogers opened his president’s report by expressing great sadness at the passing of Prof Ken Haynes which the BSMM learnt of at the end of last year’s meeting. The BSMM published an obituary with some fitting factual and anecdotal information which acknowledges the huge affection and respect the BSMM membership had for Prof Ken Haynes.

   TR continued by reporting that 2018-2019 has been a busy year for the Society’s Executive. Both Dr Margherita Bertuzzi and Dr Rebecca Gorton have each given birth to a baby, for which they are congratulated, but somehow have carried on with their Executive roles despite being on maternity leave, and for this we are all grateful. TR stated that most of the major items of Executive business are on the agenda. The main item is the ongoing plan to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Executing this has been delayed by having to deal with GDPR. A lot of work has been undertaken to make the BSMM ‘GDPR ready’ so that we are also ready for CIO status change.

5. Treasurer’s report (Caroline Moore)
Treasurer’s report for financial year ended 31st December 2018

CM presented the treasurer’s report. This is the financial statement for the British Society for Medical Mycology for the year ending 31st December 2018. The Independent Examiner’s Report to the Trustees of the British Society for Medical Mycology is on the final 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 preceding 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 2018. The details are found in the Notes on pages 3-5 of the accounts. Where available, the figures for 2017 are shown on the far right for comparison. The figures shown in the accounts do not include VAT.

The income for 2018 (page 1) consisted of subscriptions amounting to £2689 (£5,098 in 2017), surplus from the Annual Meeting of £7751 (£10,270), together with Oxford Textbook of Medical Mycology sales of £377 (£0 in 2017) and a small amount of bank interest of £38 (£25).

After a high payment rate in 2017, our membership subscriptions fell by almost 50% in 2018. We would urge all members to ensure that they pay the correct amount of £25, each year, ideally in January.

The Leeds Mycology course was not scheduled to run in 2018 but is already advertised for 10-14th June this year. Our gratitude goes to Ruth Ashbee for her continued willingness and dedication over the past 20 years to run this excellent course. Please advertise widely!

Moving on to less happy news, the UCL Medical Mycology course has now officially closed. There will be no further profit share from the course since a loss was sustained for the final two years (16/17 and 17/18) (£12,179 for 2014/15 and 2015/16). UCL have been very supportive in agreeing to not ask the BSMM for any funds associated with this. We are extremely thankful to Chris Kibbler and his team for such tremendous efforts benefiting so many students over the lifetime of this course.

Therefore, total income of the BSMM for 2018 was £10,855 (£30,284 in 2017).

Expenses of the Society are summarised on the lower half of page 1. Ten (7 in 2017) travel grants were awarded in 2018 amounting to £3697 (£3167 in 2017). The BSMM awarded one (1 in 2017) Glyn Evans award in 2018 amounting to £1500 (£850 in 2017).

Oxford Textbook of Medical Mycology costs were £376 (£0 in 2017). The Society still holds a stock of these books. Please see our Honorary Secretary Rebecca Gorton to purchase a copy at the heavily discounted rate of £75.

The Management and Administration costs were £3346 (£5,089 in 2017). The detailed costs are shown in Note 2 on page 3 of the accounts. The total expenses for the BSMM for 2018 amounted to £8543 (£9,456 in 2017).

The net incoming resources for 2018 were £1935 (£20,828 in 2017). 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 2018 with a net worth of £179,906 (£177,969 in 2017).

I think I can speak for your Executive Committee when saying that 2018 has been a challenging year, and we expect 2019 to continue along the same lines. I would like to take this opportunity to update the membership on these ongoing issues. Firstly, regarding our bank accounts. The Society has four Lloyds accounts, one of which is for the Leeds Mycology Course. Ruth Ashbee and I are working together to ascertain the best course of action regarding opening a new bank account with a different institution to transfer some funds to protect the Society’s assets.
As highlighted last year, we propose to convert the Society to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Association model). We feel this is a necessary step to financially protect our Executive Committee members. This is a significant amount of work and has to be taken in stages. The first step was to bring our Society in line with GDPR. This was a huge undertaking and we wish to express our sincere thanks to Rebecca Gorton for successfully achieving this. Our next step is a further review of our Constitution, together with preparation of all necessary documentation. As with other Societies who have already undertaken this procedure, it is likely that we will need to take professional advice to help us through the process. Of course, we will keep our members fully informed and, subsequently, a member’s vote will take place, hopefully later this year.

This report would not be complete without the ‘B’ word – Brexit. I am sure you appreciate the uncertainties associated with this. However, I can reassure you that we are working together to ascertain the impact on our Society as the situation becomes clearer. It appears that the areas potentially most likely to be affected are VAT regulations, and indirectly on sponsorship, depending on the effect of Brexit on our sponsoring companies. We will keep the membership up to date with any information. 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 accountant for the BSMM over the last 13 years.

Manchester, 15th March 2019

Caroline B. Moore
Honorary Treasurer for the British Society for Medical Mycology

Prof Tom Rogers invited any questions regarding the treasurers report.

- Prof. Chris Kibbler wanted to highlight a point that he has made before around concerns over accumulating funds. One route of using the funds effectively is offering sponsorship for the BSMM meetings concluding that if there is difficulty then we can afford to spend the BSMM assets on the annual meeting. In response CM stated that it is correct, and that as a charity we should be spending 60% of income annually. In the last year we actually spent 80% of the income, in the absence of the BSMM MSc course, since the income generated is primarily from membership fees. CM added that with an uncertain future through losing the UCL course etc and possible losses from future sponsorship of the AGM (to be discussed later in the agenda) as treasurer she would prefer to keep the society solvent. Future spending on incorporation still requires consideration. This will cost £2000-3000 for obtaining advice. As a result of limited income we need to keep the reserve funds for the next couple of years since as a charity any liability costs that might arise could fall to the Executive at a personal level.

- Prof. Neil Gow stated that when the society becomes CIO the charity commission will need a formal statement and we will need to provide an argument/policy around capital reserve which usually has a 3-year window. If our reserves are sufficient this will provide the opportunity to clarify it. CM added that there is a legal requirement to take professional advice for investments which also comes at a cost.

- TR stated that there is a balance between deficit vs income and the fact is approximately currently up to 50% of our members don’t pay membership fees. As this is our primary income we need to fix this issue. This would allow us to feel more secure. £180,000 is not a huge sum of money should there be a bad year of financial outgoings through the AGM and other expenses.
TR also highlighted that there are some issues with the Constitution as legacy issues. There are sections we need to update and amend but we will bring these into the CIO process and present to the membership as part of the transfer to CIO status.

6. Secretary’s report (Rebecca Gorton)

Dr Rebecca Gorton gave an overview of the current BSMM membership, which is currently comprised of 253 UK members and 25 overseas members. Within the BSMM membership, we have 36 honorary members and 3 life members who are non-paying. In 2018/2019 there have been 28 new members joining the BSMM as listed in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BSMM new members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2018 Q 3/4</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abeer Alghamdi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Donaldson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gabriela Mol Avelar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jacob Rudman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Scott</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jessica Price</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julas Crunden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shara Palavvel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xin Zhou</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zoi Ross</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Overview of membership payments:
Currently of the 239 ‘paying’ members the following breakdown can be applied:
- 48.5% (116/239) Paid
- 19.7% (47/239) 1 year not paid
- 20% (48/239) 2 years not paid
- 11.8% (28/239) 3 years not paid
- 39 life/honorary members don’t pay

The figure below shows the breakdown of membership payments. As discussed in previous meetings, members who are non-paying for more than 1 year should be considered inactive, reducing our active membership to 202 members, inclusive of non-paying life/honorary members.

RG then gave an overview of the BSMM Travel Grants/Glynn Evans Awards that have been granted from September 2018 – January 2018. In total 7 travel grants awarded as detailed in the table below. The total amount awarded was £2100.00. RG proposed to the membership that we reduce the number of application deadlines to 2 per year. No objections were noted. RG will effect this change and communicate the changes to the membership.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Applicant</th>
<th>Grant</th>
<th>Conference/course</th>
<th>Applied</th>
<th>Awarded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019 round 1</td>
<td>Dr Tihana Bicanic</td>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>FEBS Advanced Lecture Course on Human Fungal Pathogens, 18-24 May 2019</td>
<td>£350</td>
<td>£350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019 round 1</td>
<td>Dr Selinda Orr</td>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>FEBS Advanced Lecture Course on Human Fungal Pathogens, 18-24 May 2019</td>
<td>£350</td>
<td>£350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019 round 1</td>
<td>Prof Robert Quinn</td>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>HFP, Nice, France, 19-24th May</td>
<td>£350</td>
<td>£350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019 round 1</td>
<td>Prof Janet Quinn</td>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>HFP, Nice, France, 19-24th May</td>
<td>£350</td>
<td>£350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019 round 1</td>
<td>Christina, Nikolakopoulou</td>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>FEBS Advanced Lecture Course on Human Fungal Pathogens, 18-24 May 2019</td>
<td>£350</td>
<td>£350</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RG continued with an update on GDPR and its implications for BSMM. As the Donorfy membership database is now live the next phase will be connection to payments which will enhance the treasurer’s resources. However, this will require some changes to our methods

- Use of Eventbrite for the annual meeting payments
- Use GoCardless instead of PayPal for membership payments
- The database will link bank accounts

RG and CM are getting help from a consultant to assist with this link up.

The GDPR policy BSMM-POL-01 Information Security policy has been uploaded on to the BSMM website. Membership forms have been updated to include a GDPR section. Dr Rebecca Gorton asked if all members could communicate the change to students and not to use the old form for future membership applications. All 2018 members have completed a separate GDPR consent form so all have given permission from the start of GDPR becoming enforceable for the use of their personal information. Outstanding GDPR tasks are to contact the existing membership to obtain GDPR permissions for use of data.

Action: RG to send an email to the membership that fulfills this task.

Changes to the Executive structure

RG proposed the creation of a Treasurer Elect and Junior Medical Representative roles and asked the membership if anyone had any objections – no objections were noted. TR would like the new additions to be co-opt roles until the new constitution can be approved.

- Co-opt of a junior clinical rep.
  - Role to assist the BSMM engaging with clinical trainees and represent their opinion on the Executive.
- Co-opt of a treasurer elect
  - 1-2-year overlap with treasurer to allow for continuity and full training – this will be sent out for nomination later in the year.

RG concluded her report by thanking the membership for their patience over the last year and in the coming months as she undertakes her Executive role while on maternity leave.

7. BSMM MSc/Diploma/ Certificate Course
   (Prof Chris Kibbler & Prof Adilia Warris)

Prof Chris Kibbler read out his report.

The Society’s Course has now fully closed and all remaining students have completed. Over the 10 years of recruitment 70 students were enrolled. 62% graduated with an MSc, with 44% of these gaining a merit or distinction. 31% were awarded a postgraduate diploma, with 63% gaining a merit or above and the remainder graduated with a certificate.

There were six students completing the MSc award in 2018 and the board of examiners was pleased to award one distinction and three merits. The external examiners again commented on the high standard of the students, concluding that marking was fair and transparent and the course was well taught and balanced. They had no recommendations for changing any of the assessments or course content.

In view of the lack of recruitment last year, the Society’s 50% profit-share for 2017/18 was £5981.10. Despite a profit-share loss of £7374.385 over the past two years, UCL have agreed that we will not be asked to repay this. No bursaries were awarded last year. The Society is currently negotiating with Exeter University to transfer the course there, under the auspices of the migrating Aberdeen Fungal Group. Prof Adilia
Warris will update the Society further on progress with this.

Now the course has fully closed I would like to re-emphasise that it could not have run without the commitment of many members of the Society and I would like to thank, one last time, the module tutors, supervisors and mentors, who have given freely of their time to teach, assess, supervise and support our students. I hope that many of these will continue to support the course in its new home.

TR thanked Prof Kibbler for directing the MSc over the years and we owe him a great debt of gratitude. He added that Prof Kibbler has kindly offered to help in any way he can with the new course. He has a huge amount of experience that the BSMM would benefit from.

Prof Adilia Warris: report on the plans for re-establishing the course
AW stated that Dr Donna MacCallum was too busy professionally to take on organising the new MSc course so has stepped down from this role. Currently AW is looking at 2020/21 as a likely start date. This she believes is feasible. AW explained that there are some deadlines to meet in order for this to happen:
- Mid-June 2019 - business plan and collaboration agreement need approval
- February 2020 – deadline for developing the modules and submit them for approval to University of Exeter.

AW has looked at how we could update the course and one great opportunity has been provided by the fact that Prof Chris Kibbler has managed to produce the Oxford textbook of medical mycology, published in 2018. She proposed that the new text book will be used for the MSc course as a central resource and the Masters modules will reflect the book chapters.

AW suggested that a new aspect of the course might be to have specific modules for laboratory based students vs clinical students. This dual pathway could lead to selective modules based on professional requirements i.e. a module for clinicians to have a deeper immunology knowledge but the laboratory side might have a microscopy and histology module. AW will be happy to share the module structure with the membership moving forward.

Prof Adilia Warris added that at UoE they have fantastic on line resources, which will minimise contact hours for students and make this internationally appealing for more students to apply. As for course timelines the team would look at real-time progress for students to allow for increased engagement although there would be no requirement for contact hours etc. AW is appealing to all people previously involved with the MSc and new members to carry this forward, but she will also ask for help for module leads and speakers etc in due course.

TR thanked AW for all her efforts thus far and wished her and colleagues success in developing the new MSc.

8. Aberdeen & BSMM joint bid to host Trends in Medical Mycology 2021 (Prof Adilia Warris/ Prof Neil Gow & Prof Tom Rogers)

TR said he had already reported to members that Aberdeen Fungal Group in collaboration with BSMM had succeeded in their bid to run the TIMM 2021 conference. With the recent move of key fungal group members moving to Exeter the group will be referred to as the ‘Fungal group’ leading with BSMM in the TIMM 2012 organisation.

TR said the conference is still be planned for Aberdeen in October 2021. The work hasn’t started in earnest but Prof Adilia Warris will give a brief update.

AW reported on the TIMM efforts so far stating that there is not much to update on other than that the conference centre is amazing and the ECMM are aware of the changes to the fungal group location and are still happy to have TIMM in Aberdeen. The ECMM have asked if the mycology community in the UK will travel to Aberdeen. As a society we need to encourage members to attend. Prof Neil Gow added that the committee had secured a fantastic financial deal with the conference centre as it’s a new venue and therefore the conference is much more cost-effective. This is why the TIMM committee has chosen the UK for this conference.
TR understands that there is no financial risk for the BSMM in helping to organise the conference and if it achieves a financial surplus there will be a profit share for the society.

Dr Lewis White suggested that the role of the BSMM is helping to organise the scientific program. AW agreed, and there will be a local organising committee as well as an international organising committee involving ECMM.

9. UK Clinical Mycology Network (Dr Silke Schelenz)

Dr Silke Schelenz was unable to give her report at the meeting and will report back to the AGM and Executive later in the year on UK CMN progress.

10. Leeds course (Dr Ruth Ashbee)

BSMM Course, 2019 – Report to Executive and AGM

The BSMM course this year will take place from June 10-14th. The reason for running it later than previous years is because of a change of venue. Over the last few years I have had increasing problems getting the University of Leeds to commit to a date, so I have been looking for another suitable venue. I have now found the venue – at the other University in Leeds! Leeds Beckett University is a city-centre campus that has very good teaching lab space, which I have already used on several occasions for other events. The labs are well-appointed and the support from the staff there is excellent. As Leeds Beckett only has a 2 week break at Easter, there was insufficient time to run the BSMM course in the Easter holiday, hence the change of date to June. The course fee has been kept the same as last time (£840) which is slightly cheaper than previous courses to try and encourage more delegates.

Progress to date:

- Teaching labs and lecture rooms:
  - Booked from June 10-14th (Cost of lab hire is less than University of Leeds)
  - To avoid costs for lecture room hire, the lectures will be open to Leeds Beckett staff (and possibly some students)
- Lecturers and demonstrators:
  - Potential lecturers and demonstrators on the course contacted and timetabling arrangements in progress
  - Several new lecturers have been approached to contribute to the course
- Delegates:
  - All people who have expressed an interest previously have been contacted with information and booking forms
  - Several delegate bookings received
- Advertising:
  - BSMM website and newsletter – done
  - ISHAM website and newsletter – emailed
  - Plan to advertise in IBMS magazine, via British Infection Society email and Specialist Registrar email lists
  - Other ideas welcome, if not too expensive!

Dr Ruth Ashbee, 12th March 2019

In response to Ruth’s report, Dr Lewis White offered to advertise through the ECMM and Dr Rohini Manuel offered to send the HEE – health education England email list to Ruth.

11. Working parties

a) Fungal serology (Prof Malcolm Richardson)

Report from Prof Malcolm Richardson

Aim: to write a comprehensive ‘Methods and Protocols’ chapter for a Springer Protocols series

To include:

- lateral flow devices for antigens (Aspergillus, Cryptococcus)
- lateral flow devices for fungal antibodies (Aspergillus IgG, Aspergillus IgM)
- ELISA for fungal antibodies: old kits and new
- automated platforms: ImmunoCap, Siemens Immulite
• ELISA for fungal biomarkers: kits old and new
• serological diagnosis of fungal allergy/ABPA/ABPM

Co-authors: Caroline Moore (Manchester), Iain Page, Rebecca Gorton (London), Manchester post-doks, Liz Hunter, Richard Barton (Leeds), a Band 9 immunologist (Carlisle), Rohini Manuel (London)

b) Mycology teaching to undergraduates survey (Dr Ruth Ashbee)

Brief report from Ruth Ashbee

Second distribution February 2019
• Several replies (11) some duplicates
• Not significant enough for analysis

Dr Rebecca Gorton on behalf of Dr Ruth Ashbee made an appeal to BSMM members to complete the teaching survey otherwise this working group will have to be discontinued

Action: Dr Rebecca Gorton to circulate one more final time pending agreement by Dr Ruth Ashbee.

12. Annual Scientific meetings

a) Sheffield 2019 (Dr Simon Johnston)
Dr Simon Johnston reported that this year’s meeting attendance reached 97 attendees, which is in line with most meetings outside of the south or north west so has been successful despite being on the same weekend as the Fungal Update. The meeting will make a decent profit for the BSMM as Yorkshire is a cost effective location. A last minute keynote speaker cancellation did occur but the organisers managed to recover filling the slot and in all it’s gone well and everyone hopes to have a lovely time tonight at the dinner.

Dr Lewis White reported that there is quite a bit of income from trade outstanding. CM will be persistent in securing this funding. LW reinforced the fact that generally when meetings are outside Manchester and London there is a drop in attendance so around the 100 mark is good. Fungal Update clashed and this may have impacted on our numbers too.

TR thanked Dr Johnson and his team of helpers for their hard work and efforts in making this year’s meeting a great success.

b) London 2020 (Dr Darius Armstrong-James)
TR advised on a proposal from Dr Samir Agarwal for a joint Fungal Update / BSMM meeting in 2020 to be held in London. As the local organiser for BSMM Dr. Darius Armstrong-James felt he needed support in order to run the meeting and part of the proposal from Dr Agarwal there will be appointed conference organiser for Fungal Update who will also be at our disposal. It is intended to ensure that the BSMM maintains its identity throughout the meeting and have parallel sessions. The singalong and AGM will also be maintained.

The proposed joint meeting was approved the membership present but Prof Kibbler suggested we must inform the membership soon and reinforce that it’s a one-off meeting with Fungal Update and that we will revert to our standard format for annual meetings thereafter.

c) 2021 – Aberdeen joint 2021 TIMM meeting
TR then proposed the second joint meeting of BSMM with TIMM to be held in 2021 (as discussed above). This will lead to a shift in the dates of the BSMM meeting to later in the year. The rationale is that the BSMM meeting secretary and committee will not have the capacity to organise an annual meeting as well as the TIMM meeting in the same year, and therefore all efforts will be made for BSMM members to attend TIMM in that year.

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the meeting. Prof Neil Gow stated that it's important that the BSMM are a nurturing ground for young scientists. This would give focus for BSMM at TIMM 2021. Prof. Robin May stated that a joint meeting is always good for students. Dr. Simon Johnston stated a plan for 2021 advertised early would help to gain support early and if we can get all meetings in one go it helps.

Dr. Simon Johnston asked how will we do discounted rate for students and members? How does this work for Fungal Update? Can we offer this? TR said that there is an ECMM member rate and the BSMM pay £1 to the ECMM for each member. Therefore if you are a member of BSMM there is a concession when registering for TIMM.

TR asked for final confirmation that the consensus from the membership was to that our annual BSMM meeting would be part of TIMM 2021. He acknowledged that the coming two years will be different regarding how our annual meetings are organised but these proposed events should be educationally worthwhile. No objections were expressed by the membership at the meeting and the proposal was accepted.

13. Website update (Dr Margherita Bertuzzi)

Newsletter: the newsletter for the year 2019 will be uploaded to the website and circulated to the membership before the 2019 meeting. Thanks to everybody who provided me with information and feedback.

Website, Facebook and Twitter page: with the help of Graham Atherton, I have been updating the website regularly. I have also been posting on Facebook and Twitter and Rebecca is now also able to post in our Twitter page, where for example she has advertised the 2019 meeting. I would like to be able to have more material to post on the website so please encourage all members to participate by sending me pictures or tagging us. It would be great if you could take pictures at the conference, so that these can be uploaded in the restricted membership area of the website (but please ask for the consent to be published). As always, I welcome suggestions from the Executive Committee and the BSMM members to improve the website, so please let me know if you would like me to change/add something.

**Mycoses subscription on the website:** a BSMM member pointed out that the subscription to Mycoses as from the link on the website is no longer free. I was not part of the Executive Committee when the website was first made so it has taken me some time to find somebody who can help us with this. I am aware this is a very urgent manner, as members are offered access to the journal as part of the BSMM subscription, so I am trying very hard to have this fixed as soon as possible. I have now a contact with ECMM, who is checking this matter for us.

**Travel grants pictures:** please encourage members receiving grant applications to send pictures of the conferences together with their report for publication in the newsletter. We funded a lot of members last year and only got a couple of pictures.

Prof Tom Rogers expressed his thanks to MB for a fantastic job with the website and newsletter. MB stated the website is running well and just a reminder for all doing travel grant associated work to send in a photo with the feedback as it helps for the website. RG also expressed her thanks to MB for her hard work with the newsletter whilst on maternity leave.

14. Executive committee elections

TR reported that this year presents changes for the Executive with a new president taking over and potentially a new committee member to replace Dr Silke Schelenz.

- Prof Tom Rogers stated that for the role of BSMM President: one nomination has been received for Professor Neil Gow (proposed by Prof Frank Odds, seconded by Dr Donna MacCallum)
Prof Tom Rogers apologised for the error in the first agenda which did not state that it was Donna MacCallum who seconded Prof Neil Gow’s nomination.

Prof Gow’s nomination was unanimously approved by BSMM membership.

- Executive Committee member – nominations for the Executive post vacated by Dr. Silke Schelenz had been invited but none was received from the membership. At the AGM Prof Julian Naglik proposed Dr David Moyes and Dr Lewis White seconded this nomination. Therefore, with no objections the new Executive position will be filled by Dr David Moyes. Dr Rebecca Gorton will organize the necessary paperwork.

- Co-opting a junior clinical representative – One nomination for this role, for Dr Clare Logan, was proposed by Dr Tihana Bicanic and seconded by Dr Rebecca Gorton. This was proposed to the membership with no objections.

15. European Confederation of Medical Mycology (Prof. Tom Rogers)

TR was up to now the BSMM representative on ECMM council and had enquired about the possibility of circulating the minutes of ECMM Council meetings to BSMM membership. TR had received a reply that ECMM was not happy with the BSMM being provided the minutes formally but was happy to for TR to provide feedback. Apart from great success with the bid for TIMM 2021 there was nothing to report from the last ECMM Council meeting held during ISHAM conference in June 2018. The guidelines for Mucorales had been supported by BSMM.

16. Election of life and honorary members

There have been no new nominations for honorary or life members but they are always invited. RG advised that the membership database would be updated according to category of membership. This is pending GDPR clearance of list publication. Honorary members will be converted to life members if they have retired, which will be announced in due course.

17. AOB

TR stated that the Executive thought it appropriate that Prof Frank Odds’ contributions to the BSMM over many years, not least his outstanding piano playing during annual meetings, should be acknowledged. We have purchased a decanter and put together a photo album for him as a gift. Prof Neil Gow stated that Prof Frank Odds would like to send his regards to everyone and he is sorry he cannot be in attendance this year.