

# Agenda: BSN AGM Meeting

23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021, noon-1pm

Location: Zoom

Attendance (32): Anne-Marie O'Carroll, Bradley Jamison, Chi Udeh-Momoh, Clemence Blouet, Dave Grattan, Dave Lyons, Duncan MacGregor, Giles Yeo, Gisela Helfer, Helen Christian, Jeff Davies, Jo Lewis, John Morris, Julian Mercer, Kate Ellacott<sup>#</sup>, Karen Spencer, Matei Bolborea, Michelle Bellingham, Mike Ludwig, Neil Evans\*, NIN meeting, Paula Brunton, Perry Barrett, Preeti Jethwa, Rebecca Dumbell, Simon Luckman, Sue Ozanne, Sue Thorn (non-voting), Suzanne Dickson, Teo Georgescu, Tyler Stevenson, Zofia Makowska.

\*Chair, <sup>#</sup>Secretary

1. Apologies for absence: William Colledge
2. Approval of the minutes of the 2020 AGM meeting (Zoom) – [available online](#)  
**APPROVED**
3. Matters arising
4. President's report - Neil Evans
  - Extraordinary year due to continuation of COVID pandemic
  - COVID member survey – Additional funding needed in the community and subsequently given as grants
  - Lack of face-to-face meetings so ECR webinars launched
  - Future viability of the society and Journal has been examined by the committee
    - Launch of Translational strand of the journal
    - Clarified journal's standing with other societies
  - Exciting year upcoming
    - ICN 2022
    - New EiCs for JNE
  - Official thanks to the committee and freelance workers Sue, Agnes, Diamona

## Ordinary Resolution:

To reappoint as members of the Advisory Board Professors Jane Robinson, John Russell, Stafford Lightman, John Morris, and Joe Herbert

**32 votes: 30 in favour, 2 abstentions – motion approved**

5. Treasurer's report (including to receive the 2020 Trustees Annual Report and Accounts) – Michelle Bellingham

Slides in appendix 1

Thanks to Team for help with managing society finances.

6. Membership Secretary's report - Maria Canal

- Membership remains steady: 496 (similar to last year)
- New BSN Honorary member: Prof. Glenda Gillies (Imperial College London)
- Highlighted new UG membership option (£10/student) with potential for group joining.

#### 7. Meeting Secretary's report – Preeti Jethwa

- Few meetings this year due to the pandemic
- Reminder to membership to attend ICN 2022
- BSN annual meeting 2023 is in Exeter
- Requested suggestions for location/hosts for 2024/2025 BSN meeting

#### 8. Grants Secretary's report – Gisela Helfer

- Thanks to prior grants chair Michelle Bellingham and Zushna (RSB) for assistance.
- COVID grants introduced in response to member feedback. Spent £55K on grants to support members.
- Also brought back some standard BSN grants in 2021: project support (5/19 funded; 26% success) and UG experience (9/11 funded; 82% success). Members conference attendance supported for BSN-SNE 2021. Total cost to be determined.
- All standard BSN grants now relaunched.
- Members of the now expanded grant panel named and thanked for their work
  - Each grant now reviewed by at least three members of the panel.
  - A high number of high-quality applications are received so a grants panel meeting is to be introduced to improve decision making rigor.
  - Prior funding to an individual is now considered to ensure equitable distribution among members.
- Need to check and provide an update on any outstanding applications from the pre-COVID period.

#### 9. EDI Secretary's report - Chi Udeh-Momoh

Shared EDI report – BSN EDI survey and report commissioned. To be circulated to membership.

Identified actions include a need to increase women and underrepresented groups on BSN grants panel, named committee roles, and JNE editorial board. Some adaptations proposed to grant application and review to be investigated with respect to EDI.

#### EDI action plan

- Goals
  - Survey BSN membership with respect to EDI (complete)
  - Synthesize results and disseminate to membership (ongoing)
  - Identify actions and complete them in a timely manner (ongoing)

BSN members to be invited to join EDI subcommittee.

#### 10. Communications report – Rebecca Dumbell

- Thanks to Sue, Agnes and Diamona
- 2021 communications activities:
  - BSN website, newsletter, Twitter, and LinkedIn

- ECR webinars – partnership with Society for Endocrinology (access to each other's events)
- Blog on website to promote society activities, Journal, and other initiatives e.g., mentorship programme.
- Brainwaves interviews for Newsletters
- Ongoing activities:
  - UG membership promotion
  - Monitoring impact on social media

## 11. Journal of Neuroendocrinology Editor's report – Julian Mercer

Landmark year for the journal of Neuroendocrinology:

- New journal strand: Translational and Clinical Neuroendocrinology (TCN)
  - First papers in new strand published in Feb 2021. Will contribute to the impact factor 2022.
  - 250 submissions in total
    - 95 to FMN, 75 TCN strand
  - Published 75 papers to August 2021: 2:1 FMN vs TCN. On course for 110-120 published papers for the year.
- Aberdeen remains editorial admin office
- JNE Sponsored meetings: Steroids in the nervous system and allopregnanolone in the brain (online), FASEB – steroids meeting, Regulatory peptides (Aug; hybrid)
- JNE has agreed to support Parental brain (hybrid).
- Meeting sponsorship approval now goes through BSN committee.
- Richard Anderson now freelance editorial assistant working remotely. No longer at Aberdeen but everything still working very smoothly.
- Perry Barret retiring Sep 2021, Julian Mercer retiring March 2022 – JNE editorial management transition to be planned in 2022.

## 12. Journal Secretary's report - Helen Christian

- Expansion of JNE was smooth and Wiley supportive
- Open access changes being monitored carefully
- Current JNE editor's tenures until 2023
  - Call for replacements to be issued 2022
  - 18months transition period
  - Informal expression of interest to Julian welcomed.
- Thanks to Julian, Perry, and Richard for their journal management. Thanks to Sue for assistance with Wiley negotiations.
- Journal secretary will be ultimately responsible for oversight of the journal – working with EiC's. To help with cohesion.

## ECRs' update – Dave Lyons

- Taking forward more initiatives with respect to Webinars
- Looking forward to face-to-face meetings and plans being formed for ICN2022
- New deputy ECR rep elected – Dr Bethany Coull
- Thanks to other members of the committee for their support

- Member feedback positive on ECR initiatives

13. Notification of election results for Trustees

Waljit Dhillon – Retired from committee. Formally thanked for all his work for the BSN.

**Nominees:** Matei Bolborea, Helen Christian, William Colledge and Preeti Jethwa.

**Elected:** Matei Bolborea, Helen Christian and Preeti Jethwa

14. Special business

The following **special resolution** is presented to the members and needs a 75% majority. That the Constitution of the Society be amended as follows:

**Approval of the following amendments to the legal constitution document**

- Changing the term of office for most Trustees from 3 years to 4 years (old clauses 13 (1) and 13 (2); new clause 13 (1) and amendment to clause 16);
- Changing the term of office for the Early Career Researcher Trustee to one year (new clause 13 (2)) and amending the nominations and voting for ECR trustees to limit to ECRs only (added wording in clause 13 (3));
- Making clear that voting at AGM or by separate ballot carry equal weight (change of wording to clause 13 (3));
- Addition of an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Secretary in clause 12 (4);
- Changing he/she/his/her to they/their throughout;
- Replacement of references to ‘Chairman’ with ‘President’;
- Deleting the reference in clause 9 (1) (a) to members of the former unincorporated association being members of the CIO;
- Deleting reference to a Company Seal in clause 22.

The proposed new Constitution can be viewed [here](#)

Votes: 28 people in meeting at time of vote: 22 approved, 1 disapproved, 3 abstained. Motion approved, subject to Charity Commission acceptance.

15. A.O.C.B.



## Treasurer's report

Michelle Bellingham

## Summary

	2020	2019
<b>Income</b>	386,347	412,230
<b>Expenditure</b>	314,799	326,021
<b>Surplus</b>	71,548	86,209
<b>Reserves</b>	684,407	612,859

## Income

	£	2020	2019
Membership		14,951	11,446
ECR/JNE day		75	2,873
JNE		360,002	378,757
Gains on investments		10,763	18,689
Bank interest		556	465
<b>Total income</b>		<b>386,347</b>	<b>412,230</b>

## Expenditure 1 Direct charitable expenditure

	£	2020	2019
ECR/JNE day		1,244	9,199
JNE		54,133	54,154
Communications		17,134	19,613
Grants to individuals		135,809	127,588
Grants to organisations		43,112	29,270
BNA		--	36,901
Prizes, awards, honoraria		668	800
<b>Total direct charitable expenditure</b>		<b>252,100</b>	<b>277,525</b>

## Expenditure 2

### Governance and support

£	2020	2019
Accountancy & professional fees	40,754	30,995
Subscriptions	11,038	385
Committee expenses	81	6,521
Membership & web	8,843	9,391
Other	1,983	1,204
<b>Total governance &amp; support expenditure</b>	<b>62,699</b>	<b>48,496</b>

## Comments

- Covid-19 put regular grants on hold; special grants and project support grants used most of the budget.
- Income was not significantly affected by Covid-19 during 2020, but library budgets and OA may affect JNE in future.
- ICN 2022 budget was reworked in light of Covid, but meeting still looks viable.
- Value of investments at 2 September £298.8k – a total increase of almost 20% over two years.
- Investment Sub-Committee will meet to decide whether to invest more funds.
- VAT registration – have recouped VAT paid out since 2016, but some associated costs and possible penalty for late filing.

## Expenditure 3 Grants breakdown

	£	2020 No.	2019	No.
<b>Covid Support Grants</b>	14,418	3	0	0
<b>Symposium support</b>	33,264	9	29,270	
<b>Conference travel</b>	156	0	29,889	62
<b>Research visits</b>	-7	0	27,825	6
<b>Student lab exp</b>	-58	0	16,450	10
<b>Project support</b>	121,300	21	53,424	10
<b>HNNA</b>	2,500	1	0	0
<b>PANS</b>	\$10,000	1	\$10,000	1

## 2021 budget

- Cautious budgets for 2021 and 2022
- Assuming slight decrease in journal income to be on safe side
- Gains/losses on investments not budgeted
- Provision made for VAT penalty, but being appealed
- £150k budgeted for grants

## 2022 budget

- ICN income and expenditure will go through BSN
- Current (cautious) budget shows £81k deficit.
- BSN has pledged to support first £50k of any deficit; INF are responsible for any excess
- Budgeted to pay registrations for 200 members
- Travel grant budget being discussed
- Provision made for additional promotion costs