



## MINUTES

### BRITISH SOCIETY FOR ALLERGY AND CLINICAL IMMUNOLOGY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 5th October 2019

8am – 9am

Venue Queen's Suite 1

Harrogate Convention Centre, King's Rd, Harrogate HG1 5LA

Attendees: 45

Apologies were received from: Dr George Du Toit: Dr Paul Turner: Mrs Adele Durge: Dr Deepa Choudhury: Dr Paul Ciclitira

#### **1. APPROVAL OF 2019 AGM MINUTES**

These were approved and signed off.

#### **2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Professor Adam Fox)**

The President welcomed all members to the AGM and said the meeting had been hugely successful this year thanks to the hard work and dedication of those involved. In particular he thanked Dr Tom Marrs (BSACI Scientific Programme Lead) for his hard work over the last 12 months in organizing the meeting and producing such an outstanding programme. As a result, this year we have seen a significant increase in delegate numbers. Dr Marrs has been ably assisted by Deputy Scientific Programme Lead Dr Shelley Dua, of which BSACI are grateful to. As well as being involved in the programme development Dr Dua has overseen aspects of the abstracts process and judging of the 2019 Travel Fellowship Awards.

The President said BSACI have nine active committees, chairs of each committee sit on council and meet approximately three times a year. There are currently 24 members on BSACI council, seven of which are elected by the membership. Two of the elected places have now become available the results of which will be announced shortly. Over the coming months we shall be sending out nomination forms for the position of President Elect.

Just to remind you of the representation we currently have on council by way of our committees these are;

- Standards of Care (responsible for all aspects of good allergy practice);

- Annual Meeting (responsible for the annual scientific meeting);
- Communications (responsible for Allergy Update, the website and issues concerning the public face of the Society);
- Allergy Services (responsible for issues relating to the delivery of NHS allergy services);
- Paediatrics Committee (responsible for issues concerning paediatric allergy services and research);
- Adult Allergy (responsible for issues concerning adult allergy services, education and research);
- Primary Care (responsible for developing primary care allergy services)
- Clinical Immunology (representing the interests of clinical immunology members);
- Nurses Committee (representing interests of nurses working in allergy/clinical Immunology).

Professor Fox said he has slides he wishes to share on the BSACI three year strategy, however first he gave an update of key developments that have been happening.

- London has been chosen to host the 2020 EAACI Meeting. Dr Mohamed Shamji is the local Chair and Dr Nasser and Dr Helen Brough are co-chairs. At the 2020 EAACI Conference there will be a BSACI symposium on 'Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis' under the theme 'Prevention is better than Cure'. The conference takes place at Excel in London from the 6-10th June. The BSACI symposium is on Saturday 6th June from 10:30 – 12:00 and centers on the deaths of Natasha Ednan-Laperouse and Karanbir Cheema, highlighting some of the areas that require improvement for the UK management of food allergy and anaphylaxis. These tragic deaths have instigated several notable developments in public health initiatives to protect people with food allergy and anaphylaxis, which contributed to policy change (for example Natasha's Law on providing a full list of ingredients in prepacked food sold for direct sale and the Coroner's Notice for Prevention of Future Deaths relating to schools following Karanbir Cheema's death). This initiative requires engagement, increased awareness, implementation and enforcement which will be the focus of the three proposed themed sessions in the symposium.

In addition to this (and to extend our reach) we are also hoping to work with ITN productions by producing 3 short films which would mirror the BSACI symposium topics and include a longer film with an overview. These would then be disseminated to a range of stakeholders and would include human stories and have clear calls to action, relating to policy change.

- We continue to receive funding for our primary care allergy training days from industry and in the last twelve months have funded 5 events with a total of 244 delegates attending. There are 2 more primary care training days planned for November 2019 which makes a total of 75 since we started funding these. The number of attendees at each training day averages at 41 and to date we have had over 3000 participants. Any BSACI member wishing to run a local training day for those in primary care could receive up to £3000 funding. Please contact Marie Gibbs in the BSACI office for further details or visit the BSACI website.
- As part of a drive to gauge more interest from medical students into the specialty, we used some of the surplus from the annual meeting budget this year to bring FY1's and FY2's, IMT1 and IMT2's to the meeting. As a result of a lot of hard work has been undertaken by our Junior Members

Representative Dr Natasha Gunawardana and Mrs Marie Gibbs (BSACI Training & Education Coordinator) in contacting Medical Schools and Deaneries around the country as a result 25 medical students (who have an interest in allergy) have joined us at the conference this year. There is a session in the programme specifically for these medical students titled 'A Career in Allergy' which was on the first day of the conference.

It was agreed by BSACI council that we would offer further medical student scholarships next year, so we can build on the success of this year by continuing to encourage more people into the specialty. This will be reviewed at an agreed period and adapted (if necessary) to the needs of the specialty.

- Dr Mich Lajeunesse launched the immunotherapy registry at last year's BSACI conference. The registry was developed to monitor current immunotherapy practices with the aim of improving patient care by recording serious adverse events and the reasons for discontinuing treatment. Many members have already registered, however if you are providing immunotherapy I would urge you to register for this asap. There is a specific stand at the conference next to the BSACI stand where you can sign up to this.
- Last year Dr Shuaib Nasser mentioned that BSACI put in a bid to host the 2022/2023 WAO Meeting at Glasgow. We are still awaiting the outcome of this bid, however we have learned that WAO have concerns over Brexit and attendance levels. As a result we have been in contact with WAO to try and allay their concerns and Glasgow Conference Center have offered a discount on costs as an incentive. We will keep members updated on any significant developments.
- At council steps were taken towards a BSACI industry relations policy. Council approved the first steps of this which is a questionnaire, this will now be sent to BSACI members. The outcome of which will be used to inform the first draft of the policy.
- We also agreed a proposal to explore a closer working with the team in Manchester to develop more formal links with the UK Fatal Anaphylaxis Register and support them in finding more sustainable funding for this vital work.
- Professor Fox finished his written report by thanking BSACI council members, and in particular the Trustees, Dr Susan Leech, Dr Nicola Brathwaite and Past President Dr Shuaib Nasser for all their input, guidance and support this past year. And Fiona Rayner, BSACI Chief Executive and her team for supporting him in his role as President over the past year. He said, it's very much a collective effort on the part of everyone involved at BSACI of which I am very grateful for.

Professor Fox three year strategic aims presentation followed.

### **Internally**

To develop a set of 'organisational values' which underpins the way we work as a society and with each other. These have been drafted and sent to the members for consultation. The final draft was

published on the BSACI website and now presented at the AGM, members were asked to ratify these. These were approved.

Professor Fox said that plans to develop an Industry Policy have been delayed in order to agree the set of Values. This has now been done. The next steps are to now send out a survey to the membership, the answers will be used to form a BSACI Industry Policy, this is being led by Dr Paul Turner.

As a result of developing our organisation values Dr Nicola Brathwaite will be reviewing the BSACI's current leadership and governance structures to ensure they reflect BSACI current values. This involves standardizing and updating ToR's for each committee and reviewing each Job Description.

### **Externally**

Professor Judith Holloway is developing a National Allergy Education Strategy by working in collaboration with a variety of stakeholders to improve knowledge and understanding of allergy with the intention of improving access to services and best practice for patients.

Part of the strategic aim is to share conversations between the physician and the patient. Allergy organisations such as AAAAI have been engaged with this process which involves producing evidence based statements to promote best practice to patients. As a result Dr Deepa Choudhury and Dr Erika Harnik have developed the four statements on the following;

- Nasal douching in rhinitis
- IgE as a screening tool for food allergy in eczema
- MMR in children with egg allergy
- Alternative testing in food allergy

These have been devised using evidence based recommendations and have been kept as simple as possible to understand. These statements will be attributed to BSACI and would be reviewed (if the facts should change) by the group who developed these. These were sent out for members to consult on and were ratified at the AGM and will be submitted for SOCC review.

Once approved these will be submitted to the Choosing Wisely organisation for them to adopt and will be disseminated through the 'Choosing Wisely' website, BSACI membership, published on the BSACI website, promoted through our social media channels and through patient organisations.

Professor Fox said our ability to influence is strongly aligned to how BSACI is perceived therefore one of the strategic aims is to raise the profile of allergy and BSACI. As a result we are developing a new website and have secured funding to run a social media campaign in 2020 to raise the profile of allergy and the BSACI.

We will be writing to politicians to ensure allergy is added to their manifesto and engaging with the MHRA and DHSC on supply issues around AAls and Venom immunotherapy as well as writing to Trading Standards on the unorthodox use of alternative testing for allergy.

Professor Fox said to ensure BSACI apply with the principles set out in BSACI 'Values' statement the society have appointed Professor Helen Smith as an Ethics Lead. The Ethics Lead role is to provide guidance and impartial advice to BSACI Council and Trustee Directors in recognising and resolving ethical issues and potential conflicts that may arise. The Ethics Lead will also advocate on behalf of those members who may feel their issues are not being addressed by the society.

### **3. SECRETARY REPORT (Dr Nicola Brathwaite)**

In the last 12 months there have been 97 new applicants wishing to join the society. These were sent by email to all members and a copy of the list have been made available to you today. BSACI members are asked to approve these new members by a show of hands. These were duly approved.

Dr Brathwaite said that clinical members made up just over 50% of the membership, Nurse and Allied Health Professionals made up 20% and Junior members 17%, Students, Honorary and Retired members combined made up the remaining 13%.

With regards to the BSACI Travel Fellowships 25 were awarded and a further 11 dietitians were successful in being awarded a bursary. Dr Brathwaite thanked Mylan and Mead Johnson Nutrition for their contributions this year.

### **4. TREASURER'S REPORT (Dr Susan Leech)**

Dr Leech said BSACI Financial Year runs from August 1st to July 31st. Significant variances to Income for year ending July 31st 2019 were;

Royalty income was above budget due to the USA exchange rate being in our favour. The 2018 BSACI Annual Meeting budget showed a surplus of £26,692. Expenditure overall in 2018/19 came in lower than budgeted at £292,677 against a budget of £321,089. The summary of income and expenditure for year ending July 2019 is as follows:

	Budget	Actual	Variance
Income:	£326,108	£363,969	£37,861
Expend:	£321,108	£292,677	£28,431

Surplus: £71,292

For year ending July 2020, BSACI have set a conservative budget as follows:

	2020 Budget	2019 Actual
Income:	£291,806	£363,969
Expend:	£314,747	£292,677
Deficit/surplus:	-£22,941	£71,292

Dr Leech said we have taken precautionary budgeting measures as there is a potential threat to our royalty income. Plan S is a global group who fund research and want to change the model in which we publish and want all hybrid journals such as CEA to be open access. The budgets for the year ending July 2020 were approved at the AGM.

The AGM agreed not to increase membership subscription rates for year ending July 2021.

BSACI have submitted its annual accounts to the Charity Commission in March 2019 which showed the overall combined income and expenditure as follows:

Year ending	2018	(2017)
Income:	£756,300	£600,309
Expenditure:	£665,587	£588,467

Members were asked to re-affirm the appointment of BSACI accountants Sawin & Edwards. These were re-affirmed.

#### **5. REPORT FROM EDITOR OF CLINICAL & EXPERIMENTAL ALLERGY (Professor Graham Roberts)**

Professor Roberts presented the highlights from 2019. The Impact Factor is at 5.026 (5.158 in 2018). Submissions seem to be steady despite competition from other allergy journals. Acceptance rate is around 30%. Plans for 2019/2020 include:

- A Virtual issue on: Novel interventional strategies in allergy and asthma: 'mechanistic and clinical insights'
- Rejuvenating the Editorial Board
- Negotiating a new contract with Wiley in 2020 as the contract for this term (5 years) ends next year
- Appoint new Editor and editorial team.

Succession planning for a new editor will start directly after the BSACI Meeting.

#### **6. REPORT FROM THE 2019 ANNUAL MEETING SCIENTIFIC LEAD (Dr Tom Marrs)**

Dr Marrs thanked the 2019 planning committee for their input into the direction of the 2019 meeting programme. The sessions were well represented and appealed to a cross section of delegates. The meeting attracted a healthy amount of sponsorship from a variety of funders. We moved to our new venue in Harrogate, (which is more expensive than Telford), however it was decided not to increase the delegate fees as a result of the move this year. Many more delegates have attended the meeting this year than last. We gave out 24 Travel Fellowship Awards, 11 bursaries to dietitians and new to this year was our Medical Scholarship scheme set up to encourage FY1's and FY2's and ITM1 and ITM2 into the speciality. As a result we used surplus from the Annual Meeting to pay for 27 scholars to come to the meeting.

We received 131 abstract submissions, 7 abstracts were rejected/withdrawn therefore the total amount presented this year was 124. We held our welcome reception at the Sun Pavilion, however due to financial constraints we decided not to hold a presidential dinner and instead hired a restaurant locally and invited speakers. We shall be having a debrief after the meeting which will cover many aspects of the past few days, this along with delegate feedback after the meeting will enable us to improve the way we run the meeting next year.

## **7. RESULTS OF THE 2019 COUNCIL ELECTIONS (Professor A Fox)**

There are 2 positions available for two elected members of council as Dr Elizabeth Griffiths and Professor Bill Egner will be standing down.

We had more nominations than places, therefore an election was run via survey monkey. The nominations were:

Professor Michael Rudenko  
Dr Nasreen Khan  
Dr Rubaiyat Haque  
Dr Sian Ludman  
Dr Sophie Farooque  
Dr Steve Jenkins

The two members who received the most votes are: Dr Sophie Farooque and Dr Rubaiyat Haque. Professor Fox congratulated both for being elected and all those who were nominated, but were not successful this year.

There will be one position on council available in the next 12 months for 'President Elect', nomination papers will be sent out in due course.

## **8. A.O.B**

Dr Scadding wanted to bring up the discussion that took place at council on the BSACI's current investment in fossil fuels. Dr Leech thanked Dr Scadding and said that it was agreed by council that the society would review this in consultation with BSACI investment management company Charles Stanley, and would report back at the next council meeting.

## **9. DATE OF THE NEXT AGM**

Friday 2nd October, 2020