



MINUTES

BRITISH SOCIETY FOR ALLERGY AND CLINICAL IMMUNOLOGY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 9th October 2021

8am – 9am

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

Attendees: 39

- Apologies were received from: Dr Malgorzata Czarnecka and Ms Janette Bartle

1. APPROVAL OF 2020 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. He said you took a leap of faith with us holding the first face to face allergy meeting in two years and we believe it paid off.

The President thanked Dr George Gkimpas (BSACI Scientific Programme Lead) for all his hard work these past 12 months with the BSACI meeting, this is George's first meeting as Scientific Programme Lead and said I'm sure you will agree this year's programme is outstanding.

He said, Dr Gkimpas has been ably supported this year by Dr Nandinee Patel & Dr Natasha Gunawardana as Joint Deputy Scientific Programme Leads and thanked all those who assisted with the meeting in many ways including Dr Tammy Rothenberg (Abstract Lead), Mrs Louise Colonnese (BSACI Marketing & Communications Officer) and all those who were involved in the 2021 programme planning meeting as well as those who were involved in the regular bi weekly implementation meetings and from the BSACI Office Marie Gibbs, BSACI Training & Education Coordinator and Ben King BSACI Membership Officer. Last but by no mean least Karen and Lucie at Medivents our professional conference organizers.

I would also like to thank our sponsors and exhibitors for their support for the meeting.

As you may be aware the majority of the activity BSACI undertakes is carried out by BSACI committees/groups and representatives. The majority of the leads from each of these sit on BSACI Council and meet approximately three times a year. There are currently 25 members on BSACI council seven of which are elected by the whole membership. This year the five following council members step down as their three-year term has come to an end;

Dr Zara Zolkipli, Dr Andrew Whyte, Dr Mich Lajeunesse, Professor Judith Holloway, Professor Adnan Custovic. I would like to thank them all for their contributions as well as BSACI Honorary Secretary as the term in office for Dr Nicola Brathwaite has also ended and she will be stepping down from this position. Nomination papers were sent out to the membership and I shall be announcing the outcome later on in the meeting, as well as other new appointees. I would strongly encourage anyone who wishes to be involved in the strategic direction of the society to send in their nomination when a position becomes available, or to reply to an 'Expression of Interest' email to be part of a specific area of our work.

- **Anaphylaxis Steering Committee**

Following an extended period of lobbying, our voice was finally heard as a result BSACI received confirmation of a £100,000 funding from the Food Standards Agency (FSA) to support the UK Fatal Anaphylaxis Registry. BSACI will be working with Dr Vibha Sharma who is leading on the registry in partnership with Manchester Foundation Trust to deliver on this. The UK Fatal Anaphylaxis Registry will help us better understand the prevalence of anaphylaxis related deaths and our understanding of the risks and the causes, to be able to reduce the risk of recurrence. The FSA have supported the Non-Fatal Anaphylaxis Registry set up by Imperial College led by Dr Paul Turner in partnership with BSACI. The non-fatal registry's aim is to have a register for hospital admissions with food and non-food causes and establish prospective data collection on food hypersensitivity reactions to foods in the community that do not present to hospitals in order and deliver a report on the circumstances surrounding severe anaphylaxis and adverse reactions to food in the UK.

An expression of interest request was sent to the membership inviting members to apply to sit on the committee and Chair, Dr Richard Pumphrey was appointed as Chair of the Anaphylaxis Steering Committee.

- **Psychology Working Group**

The BSACI are forming a new Psychology Working Group to bring together psychologists working in research and clinical settings with an interest in allergies. The Psychology Group will enable the networking of professionals, sharing of ideas and CPD as well as contribute to psychological thinking in allergy research and services, with the aim to improving the psychological care of patients and their families.

- Another expert working party has been formed to 'Improve the provision of care in perioperative allergy'. The objective is to standardise the provision of care across the UK for patients who suffer perioperative hypersensitivity and to develop a national database for cases, to facilitate audit and research. The aim is to introduce accreditation standards for clinics providing care for this patient group and to establish collaboration between BSACI and other stakeholder groups.

- With the profound inequalities that many in our society still face, BSACI are committed to playing our part in minimizing these by developing a policy around ‘Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. A working party was set up, and Professor Thirumula Krishna was appointed as chair. Work begun with reviewing BSACI ToRs and identifying and addressing any potential gaps with respect to ‘Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity’ within the society. The next step is to create Podcasts in English language for 2 interventions - CSU and hay fever and to translate them into multiple languages. The group will also be translating the new BSACI Anaphylaxis PIL into 4 languages this is a PIL with Anaphylaxis Campaign and Allergy UK as stakeholders.
- As part of our inclusivity strategy we shall also start collecting protected characteristics from the membership, so that we don’t unintentionally exclude groups within BSACI but ensure we are reaching all groups proportionately and are able to identify areas of our work that are possibly underrepresented. Details will be sent to the membership about this in due course.
- A joint report from the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Allergy and the National Allergy Strategy Group was due to be launched over a year ago, however due to the pandemic the launch was postponed. This report, titled ‘Meeting the Challenges of the National Allergy Crisis’ will be launched and delivered to the Department of Health in Whitehall on Wednesday 27th October. It will be followed by a meeting at 11am where we will hear from families affected by allergic disease, medical professionals and professional organisations including BSACI, Allergy UK and Anaphylaxis Campaign.

The report recommends the expansion of the specialist workforce as a priority and that training programmes prioritize allergy so that specialists of the future are appropriately trained and can safely deliver care. Also it calls for the development of a national allergy strategy and an accountable person for Allergy in the DoH and that all GPs and health care professionals in primary care have knowledge of allergic disease. The report recommends the need for local commissioners to be fully aware of the allergy needs of their population and ensure access to adult and paediatric allergy consultants and pathways of allergy care. Details of the full report can be found **here** on the BSACI website

- **BSACI Operations Manager**
Next month BSACI shall be looking for an Operations Manager to join the expanding team in the BSACI office. This is a time of rapid growth for BSACI and this role will be instrumental in helping us transform into a sustainable organization, by driving progress against our key commitments and freeing up Fiona’s time from aspects of operational management, so she can focus on overall strategy, sustainable funding, the organization’s profile as well as building partnerships.

This post will be pivotal in developing new planned work with staff as well as expand a range of related activities. The society now employs 7 staff – this will be the eighth member of staff who will be responsible for the management and development of five staff members. The Marketing and Communications Officer will be managed directly by the BSACI Chief Executive. The postholder will also support the CEO and would be expected to deputize where appropriate.

- **BSACI Leadership Structure review**
The Society has grown organically in recent years and to enable us to achieve our strategic aims and ensure our membership are able to treat allergic patients more effectively we have reviewed our current leadership structure. To enable us to meet our aims we need to develop more senior leadership positions of council where the postholders will be accountable for overseeing strategic areas of our work. Further details of this will be sent to the membership in due course.
- BSACI is collaborating with the World Allergy Organization (WAO) to host a joint conference from 25th-27th April 2022. Preparations for this are well under way and registration for the meeting will open at the beginning of November. It is anticipated the conference will be face to face and will be held in Edinburgh at the International Conference Centre (EICC).
- We continue to work with the MHRA and look forward to the imminent release of their paper reflecting the findings of the expert working group on adrenaline autoinjectors.

Professor Fox said presented his slides on the three year strategic objectives and where we are now with them.

STRATEGY

- Develop a set of organizational values which underpin the work of the society - these were drafted and ratified at the AGM
- Develop a National Allergy Education Strategy - To close the gap in allergy education. This strategy has been finalized and shared with the membership.
- Develop an Industry Policy – To enable BSACI to have clear guidance by developing a set of principles by which the BSACI interacts with industry. This was drafted and ratified at the AGM in 2019.
- Leadership and Inclusivity - Define a governance structure for committees with a focus on transparency and review leadership positions to ensure it can support the strategic and operational aims of the society and that equality, diversity and inclusivity is incorporated in everything we do.
 - (i) The ToR for all committees and Chair Job Descriptions have all been drafted and approved by council.
 - (ii) The leadership structure is currently being worked through and will be sent to the membership in due course. NB: We have a broader representation with the first ever nurse to become a trustee.
 - (iii) We have an Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity (EDI) Working Group whose remit is to develop an EDI policy for the society which can be incorporated into all aspects of our work.

- (iv) 'Choosing Wisely' - Part of the strategic aim is to share conversations between the physician and the patients by producing evidence-based statements to promote best practice to patients. Four statements have been produced and sent to 'Choosing Wisely' and can also be found on the BSACI website [here](#).
- (v) Increasing BSACI Influence - Redevelopment of BSACI website, membership engagement via webinars and grand rounds, appointment of a Marketing and Communications Officer and working more closely with MHRA, DHSC, FSA, APPG, patient organizations etc... to increase our profile and be able to influence decision makers

3. SECRETARY REPORT

(Dr Nicola Brathwaite)

In the last 12 months there have been 182 new applicants wishing to join the society. This is 100 more applications than the previous year. These were sent by email to all members and a copy of the list have been made available to you today via the QR code. BSACI members are asked to approve these new members by a show of hands. These were duly approved.

Membership numbers as of the 1st Aug 2021 are 921. Dr Brathwaite acknowledged that Ben King had done an amazing job with regards to transitioning members to an online membership platform and tidying up the membership.

The new membership year began on August 1st, if colleagues have not yet renewed their membership please log into your account, should you have any problems with this please email Ben@bsaci.org

Dr Brathwaite said that clinical members made up 52% of the membership, Nurse and Allied Health Professionals made up 21% and Junior members 17%, Non clinicians, Students, Honorary and Retired members combined made up the remaining 10%.

With regards to the BSACI Travel Fellowships 13 were awarded this year. Dr Brathwaite thanked everyone for their support these past 12 months.

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 2021 are;

Membership income was down by £8326. We undertook a process of cleaning up the database and now we have a database of members who are engaged with the society.

Royalty income was up by £30,202. To balance the budget we had added £80,368 from our investments, however we didn't need to draw down on our investment income and used £36,366 cash in the account to balance the budget instead. The 2020 annual meeting was forecast to run at a £19,198 deficit, however it came in at -£4,897 instead.

Expenditure – The main variances to the expenditure are staffing costs as we have developed a new Marketing & Communications Officer post which has increased our costs this year by

£15,718. We have also appointed new journal editors and agreed to supplement their annual honorarium provided by Wiley by £15K.

The summary of income and expenditure for year ending July 2021 is as follows:

	Budget	Actual	Variance	(2019 Actual)
Income:	£317,204	£280,838	£36,366	£314,271
Expend:	£317,204	£302,299	£14,905	£310,318

BSACI 2021 Annual Meeting Budget

Dr Leech said the summary of the Pre-conference budgets are as follows:

	Budget	Actual to date
Income:	£213,800	£235,920
Expenditure:	£242,740	£237,353
Surplus/Deficit	-£28,940	-£1,433

Dr Leech said given the increased number of registrations this year, its likely we shall have a small surplus.

Future Development

Dr Leech said BSACI are growing and to support this growth we are investing in staffing resources by appointing an 'Operations Manager' who will be instrumental in helping us transform into a sustainable organization, by driving progress against our key commitments and freeing up Fiona Rayner's time from aspects of operational management, so Fiona can focus on overall strategy, sustainable funding, the organization's profile as well as building partnerships.

We have another new position of a Marketing & Communications Officer this is to support the BSACI in delivering a wide range of activities including digital marketing campaigns, growing our social media following and increasing engagement with stakeholders of all our activities using a variety of communication and raise our profile. BSACI are also continuing to pay a £15,000 supplementary cost to new Editors of CEA as well as investing in the specialty by funding £15,000 in medical student scholarships for our annual meeting.

As a result of this BSACI will need to draw down £169,907 from BSACI investment portfolio which currently stands at £1,056,322.

For year ending July 2022, BSACI propose the following budgets:

	2022	(2021) Actual
Income:	£445,243	£280,838
Expenditure:	£445,243	£302,299
Deficit/Surplus:	£0.00	-£21,461

Dr Robin Gore asked what the long-term plan was for balancing the budgets as drawing down from our investment at this level is not sustainable. Dr Leech agreed and said that the society were investing in staffing resources now, so we can focus on long-term sustainable income generation.

Members were asked to approve the proposed budgets. These were approved.

BSACI have submitted its annual accounts to the Charity Commission in March 2021 which showed the overall combined income and expenditure as follows:

Year ending	2020	(2019)
Income:	£655,197	£703,561
Expenditure:	£661,058	£631,044
Surplus/Deficit:	-£5861	£72,517

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

5. REPORT FROM CO-EDITOR OF CLINICAL & EXPERIMENTAL ALLERGY (Dr Mohamed Shamji)

Dr Shamji said the time from submitted to acceptance has been reduced. The impact factor has risen from 4.217 in 2020 to 5.018 in 2021. There is a new strategy to improve author experience. Review articles provide editorial feedback, reviews can be submitted. The journal has a strong online presence with two online special editions. The overall aim is to improve the quality of submissions and have press released several articles this year and have seen increases in social media/ altmetric scores related to these. The extra attention is very positive for authors and should also lead to higher citation rates for these articles.

Dr Shamji said the editors have developed two new series for the journal to make it more attractive to clinicians:

- Cochrane Corners are brief summaries of recent Cochrane reviews relevant to clinical practice in allergic conditions. Dr Cherry Alviani is coordinating author groups from volunteer trainees for these. If you have a trainee who might benefit from getting their name on a publication, please put them in touch with Dr Alviani.

- Clinical Questions are brief summaries of a topical clinical uncertainty, designed to be helpful for clinicians. These are led by senior consultants, often with help from a trainee.

Dr Shamji said he had received a request for CEA to consider some form of youth forum for submitting research, which the co-editors will be looking into.

6. REPORT FROM THE 2021 ANNUAL MEETING SCIENTIFIC LEAD (Dr George Gkimpas)

Dr Gkimpas said the society have set a precedent for other meetings by running a face-to-face meeting this year, which has proved very popular. He thanked the programme planning committee for their input into the programme this year as well as his deputies Dr Nandinee Patel and Dr Natasha Gunawardana and all those who have helped with the operational side of the meeting. The highlight of the meeting was the 'Presidents Plenary' around environmental pollution. Also new to this year was the novel 'Allergy Education' session in memory of Professor Anthony Frew and 'Drug Hypersensitivity' session in memory of Dr Marta Krawiec.

We received 98 abstracts (including oral). There are 68 Speakers, 58 from the UK and 10 from overseas. We have awarded 13 Travel Fellowships and 11 medical scholarships.

Out of all the presentations 11 have been pre-recorded, however speakers have been available in real time to answer questions. Many COVID safety measures have been put in place. Below are the number of registrations for the conference;

REGISTRATIONS 2019 – not including on site	REGISTRATIONS 2020 – not including on site	REGISTRATIONS 2021 – not including on site
628 - not including on site	418 - not including onsite	573 - not including on site
493 – paying delegates	339 – paying delegates	406 – paying delegates

REGISTRATIONS 2019 – including on site	REGISTRATIONS 2020 –including on site	REGISTRATIONS 2021 –including on site

674 registrations	418 registrations	619 registrations
539 – paying delegates	339 – paying delegates	434 – paying delegates

Dr Gkimpas said this year we had not received any Basic Science Abstracts which was disappointing and need to look at how we can increase representation from scientists as well as those working in primary care.

7. RESULTS OF THE 2021 ELECTIONS (Professor A Fox)

Professor Fox conveyed the following;

Council nominations

There are seven elected council places in total, we now have 5 vacancies as the following will be stepping down;

Dr Zara Zolkipli, Dr Andrew Whyte, Dr Mich Lajeunesse, Professor Judith Holloway, Professor Adnan Custovic are all stepping down after three years as elected council members;

The following 5 nominations were received for an elected council place;

Dr Dinusha Chandratilleke - Consultant Immunologist at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle.

Lucy Common – Advanced Clinical Nurse Specialist at Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust

Dr Louise Michaelis - Consultant and Associate lecturer in Paediatric Immunology and Allergy at The Great North Children's Hospital Newcastle

Dr George Gkimpas - Consultant in adult allergy at the Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, and a Clinical Research Fellow at the Division of Infection, Immunity and Respiratory Medicine of the University of Manchester.

Dr Steve Jenkins, Consultant Physician, Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford

As there were five vacancies and five applications for council member places, no election was necessary, therefore all nominees are duly elected.

The BSACI Honorary Secretary term has also come to an end as Dr Nicola Brathwaite will be rotating off after three years in this position. Nomination papers were sent out and we received one applicant from Dr Deb Marriage, a Lead Paediatric Allergy & Respiratory Clinical Nurse Specialist at Bristol Children's Hospital. Dr Marriage is duly appointed.

The following three committee chairs term have now come to an end, they will therefore be rotating off council in their respective role, these are;

Dr Andrew Whyte – Chair of Adult Allergy Committee
Ms Lucy Common – Chair of Nurses Committee
Dr Paul Turner – Chair of Paediatric Committee

We received one nomination for each of the above positions, therefore the following will be duly appointed;

Professor Paul Ciclitira as the new Chair of the Adult Allergy Committee.

Hannah Krammer as Chair of the Nurses Committee. Hannah is a Paed Allergy CNS at Guys and St Thomas's

Dr Nick Makwana (Consultant Paediatrician – Paed Allergy) Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust will be the new Chair of the BSACI Paediatric Committee

The Junior Members Representative Dr Natasha Gunawardana's 3 year term has come to an end. Two trainees applied for this role;

Dr Cherry Alviani, who is a Paed Allergy Trainee in Southampton
Dr Neha Christian, Adult Allergy Trainee at Guy's

This went to a vote and Dr Cherry Alviani secured the most votes and has been appointed as the new trainee representative. Both are very strong candidates. Dr Alviani has asked Dr Christian to work alongside her in this role.

Professor Fox thanked all those rotating off council for their huge contributions to the society over the last three years and hope that they will consider being involved in the work of BSACI in another capacity, in the near future.

He warmly welcomed all those who have just taken up their new appointments and said we very much look forward to working with you in your new roles.

8. RATIFICATION OF THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS (Professor Adam Fox)

Members were sent in advance of the AGM the following documents for ratification, these were also available during the meeting via the QR code.

- (i) BSACI 'Resolving Complaints Process' with tracked changes on to consider approving changes. These changes were approved.
- (ii) BSACI National Allergy Education Strategy - this document was approved.
- (iii) Propose the following amendment to RULE (21) 'Elected council members are the only members on council eligible to vote.' This was ratified.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business

10. DATE OF 2022 AGM

This will be by Zoom as BSACI/WAO are jointly hosting a meeting in April 2022, therefore there will not be a separate BSACI Meeting later on in the year. The date of the AGM will be sent out to the membership in due course.

11. CLOSING FROM INCOMING PRESIDENT (Professor Graham Roberts)

Professor Roberts thanked Professor Fox and said that due to Professor Fox's strategic oversight the society have moved forward significantly and are in a much better position going forward to continue our future developments.

Signed:Date:.....