

BSACI

Improving Allergy Care
through education, training and research

BRITISH SOCIETY FOR ALLERGY AND CLINICAL IMMUNOLOGY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8am – 9am on Saturday 7 October 2023

Queen's Suite 2, Harrogate Convention Centre, King's Rd, Harrogate HG1 5LA

Draft Minutes

Number of Attendees: 50

Quorate number: 20

Apologies: Dr Mohamed Shamji

Minutes: Vivine Smith

1. President's Welcome (Professor Graham Roberts)

Professor Roberts welcomed attendees to this year's AGM and expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve the membership as he explained that he had reached his final year of his term in office. He advised attendees that the AGM documents could be found on the link on the app, along with a QR Code, for those who had not yet voted on the proposed BSACI rule amendments and the draft EDI policy.

The BSACI Joint Scientific Programme Leads, Dr Nandinee Patel and Dr Natasha Gunawardana were commended by the President for their efforts leading up to the 2023 BSACI Conference and he added that the programme was outstanding because of their exceptional leadership.

The President said that the Board of Trustees was grateful to each of the BSACI's committees, working groups and representatives for having risen to the challenge of achieving the Society's key objectives and for helping to advance the BSACI's strategic aims. He urged anyone wishing to be directly involved in the Society to apply for positions when they were announced.

The President thanked his fellow Trustees for their knowledge, wisdom and invaluable support. He announced that Dr Sue Leech, BSACI Honorary Treasurer, would be stepping down from her role after the 2023 AGM. He sincerely thanked Sue for her diligence over the years in helping keep BSACI finances on track. Professor Roberts also noted that Adam Fox, the BSACI's Past President and Trustee, would be stepping down from Council as the Society appointed a new President-Elect. He said that Adam had played a significant role in shaping the Society over the years and that he remained Chair of the National Allergy Strategy Group (NASG.)

The President expressed his gratitude to Fiona Rayner, the CEO, and the BSACI Office staff, noting that everyone involved in the BSACI's work contributed significantly to its success.

2. Approval of the 2022 AGM Minutes (Professor Graham Roberts)

A copy of the 2022 AGM minutes and other documentation were circulated to the membership before the meeting.

Members were asked to ratify, by a show of hands, the 2022 AGM minutes.

Result: Approved

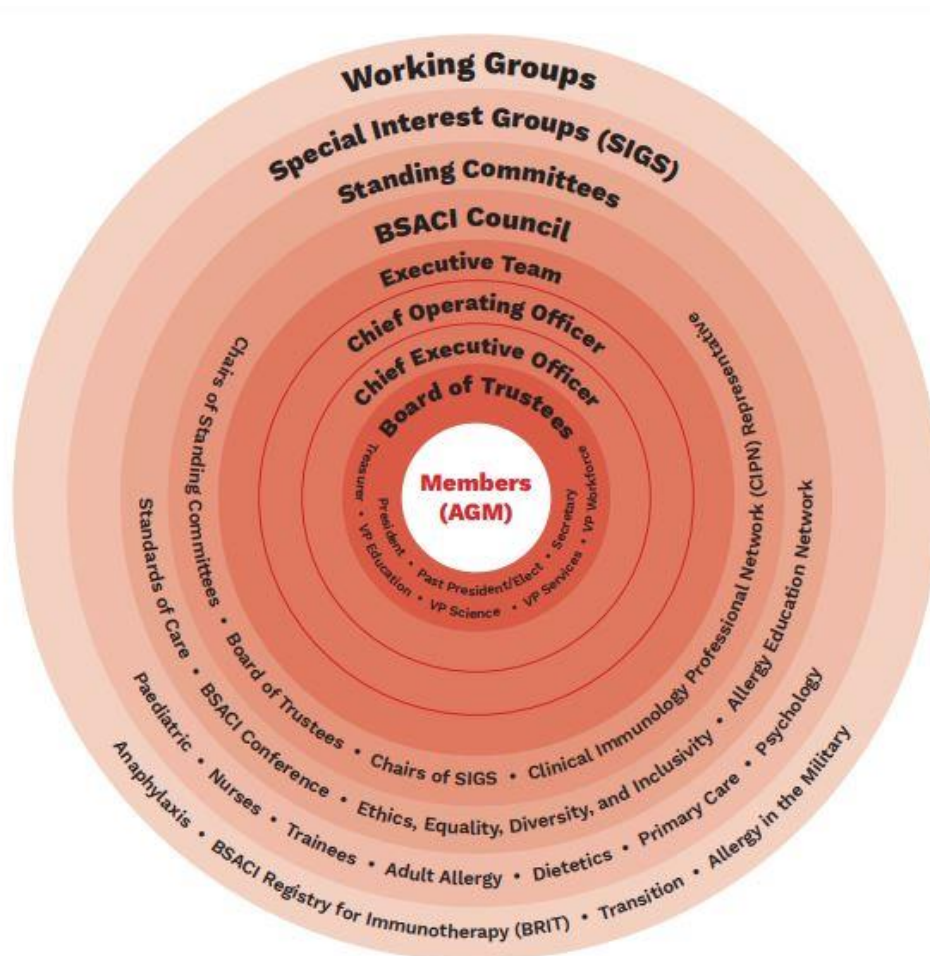
3. President's Report (Professor Graham Roberts)

The President said that much had been achieved this past year, the highlights were:

Development of a new leadership structure

Professor Roberts reaffirmed the BSACI's Council's importance and outlined the rationale for developing a new leadership structure, namely, to maintain the Society's strategic growth and ensure that the Articles of Association accurately reflect how the BSACI works today. The number of Trustees would be increased from four to eight and include four Vice Presidents.

The proposed BSACI Leadership Structure



Members were asked to ratify, by a show of hands, the BSACI rule changes and new leadership structure.

Result: Approved

Global Online Allergy Symposium

Professor Roberts advised members that the BSACI would be hosting the BSACI Global Online Allergy Symposium on Friday 26 January 2024, which would be in collaboration with its international partners the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI), the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI) and the World Allergy Organization (WAO.) He said that the 2023 Global Symposium's programme had been exceptional, with a high calibre of internationally well-known world-class speakers.

Implementation of the BSACI National Allergy Education Strategy

Led by Professor Judith Holloway, the BSACI National Allergy Education Network (BAEN) developed a national education strategy. The President thanked Professor Holloway for her leadership and hard work as she stepped down from her position as Chair.

The BSACI had invested in an ambitious allergy education strategy and appointed Margaret Kelman, as the part time Education Fellow on a two-year fixed term contract, to implement and advance its aims and objectives.

GPs with Extended Roles (GPwER) in Allergy

Led by Dr Liz Angier, who developed the allergy framework, Professor Roberts said that this was a key BSACI strategy. He thanked Dr Angier and her team for their tireless effort over the years to bring the BSACI to this point. He added that the framework had been developed by the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) and would increase the allergy knowledge, skills and competencies of practitioners within primary care. The scheme's accreditation would be provided by the BSACI and its team of assessors. He said that two GPs had signed up for the pilot before the scheme was rolled out nationally.

BSACI Registry for Immunotherapy Key Outcomes

Led by Dr Mich Lajeunesse and supported by the BRIT committee, the BSACI Registry for Immunotherapy (BRIT) has around 2500 patients registered across 120 centres. Its user dashboard was launched in early 2023. Peanut Immunotherapy was initiated in the second phase of the registry. The first peer-reviewed published study is underway. The BRIT committee is looking to secure funding for phase 3 years of the registry and to build an active community of practice.

Partnership Building

In addition to building strategic partnerships, the CEO has been expanding and strengthening our relationships with stakeholders. This gives the BSACI the ability to influence government policy and have an impact on events in the UK. For example, we have been working in partnership with the FSA (Food Standard Agency) on Food allergy guidelines; we hosted a hugely successful webinar with the BTS (British Thoracic Society); we are planning to deliver a

session at the British Society for Gastroenterology's conference in 2025; and we continue to work collaboratively with the BSI (British Society for Immunology.)

Following the publication of the 2021 All Party Parliamentary Group for Allergy report, 'Meeting the Challenges of the National Allergy Crisis', and the subsequent discussions with the government, the Department of Health and Social Care and NASG have established a joint new Expert Advisory Group on Allergy. Its first meeting is due to take place in December.

Support for the UK Fatal Anaphylaxis Registry

Professor Roberts announced that, despite the challenges currently faced by registries, the UK Fatal Anaphylaxis Registry (UKFAR) had received funding. Dr Vibha Sharma, Consultant in Paediatric Allergy at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital is the UKFAR lead and custodian of the registry. Outcomes from the register will be launched early next year, via a round table discussion on the next steps. UK agencies will be invited to attend as well as members.

Finally, thanks were given to the BSACI Board of Trustees: Professor Adam Fox (Past President); Dr Deb Marriage (Secretary); Dr Susan Leech (Treasurer), and also to Fiona Rayner (Chief Executive Officer) who celebrates 20 years of working for the BSACI.

4. Secretary's Report

(Dr Deb Marriage)

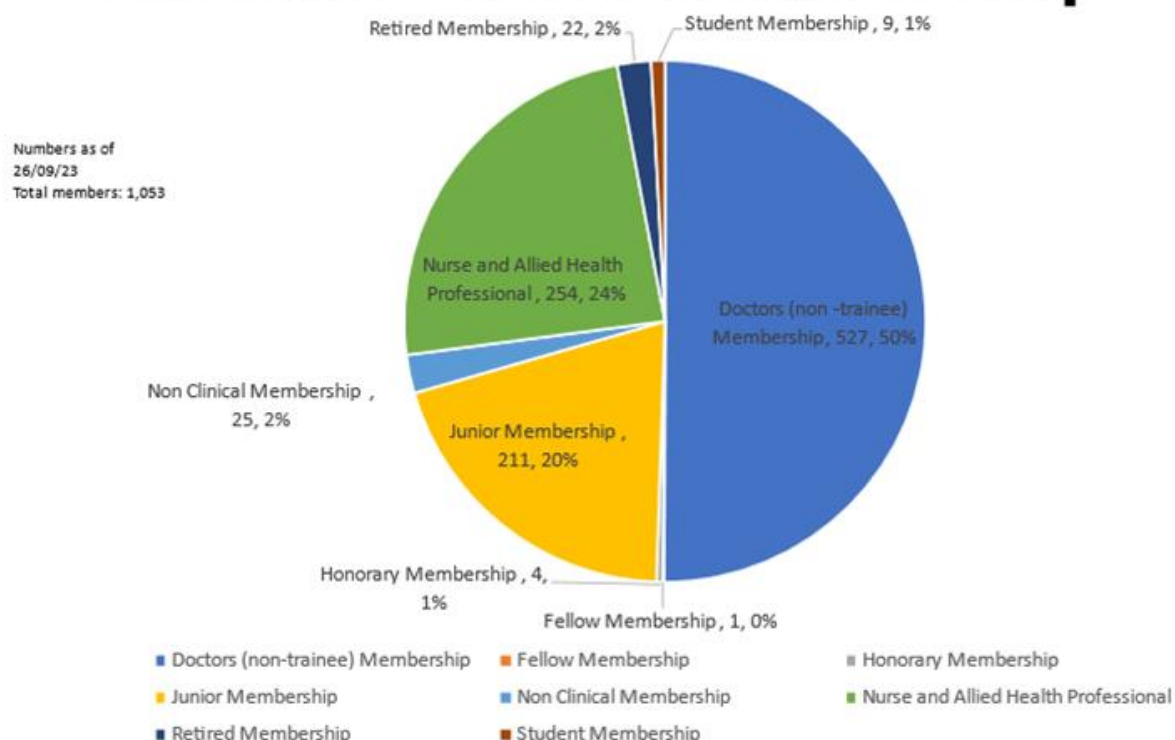
The list of applications for BSACI membership is distributed to council members each quarter. Between 1st August 2022 - 31st July 2023, the BSACI Council approved 174 new applicants for membership, which is a 20% increase on the previous year (2021-2022.) The Society now has 1053 members. A list of applicants was sent to the members in advance.

Members were asked to ratify, by a show of hands, the new members' list.

Result: Approved

Breakdown of the current categories

Current BSACI membership



The Secretary thanked the membership for its continued support and asked for emails regarding suggestions on how to improve membership services be sent to melanie@bsaci.org. Dr Marriage also thanked Melanie Parrienen, the BSACI membership officer, who was doing a brilliant job in supporting the Secretary. The President said it was great to see varied representation of categories across the Society.

5. Treasurer’s Report

(Dr Susan Leech)

The BSACI’s financial year runs from August 2022 to July 2023.

Summary of Income / Expenditure for YE 31 July 2023			
	Budget	Actual	Variance
Income	£482,680	£395,234	£87,446
Expenditure	£483,608	£488,296	-£4,688
Surplus/Deficit		-£93,062	

Income

Dr Leech highlighted a couple of variances and explained the way budgets had been produced up to this point, adding in the transfer of income from investments to balance the budget so that it matches the predicted expenditure. Last year the BSACI used less than anticipated,

therefore, only drawing down £40,000 from its reserves (instead of the projected £207,704). There had been a small increase in membership fees and royalties from Wiley Blackwell. Dr Leech asked members to note that whilst it was a success, the 2023 Online Global Symposium had made a financial loss.

Expenditure

Dr Leech highlighted a few variances: premises costs have increased due to rising utility bills; however, staffing and resources costs were down due to an unfilled vacancy post for several months.

The £93k deficit had been funded by drawing down £40k from the BSACI's investment account and the rest was made up from funds in the Society's current account.

Summary of 2023 Annual Conference Budget		
	Budget	Actual (20.09.2023)
Income	£227,880	£ 292,955
Expenditure	£261,453	£ 276,179
Surplus/Loss	-£33,572	£16,776

More delegates registered this year than expected and the figures for those who registered onsite would be added at a later date. The Treasurer noted that the final 2023 conference figures would change due to the rail strike and there would be additional costs, for example, to cover speakers' travel, accommodation etc., which may cancel out any increased income generated.

Future Developments

Dr Leech said that the BSACI was in its final year of implementing the three-year strategy, and funding from planned activity would assist in maintaining long-term stability to deliver its objectives.

Future BSACI developments included a series of planned clinical guidelines, clinical practice statements etc., which were:

1. Emerging Food Allergens Guideline
2. Idiopathic Anaphylaxis Guideline
3. Local Anaesthetic Guideline
4. Lipid Transfer Protein Allergy (LTP) Clinical Practice Statement
5. Oral Food Challenge - Clinical Practice Statement
6. On our website is the Adrenaline Auto-Injector, a prescription for patients at risk of anaphylaxis and guidance for Primary care practitioners
7. BSACI Adult Action Plans.

The Treasurer said that the BSACI had an ambitious investment and financial strategy. It had appointed an Education Fellow on a two year fixed-term contract and was developing the Online Global Symposium.

It was explained that the formerly restricted funds from the Primary Care Training Day and the BRIT income and expenditure would, in future, be accounted for in the main BSACI budgets.

Proposed Income and Expenditure Budgets for Year Ending July 2024		
	Proposed Budgets 2024	Actual 2023
Income	£535,741	£395,234
Expenditure	£649,049	£488,296
Deficit/Surplus	-£113,308	-£93,062

Members were asked to ratify, by a show of hands, the income and expenditure budgets for the year ending 2023/24.

Result: Approved

Membership fees

At the 2022 AGM, it was agreed to increase subscription fees by 5% which was due to take effect from 1 August 2023. This did not happen this year due to an oversight and membership fees will be increased from 1 August 2024.

Accounts for YE 31 July 2022 Submitted to the Charity Commission		
Year Ending	2022	2021
Income	£1,225,256	£438,507
Expenditure	£1,101,891	£480,726
Surplus/Deficit	£123,365	-£42,219

Dr Leech explained that an annual conference did not take place in 2021. The joint BSACI/WAO 2022 annual conference generated over £1m in income, and consequently a full audit had been carried out.

The president thanked Dr Leech for her years dedicated to the Treasurer's role and presented her with a gift in recognition of her hard work and commitment to the Society.

Reappointment of Auditors

Members were asked to ratify, by a show of hands, the appointment of BSACI auditors Sawin & Edwards LLP.

Result: Approved

6. Clinical & Experimental Allergy Journal Report

(Dr Robert Boyle)

Dr Robert Boyle said that the Clinical and Experimental Allergy (CEA) journal had had a good year. The highest impact factor in the history of the journal (6.1) was achieved at a time when all other allergy journal impact factors had a post-pandemic drop. The CEA was on track to have an impact factor which is close to double figures in two years, challenging the very top allergy journals internationally in terms of metrics. The editors expected this to lead to increased numbers of high-quality manuscript submissions and an ongoing increase in the quality and impact of the articles published in the journal. There was a new LinkedIn channel to complement Twitter/X, and Wiley continued to support the journal with press releases for the most newsworthy articles.

Together with SOCC (Standard of Care Committee), there had been discussions regarding a new, briefer guideline format called BSACI Clinical Practice Statements, in addition to the more comprehensive BSACI guidelines which tackle broader topics.

A number of successful special issues had been published, most recently on Allergy in India. The next special issue would be on Nutrition and Allergy, and the call for submissions would be launched at a BSACI webinar in October.

Dr Boyle expressed his gratitude to many members of the UK allergy community, including several BSACI Council members, for their loyal support of the journal through high-quality manuscript submissions, peer-review and editorials.

Professor Roberts thanked Dr Boyle and Dr Mohamed Shamji for doing an excellent job on the journal.

7. Special Resolutions

(Professor Graham Roberts)

I. Rule Changes

Members were asked to ratify, by SurveyMonkey, the proposed BSACI Rule amendments.

Result: Approved

II. The draft Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity Policy document

Members were asked to ratify, by SurveyMonkey, the updated draft Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity Policy document.

Result: Approved

III. The updated draft BSACI Industry Policy document

Members were asked to ratify, by SurveyMonkey, the updated draft BSACI Industry Policy document.

Result: Approved

8. Results of the 2023 Elections

(Professor Graham Roberts)

Professor Roberts said there had been five elected Council member positions available: President-Elect, Honorary Treasurer, Vice President of Education and Training, Vice President

of Services and Vice President of Workforce. Members were asked to nominate for each of the positions. For the Vice President of Education and Training post, more than one nomination was received, so an election was run. The following members were duly elected:

Dr Robin Gore - President-Elect

Dr Runa Ali - Honorary Treasurer

Professor Gillian Vance - Vice President of Education and Training

Dr Louise Michaelis - Vice President of Services

Dr Lucy Common - Vice President of Workforce.

Professor Roberts congratulated all those newly elected members and thanked all those whose nominations were received.

9. 2023 BSACI Conference Report (Dr Natasha Gunawardana, Dr Nandinee Patel)

Dr Patel discussed the success of the first-ever BSACI Online Global Symposium, launched in February 2023, with nearly 400 delegates attending. It received positive feedback from attendees and there had been good stakeholder engagement. She added that the symposium highlighted how well-placed the BSACI was to provide an internationally collaborative event.

Dr Gunawardana talked about the 2023 annual conference celebrating the 75th anniversary of the BSACI which had over 770 attendees and 23 exhibitors. There was a strong focus this year on clinical practice. New formats were tried, such as rapid reviews and poster walks. She also noted that the conference had received 165 abstract entries from early career researchers.

Dr Natasha Gunawardana and Dr Nandinee Patel thanked everyone who had supported the meeting. They acknowledged the BSACI CEO Fiona Rayner, Dr Cherry Alviani, Dr Isabel Skypala and the Medivents Team for their significant contribution in organising the conference.

10. Any Other Business (Professor Graham Roberts)

None.

11. Date of 2024 AGM (Professor Graham Roberts)

The next AGM will be held on Saturday 5 October at the 2024 BSACI Annual Conference in Harrogate.