



BRITISH
PHARMACOLOGICAL
SOCIETY

Today's science, tomorrow's medicines

Our Objectives & Achievements, 2011

1 To ensure the delivery of training and education in pharmacology through -

- provision of high quality scientific meetings
 - BPS delivered 7 scientific meetings, 4 of which involved collaboration with other groups and societies, to ~1329 delegates.
- sponsorship of the meetings of relevant external groups
 - BPS sponsored the meetings, lectures and workshops of external groups including EPHAR, New York Academy of Medical Sciences, and Sense About Science among others.
- provision of high quality educational courses
 - BPS continues to deliver, support and maintain high quality *in vivo* training. We fund 'taster' training courses and short courses in partnership with The PhySoc, MRC, BBSRC and the Wellcome Trust. We have secured funding for these courses for the next 3 years from MRC and BBSRC.
- delivery of a Diploma in Advanced Pharmacology and its component workshops
 - The Diploma in 2011 has 3 graduates and 7 new students demonstrating its continuing value. 6 sold out workshops, all receiving positive feedback from the total of 127 delegates. Enzymes debuted and will now become a fixture in the workshop repertoire.
- development of an e-learning functionality on the new BPS website to deliver enhanced resources for Continuing Professional Development
 - BPS has concentrated its e-learning activity on the Prescribe website in 2011. Options to include e-learning programmes as part of the Connected Community site are currently being explored.
- re-platforming of PharmaCALogy
 - Options for the re-development of PharmaCALogy continue to be assessed by the Education & Training Committee.

2. To promote pharmacology as a scientific discipline by -

- enhancing the Society's presence at careers fairs, teachers' conferences and science festivals

- BPS attended and sponsored a talk at the Association of Science Education meeting in January in Reading. We were headline sponsor of the Life Sciences Careers Conferences held in Aston (Feb) and York (Oct) - there was frenzied competition for 1 <3 *Pharmacology* T shirts. We attended careers fairs in London (2), Reading and Manchester and contributed resources for a further 3 (Cardiff, Glasgow, and Birmingham). We presented popular outreach shows to over 400 members of the public at the Cheltenham and London Science festivals.
- developing a portfolio of careers information for A-level students and undergraduates
 - Our new careers leaflet is ready for distribution. The accompanying website, www.pharmacologynow.org is in development to launch spring 2012. We also co-developed with other learned societies, 'Next Steps' a careers booklet for undergraduates.
- development of social networking communities
 - Our social networking sites have continued to grow over 2011: Facebook: 1292 fans (868 Dec 2010); Twitter: 638 followers (380 Dec 2010); YouTube: 1638 viewers to our channel *BPSTV* (563 Dec 2010).
- engagement with the Society of Biology's accreditation project
 - BPS has 2 members on the SB Accreditation Panel and continues to collaborate on the implementation of *in vivo* Accreditation, to ensure graduates are highly trained and work ready.
- using the enhanced BPS website to promote education
 - Education & careers account for 3 of the top 20 most-accessed pages on the BPS site.
- ensuring that pharmacology is fully represented in government and other agency consultations
 - BPS contributed to 8 UK and EU consultations in 2011, and made public statements on a variety of science-policy issues including research funding, tier 1 migration, REF maternity arrangements and the ABPI code of practice.
- establishing an industry sub-committee to address the needs of pharmacologists in the pharma industry
 - The Industry Committee has become an increasingly active part of BPS life. Initiatives include: James Black meeting on Biologics, Sept 2011; complimentary membership for those affected by the contraction of the pharma industry; and Learned Society collaborative initiatives to support skills and training.

3. To promote clinical pharmacology as a clinical discipline by -

- developing Prescribe, a web-based training tool for medical students and other health professionals with prescribing responsibilities
 - www.prescribe.ac.uk is now online as a beta test site containing 15 e-learning sessions on clinical pharmacology. The site has 796 registered users from 36 med schools in the UK and Ireland, all of whom have registered free of charge.
- seeking investment partnership in Prescribe
 - Exploratory discussions on investment in *Prescribe* have been held with 2 organizations over the course of 2011.
- working with the Department of Health's e-Learning for Health Initiative to deliver a Prescribing Simulator
 - Work on the Prescribing Simulator is ongoing, with the DoH undertaking the development of this resource.
- working with the MSC and other stakeholders to develop a national Prescribing Skills Assessment scheme for all final year medical students
 - This project has gathered pace in 2011. We currently have 50 trained question writers delivering 600 peer reviewed questions, initially for online pilots of the PSA. Pilots begin in medical schools in April through to June.
- encouraging the training and appointment within the Universities and NHS of clinical pharmacologists who will contribute (as appropriate) to the delivery of healthcare, research, education in therapeutics/prescribing, and medicines policy at local, regional and national level

- The clinical section continues to influence at policy level and contributed to six consultations during 2011.
- Jeff Aronson's meeting, *Planning a 5-year Agenda for UK Clinical Pharmacology* and a subsequent meeting at EACPT has culminated in recommendations for encouraging clinical pharmacology as a specialty over the next few years. Several actions are already underway including: Clinical Pharmacology Special Study Modules in the UK: A Survey, sent to 29 clinicians throughout the UK; a meeting collaboration with the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences (*Prescribing Without Evidence*), and a CPT online community planned with a launch date of early 2012.

4. To maintain and develop services for members by -

- assessing the viability of the Society's Special Interest Groups, and replacing them if necessary
 - Special interest groups are supported by the Connected Community. There are signs that certain key groups are becoming more active, including Industrial Pharmacologists, Project Licence-Holders, and the Clinical Section - which will soon be served by its own e-group.
- developing the links between the Society's journals and its meetings
 - Our journals regularly receive review content from BPS-sponsored or organized meetings, and have, over the course of 2011, successfully proposed symposia for the 2012 Winter Meeting. Twice yearly Joint Publications meetings map journal content against the Society's activity, including its meetings.
- increasing the impact factor of the Society's journals
 - Unfortunately, impact factors for our journals fell in 2011. BJP now stands at 4.925 (5.204 in 2010), while BJCP has an IF of 3.063 (3.246 in 2010).
- developing the content and propagation of the society's newsletter, *Pharmacology Matters*
 - We published three issues of *Pharmacology Matters* during 2011: *Pharma Futures*, *A Pharmacological Education*, and *An Industrial Revolution*. The newsletter has undergone a subtle redesign over the year, and we are encouraging authors to write articles that are accessible, not only to our membership, but to a wider lay readership. The e-bulletin is now sent to around 4000 inboxes and has been used as an effective marketing tool when bartering for reciprocal deals with other societies and organizations.
- developing and extending links with sister societies nationally and internationally
 - BPS met with ASPET, ASCEPT, the Chinese Pharmacological Society and EPHAR over the course of 2011, as well as meeting regularly with organizations including the MSC, PhySoc, Society of Biology, ABPI, BIA and the British Neuroscience Association. We also exhibited at EACPT, Experimental Biology and the Society for Neuroscience meeting, using the opportunities to interact with a number of national and international organizations.

Financial Review

Financial Highlights:

- in 2011, subject to audit, it is estimated that the Society will spend 93% of its incoming resources in pursuit of its charitable activities;
- we estimate that the financial result for the year will be a surplus of £114k largely attributable to an outperformance from publishing activities and to an under-spend on special projects;
- our publishing activities continue to provide the bulk of our income;
- our investments regressed in value in the period to 30 November 2011 but thanks to completion in early 2011 of the restructure of our portfolios, the fall was 10.5% whereas markets generally have fallen by 20%;
- the overall financial structure of the Society remains fit for purpose with a Reserves Adequacy ratio of ~112%;

- In 2012 we have budgeted to spend -£175k in excess of incoming resources and have set aside funding to assist the Society and its members to participate in EPHAR 2012 in Granada and to continue our work on projects previously to be funded by the Department of Health;

- We anticipate that the current turmoil in the financial markets will continue well into 2012 and we will therefore be watching the impact on our Reserve Assets which need to be maintained at twice our annual working capital of £1.5 million;

Governance:

- Following introduction of a revised set of Articles of Association, the Rules for electing Officers has been changed to allow any qualifying member expressing an interest to be included on the ballot paper;
- We have continued the initiative started at the 2010 AGM whereby members can vote online for the resolutions to be passed. The 2010 AGM saw the largest ever engagement of members in the voting process and we expect this to be repeated in 2011.

Operations:

- In 2011 after renewing its structured cabling at Angel Gate, the Society replaced its aged I T Server and telephone system.

Risk Analysis:

- On behalf of Council, the Finance & Risk Committee conducted a full risk analysis of the Society's operations and projects in June 2011 and made several recommendations to the Executive Committee, designed to improve the management thereof and ensure value for money.