

British Pharmacological Society
Annual General Meeting 2024
1.20PM GMT on Wednesday 11 December 2024

Online and Queen's Suite 1, Harrogate Convention Centre Kings Road
Harrogate HG1 5LA

Chair: Professor Sir Mark Caulfield, BPS President

1. Welcome

Professor Sir Mark Caulfield, the current President of the British Pharmacological Society, welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting, reminding members that they can still vote until the end of the meeting.

Mark highlighted the impressive attendance of 772 people from 51 nations at the Pharmacology meeting, emphasising the society's growth and the success of the event. Noting that it was great to see so many attendees join us for the AGM, scheduled as part of the Pharmacology programme for the first time since 2019.

2. Stand in memory of deceased members

Mark Caulfield led a moment of reflection to honour colleagues who have passed away since the last meeting, acknowledging their contributions to the Society. Slides with photos and names of deceased members were displayed.

3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 5 December 2023

The minutes from the 2023 AGM were approved as a true record. The minutes are available on the BPS website in the AGM section.

4. Proposals:

Members of the Society who are eligible to vote (Early Career Members, Full Members, Retired Members, Fellows and Honorary Fellows) who have not voted in advance were given an opportunity to vote on the below proposals online during the meeting until 1:45PM GMT.

4.1 Auditors

To vote on re-appointing Moore Kingston Smith LLP (Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor) as the Auditors of the Society in respect of the financial year ending 31 December 2024 and until the next general meeting, and to authorise Council to set their remuneration. Council recommends that Moore Kingston Smith be re-appointed.

This is an Ordinary Resolution requiring a simple majority of more than 50% of the votes cast to be in favour.

Results of the vote were announced later in the meeting.

5. President's Report

Professor Sir Mark Caulfield, BPS President presented his report, highlighting key achievements and plans. Given the gap in hosting the AGM as part of the Pharmacology meeting for several years, Mark's report covered successes and key points from the last five years.

Aspects of the Society's work covered were:

- The awarding of 551 prizes, the election of 61 honorary fellows, and the disbursement of £130,639 in bursaries over last few years.
- The creation of the Personalised Prescribing policy report during the pandemic, led by Professor Sir Munir Pirmohamed with the Royal College of Physicians.
- The more recent Dacre Review and the overwhelming positive feedback from doctors who have taken the Prescribing Safety Assessment (PSA). Noting that the report highlighted the benefits of continuation of the assessment even in light of the introduction of the Medical Licence Assessment (MLA) with some need to adjust to ensure the two assessments complimented each other.
- Changes to the AJ Clark Award funding process whereby the BPS once again offered a fully funded model, democratising access and increasing applications.

Finally, Mark expressed gratitude to the Vice Presidents, elected Officers, and the staff team for their hard work and contributions to the Society's success.

6. Chief Executive's Annual Report

Rachel Lambert-Forsyth, BPS Chief Executive, presented her annual report, including slides presented by BPS Staff Directors Mike Poole and Kathryn Banham. Rachel reflected on the Society's achievements in 2024, the final year of the current strategy, and emphasised the importance of member input for future initiatives.

Areas of note covered were:

- The completion of a governance review, which confirmed that the society is well-governed, with some areas for improvement to be addressed in the coming year.
- The strengthening of support for BPS Assessment, which has grown significantly and will contribute income to the Society.
- The importance of financial security for the Society and encouraged members to share their ideas for future initiatives.
- Mike provided an update on the finance and membership section, highlighting the growth in membership and the success of the UK PSA and BPSA.
- Various member benefits were highlighted including, grant funding for student societies and the development of a new website and the Society's principal sponsorship of the World Congress of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (WCP2026) and the availability of bursaries for members to attend the Congress in Melbourne.
- Kathryn summarised the Society's events and journal activities, noting the increase in submissions and publications, and the success of various events held across the year in collaboration with members and other scientific societies including the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology at Queen Mary University, London.
- Kathryn mentioned the ongoing update of the medical clinical pharmacology curriculum, led by Dr Dagan Lonsdale, Deputy Vice President - Clinical, and encouraged members to get involved. And announced that the Society has taken over the management of the UK Pharmacogenomics and Stratified Medicine Network, led by Munir Pirmohamed.
- Kathryn emphasized the growth in commercial and non-commercial partnerships, with the highest income year for partnerships and a successful meeting with AstraZeneca.
- Finally, Kathryn reassured members that the Society is closely monitoring the publishing landscape and working with Wiley to ensure the journals' success.

7. Financial Report

Professor Simon Kennedy, BPS Honorary Treasurer, and Mike Poole, Director of Finance, Business and Commercial Operations, presented the financial report for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Noteworthy points were:

- The appointment of CCLA as the new investment managers, aiming for better returns and improved ethical and social governance.
- That the December annual meeting is expected to run at a small loss, significantly less than previous meetings, thanks to sponsorship efforts.

- The Society's expected financial surplus for the year, with a strong net asset position and plans for member-centric investments.

Members approved the accounts.

Following the President, CEO and Financial update, members were provided a chance to ask any questions. No questions were received.

8. Honorary Fellows

Mark Caulfield announced the Honorary Fellowships for 2024, recognising members for their excellence and contributions to the society.

The full list of Honorary Fellows can be found [here](#).

9. Announcement of changes to the composition of Council and other leadership roles, including election results and appointments

Mark Caulfield announced the results of the council elections, welcoming the newly elected trustees and vice presidents.

These are:

- Elected Trustee – Academic Leadership: Professor (Dr.) Farhan Ahmad Khan
- Elected Trustee – Research Dissemination: Dr Niall Hyland
- Deputy Vice President – Academic Development (non-trustee): Professor David Lewis (leading on to become Vice President - Academic Development in 2026)
- Vice President - Clinical (non-trustee): Dr Dagan Lonsdale
- Treasurer Elect: Farah Meor Azlan (leading on to become Honorary Treasurer in 2026)

They will start their terms on 1 January 2025.

Mark thanked several Trustees, Vice Presidents and Committee members that are due to demit or have demitted during the year. Notably:

- Elected Trustee – Academic Leadership: Professor Ana Alfirevic
- Elected Trustee – Research Dissemination: Professor Steve Watson
- Vice President - Clinical (non-trustee): Professor Reecha Sofat

10. Proposals: Auditors appointment – Result of voting

The proposal to reappoint Moore Kingston Smith LLP as the Society's auditors was approved.

11. Any Other Business

No other business was received.

12. Date of next Annual General Meeting

The next AGM will be held during Pharmacology 2025, taking place 16-18 December 2025 in Belfast, Northern Ireland.