

## Annual General Meeting 2021

Tuesday 30 November 2021

14.00-15.00 GMT Online and In Person at The British Library

**PRESENT** Chair: Professor Sir Munir Pirmohamed (President)  
Professor Clive Page (President-Elect)  
Dr Chris Williams (Honorary Treasurer)  
Rachel Lambert-Forsyth (Chief Executive)  
Mike Poole (Finance and Commercial Director)  
Kathryn Wilson (Director, Research Dissemination)  
Dr Anna Zecharia (Director, Policy & Public Affairs)  
David James (Executive Director, Business Development)

In total 52 people were present in person and 32 virtually.

The presentation that accompanied this meeting is available via the [Members' area of the Society's website](#).

### 1. Welcome

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 2. Silence in memory of deceased members

The President asked everyone present to observe a period of silence in memory of those members who had passed away that the Society had been notified of during 2021:

- Valerie Alabaster
- Nigel Baber
- Margaret Day
- Alan Gibson
- Peter Mullen
- Giancarlo Pepeu
- Alan Richens
- Frank Sullivan

### 3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 18 December 2020

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 18 December 2020 were approved as an accurate record.

### 4. Proposals

Members of the Society who were eligible to vote (Early Career Members, Full Members, Retired Members, Fellows and Honorary Fellows) who had not voted in advance were reminded to vote on the following proposals online ahead of the 12:00 noon deadline.

The results were announced at agenda item 12.

#### 4.1 Proposal to reappoint the Society's Auditors – Ordinary Resolution

The 2021 Society AGM was invited to approve the recommendation to reappoint Moore Kingston Smith LLP Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor) as the auditors of the Society for the financial year ending 31 December 2021 and until the next AGM, and to authorise Council to set their remuneration.

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

## 4.2 Proposal to update the term of office or Treasurer Elect – Special Resolution

The 2021 AGM was invited to updating the term of office of the Society's Honorary Treasurer from four to three years. The Treasurer Elect's term of office would also be updated from two to one year, giving the role a total term of office of four years. This is in line with the President-Elect and President role. There was also a special resolution for more general language updates to the Articles of Association so as to make them more inclusive.

*These were Special Resolution requiring a majority of 75% of the votes cast to be in favour.*

## 5. President's Report

Professor Sir Munir Pirmohamed, BPS President.

The President took the opportunity to speak about the highlights during his term as President of the Society.

The President highlighted several topics, including:

### Home working:

The majority of BPS staff continued to work from home during 2021. The Society's office at 16 Angel Gate had opened for staff in early October alongside an agile working policy. All Council and committee meetings continued to take place online in the meantime. There had been little to no disruption to day-to-day activities.

### Pharmacology 2021:

Pharmacology 2021 took place online. This was the second online annual meeting, due to COVID-19. The President praised the work by the Society's Meetings and Events team and the new Vice President Meetings, Cherry Wainwright securing excellent scientific content. There had been 668 registrations against 1,069 registrations in 2020. 44 countries had been in attendance.

### Clinical Pharmacology Skills Alliance (CPSA):

The President highlighted the work of the CPSA which highlighted that investing in UK clinical pharmacology would save and improve lives. He went on to highlight the breadth of contribution that UK clinical pharmacology had made over the course of the pandemic. He highlighted that Clinical Pharmacology had an important role to play and that an ambitious multi-professional workforce strategy was required to make an impact at scale.

### Pharmacogenomics in practice:

The President outlined a joint report by the Royal College of Physicians and the British Pharmacological Society. The report would set out an evaluation of the role of pharmacogenomics in the NHS with input from many different specialities. It would set out practical recommendations for education and training of prescribers. It would also identify gaps and opportunities in research. The aim was to improve clinical outcomes and inform workforce planning, strategic investment in education and training and inform funding calls. The report was due to launch in early 2022.

### 2022 and onwards:

The President outlined the following upcoming projects and events:

- Launch of new strategy
- Progressing to a hybrid model for meeting and training in 2022, including Pharmacology 2022 in Liverpool

- New publishing contract to be agreed for BJP, BJCP and PR&P
- New membership database (CRM) was scheduled to be launched in 2022, which would be a more integrated approach to managing the Society's membership
- 19th World Congress of Basic & Clinical Pharmacology 2023 (WCP2023) was scheduled to take place from 2 – 7 July 2023 in Glasgow Scotland

## 6. Chief Executive's Report

Rachel Lambert-Forsyth, BPS Chief Executive.

The Society's Chief Executive, Rachel Lambert-Forsyth presented her annual report. This included slides from BPS Staff Directors Mike Poole, Anna Zecharia, Kathryn Wilson and David James.

The Chief Executive gave a presentation on the Society's activities for 2021 and plans for 2022. COVID-19 continued to dominate 2021 with vaccines and therapeutics. Society members continued to influence and support national strategies to create solutions for COVID-19. There had been a shifting goalpost for meetings and training:

- Meeting and Training remained online
- There had been a key decision to move World Congress from 2022 - 2023
- Pharmacology 2021 online – with new networking features
- ELRIG Drug Discovery 2021 – first in person meeting
- In Conversation with series had launched
- Celebrating the Society's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and BJP 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The Chief Executive discussed highlighted that a new Strategy was scheduled to launch in January 2022 which focused on the following objectives:

- Progressing our pharmacological priorities: Advance the discipline of pharmacology, communicating its beneficial impact on animal and human health.
- Celebrating and connecting our community: Foster and celebrate a diverse pharmacological community, flexing our provision to meet the changing needs of our community.
- Sustaining our Society: Secure our future so that we can support the next generation of pharmacologists and continue to champion the importance of the discipline for the benefit of human and animal health.

The Chief Executive introduced the following directors, to update the meeting regarding their areas:

### Mike Poole, Finance & Commercial Director

Highlights for finance and operations included:

- 6 staff, covering a diverse range of activities and skills, providing a robust platform enabling the rest of the Society to undertake its work.
- Technology support outsourced in August 2021.
- Office premises made available Covid-19 secure.

Highlights for membership included:

- Development of the membership action plan with particular emphasis on widening participation and "reach" including Industry.
- Membership survey conducted during the year.
- Tendering exercise completed for the "next generation" of the Society's database; go-live expected mid-2022.
- Review of Awards and Prizes completed by Awards Panel.

### Anna Zecharia, Director, Policy & Public Affairs

Highlights for education, engagement and policy included:

- Refreshed careers resources aimed from primary school upwards to highlight how pharmacology makes a difference including career stories from members.
- Further awareness of clinical pharmacology career was undertaken via abstract competitions, building networks and further work through the annual Clinical Pharmacology Week, which took place 10-16 October 2021.

- Supporting and providing education and training via monthly educator network meetings.
- In Vivo via the Research Animal Sciences Education Scheme.
- Inclusive pharmacology curriculum, including publishing guiding principles and further resource development.
- Clinical Pharmacology Scientist Apprenticeship was now open.

#### Kathryn Wilson, Director, Research Dissemination

Highlights for publications included:

- Aim to maximise the reach to the international community.
- Future planning for the portfolio through:
  - reviewing the publications contracts.
  - future trends, such as open access.
- COVID-19 themed and virtual issues in all three journals.

Highlights for meetings & events included:

- Planning towards in-person events in 2022.
- Continued online webinars and workshops.
- Partnerships .

Highlights for Marketing & Communications included:

- Underpinning the Society's voice on events and projects, including WCP2023, Clinical Pharmacology Week and the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.
- Three Pharmacology Matters had been published during the year.

#### David James, Executive Director, Strategic Innovation

Highlights for the BPS Assessment Ltd (BPSA) included:

- BPS Assessment growth in eAssessment and eLearning resources for all prescribing professions: 17,500 people across 14 countries completed our assessments.
- Sales have been impacted by the pandemic and inability to travel; yet >90% renewals rate and customers moving to 3- and 5-year agreements.
- New products and services – prescribing resources for individual purchase and International PSA (standard-set summative prescribing assessment).
- New website and BPSA shop (<https://portal.bpsassessment.com/>).
- 115% increase in twitter followers since 2020; 113% increase in followers on LinkedIn.

## 7. Financial Report

To receive the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020.

[Dr Chris Williams, BPS Honorary Treasurer](#)

The meeting received an introduction from the Honorary Treasurer.

The Honorary Treasurer assured members that the required diligence to all financial aspects had been maintained during the year. Together with the Society's Finance Committee who had continued to meet regularly, the Honorary Treasurer had undertaken a dedicated role of financial scrutiny and had continued to advise Council on financial matters throughout the year. In addition to this assurance, she confirmed that the Society's processes and controls continued to function properly.

As well as regular monitoring of the current year via monthly management accounts, an additional forecast for the year had been produced. The performance of the Society's investments had been regularly reviewed via monthly meetings.

A "clean" audit report had been given for the 2020 accounts, with only 1 minor systems points raised. All 3 systems points from the previous audit had been cleared to the auditors' satisfaction. An annual risk based review had been established of financial strategy and reserves.

[Mike Poole, BPS Finance & Commercial Director.](#)

The Finance and Commercial Director presented his report.

#### 2020 Actual figures

The 2020 Financial Statements were formally approved on 29 March 2021. As this was in the continuing context of Covid-19, additional forecasting work had again been undertaken which confirmed the financial sustainability of the Society. The meeting received a summary of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020:

- total income was £4,418K
- total expenditure was £4,219K
- total net income was £199K
- investment gains were £162K
- an overall net surplus of £361K
- total funds of the Society at end of the year were £6,011K

#### Forecast for the current year ending 31 December 2021:

The meeting received a brief summary of the forecast for the current year:

- Operating surplus of £300K was forecast against a budgeted operating deficit of £340K.
- Improvement mainly due to anticipated, non-recurring publishing income.
- Income from the Society's regular publishing activities is forecast to be £77K higher than budget.
- Net asset position expected to remain strong at around £6.3M.
- Value of investments at year end is very difficult to predict and will affect the overall actual result.

#### 2022 and Beyond:

The 2022 budget was scheduled to be approved by Council at their December 2021 meeting and amounted to a £900K operating deficit. This was to enable the Society to invest in its charitable mission. There was an expected reduction in journal income due to the move to open access. Financial sophistication made a deficit budgeting possible.

- Risk-based assessment of available funds – maintain net assets above £3M
- 3-year financial planning
- Financial forecasting
- Monthly management accounts

## 8. Questions from members

The following questions were posed from members:

Investment into the Society's charitable aims: A question was posed around what investments would be made going forward. The CEO and Finance and Commercial Director responded that this was based on annual objectives and projects. For 2022 this would likely include the move back to an 'in person' annual meeting which was a significant cost to the Society.

## 9. Honorary Fellows

Honorary Fellows were elected for life by the British Pharmacological Society in recognition of sustained excellence and leadership in science, healthcare, and public service. The President announced that the Honorary Fellows to be elected from 1 January 2022 would be:

- Professor Ian McFadzean, King's College London
- Professor Graeme Milligan, University of Glasgow
- Professor Jane Mitchell, Imperial College London
- Sir Mene Pangalos, AstraZeneca
- Professor Robin Plevin, University of Strathclyde
- Professor Anthony Smith, University of Newcastle, NSW
- Professor Sue Wannacott, University of Bath

## 10. Announcement of Changes to the Composition of Council, including Election Results and Appointments

The meeting noted the results of the election held to fill the following Council vacancies arising with effect from 1 January 2022:

- Professor Sir Mark Caulfield, President-Elect
- Alina Zorn, Elected Trustee (Early Career Pharmacologist)
- Professor Simon Kennedy, Treasurer Elect (taking office as a Trustee and Honorary Treasurer from 2023)

The meeting thanked the following Trustees and Vice Presidents demitting on 31 December 2021:

- Dr Laura Ajram, Elected Trustee (Early Career Pharmacologist)

## 11. Deputy Vice President Election Results and other appointments

The meeting noted that the following has been appointed:

- Emily Hobson, ECPAG Chair 2022-2024
- Chris Fowler as Non-Executive Director (Legal) BPS Assessment Limited

The meeting thanked the following Vice Presidents demitting on 31 December 2020:

- Professor Emma Baker, Vice President Clinical

The meeting thanked the following BPS Assessment Limited directors that demitted during 2020:

- Sara Hayes, Non-Executive Directors (Legal) - demitted in August 2021

## 12. Proposals: Auditors and Amendments to the Articles of Association– Result of Voting

To announce the result of voting in respect of the proposals presented at item 4 on this agenda.

**Special Resolution 1: To approve an updated three-year term of office for Honorary Treasurer (from four years), which will be reflected in changes to the Society's Articles of Association.**

For	Against	Abstain	Total
160 (98.2%)	3 (1.8%)	7	170

The three-year term of office for Honorary Treasurer (from four years) was therefore approved. The changes would be reflected in the Society's Articles of Association.

**Special Resolution 2: To approve more inclusive language changes to the Society's Articles of Association.**

For	Against	Abstain	Total
138 (87.3%)	20 (12.7%)	12	170

The changes to the language in the Society's Articles of Association were therefore approved.

**Ordinary Resolution: To approve the reappointment of Moore Kingston Smith LLP as the auditors of the Society for the financial year ending 31 December 2021 and until the next AGM, and to authorise Council to set their remuneration.**

For	Against	Abstain	Total
158 (100%)	0 (0%)	12	170

Moore Kingston Smith LLP (Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor) were therefore approved as the Auditors of the Society in respect of the financial year ending 31 December 2021 and until the next Annual General Meeting.

**13. Any Other Business**

None were raised.

**14. Date of next Annual General Meeting**

The date of the next annual general meeting would be announced during 2022. As in 2021, it was expected not to form part of the annual meeting Pharmacology 2022 as this would be taking place in September 2022.