



BMFMS Annual General Meeting

21st April 2016

International Conference Centre

Birmingham

1. Welcome

The attendees were welcomed and thanked by the President, Tim Overton (TO) for staying on for the AGM.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

TO said that the minutes of the last meeting and the agenda for this meeting were available on the App. The minutes were agreed.

3. Matters arising

TO said these matters would be covered in his update, item 6.

4. Elections

The Honorary Secretary, Tracey Johnston (TJ) announced that two members had been elected in 2015: Rita Arya was elected as DGH representative and Caroline Knight as the Trainee representative.

TJ announced elections for the following posts:

- i. Secretary to replace Tracey Johnston
- ii. Treasurer to replace Mark Denbow
- iii. Abstract Coordinator to replace Jane Norman
- iv. Trainee rep to replace Andrew Sharp (who is stepping down as he is now a consultant).

The elections will open around the start of June and close at the end of June. TO asked those present to encourage their trainees to apply for the Trainee representative vacancy. All vacancies will be advertised via the website early in June.

TO took the opportunity to thank Tracey Johnston, Mark Denbow and Jane Norman for all their hard work for BMFMS over the years.

Action: Stella Rafferty (SR) to send reminder to membership about upcoming elections.



5. Finance

The Treasurer, Mark Denbow (MD), gave a brief summary of the financial position of the Society; there is currently in the region of £205,000 in the bank. In the last financial year there was £116K income and £96K expenditure. The main source of income is from the joint BMFMS/RCOG meetings. The year-end accounts were uploaded to the Charity Commission website. Trustee Indemnity Insurance has been taken out up to £0.5M. He outlined the Society's drive to not make excessive profit, and as such there has been increased investment in the 2016 conference, including freezing the registration fee and sponsoring the dinner. It is predicted the 2016 conference will make a small loss.

6. President's Update

TO expressed his delight that the conference had attracted 450 delegates this year, despite the Congress also being in Birmingham in June, and the fact that next year's meeting will be in Amsterdam. He reassured those present that a small loss on this year's conference was acceptable given that healthy state of the Society's finances and the desire to keep registration fees down.

2017 Amsterdam Conference – 30th/31st March

TO said the conference would be a big financial commitment for the Society. The venue is in the heart of Amsterdam and its main hall can seat 800 people. There will need to be 600 to 700 delegates to break even. TO said a subcommittee had been set up with representatives from the UK, the Netherlands, Ireland, Sweden, Belgium and Switzerland. TO said the conference aimed to draw on the wealth of academic and clinical talent in Europe and to compare and contrast approaches. He said that there will be still the main themes of all BMFMS conferences. He said that there would be parallel sessions but not too many as the main speakers would be very good. There will be parallel abstract sessions, enabling more space for oral presentations, and he encouraged those present to consider submitted abstracts as there will be a higher chance of being selected next year. There would also be demonstration rooms to develop practical skills. TO invited members to send in their suggestions for topics and speakers within the next two weeks to SR at srafferty@rcog.org.uk as the aim is to finalise the programme by June.



ACCEA

TO reminded all that he has emailed the membership informing them that the call for submissions had been announced. Any members wishing to have a citation from BMFMS needs to send in their application by 5pm on 25th April 2016 so that citations can be written and uploaded by 16th May 2016.

Change to Constitution for IT/AV representative

TO said in the last few years there have been many improvements to the conference in terms of IT, and that the Society is currently using Graham Tydeman's skills on an ad hoc basis. TO said it takes Graham a lot of time and effort to work with venues and Hamptons and is therefore too much to be taken on by other committee members, so he was suggesting that another post on the committee be created to look after this area of work. This was agreed by members by an overwhelming majority.

Lucy Chappell suggested that the post be named the Technology Rep and this was agreed.

AP: TJ to update Constitution then upload to website

Bursaries and Prizes

TO announced that two joint TAMBA / BMFMS bursaries of £20K each had been awarded and that TAMBA had also solely funded a further £20k bursary as the results of their fundraising activities has exceed their expectations. Details of successful bursary winners are on the website. The President thanked TAMBA and in particular Keith Reed for the huge amount of work and support with these bursaries. TO said that the BMFMS has also funded six research and one travel bursary; in total in the region of £90,000 had been awarded.

TO asked the membership if they wanted to continue with research bursary awards that currently fall into clinical and academic research or would they like to divert funds into other areas eg Global Health? The Global Health agenda will be discussed at the June Committee meeting. He asked members to send in their ideas to Stella Rafferty (SR) at srafferty@rcog.org.uk

Action: SR to remind membership about sending in their ideas.

TJ to add Global Health to June agenda



Political Involvement

TO said he had been charged with getting the Society more politically active and the Committee has been very busy to this end. TO had met with David Richmond (President RCOG) who had said to “be careful what you wish for”; he said the RCOG has a huge resource to deal with political involvement, bearing this in mind the BMFMS is getting more involved while being mindful of its limited resource to do so. The issue of the BMFMS having a seat on Council was discussed but it was decided instead that TO would meet regularly with David Richmond, Steve Robson (CRG) and Matthew Jolly (National CD) either in person or by teleconference; the aim of this is to have a mechanism for moving forward in a united and effective way.

TO reported that he had a meeting with the Chief Executive Officer of the NHSLA, representatives of the NHSE Maternity Group and advisors to the Secretary of State. TO said that there are many common themes in these meetings eg tariff. TO reported that several members of the Committee have been heavily involved in the several iterations of the National Maternity Review and that, although several of their suggestions were lost, it had been generally steered in the right direction. TO reported that BMFMS had commented on the Stillbirth Care Bundle and had a significant input. TO said that he had represented the BMFMS at the national SCN meeting.

TJ reported back from the Maternity Pathway Payment Review Group (which she chairs). She advised that work on this was slow going. As a direct result of the work of her group, the antenatal pathway has been updated with 6 new factors being included. The pathway split has been reviewed and it was shown that only 50% of women are ‘standard’, but that the change was not implemented in this financial year because of the risk of further financial destabilisation for many organisations, but is likely to be implemented for 2017/2018. A repeat costing exercise is also underway to try and determine whether tariff covers the costs of delivering the service but only 12 out of 50 units have put in returns; it is felt the reason for this is Trusts haven’t had time to put in returns. TJ said the delivery tariff is being reviewed and that there may be up to four different payments rather than two. The group are now looking at the post-natal pathway. TJ fed back that work on the maternity data set is very exciting and could be used to determine the cost of the service.



Clinical Reference Groups

TO said that Steve Robson had been working very hard on the Fetal Medicine CRG. This group was going to be disbanded but now includes maternal medicine and is called Complex Maternity to cover all 'high risk' aspects. The function will change with a move to co-commissioning. BMFMS and RCOG are jointly funding the administration of this group.

TO congratulated Matthew Jolly on his appointment as the National Clinical Director for Maternity & Women's Health. Matthew Jolly thanked the BMFMS for their support and said that the BMFMS had an immense opportunity to improve maternity services in the implementation of the Maternity Review. He said that both the Secretary of State (Jeremy Hunt) and the Under Secretary of State (Ben Gummer) were very supportive and genuinely want to see a reduction in maternal and perinatal mortality and morbidity. The implementation of the Maternity Review presents us with fantastic opportunities, and will be collaborative with clinicians. Professor Keith Willets will chair the Implementation Group, and that there will be 9 workstreams - MJ via the BMFMS and clinical networks will look for experts in their fields to steer this work. He fed back that contributing to the national maternity dataset is no longer optional, and that the technical advances are very exciting, enabling the development of tailored dashboards allowing proper benchmarking. He also commented that the payment scheme requires radical change, and thanked TJ for her work on this.

7. Society of Maternal and Fetal Medicine USA

Professor Gordon Smith, UK rep for the Society of Maternal and Fetal Medicine USA (formerly the Society of Perinatal Obstetricians), informed members that they are keen to collaborate with the BMFMS; they are holding their annual meeting on the 1st February 2017 in Caesar's Palace, Las Vegas and that the standard of speakers was usually high with only 50% of the abstracts submitted being accepted. TO added that if members did wish to go they still had to attend the BMFMS meeting in Amsterdam!!

8. Thanks

TO said thank you to the following:

- The Committee
- Stella Rafferty
- Hamptons



- BMFMS members

TO said that the number of emails sent to membership were restricted to avoid members' inboxes being inundated but asked members to respond to the emails the BMFMS do send out.

He also informed members of the four sub-committees (one for each stream) who performed peer review of national documents for the Committee. In 2015 6 NICE guidelines and 7 RCOG publications were peer reviewed by the sub-committees, and TO thanked them for this important work for the Society.

9. AOB

There was no other business, so on this note the meeting was drawn to a close to allow members to ready themselves for the Society dinner.