

BMFMS

Minutes for Annual General Meeting

Held on 18th June 2009

At BT Convention Centre, Liverpool

1. Welcome

The meeting was opened by the President Steve Robson welcoming members to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the previous AGM held on 3rd June 2008

These had previously been circulated to the membership, and also posted on the BMFMS website. There were no issues arising.

3. Matters arising

a. National ACCEA awards

Members are encouraged to send copies of applications to BMFMS so that we can give support for these applications. From the size of our Society, we are allowed to make recommendations for 10 bronze, 5 silver and 2 gold applications. Support from the BMFMS is in parallel from any support from the RCOG.

b. Revalidation

A report was prepared by Gerald Mason for the RCOG and the information given was very highly valued. Steve Robson offered particular thanks to Gerald Mason for his hard work.

4. Election results

<i>Post</i>	<i>Person leaving</i>	<i>Person joining</i>
Trainee representative	Melissa Whitworth	Sarah Stock
DGH	Kim Hinshaw	Graham Tydeman
Fetal Medicine	Gerald Mason	Leanne Bricker
Labour and Delivery	Lucy Kean	Kate Harding

5. Treasurer's Report

Tim Overton reported that the income obtained in a year approximately equals our expenditure. The current balance we hold in the bank account is approximately £162,000. The annual contribution to bursaries is approximately £12,000. The amount available to be distributed is flexible and more applications are encouraged in the next round. There is a fine balance for the numbers attending the BMFMS Annual Conference and whether the society makes a loss or a profit. The breakeven point is at approximately 400 delegates. This year the conference attendees are in excess of 400 and a profit is expected.

6. Bursary Report

Mark Denbow announced that bursaries awarded in the last round were to Anna Kenyon (£1,982) for a pilot study into pre-term labour, to Bryony Stracken and Mark Denbow (£1,600) for obstetric emergency training in Uganda, and to Sarah Stock (£2,850) for a pilot study of optimisation of cell culture techniques. Some other projects that had been awarded funds were awaiting confirmation of other funding before they could go ahead. A general cap is set at about £3,000 for any one project. Members were again encouraged to submit applications when the next round was advertised in the autumn.

A suggestion was raised from Lucy Kean as to whether support could be given for medical students attending the Conference, sponsored by a member. Steve Robson replied that medical students whose abstracts had been awarded a poster, or presentation, free registration has been offered this year.

7. President's report

a. Clinical Studies Groups

These have been designed to 'develop' research ideas. There are 4 obstetric CSGs, Pre-term birth, fetal medicine, maternal medicine, labour and delivery. Pre-term birth CSG was the first one and BMFMS supported this up to £5,000. The fetal medicine CSG is under the chairmanship of Zarko Alfirevic and we

have promised support to a maximum of £5,000/year for a maximum of 3 years. Maternal medicine is supported by the Macdonald Obstetric Medicine Society, but BMFMS has agreed to give additional funding if necessary. Steve Robson requested support from the Society for commissioning a labour and delivery group. There was generalised support from the members present. Membership was reminded that this is potentially quite a big financial investment for our Society, but one that is deemed important in developing high quality research in Obstetrics.

b. Education and Training Group

The E&T Group has been reconstituted under a new chairman, Dilly Anumba. The most recent work undertaken by the E&T Group was the manpower planning document prepared for the RCOG. The new work has been looking at the ATSM courses and making recommendations for standard curricula. This means that other non-BMFMS courses can be established, which potentially will have financial implications for our Society, since the Society will not see profits from these courses. The next piece of work is a critical review of the ATSM curricula. Input from the membership is required from this work in order to make the ATSMs appropriate and achievable. A future piece of its review of subspecialty training centres for fetal medicine. The E&T Group is awaiting final instructions about the process here, either that standards are defined for a centre or else that recruitment for subspecialty trainees is made nationally. The strong impression is that there is a need to convert some subspecialty programs into ATSM programs. Tracey Johnson commented that it is important to have trainee's views on ATSMs to feed into this process. Dilly Anumba has been promised contact details from the RCOG for trainees and trainers to enable him to acquire this information.

c. Website

The BMFMS website is rather outdated and not particularly useful. Melissa Whitworth (Previously trainee representative on the Executive Committee) is going to be retained on the Executive Committee to work on redesign and redevelopment of the website. She needs to know what members want from the website and will canvas views.

d. Service Reviews

Up to this point the BMFMS has not been involved in Service Reviews. However, in 2009, the department of health asked BMFMS to be involved in the service review about service provision for twin to twin transfusion syndrome. However, when the Society asked for details about the terms of reference this was not clarified and hence the Society has withdrawn its involvement. Steve Robson commented that this area was politically rather highly charged and he felt it was unwise to become involved if we did not know the terms of reference and use to be made for the data obtained.

8. Future meetings

a. The next Annual Conference

This has been arranged for the Sage Centre in Gateshead, Newcastle upon Tyne on the 10th/11th June 2010. The meeting is to be preceded by the MacDonald Obstetric Medical Society Meeting on the 9th June 2010 at the same venue.

b. Perinatal 2011

This is to be held in Harrogate on the 15th and 17th June 2011. The conference organisation was put out to tender and Hamptons were elected for the role, but on a separate contract to that held with just BMFMS conferences. The Organising Committee for Perinatal 2011 was drawn from executive members of the partner societies which are BMFMS, British Association of Perinatal Medicine (BAPM), Neo-natal Society (NNS) and the Neo-natal Nurses (NNN). A formal contract has been drawn up between the societies and it has been agreed that we will share profit or loss with regard to delegate numbers at the meeting. It is hoped that the formal contract will avoid some of the problems that were encountered in the 2008 meeting. The British Associate of Paediatric Surgeons (BAPS) was invited to be a partner, but declined because they already have their 2011 conference organised. However, the BAPS have agreed that it will advise about speakers who can cover perinatal surgery issues. There is a desire to engage with midwives for this conference, but in the absence of a

formal society of fetal medicine midwives, they will not be formal partners.

9. AOB

a. Database - neo-natal unit bed availability

Brian Beattie asked if some of BMFMS surplus money could be used to develop a database about neo-natal unit bed availability. The BAPM were asked to help with this project, but have declined. Mark Salinger commented that it would be expensive and very difficult to solve this problem. Bill Martin said that he is involved in a group at the department of health which may be looking into this area. Brian Beattie then pressed that the first and simple piece of work would be to produce an interactive map covering where neo-natal units are and their capability and to provide up to date telephone numbers of the neo-natal units and corresponding labour wards.

b. CSGs

Steve Thornton who is chairman of the pre-term birth clinical studies group asked what feedback the Society would like about these groups, whether putting minutes on the Society website or providing a report at the AGM. The President Steve Robson replied that although BMFMS provides funds for the groups it is not involved in intellectual ideas. Lyn Chitty asked for information about what studies are planned and developed. Steve Thornton said that minutes from CSGs may be published on the RCOG website, including information about the studies that are supported.

The meeting was closed with the President wishing the members a pleasant evening at the Society dinner.