

BMFMS Annual General Meeting
Monday 14th December 2020, 4pm
virtual

1. Welcome

Members were welcomed by the President, Myles Taylor (MT) to the AGM.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Honorary Secretary, Emma Ferriman (EF) said that the minutes of the meeting were sent out before the meeting. The minutes were agreed and it was noted that the actions from the meeting had been completed.

3. President's Update

Impact of Covid-10 on BMFMS MT reported on the impact of Covid-19 on BMFMS behind the scenes:

The Perinatal Conference

A huge conference was planned for 2020 but it became clear this wasn't going to happen. BMFMS had a big financial stake in this and were only able to broker a deal and limit losses using a force majeure clause, saving BMFMS over £100k. Some money was still lost on the conference as the course organisers had already done work that needed to be paid for so BMFMS is out of pocket but the Society has reserves.

BMFMS response to the Pandemic

BMFMS has helped other organisations respond to Covid crisis, initially this was deciding what PPE was appropriate. Then BMFMS helped, using everyone's expertise, the RCOG and NHSE in providing contingency

plans, particularly when staff were away in, for example, ultrasound screening departments.

BMFMS Recovery

The BMFMS are on the path to recovery, part of this recovery is this monothematic conference. This is the first of its kind for BMFMS and we are eager to hear from you how you thought it went. We may have to do more of these, personally I would like to get back to face-to-face but we may need to have a hybrid conference. We need to balance the financial risk to the Society versus the need to innovate and keep up with the times.

Other activities

MT reported on other BMFMS activities over the past year. Many courses that the BMFMS run with the RCOG (on intrapartum care, fetal medicine and advance antenatal care) were cancelled in 2020 but in 2021 will be run online. BMFMS continue to influence bodies such as NICE, NHSE, RCOG and the Parliamentary select committee. We have recently produced a response to NICE on caesarean section and another with Prof Shennan on Preterm birth, and made a submission to the parliamentary select committee on maternity safety. We also promote research, bursaries are currently on hold but this year there were a papers published that BMFMS seed-funded such as one by Fran Conti-Ramsden on pregnancy-related AKI and also papers produced as a result of funding in collaboration with Twins Trust (formerly TAMBA) such as Katie Morris et al on single IUD in MC Twins. We were also involved in a MFM curriculum webinar that was well attended.

MT expressed sympathy with Trainees at this trying time. MT said that he really missed the in-person conference, the camaraderie and inspiration from all across the world, this period made him really cherish the BMFMS and all it stands for. MT thanked Emma, Katie and Tracey and BAPM and to the whole committee who respond so quickly to all issues as they arise and all the membership for supporting BMFMS.

4. Honorary Secretary

a. EF said the following members were returned in elections since April 2019:

- Emma Ferriman appointed as Hon Secretary
- Tracey Johnston re-elected unopposed as Treasurer
- Chrissie Yu appointed Pregnancy Outcome rep

b. Results of vote on changes to constitution

Proposed changes to the constitution were sent to members prior to the meeting along with a link to vote for or against these proposals. Members could also submit comments to BMFMS ahead of the meeting. 57 members voted: For- 94.7% Against: 5.2%

EF said several comments were also received and these have been addressed in the proposed amendments.

c. Results of vote on proposal Myles Taylor remains in office until the next AGM in 2021.

Members were sent a link to vote for or against this proposal, 81 members voted: For: 100%

c. Forthcoming elections in the next 12 months:

- Maternal medicine rep to replace Catherine Williamson
- Education and Training rep to replace Kim Hinshaw

5. Treasurer – Finance

Treasurer, Tracey Johnston (TJ) gave the following financial update:

Finance Report – from Accounts for the year ending January 31st 2020

Income: £135,699

Expenditure: £103, 875

Income includes:

Transfer of conference funds previously held by Hamptons/Rapier:
£72,497

Profit from joint RCOG/BMFMS courses: £36,676

Membership fees: £26,798

Expenditure includes:

Staff costs: £23,036

Committee expenses: £9,213

Conference expenses: £20,000

New website: £13,500

Funds in bank as of 14th December 2020: £159,084

Notes:

- Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the 2020 conference that was due to be held in London was cancelled, as were two joint BMFMS/RCOG short courses, this will have a financial impact on the coming year
- BMFMS is planning on opening a second account to reduce risks to funds
- There are no plans at present to hold a face to face conference in 2021, this is because at the current time it wouldn't be possible to get insurance in case of the event being cancelled – but this will be reviewed in 2021
- Instead of a face to face conference, BMFMS is looking at holding monothematic days eg fetal medicine, this will be considered further when the Perinatal conference is reviewed
- Due to anticipated reduction in income, BMFMS is not able to offer bursaries at the moment but this will be kept under review, we should have more clarity towards the end of the financial year when we see how the pandemic pans out.

TJ concluded by encouraging people to join BMFMS.

6. Any Other Business

There was no other business. EF thanked Specialist Society coordinator, Stella Rafferty for her help over the year and encouraged members to let the committee know how they felt the virtual conference had gone.