



British Association for Psychopharmacology

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Minutes of the 2009 Annual General Meeting 27 July, Examination Schools, Oxford Chaired by Professor Nicol Ferrier

1. Presidential Address

Professor Gavin Reynolds began by reviewing meetings held during the past year. The 2008 Summer Meeting in Harrogate attracted 400 attendees and was well received with many positive verbal and emailed comments. However only four of the formal feedback forms were returned to the conference staff, so this year we will have an online feedback form available immediately after the conference and Professor Reynolds hopes this will encourage more attendees to provide constructive comments.

BAP has held two symposia within other meetings: in April Professor Reynolds and Professor Steve Cooper organised "5-HT systems in psychiatric disorders" within the British Neuroscience Association meeting in Liverpool, with Dr Peter Talbot, Professor Phil Cowen and Dr Angela Roberts also taking part. In June Dr Hamish McAllister-Williams organised a symposium at the Royal College Annual Meeting, based around the revised BAP Bipolar Disorder Guidelines. Chaired by our past-President, Professor Thomas Barnes, speakers included Dr Richard McQuade, Professor Guy Goodwin and Professor Nicol Ferrier. BAP-organised symposia are always popular and Professor Reynolds thanked all the BAP members who support the Association by participating in such events. He hopes the trend will continue and encouraged Members to propose symposia for inclusion in other events.

There are over 400 attendees at the current meeting and as usual offer a wide-range of interesting and high-quality scientific activities are on offer. 400 is a little less than the 500 who attended the Oxford meeting in 2006, which reflects concerns in the financial climate. However it is hoped that BAP will still achieve a surplus from the event. Professor Reynolds was sorry that Dr Alan Bateson, the Meetings Secretary, is unable to attend the current meeting due to recent knee surgery. Professor Reynolds thanked him and the Meetings Sub-Committee for all their hard work in putting together the programme and reviewing the abstracts for the event. Council is fairly rigorous in ensuring there is a high scientific standard of abstracts to be published at the meeting. Many of those present will have enjoyed an excellent plenary from the Guest Lecturer, Professor Shitij Kapur, earlier today. Professor Reynolds thanked him along with all the speakers at the meeting, some of whom have travelled a great distance to take part.

As reflected by the numbers attending the conference, these are rather difficult times for Industry and BAP Council is always grateful for their continued support for the BAP conference. Professor Reynolds encouraged Members to visit the stands in the marquee and North School during the meeting. A fifth satellite symposium follows this AGM.

This year BAP has awarded an unprecedented number of bursaries to Training Members and other young scientists to assist their attendance at the conference. These are almost all awarded to those working in the area of non-clinical research and this, along with new initiatives Professor Reynolds will report on later, reflect how much importance Council places on its support for non-clinical science.

The educational strand of meetings continues to thrive and Dr Hamish McAllister-Williams, who has worked extremely hard on a number of initiatives over the past year, will report on those in more detail later.

The BAP annual meeting is back in Harrogate in 2010 and 2011. The programme for 2010 was finalised by Council at its meeting yesterday and there will soon be a call for symposium suggestions for 2011. Professor Reynolds reminded Members that it is *their* annual meeting and he encouraged them to submit proposals for consideration. Council members are always very pleased to provide help and guidance to those thinking of sending in suggestions of novel and relevant psychopharmacological themes.

Turning to the BAP Consensus Guidelines, which are valuable to a wide range of professionals, Professor Reynolds reported that the updated Bipolar Guidelines have recently been published and he thanked Professor Guy Goodwin and that Consensus group for undertaking the review.

Professor Thomas Barnes organised a meeting last September to produce BAP Guidelines on Schizophrenia and the document will be published later this year.

Most recently, BAP has held a meeting, primarily organised by Dr Sue Wilson, to produce guidelines on Sleep Disorders. That document will be published in 2010.

There are two further meetings planned: Dr Anne Lingford-Hughes will organise a review of the Addiction and Comorbidity guidelines later this year, and Professor John O'Brien and Professor Alistair Burns will update the Dementia guidelines early in 2010.

This is a very successful aspect of BAP's work, with the consensus documents being highly-regarded, regularly downloaded and distributed from the website. The addition of new topics continues, and Professor Reynolds thanked the many BAP Members who put in a considerable amount of work to produce the documents.

Professor Reynolds was delighted to announce that the 2009 BAP Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to Professor Malcolm Lader. A citation summarising his achievements may be found in the conference programme.

There have been 11 graduates of the *Preclinical Certificate* in the past 12 months, making a total of 55 graduates since it was launched in 2001. Katie Hewitt has been particularly involved in ensuring the success of the Certificate over the past 18 months.

45 Part 1 *Clinical Certificates* have been awarded in the same period and 4 people have graduated to Part 2, submitting written work to Supervisors. These are George Mosa (supervised by Steve Bazire), Sanjay Khurmi (supervised by Morad El-Shazley), Ramya Mohan (supervised by Paramala Santosh) and David Pearce (supervised by Sue Wilson).

Many Members present will have enjoyed the three oral presentations from the winners of the 2009 Wyeth Psychopharmacology Awards. The Clinical Award was won by Carmine Pariante and the Non-Clinical Awards by Sam Chamberlain and Luke Clark.

This is the final year of Wyeth Psychopharmacology Awards and Professor Reynolds thanked them for their support over the past 3 years.

The Robert Kerwin International Conference Bursaries, introduced by BAP last year as a lasting memorial to Professor Kerwin's long-standing support of BAP, were this year awarded to Susannah Murphy (Oxford) and Darragh Downey (Manchester). They both have posters at the current meeting and will make presentations within the Short Oral Sessions on Tuesday.

The 2009 Undergraduate and Poster Awards will be decided on Tuesday and the winners announced at the conference dinner.

The Schering-Plough Journal Prize goes to Zafiris J Daskalakis, Bruce K Christensen, Paul B Fitzgerald, Bertram Moller, Sarah I Fountain and Robert Chen for the article "Increased cortical inhibition in persons with schizophrenia treated with clozapine", published in Volume 22.

Professor Reynolds congratulated all the winners and expressed appreciation to all the Council Members who review the prize applications and nominations, particularly the poster prize reviewers who have to work under a great time-pressure during the conference. In Dr Bateson's absence this process is being co-ordinated by Professor Jo Neill and Professor Reynolds was grateful to her for taking on the task at such short notice.

Professor Reynolds reported other items of interest. Members will be aware that the BAP website underwent a "re-vamp" towards the end of last year. This involved much effort by the BAP Office staff and web designers and has resulted in a lot of positive responses from Members, with some suggestions made for future enhancements. The aim is to include far more detail of activities and initiatives on the site and, as a result, hopefully reduce the amount of printing and mailing of documents to the membership.

Professor Reynolds thanked the BAP Governance Panel (Professors Sue Iversen, Bill Deakin and Charles Marsden) for their interest and support of BAP activities over the past year. Copies of their annual report to Members are available at this meeting and will be reproduced in full in the next BAP Newsletter. We were delighted that Professor Iversen was present at the two most recent Council meetings to listen to discussions on the many important issues deliberated on by Council.

Council continues its efforts to engage with the Royal College of Psychiatrists on a number of issues and Dr McAllister-Williams will report more on that in his address. Professor Reynolds was very pleased that Dr David Baldwin, the Chair of the Psychopharmacology Special Interest Group, sits as an ex-officio member of the BAP Council and works hard to promote links between the two bodies.

Professor Reynolds reported on other new initiatives introduced in recent months:

- Bursaries have been introduced to support a number of young scientists undertaking the BAP Preclinical Certificate Course. These bursaries have proved popular and will be continued on an annual basis.
- The In Vivo Training Fund will this year support four summer vacation projects with a contribution of £500 to each. The working group was pleased to receive a good number of applications and Council will discuss ways of expanding the scheme in future years.
- The BAP Council regularly reviews the progress of BAP Members, particularly young scientists upgrading from Training to Full Membership, as their careers progress. Council has noticed that a number of Training Members are lost at early career stage and the BAP Mentoring Scheme has been designed to address this issue. The hope is that with effective and relevant mentoring young scientists are encouraged to continue their participation in psychopharmacology and the Association.
- Professor Reynolds thanked Dr Mohammed Shoaib and the In Vivo Working Group, Dr Paula Moran and Katie Hewitt for working to get these three schemes off the ground over the past year.

As we all know, debate is vitally important on the whole spectrum of psychopharmacological research: from working with animals to the prescribing of medicines and the effects of substance misuse. The greatest dangers occur when decisions are made by the uninformed and prejudiced, on the basis of information distorted to reinforce a particular moral or political viewpoint. Recent television programmes have shown that the layman can find research into the brain and its disorders exciting; Council hopes that BAP can contribute to feeding that excitement. We recognise that as scientists we cannot expect good coverage of our exciting and important research advances unless we engage with the media and share our enthusiasm with journalists. Professor Reynolds thanked Understanding Animal Research for hosting an interesting session at this meeting on how effective communications can lead to better public understanding. UAR came into being as a result of the merging of the Research Defence Society and the Coalition for Medical Progress in December 2008 and their aim is to promote openness about animal research. In addition this year for the first time BAP has had a press officer working on promoting a number of aspects of the summer meeting content to the media. In future we will also arrange our own press-releases around BAP Consensus Statements (in fact there has already been a press-release for the Bipolar guidelines - albeit at the stage of printed publication). Members will of course be kept up-to-date on the progress of these steps, and press releases will appear on the website as they are issued.

Professor Reynolds thanked all members of the BAP Council who have worked so hard over the past year. BAP events and initiatives continue to expand in a number of directions and this adds to the already heavy workload of a number of individuals. We have sought to address this increased load in a number of different ways, for example by instigating more working groups to deal with specific items and present their recommendations to the full Council.

Of course the administrative workload inevitably increases as a result of any new initiative and Council is monitoring this to ensure enough support is provided by and to the Office in Cambridge.

Professor Reynolds ended his report by thanking the BAP Office staff who contribute so much to this ever-increasing workload: Susan Chandler, Lynne Harmer and Katie Hewitt. Members will have noticed that Susan Chandler is absent from the current meeting – the first she has missed since first appointed to BAP over 20 years ago. This does not mean that Susan has not contributed to the meeting; she has done as much as she ever did to ensure its success. Her absence is due to difficulties with her husband's illness; however Susan continues to work hard and effectively on behalf of the BAP. Her absence has been partly enabled by the support of her colleagues, Katie Hewitt and, in particular, Lynne Harmer. Lynne has adapted enormously to make things as easy as possible for Susan over the past year and her efforts are sincerely appreciated by Council and Members.

Professor Sahakian added warm appreciation on behalf of BAP Members to Lynne Harmer for all her efforts but emphasised how much Susan Chandler has been missed at the conference.

Professor Leonard voiced concern about the BAP's interaction with the media and suggested that Council sets up a sub-committee of those with relevant experience to deal with the initiative. Professor Reynolds appreciated Professor Leonard's comments but assured Members that BAP already maintains a distance from the media in the form of Elaine Snell, who has been co-ordinating the BAP press releases. Many will know Elaine from her work with the DANA Centre and she has been very effective for the British Neuroscience Association. So, instead of a sub-committee taking on the load, Elaine will be engaged for specific issues and initiatives, such as sorting through the abstracts for the summer meeting and selecting those she believes would be attractive to the media. Of course Council will re-assess this matter in a few months' time.

2. Motions for approval:

2.1 Dr Hamish McAllister-Williams proposed that the Minutes of the 2008 Annual General Meeting be adopted as a correct record. Professor Charles Marsden seconded the motion which was carried by those present.

2.2. Honorary Treasurer's Report

Professor Paul Harrison briefly reviewed another successful year for BAP. Income was stable across three main areas: meetings income, which increased from 2007 to a surplus of £80K across the year, taking all meetings into account. The 2008 summer meeting in Harrogate generated a surplus of £25K: healthy, though consistent with a downwards trend from BAP's peak meeting surplus in 2005 of almost £200K. This is for a number of reasons, some of which have been outlined by the President, including the subsidising of a number of people attending the meeting who previously would have been paying to attend. Council believes that this is entirely appropriate given the BAP's aims and objectives.

The Journal generated a healthy surplus of £100K in 2008; however Professor Harrison voiced his annual note of caution that the income from the Journal is heavily reliant on reprint income, and specifically reprints of BAP consensus guidelines. Therefore the income cannot be guaranteed.

Despite the new initiatives launched during 2008, expenditure actually fell, thanks to continued prudence in the Cambridge Office. There were no major differences in the main areas of expenditure compared to 2007.

Professor Harrison reminded Members that those on Council do not get paid for anything they do on behalf of the BAP, only the reimbursement of travel and accommodation where necessary. The Association therefore gets very good value from its Council Members.

BAP pays professional subscriptions to a number of bodies which totalled £4.5K in 2008.

New areas of expenditure will feed into the 2009 accounts: the new initiatives detailed by Professor Reynolds, the in vivo training fund, the mentoring scheme, and the increase in the number of issues of the Journal to 12 each year. BAP Council has decided to absorb the cost of these additional issues rather than pass it on to Members in the form of an increased subscription.

The final development which will incur new expenditure is the online CPD initiative, being led by Dr McAllister-Williams. This initiative is again in line with the BAP's commitment to education, and has the potential to earn money for the Association in years to come. However relatively large upfront costs are necessary and Council has approved an amount to cover initial set-up costs.

Professor Harrison summarised the 2008 accounts, putting them into context with the previous two years. 2008 ended with an operating surplus of £86K which, added to our previous assets, reaches an estimated figure of £1.2million. Of course this is a fluctuating figure, based on the value of our investments and the estimated value of the building in Cambridge. Professor Harrison reported that BAP investments have done relatively well during 2008, bearing in mind the state of the stock market. This reflects the fact that most BAP investments are in bonds rather than trusts; there had been a predicted loss of value of £65K on our investments during 2008 but as of early July this year they had already recovered some £20K.

The current value of the BAP's cash reserves (not including the BAP Office building) is approximately £750K. The Charity Commission recommend that we aim to have 1.5 times our annual expenditure in reserve; this is not compulsory but it is an aspiration to have that amount before considering new items of major expenditure.

Given the current financial climate Professor Harrison considers the BAP to be in remarkably good health and that, together with everything else to do with the Association, is almost entirely due to Susan, Lynne and Katie in the Office. As he comes to the end of his term as Treasurer, Professor Harrison said it had been a pleasure and a privilege to work with the BAP office staff and he thanked Susan and Lynne for keeping the finances in such good order.

Professor Brian Leonard proposed that the Trustees/Directors Annual Report and audited accounts for the period 1 January to 31 December 2008 be received and adopted. The motion was seconded by Dr Hugh Marston and carried by those present.

2.3. Editor's Report

Professor David Nutt reported an active year for the Journal of Psychopharmacology, some of this activity initiated by him, some by the change in the Editorial Manager. The online process is now fully-functioning and virtually no paper is involved in submissions to the Journal. Professor Nutt hoped that Members were pleased that papers now appear on-line very quickly following acceptance, so articles are in the public domain.

Following lengthy discussions, Council has approved the increase from 8 to 12 issues per annum. This is a sensible move, both in terms of dealing with some of the backlog but mainly to increase the profile of the Journal. There is still a backlog of 212 articles awaiting printed publication; however it would prove very costly to the BAP to increase the number of pages in future issues so the matter will mainly be addressed by a more rigorous reviewing procedure and an increased rejection rate to over 50%.

Case reports are no longer published unless Professor Nutt considers them to be exceptional and he knows that some Members find this less than satisfactory because case reports can sometimes serve a useful role. However they take up space and give little in terms of the Impact Factor, as do book reviews and letters, which Professor Nutt will also consider removing from the Journal in the future.

Professor Nutt was delighted to report that the Impact Factor has exceeded 4 for the first time and he hopes that this success will continue. The Immediacy Index (an index of the speed at which papers are cited) stands at .538 (anything over .5 is considered a good score).

Copy flow is steady, with an average of 17 original papers submitted each month.

The BAP Antidepressant Guidelines were published in 2008 and have already been downloaded 3500 times from the Journal site alone: a remarkable impact.

The publication of Supplements to the Journal has been a relatively weak area over the past year. Professor Steve Cooper had to stand down as Supplements Editor and the Journal is still in a state of limbo in this regard, partly because of the current limited investment by the pharmaceutical industry. There has been discussion by the BAP Council that maybe Supplements are not going to be a very effective means of communication in the future. It may be that the Supplement becomes a vehicle with various aims such as CPD learning and perhaps publishing some of the papers not included in the main Journal.

There will also continue to be specifically-themed issues or sub-issues to help raise the impact factor and citation rate of the Journal.

Two special issues are currently in development: Experimental Medicine with guest Editors Colin Dourish, Gerry Dawson and Guy Goodwin. The second special issue will be on Pharmacogenetics in honour of Professor Rob Kerwin, with guest Editors Kathy Aitchison and Gavin Reynolds.

Finally, Professor Nutt thanked Jaci Hopkins who left the post of Editorial Manager earlier this year. Pallab Seth, based at Imperial College, has taken on the role and has already achieved much for the Journal.

Professor Nutt reminded Members that 2011 will be the 25th anniversary of the Journal. He was interested in people's opinions as to how to celebrate this milestone. He made two suggestions for further discussion: 1. a special issue detailing the history of BAP and 2. the reprinting of classic papers, with current commentaries alongside.

Professor Sahakian suggested that the celebratory issue should look forwards, not backwards. She suggested that 'hot topics' be identified and then individuals be approached to write about them.

Professor Charles Marsden asked how Professor Nutt will encourage his reviewers to reject a further 1/3 of papers submitted. Professor Nutt has considered a triage system to reduce the pressure on reviewers; then it will have to be down to an editorial decision. There is already a scoring system in place for reviewers and this may include a further dimension, ranking the priority and novelty of the submissions. It is vitally important that the backlog of papers does not increase.

Dr Sue Wilson proposed that the Editor's Report be received. Dr David Baldwin seconded the motion which was carried by those present.

2.4 Honorary Secretary's Report

Dr Hamish McAllister-Williams' remit covers three main areas: membership, Council composition, and educational activities. He reported that membership has remained relatively stable for a number of years. Over the past 12 months there have been 134 new or re-instated Members and 130 Members deleted from the list. This brings the total number of Members to 1036. He explained that those removed from the membership list are usually those who do not pay their membership subscriptions.

The majority of members are Full Members, but Dr McAllister-Williams was pleased to also see a substantial number of Training Members. In terms of scientific disciplines, the membership is weighted towards clinical members, a number of whom join whilst completing the Certificate in Clinical Psychopharmacology.

Dr McAllister-Williams went on to report on the status of Council. Professor Harrison retires as Honorary Treasurer and both Council and the membership owe him a huge vote of thanks for all his hard work over the past five years on behalf of the Association, particularly steering the finances through the current turbulent times. There were two nominations for the post of Honorary Treasurer and the result was that Dr Catherine Harmer will take on the role for the next five years.

Professor Steve Cooper recently resigned from his post as Secretary for Clinical External Affairs and Dr McAllister-Williams thanked him for all his efforts in that role. Professor Cooper has also in the past been heavily involved in the organising and teaching on the BAP Fundamentals Course and his hard work was appreciated by all. Following his resignation, Professor Naomi Fineberg, a current member of Council, agreed to be co-opted to the role until it officially comes up for election in 2010. It is extremely important that BAP has someone in the role the whole time as it is a very busy post, dealing with outside bodies including NICE and their consultation documents.

Following the review of Council composition and numbered posts in 2008, introduced to stop mass retirements every few years, two Council members technically end their terms this year, prior to their elected term of 4 years. One of those is Professor Fineberg, who will be staying on in her co-opted role. The other is Professor Jo Neill. Professor Neill has played a key role in the in vivo working group and Council has decided to co-opt her back to Council for a further year to continue this work.

Whilst reviewing the structure of Council posts, the BAP Council agreed that it would be best for the Association if three Secretaries did not all retire together in 2010. Therefore Dr McAllister-Williams has been persuaded to remain in post until 2011. That change completes the re-structuring of Council posts and there will in future be a more orderly transition and gradual retirement of Council members and Officers.

With regards to the two Council posts which became vacant this year, three nominations were received and Dr McAllister-Williams reported that Professor Val Curran of University College London and Dr Anne Jackson of University of Brighton were elected to join Council for a 4-year term of office.

Full results of the election will be posted on the website. Dr McAllister-Williams reported that 202 votes were received which represents 24% of the electorate, similar to previous years. The votes this year were cast by post and online but from 2010 the voting will be conducted entirely online.

Turning to educational activities, Dr McAllister-Williams reported that BAP has three main face-to-face teaching initiatives:

The Preclinical Certificate course is now firmly established and has benefitted from a full review by Katie Hewitt of the content and presentations. Dr McAllister-Williams thanked all the organisers and speakers who take part. The bursaries now available for those taking part in the Preclinical Certificate have proved popular and will be continued in future years. Dr McAllister-Williams encouraged all senior scientists to promote the course to their colleagues and students as the feedback demonstrates that the Certificate is becoming an important part of the learning experience and training of students as they undertake their PhD.

The Clinical Certificate continues to be extremely popular, with many modules booked up within 24 hours of details being released. Again, Dr McAllister-Williams thanked the organisers and speakers who so enthusiastically take part in the modules each year; indeed many speakers have taken part each and every year since the Certificate's inception back in 1997.

The third face-to-face teaching event is the 3-day Masterclasses held twice each year. Again, this is proving extremely popular, with all days operating a waiting-list of those wishing to attend. Dr McAllister-Williams expressed gratitude to all the presenters who take part in the 3 days and help to generate such superb feedback from attendees.

As has been discussed before, the BAP is seen by many to be the leading provider of psychopharmacology training within the UK. Council recognises that our face-to-face teaching can only meet part of the demand for that training, which will become even more acute when the re-validation of clinicians shortly comes into force, with a requirement for them to undertake regular CPD. Council has been discussing how best the BAP can meet this increased demand, whilst maintaining the high quality to which it aspires to in every area of its teaching activities. As a result, we are currently developing an online educational resource which will be based on the Masterclasses, aimed at psychiatrists and others with an interest in psychopharmacology. This is a major undertaking for BAP; the development work is complex and extensive, and it requires a significant financial investment. Council hopes that if the project is successful then it will eventually break-even financially. The project still requires a lot of work but it is hoped that it will launch in 2010.

Council continues to foster links with the Psychopharmacology Special Interest Group of the Royal College and has regular dialogue about how a number of issues of mutual interest might be addressed, including discussions about possible collaboration on our educational programmes, and BAP contribution to College Reports and Statements. Dr McAllister-Williams reported that on the educational front BAP has not made great progress; however he is very pleased that the College Executive has recently given the go-ahead for PSIG to update three Reports (benzodiazepines, high dose antipsychotics and the use of medications off-licence), and that these updates will be undertaken in consultation with BAP. Council views this as a very positive move, which will allow the revised documents to carry the imprimatur of both the College and the BAP.

To conclude, Dr McAllister-Williams thanked all the Council Members and who work so hard on the BAP educational initiatives. He also thanked the three pillars of the BAP: Katie Hewitt, particularly for her work on the Preclinical Certificate, Lynne Harmer, who continues to assist in all aspects of the clinical education and who has so willingly taken on even a larger burden recently to help Susan Chandler through such a difficult time. Dr McAllister-Williams suggested that the summer meeting does not feel quite the same without Susan's presence and whilst she has, as always, been heavily involved in the organisation of the event, he knows that she is very sad not to be able to attend in person.

Professor Ferrier called for discussion. Dr John Cookson was interested to hear about the links between BAP and the Royal College, commenting that the College has a vested interest in examining people on the subject of psychopharmacology. However as a lecturer to trainees, Dr Cookson has had difficulty obtaining information about what exactly will be included in students' examinations. It is very important that students learn the fundamentals of psychopharmacology to help them understand the current research. Dr McAllister-Williams replied, explaining that the BAP has put its Fundamentals in Psychopharmacology course on hold at this time. It was aimed primarily at trainee psychiatrists and comprised both basic science and the clinical use of medicines but was put on hold because traditionally a large number of trainees had received support from industry to attend the event. Over the course of time that support vanished and the number of attendees to the event dropped dramatically, also reflecting the difficulty some trainees have in obtaining support to attend external educational meetings because their budget is taken up by local training. It was with reluctance that BAP cancelled its course, deciding to concentrate on providing CPD to psychiatrists and more senior trainees. Indeed, a number of SpRs and ST4-ST6 psychiatrists do now attend both the Clinical Certificate modules and the Masterclasses. However the BAP education committee recognises that it is vitally important that psychiatrists understand the basic pharmacology which underlies the clinical use of treatments and the BAP Masterclasses do address this issue, with each disease area beginning with a revision of the basic pharmacology. These sessions were included partly in response to feedback from attendees; however it has to be said that recently the feedback for those sessions is not as positive as that for the clinical sessions.

The curriculum of the Royal College examinations is linked more to PSIG, who were consulted about the revision to the College training. This is really out of BAP's hands and Dr McAllister-Williams suggested that if BAP Members wish to influence the curriculum then they should do so via PSIG.

Professor Kevin Fone proposed that the Honorary General Secretary's Report be received. Professor Thomas Barnes seconded the motion, which was carried by those present.

3. General Discussion

Professor Brian Leonard was disappointed that a number of the posters displayed at today's session did not have an author present for discussion. Dr McAllister-Williams replied that whilst all posters are displayed for the duration of the conference, only 50% of presenters are expected to be by their posters on Monday and the other 50% on Tuesday. The poster lists within the programme show which posters should be manned each day.

In response to a comment from Dr Clare Stanford, it was agreed that photography by audience members during lectures is both disconcerting to the audience and discourteous to the speaker and will in future be strongly discouraged.

Professor Ferrier closed the 2009 Annual General Meeting at 18:15.