



British Association for Psychopharmacology

36 Cambridge Place • Hills Road • Cambridge • CB2 1NS
Tel: 01223 358 395 • Fax: 01223 321 268 • www.bap.org.uk

Executive Officer Mrs Susan Chandler • Tel: 01223 358 428 • susan@bap.org.uk

Assistant to the Executive Officer Mrs Lynne Harmer • Tel: 01223 358 421 • lynne@bap.org.uk

Education Development and Delivery Co-ordinator Dr Katie Hewitt • Tel: 01223 358 396 • katie@bap.org.uk

2010 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 26 July, 16:45

Queen's Suite, Harrogate International Centre
Chaired by Dr Alan Bateson, Meetings Secretary

1. Presidential Address

Professor Gavin Reynolds reported that the 2009 Summer Meeting in Oxford attracted over 400 attendees, with a good balance of clinical and nonclinical scientists. We were pleased to receive 150 evaluation forms via the new online system. The programme content scored very highly, and Professor Reynolds was particularly pleased to see many comments on the high quality of the poster presentations. The review panel and Susan Chandler have worked hard over the past few years to enhance the quality of abstracts, tightening up the rules for submission and encouraging authors to revise where necessary. It is gratifying to see this hard work bearing fruit.

The short orals and the post-doctoral symposium also scored highly. The Post-Doctoral symposium is now an integral part of the summer meeting programme and Professor Reynolds encouraged younger members of the BAP to submit ideas for symposia for 2011 or beyond. Susan Chandler can provide all the information and the Council members are happy to help if necessary.

It was a relief that the scientific programme scored so highly with delegates last year, as Professor Reynolds had to report that the feedback on the conference facilities were, in the main, less than glowing, to put it mildly. Whilst we can all appreciate the huge advantages of holding the meeting in somewhere like Oxford (or Cambridge), with beautiful surroundings, historic architecture and suchlike, they can't really provide suitable conference facilities, for example lecture theatres or poster exhibition space, that BAP needs. Colleges, too, charge a high premium for their historical value, but not necessarily an equivalent value in terms of service. The venue for future summer meetings will be kept under review by the BAP Council. 2011 will be here in Harrogate and a decision has yet to be made for 2012 onwards. Professor Reynolds strongly encouraged Members to complete the evaluation form when Lynne Harmer emails it to them following this meeting.

This year we once again have a strong scientific programme, with varied symposia and oral sessions, and 200 posters presented. Professor Reynolds thanked Trevor Robbins for his very stimulating Guest Lecture earlier today.

Professor Reynolds reported that the number of attendees at the current meeting is down a little (5-10%) on previous years. However, this has not meant a reduction in the scientific content and number of posters. Professor Reynolds reported that the reduction in attendees has been coupled with a dramatic drop in the amount of support provided by the pharmaceutical industry towards the summer meeting. For example, there were 5 satellite symposia last year and only 2 at this meeting. Perhaps this reflects the current economic climate, but it is something that Council will have to monitor closely. Professor Reynolds was grateful to the companies who are supporting the meeting this year, particularly Servier and MSD for the new BAP-led Special Sessions and Janssen and MSD (again) for hosting satellite symposia.

Members will know that BAP has traditionally provided very generous support to many of those attending the summer meeting, especially those who receive bursaries and our invited speakers. Council has also

been able to keep registration fees low thanks to industry support. We know that a number of other societies are far less generous and Professor Reynolds reported that unless there is a rapid return to the level of industry support BAP has benefitted from in previous years, it is likely that BAP will have to review its provision in future years. Council has already discussed this matter in some depth at this meeting and the decision has been made to restrict the number of Training Members who receive repeat bursaries and also to use Council members as speakers at future summer meetings, to keep costs down.

Professor Reynolds reported that the programme for the 2011 summer meeting was approved by Council yesterday and details will shortly appear on the website, together with a call for suggestions for the 2012 meeting. Professor Reynolds encouraged Members to submit proposals so that Council can put together another strong programme reflecting the diverse interests of our membership.

Council is very grateful for the generosity shown by Hannah Steinberg, one of the founding members of BAP, together with the Wolfson Foundation, who provided additional funds for bursaries this year. Beginning in 2011 BAP will launch "The Hannah Steinberg Bursary", specifically to support a young scientist's attendance at the summer meeting. Further details about this will be in a future Newsletter.

Our educational meetings continue to thrive despite the economic downturn, and Hamish McAllister-Williams will report on those, including new developments, in more detail later.

Professor Reynolds was pleased to report substantial activity around the BAP's Consensus Guidelines portfolio. The Insomnia Guidelines, co-ordinated by Sue Wilson and David Nutt are in press and will shortly appear online. The updated Dementia Guidelines, co-ordinated by John O'Brien, will be published later this year. The updated Addiction Guidelines, co-ordinated by Anne Lingford-Hughes, will be published early in 2011. Thomas Barnes has been working hard on the new Schizophrenia Guidelines and we anticipate publication early next year. Meetings will soon be arranged to update the Anxiety and ADHD Guideline statements.

Professor Reynolds thanked all the BAP Members involved in the production of the BAP Guideline Statements, which are always so well-received by a wide audience.

Professor Reynolds went on to report on the 2010 BAP Prizes and Awards.

The 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to Richard Green at the conference dinner and a citation summarizing his many achievements may be found in the conference programme.

There have been 16 graduates of the Preclinical Certificate in the past 12 months, making a total of 71 since it was launched in 2001. Professor Reynolds was also delighted to announce that Slavinka Potts from Lilly in Windlesham has been awarded part 2 of the Preclinical Certificate, the first candidate to do so.

79 Part 1 Clinical Certificates have been awarded in the past year, and 5 people have graduated to Part 2, submitting written work to Supervisors. These are Vellingiri Badrakalimuthu, supervised by Andrew Tarbuck, Somnath Banerjee, supervised by Marios Adamou, Frauke Boddy, supervised by John O'Brien, Mark Harrison, supervised by John Potokar and, finally, Abe Wassie, supervised by Anthony Cleare.

The winners of the BAP Psychopharmacology Awards, to reward excellence in clinical and non-clinical science, are Valeria Mondelli and Jared Young and we have just enjoyed hearing their short orals.

The Robert Kerwin International Conference Bursaries, launched in 2008 in memorial of Rob's long-standing support of BAP, were this year awarded to Sally Adams (Bristol) and Livia Carvalho (London).

The BAP/MSD Journal Prize was awarded to Martin Zack and Constantine Poulos from the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in Toronto for their paper "Effects of the atypical stimulant modafinil on a brief gambling episode in pathological gamblers with high vs. low impulsivity", published in Volume 23.

Professor Reynolds reported that this is the last year that MSD will support the Journal Prize and again, this reflects the input from industry. There is no longer any support from industry towards any of the BAP awards and prizes. In a way this can positively demonstrate our independence, but is a reflection of the current economic situation and BAP will have to assess whether we can really afford these many prizes without any outside financial support.

The 2010 Undergraduate and Poster Awards will be decided on Tuesday and the winners announced at the conference dinner.

Professor Reynolds congratulated all the winners and expressed his appreciation to all the Council Members who, often under a great time pressure, have to review the prize applications and nominations.

Professor Reynolds went on to report a variety of other matters to the BAP Membership. He thanked the Governance Panel (Sue Iversen, Bill Deakin and Charles Marsden) for their interest in BAP activities over the past year. Their annual report to Members is available on the website. The Panel recognizes the need for continued vigilance from Council to ensure representation of all members of the BAP, whatever their level of training, expertise and interests and regardless of their non-clinical or clinical status, the mix of which BAP is rightly very proud. The Panel has also reminded Council of the financial vulnerability of BAP. Professor Marsden will address the membership later in this AGM.

Sue now stands down as Chair of the Panel, and Bill also ends his term as Panel Member. Council is grateful that Charles has agreed to Chair the Panel for the next 3 years and will be joined by new Panel Members, Clare Stanford and Guy Goodwin.

Professor Reynolds reported that Council has worked hard to develop the public profile of BAP over the past year or so. We engaged the services of Elaine Snell to provide press support for the Oxford summer meeting and the current event. Elaine is producing press releases for the summer meeting and will also be producing press releases in association with the launch of future Consensus Guidelines.

BAP, for the first time, sponsored an event entitled 'Bipolar' at this year's Cheltenham Science Festival. Despite clashing with the first England World Cup football game, the event was sold out and the Festival tent venue was full to capacity with over 250 members of the public who turned up to find out more about bipolar disorder. The Festival Director, Prof Kathy Sykes, chaired the BAP session, introducing Nicol Ferrier and Rebecca Elliott from BAP, who were joined on stage by author Katy Sara Culling, who has written about her own experiences with bipolar disorder. The panel discussed a variety of aspects of mood disorders. There were an overwhelming number of questions from the audience and the discussions continued in a more informal manner in The Times café tent. Here interested members of the public, including sufferers and their relatives were able to ask more questions and put their experiences to the panel.

The general feedback from the audience and participants was that this was a very important session and it was agreed that more such public events should be held. Elsewhere at the Festival, other events included BAP members Hamish McAllister Williams (How to Treat Depression, chaired by Robert Winston) and David Nutt (The Decadent use of Drugs). These sessions were equally well attended, informative and provoked mixed and interesting discussions, and clearly helped to raise the profile of BAP within the public arena.

Council will be developing programmes for inclusion in future Science Festivals and Council is also going to include commentaries on 'Public Web Pages' on our website, aimed at a lay-audience with an interest in the psychopharmacological treatment of disorders.

Other aspects of the BAP website includes the fact that the abstract submission system for the summer meeting seems to be working well for both authors and reviewers; this year we have also conducted the election entirely online and will in future be including more items on the website such as Newsletters.

Last year Professor Reynolds told Members about the launch of three new initiatives: the bursaries to support those undertaking the Preclinical Certificate, the In Vivo Training Fund and the BAP Mentoring

Scheme. He was very pleased to report that all three schemes have had a successful first year and he thanked all those involved in their development.

Council continues to engage with other bodies and we have recently seen collaborations with the British Neuroscience Association, including joint letters to Government in response to the David Nutt fiasco, and BAP symposia at BNA congresses. Of course with Trevor Robbins as the current BNA President and David Nutt as President-elect, we already have very strong BAP links with the BNA. We have also collaborated with the College of Mental Health Pharmacy including a joint symposium at their forthcoming meeting and reciprocal circulation of our Newsletters. Hamish McAllister-Williams will report more fully on BAP interactions with the Royal College of Psychiatrists in his General Secretary's Report. Mohammed Shoab, in his role as Secretary for Non-clinical External Affairs, has been kept busy with BAP involvement with the Society of Biology and the European Coalition in Brain Research. Naomi Fineberg has a similar role dealing with Clinical External Affairs and has co-ordinated the BAP responses to consultation documents BAP receives as a stakeholder with NICE and the MRC. Both External Affairs roles have expanded considerably over the past couple of years and Professor Reynolds thanked both Mohammed and Naomi for keeping on top of things on behalf of Council and the BAP Membership.

Professor Reynolds is sure that Members have seen recent news surrounding the closure of major pharmaceutical research centres in the UK, including GSK in Harlow and, most recently, MSD in Newhouse. Council is extremely concerned about this loss of psychopharmacology research which will inevitably have an impact on many BAP members, not only those being made redundant or having to move, but also those in academia who have research collaborations with industry groups and the job prospects for our Training Members. Council has been debating BAP's response to this situation and will shortly be writing to the UK Government expressing our concerns and urging the assessment of the various factors contributing to, as well as what might be done to ameliorate the consequences to British psychopharmacology.

David Nutt will be reporting on the Journal of Psychopharmacology later at this meeting. Professor Reynolds reported that the Journal publisher, Sage, is intending to launch a new journal in its Therapeutic Advances series. Council has agreed that BAP should collaborate on this new publication *Therapeutic Advances in Psychopharmacology* which will launch early in 2011. This will hopefully attract review articles and special supplements and, to this end, BAP advertised for an Editor-in-Chief and Council has proposed David Taylor to be appointed to that role. David and BAP will be involved in the appointment of the Editorial Board members. BAP members will be kept informed about developments.

BAP was pleased to nominate individuals to attend the 2nd ECNP School of Psychopharmacology held last week in Oxford. The School aims to develop teaching in psychopharmacology and identify potential young leaders in clinical psychopharmacology to go back to their respective countries to stimulate local teaching. BAP was pleased to receive a number of applications for our nominated places and Council will continue to nominate individuals in future years.

Professor Reynolds reported that this is his last Address as President of BAP. He formally thanked all the Officers and Council for their hard work and support over the past two years.

Finally, but very importantly, Professor Reynolds gave thanks both personally and on behalf of the BAP membership, to the BAP Office staff for their tremendous efforts for the Association. Katie Hewitt, who has been working part-time but has made huge efforts in developing the BAP educational initiatives. As for Susan Chandler, it is impossible to put into words her irreplaceable contribution to making the BAP such a successful and friendly and supportive Association. Finally, Lynne Harmer deserves a very special mention. Lynne has, behind the scenes, been working tremendously hard to provide immense support, not only for Council but also for Susan during the past year and Susan's recent bereavement.

2. Motions for approval:

2.1 Professor Reynolds proposed that the **Minutes of the 2009 Annual General Meeting** be approved and adopted as a correct record. The motion was seconded by Professor Sahakian and approved by those present.

2.2. Editor's Report

Professor Nutt reported that much has been happening over the past year. The online submission process is now fully functional; the Online First (online publishing) is helping to reduce the backlog of papers; the Journal is now published monthly with a page increase to 142 per issue. 188 papers will have been published between January-October 2010 and this has made a significant impact on the size of the backlog.

The Editorial Office has developed some themed issues and Professor Nutt welcomed comments from Members about this initiative. He explained that many submissions fall into 'clusters' and it is hoped that themed issues will help readers to use a whole issue, citing numerous papers within it. Some changes have been made to reduce pressure on space and the impact factor. Case Reports will no longer be published; however Professor Nutt hopes very much that they might be included in the new publication *Therapeutic Advances in Psychopharmacology*. Book Reviews are no longer published in the Journal, but will instead appear in the BAP Newsletter. Letters to the Editor will only be accepted in exceptional cases.

The rejection rate is now over 60% and this has also helped to halt the backlog. Unfortunately the Impact Factor has slipped back to 3.647, similar to 2007 levels. However the 5-year average is 3.8 and it is hoped that forthcoming BAP Guideline documents will help to increase the current rate.

In terms of ranking, JoP is in the top quartile of Clinical Neurology, Pharmacology and Pharmacy and in the second quartile of Neuroscience and Psychiatry.

Turning to copy-flow, Professor Nutt reported that submissions are mainly Original papers. There are fewer Reviews than he would like to see. Reviews stimulate citations and he encouraged Members to submit more for publication.

Professor Nutt was pleased to report that three Supplements will soon be published: The Clinical Management of Depression – the Keys to Success, supported by Servier and edited by Guy Goodwin, Guidelines for Cardiovascular metabolic risk in people with severe mental illness, supported by MSD and edited by Bill Deakin and David Taylor, and Mortality and Schizophrenia, supported by Eli Lilly and edited by Timothy Dinan, Hiram Wildgust and Chris Bushe. Professor Nutt is pleased that publication of Supplements helps the Journal to make a substantial contribution to the BAP finances.

Two targeted Special Issues are planned: one focusing on CNS Experimental Medicine, containing nine Review papers, and the other on Pharmacogenetics (in honour of Rob Kerwin), based on the memorial symposium and edited by Kathy Aitchison and Gavin Reynolds. A 'jumbo' Special Issue for Volume 26 of the Journal will focus on The Endocannabinoid System in Psychopathology, for which there are already many confirmed contributors.

Professor Nutt encouraged Members to submit ideas to him if they wanted to help produce a Special Issue.

Professor Nutt ended his report by thanking the Editorial Manager, Pallab Seth, for all his efforts for the Journal, and Pierre Blier for continuing to act as Overseas Editor. Thanks were also extended to those at Sage who help produce the Journal.

Dr Sasha Gartside asked if it would be possible to find out the impact of themed issues on the Impact Factor. Sage will be asked to investigate this.

Dr John Cookson asked whether BAP/Sage has a policy on the use of colour in the Journal. Fiona Barratt (Sage) replied that the paper used for the Journal has recently been changed and will now take colour printing more effectively. At present if papers are accepted with colour plates then Professor Nutt decides how much colour will be used. Colour will be used throughout the new Therapeutic Advances in Psychopharmacology Journal. As a general rule, if using colour strongly enhances the paper then Sage will use it. Dr Cookson asked for clarification on the difference between the Journal of Psychopharmacology and the new Therapeutic Advances journal. Professor Nutt replied that the new publication will focus on clinical papers, i.e. trials, reviews, position statements. It is part of a series of Therapeutic Advances journals published by Sage. There have been discussions on BAP Council as to whether some form of CPD might be included in the future; however that it not the initial intention. Professor Nutt sees the Therapeutic Advances Journal as a 'back up' and hopes that scientists will continue to send their work to Journal of Psychopharmacology.

Professor Val Curran commented that she, along with many others, has little shelf-room and in any case uses Journals primarily online. Could Members elect to not receive a printed copy of the Journal of Psychopharmacology, and have any saving passed on to BAP? This will be discussed with Sage.

Professor Brian Leonard proposed that the Editor's Report be received. The proposal was seconded by Professor Charles Marsden and approved by those present.

2.3. Trustees/Directors Annual Report and audited accounts for the period 1 Jan to 31 Dec 2009

Dr Bateson presented the Honorary Treasurer's Report in the absence of Dr Catherine Harmer, who is on maternity leave. He began by reporting that paper copies of the full accounts had not been sent out by mail this year, but have been available for viewing on the website.

The major sources of income throughout 2009 were the Journal of Psychopharmacology (surplus of £70.4K). However, this is an unpredictable income which reflects BAP guidelines, supplements, subscriptions and the Impact Factor. In terms of the meetings income, 2009 saw a surplus of £66.5K, down from a surplus of £80K in 2008. Some meetings now run at a loss, and in 2009 this included the Summer Meeting in Oxford, which suffered a loss of £5K (down from a surplus of £25K in 2008 in Harrogate). This partly reflects current financial climate and decrease in industry sponsorship but also reflects the level of support BAP provides to speakers and bursary recipients.

Total expenditure during 2009 was £672K (an increase of 10% from 2008). Council meetings and expenses account for just 1% of the total expenditure and this not only covers the expense of holding three Council meetings during the year, but travel and subsistence for Council members when they speak at BAP meetings and attend other organisations' events on behalf of BAP. It also includes travel and subsistence for the BAP staff when undertaking work away from the Cambridge office. Dr Bateson reminded Members that Council members receive no payment for anything they do on behalf of the BAP.

BAP makes annual subscription payments to: Biosciences Federation (now the Society for Biology), Biosciences Federation (Animal Science Group), European Biomedical Research Association, Research Defence Society, Foundation for Science and Technology.

BAP launched the in-vivo training fund in 2009. A relatively small amount of money was provided upon competitive applications to encourage in vivo research and training, in response to a number of reports on the lack of training within the UK. In 2009 this cost BAP £2.0K. The Mentoring scheme, which again fulfils the BAP remit to support and assist trainees, cost £1.8K in 2009. The online education project, on which the Honorary General Secretary will report, has so far cost £6.1K. The Rob Kerwin bursaries cost £2.8K in 2009.

Dr Bateson reminded Members that the BAP investment portfolio has managed by Lloyds TSB.

In summary, income during 2009 was down whilst expenses were up. The surplus over the year was £8595K. The net assets of the BAP stand at £1,264,000, which includes the value of the Office in Cambridge and the value of the investment portfolio. The cash reserve stands at £839K and our reserves policy states we will aim to keep at least 1.5x annual expenditure (currently £672K) in reserve.

Professor Brian Leonard suggested that the BAP is generous in its support of speakers and bursaries. Some societies give a fixed amount to a speaker and the individual has to work within that budget, or cover the excess themselves. Dr Bateson replied that Council is currently discussing a number of ways to reduce speaker expenses, particularly for the summer meeting. However he explained that the BAP Office staff already work hard to negotiate costs with speakers and also send invitations out as early as possible so that cheaper tickets may be purchased in advance of the meeting. Most speakers are helpful in this regard.

Professor Leonard went on to suggest that BAP eliminate or at least reduce the cash aspect of the BAP prizes and awards, presenting a small plaque or suchlike instead. The acknowledgement of excellence is the most important thing and he believed that BAP should continue doing that. Dr Bateson agreed with Professor Leonard and replied that the Council has recently discussed this topic.

Professor Leonard commented that in his opinion Oxford and Cambridge are no longer suitable venues for the BAP summer meeting. He enjoys Harrogate as a venue but suggested there are other cities in the UK that should be considered. Dr Bateson replied that Council has considered a number of other venues and Susan Chandler has also liaised with other societies about venues. She has also undertaken a number of site visits to various locations. So far, Harrogate always comes out on top in terms of suitability and cost.

Dr Clare Stanford questioned the distribution of the annual accounts. Whilst she understood that this has been an exceptional year for many reasons and that BAP has to adopt cost-cutting measures. However distributing the accounts electronically is a good idea if all Members can be reached electronically, but her copy of the accounts only arrived recently and she believes there are people attending the AGM who have not seen the accounts at all. The bye-laws of the BAP must state deadlines for when these papers should be distributed. Dr Bateson agreed in principle but asked Susan Chandler, who explained that the accounts were posted onto the website as soon as they were available and that this coincided with the date that they would, in normal years, be sent out by post. The email sent recently to Members was a reminder. Professor David Nutt was also unhappy and suggested that someone with a paranoid disposition could think BAP had something to hide. There is no reason why some copies of the annual accounts could not be available at the AGM itself. This will be done in future, and hard copies of the accounts will be posted to all Members as well as posted online.

Professor Barbara Sahakian suggested that Oxford and Cambridge not be damned eternally as a summer meeting venue, because it may be that BAP can strike up special deals and if industry is not supporting BAP then there may be other ways of doing things. She also asked about the membership subscriptions BAP pays to other bodies. She is sure that they are scrutinized annually, but does Council think BAP is getting value for money from those groups? Dr Bateson replied that the activities of the Biosciences Federation (now the Institute of Biology) have required a lot of Council discussion and will probably continue to do, especially as it is almost certain that the Institute of Biology will receive a Royal Charter soon. The Institute and the Royal Society for Chemistry will be the voices that Government listens to rather than many different, smaller Societies. The Animal Science Group has been effective, and BAP has had a lot of representation on that Group. The European Biomedical Research Association is fighting for appropriate changes to animal use legislation in Europe. They are a one-issue lobby group which has a number of BAP members' issues at heart. The Research Defense Society continues to be an important and relevant body. The Foundation for Science and Technology advises on procedural and employment issues to Council.

Dr Sasha Gartside sought clarification about the BAP reserves policy. The amount needing to be kept on reserve will continue to rise because expenditure will increase every year. She asked if its primary reason is to safeguard against a disastrous summer meeting, in which case is it possible to insure against such a loss? Dr Bateson replied that the professional advice from the Foundation for Science

and Technology is that Charities such as BAP should have a minimum of 1.5 x its annual expenditure held on reserve. Dr Gartside questioned whether Council is happy to take that advice? Dr Bateson replied that Council discussed the matter at length when it was first proposed and no-one on Council has sought to change the decision.

Professor Brian Leonard proposed that the Honorary Treasurer's Report be received. Dr Hugh Marston seconded the proposal which was approved by those present.

2.4. Honorary General Secretary's report

Dr McAllister-Williams began by reporting on the membership figures. There has been a drop from the highest figure of 1076 Members four years ago to the current total of 956. Part of the reduction is due to the removal of Members for non-payment of their annual subscription fee. However, there has also been a steady decline in new applications for membership. Dr McAllister-Williams has investigated this decline and was able to report that over the past three years there has been a reduction of 30 new applications each year, particularly in the category of Clinical Full Member. There has also been a reduction in Industrial Full Members and this will come as no surprise given the recent changes within Industry.

Importantly, there has not been a decline in applications for Training membership.

In terms of the membership groups, the vast majority are Full Members, with 161 Training Members. In terms of science, there are currently 2/3 clinical and 1/3 non-clinical though this will become more equal if the number of Full Clinical Members continues to fall. However it is interesting to note that there is almost a 50/50 split between clinical and non-clinical scientists attending the summer meeting.

In summary, Dr McAllister-Williams suggested that most of the decline of Members may be due to individuals who joined whilst attending BAP educational events and thereafter not renewing their subscription.

Turning to Council issues, Dr McAllister-Williams reminded those present that once every two years there are major changes due to the President-elect becoming President. This year Professor Thomas Barnes retires from Past-President and BAP is grateful for his commitment and hard work on behalf of the Association. He has overseen a number of changes during his time on Council, particularly with the setting up of a schedule for producing and updating BAP Guideline documents.

Professor Gavin Reynolds becomes Past-President and Dr McAllister-Williams thanked him for his hard work and leadership of Council over the past couple of years. He has faced a number of challenges during this time, not least of which is the recent lack of industry support, particularly for this summer meeting. He has worked tirelessly to organise and launch the new BAP Special Sessions with unrestricted grants from industry and so far these have been a great success.

Professor Nicol Ferrier becomes President from the end of this AGM and will serve in the post for two years. Dr McAllister-Williams extended congratulations to Professor Barbara Sahakian, on her election to the post of President-elect.

Dr Alan Bateson retires as Meetings Secretary. This is sometimes a difficult and time-consuming job, including putting together the programme for the summer meeting, reviewing abstracts and prizes, and chairing the AGM. Dr McAllister-Williams thanked him for all his efforts for BAP. Professor Jo Neill was congratulated on her election to the Meetings Secretary post.

Professor Naomi Fineberg has over the past year been co-opted to the post of Secretary for Clinical External Affairs and Dr McAllister-Williams was delighted to report that she has now been formally elected to that post.

Two Council posts were available for election this year. Four candidates stood and Dr McAllister-Williams was pleased to report that Dr Steve Bazire from Norwich and Dr Marcus Munafa from Bristol have both been elected.

Dr McAllister-Williams voiced Council's concerns about the election process this year. 798 individuals were eligible to vote. This year, for the first time, the election was conducted entirely online and only 93 votes were received - 11.65% of the electorate. In 2009 both online and postal ballots were employed; 213 individuals voted and Council was concerned to only receive votes from 23% of the electorate, so to have that reduce by more than half this year is extremely worrying. There have been a number of discussions on Council, together with a vote on how to proceed. It has been agreed that the voting procedure will be reviewed so as to make it as simple as possible to use. The 2011 election will be conducted entirely online again and Council will then review the process and, if necessary, return to both online and postal voting. There is a cost implication in that it costs around £600 to use the postal voting system.

Moving onto BAP Educational Activities, Dr McAllister-Williams reported that whilst their primary objective is to educate, they also provide a major income stream for the Association and in fact during 2009 the whole meetings surplus could be accounted for by educational events.

The Preclinical Certificate Course is now well-established and Dr McAllister-Williams thanked all the module organisers and presenters for their support and participation. Katie Hewitt has worked hard co-ordinating the Course, including raising the profile and increasing attendance. Dr McAllister-Williams encouraged all senior pre-clinical scientists to promote the Preclinical Certificate to their younger researchers. Feedback shows that attendees find the modules extremely useful.

The Clinical Certificate has now been established for fourteen years and is incredibly popular and oversubscribed; indeed, some modules are fully booked with 24 hours of details becoming available. Dr McAllister-Williams thanked all the module organisers and speakers for their continued support and enthusiasm for the Certificate.

The 3-day Masterclasses began a few years ago and is running very well. It is another very popular event and always over-subscribed – the November 2010 event fully booked and a number of places already taken for the April 2011 event. Dr McAllister-Williams thanked all the speakers who take part to make it such a phenomenal success.

The success of all the BAP educational events is entirely dependent upon the goodwill of speakers. Members of the BAP Council do not receive any payment of course; and those who are not on Council receive a nominal honorarium. Taking part takes time and effort, both to produce up-to-date slide sets twice each year, presenting and taking part in panel discussions.

As has been previously reported, the BAP is seen by many to be the leading provider of psychopharmacology education to psychiatrists in training in the UK. Council has long recognised that our face-to-face events struggle to meet the demand, illustrated by the fact that they are always over-subscribed. It is important that BAP responds to the challenges of maintaining high-quality education and providing that education to a wider audience. However given that the speakers already have a number of commitments, it would be extremely difficult to increase the amount of face-to-face activities. As a result, and as Dr McAllister-Williams spoke about at the last AGM, BAP is developing an online educational project, based on the Masterclasses. This is now progressing and a business plan is in place. Development cost £6.1K during 2009 and this cost will rise. However it is hoped that within 3-4 years of launch the resource should be in profit. The web structures are now in place and some presenters have already provided their material for inclusion. Dr McAllister-Williams thanked all those who are involved in this exciting and important project.

Dr McAllister-Williams then focussed briefly on interactions between BAP and the Royal College of Psychiatrists (RCPsych), particularly the Psychopharmacology Special Interest Group chaired by Dr David Baldwin, who is an ex-officio member of the BAP Council in that role. Council believes that these links through to the Royal College are important, and we will continue to have regular dialogue on how

best to address issues of mutual interest, including collaboration on future College reports and consensus statements. In fact the first meeting of the group dealing with this has already taken place and we look forward to the production of these reports which, importantly, will be jointly badged both RCPsych and BAP. Dr Baldwin will be chairing the PSIG meeting on Tuesday of this conference and Dr McAllister-Williams encouraged all those interested to attend.

Some individuals within the Royal College see psychopharmacology as extremely important. Fortunately, that includes the current Director of Conferences and BAP has been encouraged to submit further suggestions for symposia for inclusion in the RCPsych Annual Meetings. In the last few years BAP has proposed one session, but for the 2011 meeting BAP will propose at least 3 sessions in addition to those proposed by PSIG. This is an important development and illustrates how BAP will be able to influence the education activities of the College.

Dr McAllister-Williams thanked all BAP Council members for their hard work on the many Council matters over the past year. Nothing can be achieved without the support of the BAP Office and Dr McAllister-Williams ended his report by thanking the BAP staff: Katie Hewitt, Lynne Harmer and Susan Chandler.

Dr John Cookson welcomed the news of BAP's input to the Royal College annual meeting. He commented that BAP has identified a large unmet need for education of psychiatrists but suggested BAP should find a way to greatly increase the face-to-face educational events as well as developing the online resource. Dr McAllister-Williams replied that Council would completely agree with this sentiment; there is an issue with re-validation and it could be said that virtually all psychiatrists should acknowledge that their primary therapeutic tool is psychopharmacological and that they should have knowledge about that. They should be receiving this education on a regular basis, ideally on a 5-year cycle. However the BAP Council has discussed this issue a number of times and agrees that there is no possible way that BAP could supply education to all members of the College every five years at face-to-face events, given the relatively small pool of those speakers who present for us. Council is keen to partly deal with this problem through College meetings and if there continues to be an increase in psychopharmacological content at those events then attendance will increase and BAP will reach more College members through its symposia. However Council sees the online resource as the best way forward to reach as many individuals as possible.

Dr Cookson appreciated the reply but asked if BAP could identify those who teach psychopharmacology at MRCPsych courses (and this teaching has become a huge challenge), and use some of those presenters to increase the pool of BAP speakers. Dr McAllister-Williams commented that this issue links in to the annual ECNP School, which aims to teach future educators across Europe. It was agreed that this point will be discussed by PSIG.

Dr Andrea Malizia proposed that the Honorary Secretary's report be received. Professor Val Curran seconded the proposal which was approved by those present.

3. Governance Panel's Report 2009-2010

Professor Charles Marsden summarised the Report on behalf of Professor Susan Iversen, who is unable to attend the AGM. Professor Bill Deakin is also unable to attend – for what is thought to be the first time for over 20 years.

The full Governance Panel Report is on the BAP website. Professor Marsden reminded Members that the role of the Panel is not decide whether decisions made by the BAP Council are right or wrong, but has the responsibility to ensure that decisions are made with due process and in line with the objects of the BAP.

The overall view of the Panel is that as an Association, the decisions made by Council over the past year have been made with due process. There are one or two issues that the Panel would like to raise: firstly, they are pleased to see that the Journal of Psychopharmacology generally continues to flourish

and that real concern is being made about the backlog of papers awaiting publication. The Panel looks forward to seeing the new Therapeutic Advances Journal when it is launched.

The Panel is also pleased that BAP participated in the Cheltenham Science Festival and see this as an important activity. It is hoped that BAP will continue to disseminate information about itself and psychopharmacology to the general public. Likewise the Panel is pleased to see that the editorial programmes remain such a high priority as they also have an important role to play.

The Panel agrees with the view that Council should be representative of all members of the BAP, whatever their level of training, expertise or interest, and regardless of their clinical or non-clinical status. This requires continued vigilance by Council.

The final general point is that the Panel is very aware of the economic downturn and of the possible vulnerability of the BAP in this regard. The reduction in the number of Members may add to that vulnerability and the Panel hopes that the membership will stabilise. It is noticeable from the financial statement that, for example, the BAP Consensus Meetings are not being supported by Industry as they have been in the past and now generally run at a loss. However the Governance Panel considers these meetings extremely important and hopes that other or new ways of support may be found.

Finally, Professor Marsden added the Governance Panel's appreciation to the BAP staff for all their support over the past year.

Dr Hamish McAllister-Williams proposed that the Governance Panel report be received. Dr Clare Stanford seconded the proposal which was approved by those present.

4. Dr Bateson called Professor Nicol Ferrier to the stage to receive the BAP Presidential Medal from Professor Gavin Reynolds.

Dr Bateson closed the 2010 Annual General meeting at 18:30.