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**2015 Annual General Meeting**

**Monday 27 July, School of Chemistry, Univ of Bristol  
Chaired by Professor Marcus Munafo, Meetings Secretary**

**1. Presidential Address**

Professor Paul Harrison thanked members for staying for the AGM after a long day. He began his address by reporting on activities over the past year.

2014 saw the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of BAP and the highlight was a great summer meeting in Cambridge. 500 people enjoyed excellent science and the anniversary-related activities and social occasions. The meeting itself generated a lot of feedback from attendees. While Cambridge itself was enjoyed as a venue, there were a number of limitations particularly for the posters and the size of the venue. After considerable discussion, Council decided that Cambridge will not be booked in the next cycle of conference venues. Instead, the meeting will move around, including some new places. 2016 will be held in Brighton, 2017 in Harrogate, then for 2018 we are currently considering four venues: London, Manchester, Bath and Edinburgh. Of course, feedback for the current meeting and Brighton will have an influence in whether BAP goes back to those venues.

The 2014 meeting included an exhibition of BAP documents and photos put together by Susan Chandler and Sarah Channing-Wright. The display prompted much discussion, particularly amongst the more senior members of the association. As a result, Professor Richard Green and Dr Peter Haddad offered to write a history of the BAP and an update on that will be in the next Newsletter.

Council spent a lot of time during 2014 reflecting on BAP, including its name, future and purpose. Professor Harrison hoped that members agreed they were consulted regularly and appropriately throughout that process. The outcome was a decision to not change the name of the organisation but Council did take the opportunity to rebrand, including updating the logo and updating the website with a better description of the association's activities and ethos and Professor Harrison paid tribute to Sarah Channing-Wright for taking the lead on that project.

In terms of this year, Professor Harrison was pleased to report we have 370 delegates for the Bristol meeting and over 180 poster presentations, hence it is a bit of a squash but he thought it a very productive meeting. Professor Harrison thanked everyone who organised the event, those speaking at it, or who have contributed in other ways. Council are pleased that there is the usual good attendance of young scientists at the meeting, helped by the number of bursaries that we are able to award and Council is thankful to Merck in particular this year for supporting the bursary scheme. Council also thanked the companies who have supported the events through satellites and other activities. Of course, putting on a summer meeting is always a huge amount of work, especially in a new venue, and Professor Harrison particularly thanked Susan Chandler and Lynne Harmer for their spectacular efforts in making Bristol such a good venue.

The Council is very grateful to the Director of Education, Hamish McAllister-Williams, whose stewardship of the educational events is an increasingly important part of our portfolio. The Clinical Certificate course

continues to thrive and in the last year 80 people have successfully completed Part 1 of the certificate by attending three modules. Two people have also achieved Part 2, producing written work reviewed by a Supervisor. Those were Dr Karim Aziz, who was supervised by Professor Keith Matthews in Dundee and Dr Keith Gilhooly who was supervised by Professor David Taylor in London. *Professor Harrison invited Keith up to the stage to receive his Part 2 Certificate.*

Professor Harrison updated members on the BAP consensus guidelines, which, again, are a very important part of our activities for a number of reasons. The Anti-depressant Guidelines were updated and published this spring. Professor Harrison thanked Professors Tony Cleare, Carmine Pariante and Allan Young for their hard work on that. Professor Guy Goodwin has led a group to update the Bipolar Guidelines and we hope that those will be published by the end of 2015/early 2016. In January, Professors Gavin Reynolds, Steve Cooper and Thomas Barnes led a group to produce guidelines on the Management of Metabolic Disturbances and Weight Gain, which is going to be a valuable addition to our list of guidelines. Those who were present at their special session at this meeting will be encouraged to see how much progress has already been made. Dr Oliver Howes has arranged a meeting for October to take forward the Autistic Spectrum Disorder statement for publication early in 2016. We are also planning an update of the BAP Dementia guidelines which will again be led by Professors John O'Brien and Alistair Burns. Finally, the Perinatal Guidelines are still in preparation and again, thanks to Dr Hamish McAllister-Williams for continuing to undertake this task, which we think has turned out to be probably as much work as all the other guidelines put together. Professor Harrison reminded members that the BAP guidelines are fully independent and have no support or attendance from pharmaceutical companies. The costs associated with the guideline meetings are entirely funded by BAP.

Moving onto the Prizes and Awards for 2015, Professor Harrison announced that the Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to Professor Trevor Robbins at the conference dinner on Tuesday, and a citation summarising some of his many achievements can be found in the conference programme.

The other Prizes are awarded as follows. The BAP Psychopharmacology Awards to recognise excellence in clinical and non-clinical psychopharmacology will go to Dr Claire Gillan from New York, Professor Ciara McCabe from Reading, Dr Robin Carhart-Harris and Dr Valeria Mondelli from London. They will be making short oral presentations on Tuesday. The Hannah Steinberg BAP conference bursary has been awarded to Dr Alice Russell from London. The Public Communications Prizes have been won by Dr Tom Freeman from London and Dr Becky Inkster and Dr Akeem Sule from Cambridge. The Robert Kerwin International Conference Bursaries have been awarded to Dr Nisha Singh and Dr Caroline Charpentier, both from London. Professor Harrison congratulated all the winners.

The decisions on the Poster and the Undergraduate Award winners will be made on Tuesday, with the presentations made at the conference dinner. Professor Harrison particularly thanked everyone who is helping to judge the posters as they take quite a lot of effort in a short space of time.

Professor Harrison reported other items to the membership. He thanked the Governance Panel, Professors Clare Stanford, Thomas Barnes and Richard Green for their interest and involvements in Council activities over the year. Professor Stanford (Chair) will make a presentation later at this AGM.

BAP was pleased to send a contingent of BAP Masterclass speakers to the Turkish Association for Psychopharmacology meeting in April and that collaboration was very successful.

Engagement with the public is another important part of the BAP ethos and Professor Harrison thanked Professor Liz Tunbridge for running a very another successful, sold-out session at the Cheltenham Science Festival, at which past-President, Guy Goodwin, gave a presentation. Thanks are also due to Dr Mitul Mehta, who during his time on Council has done a great job in enhancing the public information aspect of the website and Professor Harrison encouraged members to take a look at that.

BAP engagement with outside bodies such as NICE and the Royal Society for Biology result in a lot of work for our two External Affairs Council members and he thanked Drs Oliver Howes and Paula Moran for their work in that regard.

Council continues to review the BAP relationship with industry and other groups with regard to potential conflicts. The policy on this was reviewed and updated in November and it will be reviewed on an annual basis. Professor Harrison suggested that it has never been more important that not only does BAP have a clear policy but that we are seen to follow it. So, if any member has any comments on what we currently say about what we expect of Council and our members and contributors, he encouraged them to contact him.

BAP continues to hold sessions within other meetings and over the past year we have collaborated and worked with the BNA Festival of Neuroscience in Edinburgh and the Royal College of Psychiatrists' Congress in Birmingham. BAP also nominates members for the ECNP Psychopharmacology schools each year.

Professor Harrison thanked Dr Paula Moran for leading the review team for the *In-vivo* Awards this year, resulting in four awards to summer vacation students. This scheme, along with others, are being reviewed by Council to make sure our prizes, awards and opportunities are optimised and reflect developing challenges, not only to make sure we are doing better for those who get them but to encourage more applications and make them more competitive.

The fourth edition of the BAP book, "The Fundamentals of Clinical Psychopharmacology" will soon be published and Professor Harrison thanked the Editors, Professor Ian Anderson and Dr Hamish McAlister-Williams, together with the authors who have contributed so much to producing the new edition which will be dedicated to the previous co-Editor, Professor Ian Reid, who sadly died in 2014.

Professor Harrison thanked the BAP Council for all their efforts over the past year. He particularly thanked Dr Mitul Mehta and Professor Hugh Marston who are leaving Council, and was pleased that they are both going to stay involved with the pre-clinical residential course.

Finally, Professor Harrison thanked the office staff, Susan, Lynne and Sarah for all their spectacular efforts, not just for organising this summer meeting but for everything else they do that keeps the organisation afloat throughout the year.

2. Professor Munafo thanked the President for his report. He moved on to the motions for approval, after reassuring Professor David Nutt that the subject of the Psychoactive Substances Act could be raised in the general discussion at the end of the meeting.

Motions for approval:

2.1 That the **Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting** be adopted as a correct record.

The motion to adopt the 2014 AGM minutes as a correct record was proposed by Professor Nicol Ferrier, seconded by Professor David Baldwin and approved by those present.

2.2 **That the Editor's Report be received**

Professor Nutt hoped that Members have now seen the new cover of the Journal of Psychopharmacology; he has had positive reactions from many people. He reported on activity over the past year. The Editorial Board has been tightening up the quality requirement and the acceptance rate is now around 50%, with papers published within about three months of acceptance. There is a strict peer-reviewing policy; involving three or more reviewers after initial screening by editors for each submission. The Journal now concentrates on original research reports and only publishes Case Reports in very exceptional cases. 252 manuscripts were received in the last 12 months, including 29 reviews, perspectives and commentaries, 195 original papers and 20 short reports. Approximately half of the submissions are from the UK and USA. There has been an interesting decline in input from Europe, but more submissions are being received from other countries, particularly China and India.

For the second time in three years, Sage has appealed against the Impact Factor; Thompson said it was 3.59 but Sage calculations made it 3.88. JoP is still in the first or second quartiles for most of the relevant disciplines.

There has been a steady increase in the number of visitors to the website, so the Journal is reaching out in a progressive way through the internet. Visitors are largely from the US, but also quite a lot from the UK. There were 243K downloads in the past year, (including 186K paid downloads), which makes a significant contribution to the Association. The most downloaded article in 2014 (11,000 downloads) was by Mithoefer, MC et al. This was a free download - occasionally Sage provides a free download to draw people to the site and promote knowledge of the journal. 2,800 institutions now have access to JOP through SAGE Premier and other journal packages, and over 4,000 libraries in the developing world have either free or heavily discounted access through Sage philanthropic initiatives. There were also a remarkable number of reprints sold in the past year – over 200K, which again explains why JoP has made a very significant net contribution to the finances of BAP this year. Some published papers got quite a lot of interest in the media and Sage is also keeping abreast of social media trends. Of particular interest was a paper that was an analysis by two Norwegians of a large US health data set that looked at drug use, including psychedelic use. It was a very interesting paper because it showed that psychedelic use was associated with a better mental health outcome than non-psychedelic use. Sage thought it might be of interest to the world, so made that one a free download – and it was downloaded 75K times, which might be some kind of record.

A Special Issue of JoP was produced around the updated BAP depression guidelines, and another was edited by Professor Judith Pratt on Schizophrenia, particularly in relation to translation.

Themed issues included one on drugs, one on psychedelics, one on ADHD and one on addiction. Professor Nutt thinks that this is one of the reasons there are still relatively large sales of reprints, because some of the themed issues appeal to individuals in that particular field.

The SAGE Citation Prize is given to the paper that collects the most citations the first two years after publication. The 2015 Prize is awarded to a paper by Michael Mithoefer on the safety and efficacy of ecstasy in the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder, which has been cited 60 times so far.

Professor Nutt finished his report by telling Members that the Journal has been at the forefront of thinking about the future of psychotropic nomenclature. An app has been developed from the work of group of people who have spent about five years trying to restructure the whole terminology of psychopharmacology to make it more credible, scientific and useful. There are 109 drugs in the app, which is free to download. Professor Nutt encouraged everyone to use it and report back on how it could be improved. The working group hopes it will eventually be the definitive statement on how to think about drugs and drug classification over the next generation.

One of the ways we are going to try to get the world more interested in nomenclature is by encouraging journal editors to endorse the new nomenclature and require submissions to accord with it. The working group will soon produce a paper, a glossary, of how to write NBN which we hope will be endorsed by a number of journals. If enough Editors sign up to this process, then it will *de facto* become the way we talk about drugs in the future.

A BAP member congratulated Professor Nutt on the new Journal cover and asked if there will soon be changes to the Editorial Board. Professor Nutt replied that major changes were made in 2014 but he will discuss any further changes at the next Editorial Board meeting.

The motion to accept the Editor's Report was proposed by Professor Sue Wilson, seconded by Professor Naomi Fineberg and approved by those present.

### **2.3 That the Trustees/Directors Annual Report and audited accounts for the period 1 January to 31 December 2014 be received**

Professor Elizabeth Tunbridge presented the 2014 accounts and summarised the main points. The major source of income was the Journal of Psychopharmacology, with an increase on the 2013 income, particularly for reprints. The other major source of income comes from meetings and, again, there was a significant increase in the meetings surplus from 2013. The biggest driver was the summer meeting in Cambridge, which made quite a large surplus after suffering a large deficit in the preceding years.

However, all 2014 meetings were in surplus, the first time this has happened in quite some time. Although it was a relatively small surplus, Professor Tunbridge thanked Dr Paula Moran and Professor Hugh Marston because for the first time in its history the Pre-clinical Certificate Course made a surplus instead of a loss. As members will be aware, the pre-clinical certificate changed from a modular-based certificate to a residential one-week course in 2014 and that appears to have been much more attractive to people. Another major source of income, with thanks to Dr Hamish McAllister-Williams, is the online CPD Resource, which continues to make quite a significant surplus. There was a slight decrease in the surplus in 2014 due to the costs of development of an iPad / iPhone app; however this was a one-off cost and BAP should see the benefit going forward. In addition, there was a slight increase in membership income last year, accounted for by the increase in the subscription fee. The membership income has been reasonably stable since 2014.

In terms of the major sources of expenditure, the largest item is the cost of the BAP staff and Office, without which the Association could not function. Council meetings cost money in terms of venue, travel and food; however Professor Tunbridge reminded those present that no Council members are paid for their activities or anything else they do on behalf of BAP. Although BAP does have bank charges, these have decreased in the last few years, in part thanks to changes made by the previous Treasurer.

As Members will know, Council supplies a number of bursaries and do a number of outreach activities each year. Professor Harrison has already talked about the *in vivo* Training Fund, which provides money for people to support summer students in their lab to encourage *in vivo* neuroscience studies. BAP also provides a number of bursaries for junior members to attend the summer meeting and we supported an excellent session at the Cheltenham Science Festival in 2014.

Professor Tunbridge reminded Members that Council has been trying to increase the value of the BAP cash reserves steadily over time. The current policy states that we should have in reserve 2.5 times our annual expenditure and this is cash that can be easily accessed in case of a financial crisis and does not include the BAP Office in Cambridge. The target prior to last year was £1,400,000 which has now been reached. If one assumes 2.5 of our annual expenditure, averaged over the last five years, then that figure increases slightly to £1,560,000 because we had an increase in income in 2014. Council will monitor the situation over the next few years with regards to the stability of annual income.

The motion to accept the Trustees/Directors report and audited accounts was proposed by Dr Mitul Mehta, seconded by Professor David Baldwin and approved by those present.

#### **2.4. That the Honorary General Secretary's Report be received**

Dr Maxine Patel reported that Dr Mitul Mehta and Professor Hugh Marston have stepped down as Council members. They finished a four-year term having contributed a lot to BAP, not only for the pre-clinical course but, Dr Mehta in particular has helped with the enhancement of the public pages of the website and Council thanked him for that. When Professor Marston and Dr Mehta were elected in 2011, they tied for votes. Professor Tunbridge won a seat, which is why a ninth Council member post was created for a four-year term. Council discussed this matter at some length at an earlier meeting and have decided to close this ninth Council member post. The second seat available for election this year was due to Professor Tunbridge being elected to the Treasurer post last year. Council is also very grateful to Drs Mark Tricklebank and Jeff Nye who have given a very helpful industry perspective on BAP activities over the past few years. They have now ended their three year co-opted terms. We welcome two new industry co-optees to Council: Dr Nick Brandon from AstraZeneca and Dr Jonas Eberhard from Lundbeck.

We welcome Dr Ciara McCabe and Dr Peter Talbot to the two Council posts, both for a four-year term. Of course, Dr McCabe has already been serving on Council in a casual vacancy post since 2014 and Dr Talbot is also well-known for his BAP activities, having presented sessions at the Clinical Certificate modules and Masterclasses. As a result of Dr McCabe moving from a casual vacancy post to a formally elected four-year post, that leaves a casual vacancy post open for a one-year duration. Council has approved Professor Angela Roberts, who came third in the recent election, to this one-year casual vacancy post and Dr Patel was delighted to welcome her to the BAP Council.

Dr Patel reported that 32% of those eligible to vote did so, compared to 43% who voted in the 2014 election. The decrease is disappointing and Dr Patel hopes that a higher number of Members will use their vote in future years. There were some minor changes to the election process this year and Dr Patel thanked Sarah Channing-Wright for her assistance in refining the website to make the voting process more straightforward. The voting period for the election had been brought forward by a couple of weeks, primarily to relieve a little pressure from the Office staff, who have a number of deadlines in the weeks prior to the annual meeting.

Dr Patel reported that Council has also discussed the process of dealing with tied-votes, which has happened twice in the past five years. Having looked at how other Societies deal with this scenario, in future a winner will be decided by a coin toss, conducted ideally by the President or the standing Honorary General Secretary, and witnessed by either the candidates themselves or other individuals.

Posts due to fall vacant in 2016 include three Officer posts. The President-elect, who of course becomes the President then the past President, serves a total of six years on Council. The Meetings Secretary will change next year, together with the Secretary for Clinical External Affairs. Dr Patel encouraged any Members who might be interested in these posts to talk to the current incumbent about what is involved. There will also be two rotating Council member posts for election.

Moving onto the membership numbers, Dr Patel reminded Members that up to and including 2009 membership was steady at over 1,000. However in 2010 and 2011 this fell significantly. Since 2012 Council thought that membership was starting to slowly show signs of recovery but in the past year this has not been maintained. The membership currently stands at its lowest since 1997 at 800, as of 1 July this year, compared to 2014 that is a net decrease of 31.

In the past year BAP has had 98 new Members; however there were many more in the preceding three years. Dr Patel is concerned that numbers may fall as low as in 1995 and 1991 respectively. In the past year, with the help of the BAP Office staff, we introduced a question to the new Members asking them where they had heard about the BAP. Perhaps, not surprisingly, it is mainly the body of membership - people are encouraging their colleagues to join the BAP. Other activities and meetings also bring in new Members.

Looking at the trend over time, in 1997, the membership stood at 818 and began to increase thereafter. Between the years of 2003 to 2009 we were steady above 1,000 and then came the falling years. The fall was felt to be predominately due to many more Members not renewing their membership and thus being removed from the membership list. There was also a reduction in new Members. From 2011 onwards, Council started to take active measures to promote the BAP more assertively. The net increase over the past couple of years was due to regaining former numbers of new Members but, as previously mentioned, in the past year this was not maintained. In the past year BAP lost 63 Members who joined in 2014, but did not renew their membership for a second year. Of those, 27 were Full Members and 36 were Training Members. Having analysed the data at some length, Dr Patel believes that the future health of the BAP membership rests upon maintaining an increasing numbers of new Members, but also further improving retention of existing Members. Council has created a Sub-Committee to address the concerns and to look at new initiatives, both for new Members as well as for those existing Members who we very much wish to retain.

Moving on to the membership groups, the current 800 Members includes 604 Full Members and 120 Training Members. The criteria for Training Members are that they have a relatively modest income and are registered for a full-time research degree. This does not include psychiatrists in their training years. In terms of the scientific split, BAP currently has 499 clinical Members, 182 Pre-clinical Members and 42 Industry Members. The balance overall has been relatively stable over the past few years.

Dr Patel then reported on the BAP education portfolio. Over the past year, the face-to-face meetings have almost all been fully booked or oversubscribed and in fact some sell out within 24 / 48 hours of going online, which is excellent news. The Substance Misuse module of the Clinical Certificate Course was relaunched after revision with much success in December 2014, and Dr Patel thanked Professor Anne Lingford-Hughes and Dr Lesley Peters for their efforts. That module will now run every 18 months, the next one being in June 2016.

The Pre-clinical Residential Certificate Course has already been mentioned – it runs in alternate years and is next due in March 2016.

The Online CPD Resource now includes new modules covering old age psychiatry and child and adolescent psychopharmacology.

BAP continues to have a loyal and dedicated expert panel of speakers at our educational events. However Council is aware that we need to seriously consider succession planning.

Dr Patel thanked Dr McAllister-Williams for all his hard work over the past year and was delighted to announce that he has agreed to continue as the BAP Director of Education for a further three years, until 2018.

Dr Patel reported that BAP continues to be active in its collaboration with the Royal College of Psychiatrists, and BAP provides most of the psychopharmacology content within their annual congress. The Online CPD Resource is also provided at a reduced rate to those who subscribe to the RCPsych online resource. The Chair of the Psychopharmacology Special Committee, currently Professor Allan Young, attends BAP Council meetings and provides a very helpful perspective on different topics. The Special Committee has also committed to supporting two poster prizes at the summer meeting for a further five years.

Sarah Channing-Wright takes the BAP stand to a number of other meetings to promote the BAP's activities. This attendance is being monitored for its usefulness. Sarah also deals with BAP website updates and various social media outlets and Dr Patel encouraged Members to send her articles for inclusion on the website.

Dr Patel ended this part of her report by thanking Council and particularly the Office staff for their patience and support over the past year.

The motion to accept the General Secretary's report was proposed by Professor Trevor Robbins, seconded by Professor Nicol Ferrier and approved by those present.

**2.4.1 *That the words 'including ex officio members of Council' in clause 1 be deleted, and the word 'compromise' in clause 19 be altered to 'comprise'.***

Dr Patel reported that the Articles and Memorandum of the BAP state that there should be between three and 22 Council members. In her first year of office as the Honorary General Secretary, it came to her attention that BAP had exceeded this, due to there being three ex-officio members who are also Council members. Dr Patel clarified the position, whereby Council members hold three roles: they are Council members and Directors of the BAP limited company and they are also Trustees of the charity. This is an "all-or-none" situation so the three roles cannot be separated. Council members can vote when it comes to it partaking in a formal vote at Council meetings. Council comprises elected Officers and ordinary members of Council and also includes others, as of right now, ex-officios and co-opted members.

It is of some concern that the BAP should have individuals as Trustees of the charity due to their rights caused by their other office. Thus, after consulting with Mr Keith Lawry (the learned society's Liaison Officer at the Foundation for Science and Technology) it was felt that the best solution was to change the status of these three. In reality, we suspect that this will make no difference to these individuals, apart from them not be able to formally vote at meetings, should a vote be required. The three ex-officio posts include the Editor of the JoP, the Chair of the Psychopharmacology Special Committee for the Royal College and the BAP Director of Education, who is appointed on a three-year term. Dr Patel informed Members that other people attend our Council meetings who cannot vote. These include members of our Governance Panel, our BAP Company Secretary and Executive Officer, as well as other BAP Office staff. Dr Patel proposed the motion that the words "including ex-officio members of Council" in Clause 1 of the articles and memoranda be deleted and the word "compromise" in Clause 19, otherwise known as a typo, be altered to "comprise".

The motion has been approved by the BAP Council and was approved by those present at the AGM with no abstentions.

In response to a question from the audience, Dr Patel clarified that the criteria for Training Membership, as stated on the website, are a relatively low income and to be registered for a research degree. Clinical Psychologists may qualify if they are in doctoral programmes.

Another member of the audience expressed concern at the drop in membership numbers and asked what incentives the Council will employ to stabilise and increase the number. Dr Patel replied that the newly-formed Membership Taskforce will review a number of different aspects, some of which might be connected to financial incentives for Members renewing their membership, or perhaps for New Members. However the issues are not all driven by money – other considerations include the relationship with the Royal College of Psychiatrists and other groups.

Professor Neill (President-elect) is keen to encourage more neuroscientists and will be attending a meeting in Bristol in September to talk to students about the BAP. She believes there are a number of Universities on the Neuroscience Board who could be approached to give them information about the BAP.

Dr Patel explained that most new Members are joining upon recommendation from the existing membership so the current membership plays a very active role in the health of the Association.

Another aspect to be investigated by the Taskforce is why BAP is failing to retain Members. The BAP President will continue to contact those who are about to be removed from the membership list for non-payment of subscription, to provide a personal touch in the hope that Members will decide to retain their membership.

A number of suggestions were made on how to retain Members. The Membership Taskforce will be discussing options when they next meet.

## **2.5 That the Governance Panel's Report be received**

Professor Stanford explained that the Governance Panel of BAP was founded 10 years ago, when BAP became a company limited by guarantee, to ensure proper governance of the organisation. She thanked Professors Richard Green and Thomas Barnes who have helped her throughout the year, and have also helped produce and endorse the annual report. To produce the report, the Panel has been through numerous documents and Council has very kindly allowed at least one Panel member to attend all the Council meetings throughout the year.

The documents have been reviewed from a number of different perspectives: how the Council performs its meetings and the documentation of the proceedings, the accounts and the investments, education, membership, the publications, external affairs and the summer meeting. All perspectives are to ensure that Council carries out its business with utmost integrity and the Panel is satisfied that that has indeed been the case throughout this year.

Professor Stanford summarised the Report. The Panel commended many points, in particular the change in management of the Association's financial reserves and the very substantial reduction in the cost of managing those investments. They commended the extensive and effective educational activities of the Association, and the substantial income that that brings in, and commended Dr McAllister-Williams' efforts in this regard. The Panel commended the increased stringency of the criteria that have to be met in order to qualify as a Training Member, and, coupled with that, the more rigorous criteria for Training Members to qualify for a bursary to attend the annual meeting.

The Panel also commended the General Secretary's document clarifying the constitution of Council and which is an ongoing process. The Panel commends the continued success of the Journal of Psychopharmacology and the Online CPD programme, but are aware, as are other societies, that no-

one really knows what the impact of Open Access will be. Council will have to be alert to any progressive or indeed sudden changes in income as a result of the change in policy for running publications in the UK.

The Panel also commended the design of the new website and the continued charitable support for young scientists through the awarded bursaries to attend the summer meeting. Finally, the Panel commended the professionalism, commitment and very hard work of all members of the secretariat.

The Panel had only two recommendations and one of those has already been acted on by Council: a policy of diversity which will be put onto the website and will ensure that a balance is maintained at the summer meeting. The Panel also urged Council to remain alert to the finances of the summer meeting. The predictions for the 2014 meeting were quite precarious but, in the end, turned out to be very successful. In the peripatetic arrangement for the future summer meetings, the Panel recommend that Council also takes into account the hidden costs of the secretariat exploring new venues and finding out the best working ways of operating the meetings in a venue that they're not familiar with. These things can undermine the general spirit of the summer meeting.

The motion to accept the Governance Panel report was proposed by Professor Steve Cooper, seconded by Dr Mitul Mehta and approved by those present.

### **3. General Discussion**

Professor David Nutt raised the issue of the proposed Psychoactive Substances Bill. The Bill essentially says that everything that is psychoactive, whether it exists now or whether it will exist in the future, will be illegal unless it is exempt. The Bill is problematic for many reasons, not least of which it hasn't specified what 'psychoactive' is, how the decision to exempt substances would be made and the implications for medical research or pre-clinical research do not appear to have been considered. Professor Nutt has helped to orchestrate a campaign to challenge the Bill and this has also been taken up by the British Pharmacological Society, the Society for Biology and the Royal College of Psychiatrists, and a letter was written to the Lords Minister who is leading the Bill. The Bill was put through the Lords first rather than the Commons and some Lords are opposing it. There have been a couple of interesting readings of the Bill where flaws have been exposed, but nevertheless, it could, in the end, be very problematic for research. We must make sure that research is protected, but in a way that doesn't incur extra regulations. So we really do need every scientific body in this country to oppose the Bill vociferously and actively.

Dr Oliver Howes replied that Dr Paula Moran has already contributed to a letter opposing the Bill; however he will draft a letter from both of them as the BAP Secretaries of External Affairs, on behalf of Council. BAP Members will also be encouraged to write to their own MP.

Professor Munafo thanked Members for making the effort to attend and contribute to the 2015 Annual General Meeting. He declared the meeting closed.

*These Minutes were generated from the audio-recording of the 2015 AGM proceedings*