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2016 Annual General Meeting  
Monday, 18 July, Brighton Centre, Brighton

Chaired by Professor Marcus Munafa

**1. Presidential Address**

Professor Paul Harrison thanked members for attending the AGM, an important event for the Association.

Professor Harrison reported that the 2015 summer meeting was the first held in Bristol and, despite one of the wettest Julys on record the event was highly rated by most of the attendees. Council had planned to make a future booking there; however this has not proved possible due to the bureaucracy at the University. As always with the BAP annual meeting, the quality of science was rated either ‘excellent’ or ‘very good’ by most responders.

2016 sees us in Brighton for the first time and Professor Harrison encouraged attendees to complete the online evaluation form after the event to help Council decide whether or not to return. There are 340 attendees and 153 posters, which is down a little on previous years but hopefully not the start of a trend. Professor Harrison thanked Mrs Chandler and Mrs Harmer for their hard work in sourcing this and other new venues for the summer meeting in line with Council’s instructions.

He thanked all the organisers and speakers involved in the many different sessions, some of whom have travelled quite a distance to attend. Attendees have enjoyed an excellent Guest Lecture from Patricia Gaspar, and also a very thought-provoking session on off-label prescribing.

Professor Harrison thanked Sunovion for hosting a satellite symposium at the meeting – unfortunately the only satellite this year. Council is keen to increase the number of satellites again in future years and encouraged those members with contacts within pharmaceutical companies to use them on behalf of BAP. He thanked one of the out-going Officers, Dr Oliver Howes, for organising another popular Trainees’ Workshop, which is a sign of BAP’s continuing commitment to younger members. BAP has also supported a number of bursaries to assist younger members with their attendance at the conference. BAP will be extending that commitment to young researchers by creating a new tier of membership next year and Dr Patel will report on that in her General Secretary’s Report.

One of the highlights of the current meeting was the “Illustrated History of BAP” talk from Professor Richard Green, who, with Professor Peter Haddad, has written a book about our first 40 years. Professor Harrison thanked them both, and Ms Channing-Wright in the BAP Office who typeset the book most professionally, for the immense efforts that have gone into producing the publication.

The summer meeting is on the move again, with 2017 in Harrogate, 2018 in London (at Imperial College) and 2019 at Manchester University. Professor Harrison hoped to see many BAP members at at least one of those locations.

It's always a pleasure to announce annual prize winners and Professor Harrison congratulated those who have been successful this year:

BAP Psychopharmacology Awards, to reward excellence in non-clinical and clinical psychopharmacology, will be awarded to: Jane Pei-Chen Chang (London), Michael Browning (Oxford), Simon Trent (Cardiff) and Liz Tunbridge (Oxford).

The Robert Kerwin International Conference Bursaries will be awarded to Ravi Das (London) and Claire Hales (Bristol) to attend relevant conferences outside the UK.

The 2016 Hannah Steinberg Bursary Award is awarded to Robert Chesters (London) on the basis of his abstract submitted for the current meeting.

The Public Communications Prizes, to reward excellence in clinical and non-clinical science communication to the public in the area of psychopharmacology and closely related disciplines will this year be awarded to Natalia Lawrence (Exeter) and Julia Gottwald (Cambridge).

Council was pleased to see a small increase in the number of applications for prizes this year. Professor Harrison encouraged all those who might be eligible to get themselves nominated, or self-nominate, in 2017.

Poster prizes and Undergraduate Awards will be decided at the meeting and awarded at the conference dinner on Tuesday.

Professor Harrison thanked all those who review the applications for the Prizes and Awards, particularly the abstract and poster reviewers who are under such time pressure during the conference.

Professor Harrison reported on other activities over the past year:

The most important undertaking has been the renewal of the contract for the Journal of Psychopharmacology. Council had discussed the item on a number of occasions, and also engaged lawyers to scrutinise the proposed 15-year contract from Sage. The end result was a very good deal for BAP, with a guaranteed income each year from Sage, independent from royalty income. This will ensure a bedrock of support in case of difficult times in the future.

Following discussion, Council had approved a Diversity Statement which is now on the website and will be taken into consideration when choosing symposia for future summer meetings. The Declaration of Interests form and the statement dealing with BAP's relationship to industry and other bodies are also reviewed on an annual basis. Council members are required to complete a DoI each year.

BAP educational events go from strength to strength, with Masterclasses and Certificate Modules almost always oversubscribed. Thanks are due to Dr Hamish McAllister-Williams, BAP Director of Education, for his sterling service in overseeing the education portfolio, including the Online CPD Resource, and to all the speakers whose loyalty, skills and enthusiasm make the events so successful.

The updated "Fundamentals of Clinical Psychopharmacology" book was published in August, edited by Professor Ian Anderson and Dr McAllister-Williams, and dedicated to the late Professor Ian Reid, who edited previous editions. The book has proved very popular indeed, and is sold at a discount from the BAP Office, as well as being taken to all our meetings.

BAP held another Preclinical Certificate Residential Course in Cambridge in March and while attendee numbers were low at 25, the programme was packed and generated excellent feedback.

BAP has continued its interaction with outside bodies such as NICE and the Royal Society of Biology and Professor Harrison thanked the Secretaries for External Affairs, Drs Paula Moran and Oliver Howes, for helping to co-ordinate that interaction. BAP provided funds for the Openness Awards organised by Understanding Animal Research and organised a session at the British Pharmacological Society in December. BAP is also taking part in the BMA project update: Prescribed drugs associated with dependence and withdrawal – building a consensus for action, and Council has written letters regarding the Psychoactive Substances Bill.

Professor Harrison thanked Professor David Baldwin, for his continuing involvement in a number of the BAP external affairs activities over the past year – his valuable support for BAP is greatly appreciated.

Professor Harrison thanked Professor Liz Tunbridge for her sterling work over the past few years in putting together BAP sessions held at the Cheltenham Science Festival. He had joined her in June to take part in “Your Mental Health: Nature or Nurture?” and, as usual, it was a very lively session with lots of questions from the interested and informed audience. Liz is now taking a step back from Cheltenham and Professor Harrison thanked Professor Judy Pratt for agreeing to help co-ordinate sessions from now on.

Professor Jo Neill has been attending promotional events to bring BAP to the attention of young scientists, and BAP has also provided some funding to help launch “London Psychotropics”, a small but growing group that meets on a regular basis. Members will see their meeting reports in the BAP Newsletter.

Professor Harrison reported that two BAP Consensus Guideline statements have been published so far this year. A revision of Bipolar Disorders was led by Professor Guy Goodwin and involved a number of BAP members, and the session held at this conference was a very valuable exposition of the issues and illustrated why BAP guidelines are quite different from those produced by NICE.

“Management of weight gain and metabolic disturbances” was organised by Professors Steve Cooper, Gavin Reynolds and Thomas Barnes together with an expert consensus group. These guidelines will be extremely valuable to clinicians in their day-to-day practice. To coincide with publication, a meeting was held in London in April, attended by 100 people.

Professor John O’Brien is spear-heading the updated BAP Dementia guidelines, and despite the expert meeting only being held in March, a draft has already been sent to participants and we expect publication by the end of 2016 or very early in 2017.

Two very difficult topics on which BAP is trying produce either a guideline or a statement are Autistic Spectrum Disorders and Perinatal Psychiatry. Professor Harrison thanked Drs Howes and McAllister-Williams for leading on these documents.

Professor Harrison re-confirmed that BAP Council policy is that pharmaceutical companies do not financially support or send attendees to the Guideline meetings. All costs are entirely funded by BAP.

Professor Harrison thanked those Officers leaving BAP this year: Professor Barbara Sahakian, Dr Oliver Howes and Professor Marcus Munafo. They have all played crucial roles in the recent success of the Association and have been very supportive during Professor Harrison’s term as President.

Finally, as his Presidency comes to an end, Professor Harrison gave sincere thanks to Susan Chandler, Lynne Harmer and Sarah Channing-Wright, who continue to run BAP with the same enthusiasm, skills and dedication that they have always displayed and have made his term as President very easy indeed.

## **2. Motions for approval:**

### **2.1 *That the Minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting be adopted as a correct record.***

The motion was proposed by Professor Paul Harrison, seconded by Dr Maxine Patel, and unanimously approved by those present.

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

*Professor Munafo reported that the Editor, Professor David Nutt, was unable to attend the AGM and the Report will therefore be presented by Professor Harrison on his behalf.*

Professor Harrison reported that it has been a good year for the Journal of Psychopharmacology (JoP), but without any major changes except for the renewal of the contract with Sage. He summarised Professor Nutt's slides as follows:

JoP is publishing the top 48% of submissions within 3 months of acceptance, while maintaining a strict peer-reviewing policy involving three or more reviewers. JoP is publishing more Review articles and fewer Letters and Short Reports. Annual acceptance rates: 47.7% (2015); 49.39% (2014); Average time to first decision in 2015: 52 days (62 days in 2016 YTD); Average time to final decision in 2015: 106 days (95 days in 2016 YTD); Average time to publication (Online First) in 2015: 31 days (34 days in 2016 YTD); Total Submitted Articles: 259 (2015); 281 (2014); Total Accepted Articles: 116 (2015); 115 (2014); Total Open Access (SAGE Choice) Articles (freely available): 10 (2015); 8 (2014); 3 (2013).

The 2015 Impact Factor was 3.637, a reduction of .25 on 2014; however there has also been a general declining trend of IF for other competitor titles in 2015. SAGE are now partnering with Altmetrics to provide article level metrics that show discussion and sharing of research via major social media sites, newspapers, government policy documents and other sources. Four JoP articles are in the top 5% of articles (all Journals) in Altmetrics. For example, the article "Are IQ and educational outcomes in teenagers related to their cannabis use? A prospective cohort study", published in January 2016, has so far reached over 300K Twitter followers and has been downloaded 13K times.

Visits to the JoP website have increased substantially over the past 12 months, primarily from USA and UK but also many other countries.

BAP Council has discussed a recent issue of concern, that certain articles – or, indeed, whole Journals – may be banned in China, who will also no longer accept Taiwan as an author's affiliation, requiring Chinese Taipei to be used instead. There is little Council can do other than to monitor the situation via SAGE.

The 2016 Citation Prize has been awarded to Imran Bashir Chaudhry (University of Manchester, UK) for the paper "Minocycline benefits negative symptoms in early schizophrenia: a randomised double-blind placebo-controlled clinical trial in patients on standard treatment" (Chaudhry IB, Hallak J, Husain N, Minhas F, Stirling J, Richardson P, Dursun S, Dunn G, Deakin B), Volume: 26 (9) Pages: 1185-93, which has been cited 90 times since its publication in 2012

The Journal of Psychopharmacology is approaching its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and a special issue will be published in November to celebrate the milestone. A number of authors of highly-cited original research

papers have accepted the invitation to write a commentary on their articles and Professor Harrison looked forward to reading how things have changed in the past 30 years.

The Journal of Psychopharmacology will join many other leading journals in the field by fully adopting Neuroscience-based Nomenclature (NbN) for all publications and correspondence in future.  
<http://nbnomenclature.org/authors>.

A new section of JoP is “Null Results in Brief”, somewhere to publish conclusive but negative results.

Finally, Professor Harrison thanked the Journal Office for running things very efficiently and he encouraged Members to send their best submissions to the Journal of Psychopharmacology.

The motion was proposed by Professor Paul Harrison, seconded by Dr Maxine Patel, and unanimously approved by those present.

### ***2.3 That the Trustees/Directors Annual Report and audited accounts for the period 1 January to 31 December 2015 be received and adopted***

The Honorary Treasurer, Professor Liz Tunbridge, summarised the 2015 audited accounts. One of the main sources of income continues to be the Journal of Psychopharmacology (£86K) and Professor Tunbridge minuted her thanks to Professor Nutt for his continued efforts on behalf of the BAP. Professor Tunbridge explained that the reduction in income from JoP (£199K in 2014) was due to a combination of factors, including the carry-over of reprint income from 2013 into 2014, and excellent reprint income in 2014 itself. Council remains vigilant about not relying on reprint income and Professor Tunbridge was delighted to report that the terms of the new contract with SAGE guarantee an annual income of £100K for at least the next couple of years.

The meetings income (£415K in 2015) shows that almost all BAP events run at a surplus. The exception is the consensus guideline meetings which are no longer supported by industry. Professor Tunbridge thanked Mrs Chandler and Mrs Harmer for scoping summer meeting venues in order to build up a ‘bank’ of locations.

Another main source of income is the Online CPD Resource (£39K) and Professor Tunbridge thanked Dr McAllister-Williams and Miss Channing-Wright for their hard work on this initiative. Development of an app accounts for most of the drop in income compared to 2014 (£48K).

Membership income remains relatively stable (£66K in 2015; £70K in 2014) and Dr Patel will talk more about membership in her General Secretary’s Report.

In terms of expenditure, the main costs remain the running of the Office in Cambridge, together with the BAP staff. There are also regular costs for Council meetings (venue, subsistence and travel reimbursements) and Professor Tunbridge confirmed that no Council member receives payment for any activities they undertake for BAP.

Professor Tunbridge thanked Mrs Chandler, Mrs Harmer and Miss Channing-Wright for all their efforts on behalf of BAP, without which the Association could not function.

The BAP undertakes a number of activities in line with its education and training role. These include the provision of bursaries, including the annual Robert Kerwin International Conference Bursaries. The In Vivo Training Awards will be relaunched this year to provide significant support to those doing research. Details will be circulated and posted on the website in due course. Public engagement continues at the Cheltenham Science Festival each year.

Summarising the overall financial status of the BAP, Professor Tunbridge reported that apart from the blip caused by the high JoP income in 2014, the income and expenses remain reasonably stable.

Finally, Council has been working towards building up cash reserves of 2.5 x annual expenditure, which in the event of a financial crisis could be mobilised to keep the Association afloat. It is difficult to be precise with regards to income; however working on an average over the past 5 years BAP has almost reached that level (£1.5M). Efforts will be made to maintain that, but it also gives Council the potential to increase the BAP's activities.

The motion was proposed by Professor Paul Harrison, seconded by Dr Maxine Patel, and unanimously approved by those present.

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

Dr Maxine Patel reported on various aspects of the Association.

#### **Council and Elections**

Professor Barbara Sahakian, Dr Oliver Howes and Professor Marcus Munafo all leave their Officer posts this year. Professor Peter Jones has also finished his term as an elected Council member.

Professor Paul Harrison steps into the immediate past-President post at the end of this AGM, as Professor Jo Neill becomes President. Professor Allan Young was elected unopposed to the post of President-elect. Professor Jeremy Hall leaves his co-opted Council post to become the Secretary for Clinical External Affairs, having been elected unopposed. Council is also delighted that Dr Mitul Mehta was elected unopposed to the post of Meetings Secretary.

Council has corrected the inconsistency in the duration of terms of the non-Presidential Officer posts', which ranged from 3-5 years. When the current incumbents depart Council over the next 2-3 years, the new Officers will all serve a 4-year term. The posts concerned are: Honorary General Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Secretaries for Clinical and Non-Clinical External Affairs and the Meetings Secretary.

Moving on to arrivals, there had been an election for two Council posts. It was excellent to have eight candidates put themselves forward and the two successful candidates were Professor Angela Roberts, who has previously served in a casual vacancy for the past year, and Dr Paul Stokes. The breakdown of the votes received will be posted on the BAP website after this AGM.

We have continued to use an online voting system and this year 28% of those eligible to vote did so. This figure is down on 2015 (32%) and 2014 (43%).

In 2017 the Honorary General Secretary post and the Secretary for Non-Clinical External Affairs post will become vacant, together with two Ordinary Council posts. Any BAP Member interested in joining Council is invited to talk to current incumbents to find out what is involved.

#### **Membership**

At the 2015 AGM Dr Patel had reported a total membership of 800 Members. As of 1 July 2016 BAP had 766 Members, a net loss of 34. There have been 115 new Members over the past year and a further 8 were re-instated, having previously been Members. However, a total of 157 Members (100 Full; 57 Training) were removed from the list, predominantly due to non-payment of membership subscriptions. This is the same number of Full Members who were removed in 2015 but a slight increase in the loss of Training Members.

Since early in 2015 we have been asking new Members how they heard about BAP and 44% of respondents replied that it was from another BAP Member. Word-of-mouth is clearly critical in gaining new Members and Dr Patel called upon the BAP membership to support the Association by promoting it to colleagues.

Dr Patel explained the trajectory of membership over the past few years. During 2003-2009 membership numbers were relatively stable, peaking at over 1000. In the years 2010-2011 membership fell, predominantly due to individuals not renewing their membership. Council believed at the time that this was due to the recession. Last year Dr Patel had reported 2012-2014 as a trough; however it now appears that it was a plateau and membership is falling again.

The BAP Council is taking this issue very seriously and last year formed a Membership Taskforce, comprising a number of Council members. There were two aims: to improve retention of Members and to increase the number of new Members. Professor Neill has attended some conferences for young neuroscientists to promote the benefits of membership, and we have also provided a grant to the London Psychotropic group (and we hope that other small groups will be formed across UK).

The main achievement this year has been the Early Career Membership tier which has now been fully approved by Council. This tier will support early career scientists with a limited income, such as post-docs, as well as clinical psychologist trainees, medical doctors in clinical training posts, clinical junior training fellows (who already have a PhD), as well as those with University posts below lecturer status, for example research assistants and research associates. The duration of Early Career Membership will be up to 6 years, dependent upon the individual receiving lecturer status or completing their clinical training, whichever is earliest, at which point they will be eligible for Full Membership. Fees will be set at 50% of the Full Membership fee, so currently £50. There will also be an opportunity for Early Career Members to register for the Summer Meeting at a 50% discount. The new tier will be brought in in January 2017. Current Members who may be eligible for this group will be contacted by the BAP Office.

The real question is how can BAP retain its Members? This has proved more challenging for Council and Dr Patel invited the wider membership to contact her with any ideas about how to achieve this. Council will be working hard over the next year to address the problem.

In terms of the current membership, 74% are Full Members and 15% are Training Members, with the remainder being Honorary or Retired Members. The scientific split has remained stable over many years, with 490 of the 766 Members classifying themselves as clinical.

## **Education**

Dr Patel thanked Dr McAllister-Williams for his leadership of the education portfolio as our Director of Education.

Face-to-face meetings over the past year have included the Preclinical Certificate, which ran as a residential 5-day course for the second time in March. This event could not have happened without the efforts of Mrs Harmer at the BAP Office, to whom the organisers were extremely grateful, together with all the presenters who gave up their time to present at the meeting.

The 3-day Masterclasses held twice each year in London continue to be fully booked and very popular indeed.

The Clinical Certificate modules, too, remain incredibly popular. Now in its 20<sup>th</sup> year, a great number of organisers and presenters have been involved from the start and Dr Patel thanked them for their continuing loyalty and enthusiasm. The Child and Adolescent module has proved particularly popular and is now regularly held twice each year.

The Online CPD Resource has continued to evolve and BAP has invested time and money into making it a comprehensive and relevant resource.

### **Other activities**

BAP continues to collaborate with the Royal College of Psychiatrists, particularly the Psychopharmacology Committee, and we provide most of the psychopharmacology sessions within their annual congress. The Chair of the Committee attends BAP Council meetings and supports two poster prizes within our Summer Meeting. That support will continue for the next few years.

Council has discussed and agreed to seek incorporation by Royal Charter. This will start with an informal approach to the Privy Council to explore BAP's fulfilment of the necessary criteria and if successful to then move on to producing a Letter of Intent. The key reason to pursue this is because it is an external method of validation of what BAP does. A technicality will be dealt with so as to maintain BAP's charitable status and the Company status can lie dormant behind the Royal Charter if required. However, those decisions will not be made at this stage.

In terms of promotion of BAP, Dr Patel thanked Miss Channing-Wright for her tireless efforts in keeping the website fresh and informative – and thanks are due to Professor Ciara McCabe for her help with this as well. Miss Channing-Wright also deals with social media on behalf of BAP and Dr Patel encouraged any Members with news-worthy articles to send them to her for circulation.

Finally, Dr Patel gave personal thanks to Lynne, Sarah and Susan in the BAP Office for their enduring patience and support over the past year.

Professor Munafo invited questions from the audience. Dr Mitul Mehta commented that the new Early Career membership tier will be good if it can be clearly expressed to the membership. He asked how many current Members might fall into that category? Dr Patel explained that a number of both Training and Full Members will change status and it is hoped that the new category will foster long-term commitment to the BAP from younger members. Specific numbers are not yet known but changes will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Professor Anne Lingford-Hughes recalled her own term as Honorary General Secretary, when membership stood at 1000 but then started to reduce. At that time there was a debate on Council about whether it is about numbers or the quality of Members, for example, what are people giving to the Association as well as what they may get from the Association? She asked Dr Patel to elaborate on the type of Members Council wants to attract. Dr Patel could not speak for the whole of Council, but thanked Professor Lingford-Hughes for eloquently highlighting whether we are seeking numbers that are meaningless or Members that are meaningful. She does not have a clear answer, but assured those present that Council is reviewing and hoping to enhance what Members can expect to receive for their annual subscription.

Professor Hugh Marston supported the idea of Early Career Membership. He asked whether provision would be made for young scientists in industry, who may be contracted workers rather than full members of the company. Dr Patel would be happy to look at this issue on a case-by-case basis for those involved.

Dr Mohammed Shoaib asked for a more detailed breakdown of those who are leaving BAP and whether they are basic scientists or clinically qualified. Dr Patel replied that two-thirds of those leaving are clinical. Dr Shoaib recalled that he and Professor Alan Bateson addressed this issue 10-12 years ago when they served on Council. At that time they observed that Training Members were leaving mainly because of the cost of membership. He suggested that clinicians may join purely to attend the clinical education sessions. Dr Patel re-iterated that Council is looking at all the different issues. One problem for



Training Members is that quite often there are no career opportunities post-PhD and this is one reason we may be losing them.

Professor Guy Goodwin commented that BAP is not alone in suffering a declining membership and congratulated Council for ensuring the Association remains financially stable. The big issue is that industry has largely withdrawn, both commercially and from the area of research and development. In addition, now that BAP Members have improved the quality of the psychopharmacology content of the Royal College of Psychiatrists' (RCPsych) congress, people have a real choice about which meeting to attend. Council also needs to consider the relationship with the neuroscience community, which is very important to the vitality of many Members. In Professor Goodwin's opinion, Council needs to seriously address where it sees BAP in a few years' time and it is in an excellent position to do just that, when there is a situation but not a crisis.

Dr Patel acknowledged the tension between the BAP and RCPsych meetings but, speaking from a personal perspective and as a member of both groups, did not want to be forced to choose between them. She, together with Professor Neill and Dr McAllister-Williams, have already started discussing new ideas to bring to the Membership Taskforce, and a number of Professor Goodwin's comments form the basis of those ideas. Again, she called on the wider membership to contact her or the BAP Office with any ideas they might have.

Professor Brian Leonard thanked Dr Patel for an excellent overview of the situation. He considers the BAP to be extremely healthy and congratulated the Council. He echoed Professor Goodwin's comment that the decline in membership is not restricted to BAP and he has encountered it in a number of other psychopharmacology groups. He recalled that some years ago, BAP had a closer relationship with non-UK psychopharmacology groups and wondered whether renewed collaboration might result in some new Members. Joint symposia with other societies, perhaps at the BAP Summer Meeting, could open up the Association to new colleagues. He sees BAP as a fantastic organisation and extremely impressive in comparison with many others and he would be delighted to see it on the international stage.

Dr Patel thanked Professor Leonard and referred his points to the Secretaries for External Affairs and the Meetings Secretary for consideration.

Dr Patel reported to Members that an increasing number of international colleagues, particularly from Australia and New Zealand, attend the smaller educational meetings of BAP and fostering more formal links will be considered.

Professor Barbara Sahakian made two suggestions. Firstly that in addition to the excellent BAP Trainees' Workshop at the Summer Meeting, BAP could add an "Ask Me Anything" session, with a senior Member answering questions from young Members. Also, BAP could institute a young Members' Linked-in forum, with photos and descriptions of their research. This would help them recognise each other at the Summer Meeting and, as a senior Member, Professor Sahakian would appreciate this in order to get to know young Members better.

Dr Patel thanked Professor Sahakian for her suggestions and deferred the suggestion of an online forum to Miss Channing-Wright.

The motion that the Honorary General Secretary's report be received was proposed by Professor Paul Harrison, seconded by Dr Maxine Patel, and unanimously approved by those present.

#### *2.4.1 Proposed changes to the BAP Articles*

##### **Articles: Clause 2(3)a**

Existing text: The Directors may only refuse an application for membership is, acting reasonably and properly, they consider it to be in the best interests of the Charity to refuse the application.

Proposed text: The Directors may only refuse an application for membership if, acting reasonably and properly, they consider it to be in the best interests of the Charity to refuse the application.

Dr Patel explained that this typographical error would not usually be brought to the AGM; however because of the need to bring the proposal to change Clause 27, Council agreed to also bring this small change.

##### **Articles: Clause 27**

Existing text: (1) The Directors may appoint a person who is willing to act to be a Director, to fill a casual vacancy. (2) A Director appointed by a resolution of the other Directors must retire at the next annual general meeting and must not be taken into account in determining the Directors who are to retire by rotation.

Proposed text: (1) The Directors may appoint a person who is willing to act to be a Director, subject to the maximum number of Directors allowed. (2) A Director appointed by a resolution of the other Directors to fill a casual vacancy must retire at the expiration of the terms of Office of the persons causing the vacancies.

Dr Patel explained that the Honorary General Secretary and Mrs Chandler review the Bye-Laws and Memorandum and Articles every few years. They diverge on this particular point and need to be brought back in line. Rather than change the Bye-Laws, which more accurately reflect what Council is doing, it was agreed that an Articles change is needed, which requires formal approval at the AGM.

When a Council member steps down prematurely, that post remains open for Council to fill, if they wish, with someone as a casual vacancy. That person, according to the current Articles, should step down at the next AGM. Usually, the individual asked to step into a casual vacancy is a valuable asset to BAP and Council does not want to lose them within 12 months. Council would prefer that they stay for the duration of the original post-holder's term of office. For example, if someone steps down within the first year of a 4-year term, this leaves 3 years open for someone to fill as a casual vacancy and Council would prefer that to be the case. This is the purpose of the new wording.

Dr Shoaib asked why the remaining period cannot be dealt with by the election process, and who decides who should fill the casual vacancy? Dr Patel replied that the posts are numbered and for a fixed period of years, and the full Council decides who should be approached to fill the vacancy.

Professor Sahakian commented that, in her experience, while Council does co-opt people on occasion to fill a particular role, in the past few years the person brought into a casual vacancy has been the person who has come third in the Council election. Dr Patel agreed that this has been the case and clarified that these have been Council posts. If an individual were to vacate an Officer post prematurely then Council would discuss other ways of dealing with the situation, perhaps by the election process.

Dr Shoaib argued that it is still too vague and did not agree that it should be for Council to decide who they wish to keep hold of. Dr Patel replied that it is important that there are enough people to do the many jobs required by Council. On some occasions, where Council Members have vacated

their Council seat to move into an Officer position, there are not enough members of Council and it would be extremely difficult to implement the formal election process each time.

Dr Shoaib agreed that taking the person who came third in the election is satisfactory but asked for it to be made clear in the change to the Article. Dr Patel replied that it cannot be added to the change because it could not fulfil every scenario. She apologised if it was not as precise as Dr Shoaib would like but hoped he would accept that the reasons behind it are good-willed. Dr Shoaib accepted this explanation.

The motion was proposed by Professor Paul Harrison, seconded by Dr Maxine Patel, and unanimously approved by those present.

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

Professor Clare Stanford, the outgoing Chair, reported that the Governance Panel has scrutinised all relevant papers, including Council minutes, Newsletters and the website. Professor Stanford also spent an afternoon going through the draft report with Mrs Chandler, seeking clarification and explanation where necessary.

It has become a tradition for a member of the Governance Panel to attend Council meetings and they are grateful for that opportunity.

The terms of reference for the Panel were revised in 2015 and the Panel is satisfied they need no further changes.

The Panel is satisfied that the BAP Council has fulfilled its obligations in respect of the Objects of the Association. The Panel is satisfied that the financial status of the Association is stable, pro-tem, and that the conduct of the BAP conforms to the highest standards of governance.

The Panel acknowledges that the success and high standards rest entirely on the very healthy collaboration between the Council and the Secretariat.

The full Governance Panel Report will be on the BAP website after this AGM so Professor Stanford summarised only the main points:

Points to be commended are the close scrutiny and revision of the Bye-Laws and Objects; The portfolio of high-quality educational activities of the Association; BAP's commitment to public engagement, especially the contributions to science festivals; the continued success of the Journal of Psychopharmacology and the Online CPD Resource; the re-branding of the BAP; the continued charitable support of young scientists through the award of bursaries and training funds; the establishment of a Membership Taskforce; clarification of the procedure for awarding the Lifetime Achievement Award; the professionalism, commitment and hard work of all members of the Secretariat; the statement on diversity, which attends to the needs and aspirations of all Members of the Association; BAP's input into topics such as the Psychotropic Substances Bill, the Concordat on Openness in Animal Research, and the redefinition of Psychology as a scientific discipline. There is no doubt that all these activities promote awareness of the BAP as well as psychopharmacology as a clinical and research discipline.

The Panel had three recommendations for Council to consider:

- i) The Panel recommends that Council remains alert to the financial implications of a fall in the number of Members and reduction of sponsorship for the summer meeting;
- ii) The Panel recommends that Council establishes a Journal Sub-Committee, whose remit should include the drafting of a standard procedure for appointing the Editor, members of the Editorial Board and the publisher. Professor Stanford had been reminded by Mrs Chandler that there had not been a Sub-Committee in place when the contract was last signed (during

Professor Stanford's term as President); however it is more important than ever nowadays that there is an operating practice in place;

- iii) The Panel recommends that Council consider producing a Risk Register, highlighting potential threats to the Association and ideas on how those might be mitigated.

The motion that the Governance Panel's report be received was proposed by Professor Paul Harrison, seconded by Dr Maxine Patel, and unanimously approved by those present.

### **3. Discussion chaired by Professor Marcus Munafo**

Professor Brian Leonard commented that the bureaucracy around animal experimentation appears to be preventing research in UK. He recalled receiving an email from BAP about this topic, remembered that Professor Joe Herbert was looking into the problem and asked for an update. Dr Paula Moran replied that Professor Herbert's email had been sent to all BAP Members, who were asked to send their individual responses directly to him. He will collate the responses.

Professor David Baldwin commented that he had very much enjoyed the summer meeting in Bristol, despite the poor weather, and he felt that the quality of talks and posters was extremely high. However he found the University venue less than ideal, with challenging lecture theatres and cramped poster space. While he would welcome a return to Bristol, he asked that other venues be considered. Professor Munafo replied that it would be difficult, if not impossible, to find an alternative venue in Bristol due to the size of the BAP meeting. Feedback was broadly positive, although the bad weather had indeed made things very challenging. Professor Munafo will be seeking feedback on this Brighton venue, and other venues will be used over the next couple of years. At the end of that process, it is hoped that BAP will have a portfolio of places to return to that we know can accommodate the meeting, that have received positive feedback from attendees, and that solvable glitches have been dealt with. It is big undertaking for Mrs Chandler and Mrs Harmer to mount investigations for new venues and this is one reason why BAP will return to Harrogate in 2017, to offer some breathing space following new venues in 2015 and 2016.

### **4. Passing of Presidential Medal to Professor Jo Neill**

Professor Paul Harrison was pleased to present the Presidential Medal to Professor Neill, who was delighted to take over as President of BAP until 2018.

Professor Munafo announced that this brings to an end both the 2016 Annual General Meeting and his term as Meetings Secretary. He thanked the BAP Office staff for all their help and support over the past few years.

*These Minutes were generated from the recorded proceedings. A motion will be put to the 2017 AGM for approval that these Minutes be adopted as a correct record.*