BAP 2008 SUMMER MEETING
HARROGATE

Glorious sunshine, scintillating conversation, good food and good company – no it’s not that holiday of lifetime but the BAP’s 2008 Annual Meeting in Harrogate. Attendance may have been down from last year (429), but the quality of science presented in the symposia, short orals and poster sessions, was excellent and hugely enjoyed by all. The highlight of our Annual Meeting is always the BAP Annual Lecture, delivered this year by Professor Michael Meaney, from McGill University, Montreal. Professor Meaney took us on an Odyssean adventure through his work over the past 15 years or so in which he has revealed how social behaviour induces epigenetic changes that lead to altered phenotypes. His integrative studies revealed how it is possible to understand the physiological and molecular mechanisms that underlie specific rodent behaviours, ultimately linking his work to epigenetic changes in post-mortem brain of suicide subjects.

Once again I was certainly spoilt for choice with respect to the symposia. I congratulate all the speakers as well as the organisers and chairs of these sessions. I would also encourage the membership at large to submit proposals for future meetings (we will soon be issuing a call for 2010). If you are not sure how to proceed, or need some advice, please contact either myself, a member of BAP Council or our Executive Officer Mrs Susan Chandler.

The post-doctoral symposium organised by John Potokar and Simon Davies (Bristol) highlighted current pre-clinical and clinical studies on anxiety. This forum, and that of the Short Orals, provide excellent opportunities for our trainees to demonstrate not only quality of their work but also their ability to present their findings clearly and within their allotted time - some of our more established colleagues could take note!

It was with great pleasure that the BAP made its Lifetime Achievement Award to Professor Brian Leonard. Brian, a past President of the BAP, is a stalwart member and well recognised figure at BAP meetings. He gave an amusing account of some of the highlights of his career in his acceptance speech at the Conference Dinner. Other awards were also made at the dinner, of which I wish to single out the Poster Prizes. The quality of the science and presentation never ceases to amaze the judges, making our decisions extremely difficult. I thank the Programmes Sub-committee in this regard for their hard work both before and during the meeting.

Informal feedback from delegates was uniformly positive, but unfortunately we only received a handful of completed feedback forms. I am not so naïve as to believe that this should be interpreted as everyone being 100% satisfied, so I shall be discussing with the BAP office we might improve feedback form completion. I welcome all comments (positive and negative) and would like to assure the membership that all ideas are seriously considered. After all, it is your Association and your Annual Meeting.

The reduced number of attendees was debated by Council and suggested reasons included the general “credit crunch”, a spate of conferences occurring around the same time, and a loss of industrial delegates due to reorganisation within some Pharmaceutical companies. Hopefully this is just a “blip”. Next year we return to Oxford (Keble College and the University Examination School), from July 26th to 29th and I expect an increase in attendance. We have an excellent programme in place, so put the date in dairies now and I look forward seeing you there in 2009.

Alan Bateson, Meetings Secretary
A Taste of the 2008 Summer Meeting

Some Speakers and Symposium Chairs
The 2008 Guest Lecturer, Michael Meaney, with Thomas Barnes

2008 Postdoc Symposium
“Threat, fear and anxiety – new perspectives”

The BAP President with the Recipients of the 2008 Robert Kerwin International Travel Bursaries: Stella Giakoumaki and Kuan-Pin Su

More photos may be found on the website under 2008 Summer Meeting

www.bap.org.uk/photobook/
Congratulations to the 2008 Award Recipients

2008 Pre-clinical Poster Prizes

Laurent Lacroix
“Evaluation of the pro-cognitive effects of the AMPA receptor positive modulator, CX691, in the rat”
(co-authors: Waters K, Jennings CA, Southam E, Woolley ML, Dawson LA)

Jared Young
“Vigilance decrement observation in the rodent continuous performance test: Further evidence of translational validity”
(co-author: Geyer MA)

2008 Clinical Poster Prizes

Dana Hince
“Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor-remitted patients with generalised anxiety disorder do not show an increase in symptoms following acute tryptophan depletion”

Neal Hinvest
“The neuronal basis of impulsivity in pathological gamblers, non-pathological gamblers and substance abusers: Evidence for dysfunction within the orbitofrontal cortex”
(co-authors: Elliott R, McKie S, Anderson IM)
2008 President’s Poster Prizes

**Cheryl Collins**
“Sub-chronic administration of phencyclidine modulates arc MRNA induction by MDMA in rat brain in a regionally specific manner”
(co-author: Elliott JM)

**Bassim Amin**
“Kyneurenine/5 HT and no metabolites in the hippocampus and frontal cortex of rats exposed to chronic mild stress ‘CMS’. Roles of a neuronal nitric oxide synthase inhibitor and pentoxyphylline”
(co-authors: Aboul-fetouh SA, Shehata HH, Yassin NAZ, Abdel-tawab AM)

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2008 Undergraduate Abstract Prizes

**Nilay Hepgul**
Institute of Psychiatry, London
“The effects of cannabis use on awakening salivary cortisol in first episode psychosis”

**Jamie Oughton**
University of Newcastle upon Tyne
“Examination of N-Acetyl-Cysteine on behavioural adaptation to chronic nicotine exposure”
(Co-author: Shoaib M)

**Joanna Pointon**
University of Nottingham
“Can rimonabant reverse the cognitive deficits produced by rearing rats in isolation from weaning?”
(Co-authors: Kok JL, Cho WS, Maneepairoj P, Fone KCF, Marsden CA)

**Philip Yee**
University College London
“The angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor, captopril, prevents the hyperactivity of NK1R-/- mice”
(Co-authors: Yan TC, Hunt SP, Stanford SC)
Wyeth Psychopharmacology Awards 2008

Catharine Winstanley
University of British Columbia

Pradeep Nathan
University of Cambridge

Anthony Cleare
Institute of Psychiatry, London

Organon Journal Prize 2008

Awarded to Paul Fletcher, Garry Honey and Phil Corlett

“From prediction error to psychosis: ketamine as a pharmacological model of delusions”

Pradeep Nathan collected the Prize on behalf of the authors

The 2008 BAP Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Brian Leonard, in recognition of his outstanding work and significant contribution to the area of psychopharmacology
BAP held three Short Oral Presentation sessions at the summer meeting:

- Rats with Schizophrenia?
- Drugs of Abuse - the good, the bad and the unknown
- Translational Approaches to Depression and Anxiety
Bursary Awards

for undertaking the BAP Certificate in Pre-clinical Psychopharmacology

The British Association for Psychopharmacology (BAP) is strongly committed to promoting and encouraging research in the area of Pre-clinical and clinical Psychopharmacology. For many years the BAP has provided high calibre training in psychopharmacology through the highly successful and over-subscribed Clinical Certificate and the popular and acclaimed Pre-clinical Certificate.

To further support Pre-clinical scientists and our continuing commitment to advancing understanding in the area of Psychopharmacology, the BAP is pleased to launch a new competitive award in the form of a bursary scheme from July 2009. The scheme will benefit individuals wishing to further their professional development and expertise in important topics of Pre-clinical Psychopharmacology by undertaking the BAP Certificate in Pre-clinical Psychopharmacology.

These competitive, BAP Council-panel reviewed, awards will enable the successful candidates to attend all 8 of the Pre-clinical Certificate training modules, with completion resulting in the award of a Certificate.

**Bursary details**

- The Bursaries will cover the registration cost for each module but not overnight accommodation. Travel expense will not generally be covered per se, however the BAP will endeavour to assist with information on local delegates and transport sharing. Where public travel expense is necessary, an allowance of up to £50 per module will be reimbursed to the delegate upon receipt of travel documents/receipts.
- Whenever possible, travel arrangements should be made well in advance to keep costs to a minimum.
- Applications are welcomed from Postgraduates (including PhD and Masters students) Postdocs and anyone with a professional interest in Pre-clinical Psychopharmacology who meets application criteria.
- A total of 5 bursaries will be awarded for each 2-year Certificate cycle. Each cycle consists of 8 training modules with the next cycle commencing in July 2009 and ending in April 2011.

A list of the modules and further details of the Pre-clinical Certificate can be found at the following link http://www.bap.org.uk/certificates/Pre-clinical/background.html

**Bursary application criteria and procedure**

- Applicants must be new or existing BAP Training members.
- Applicants must have no other funds available to them for training.
- Applications are welcomed from UK, Continental Europe and International Training members.
- Bursary applicants must complete the on-line application, submit a CV and a brief résumé of their current research and how attendance at the BAP Certificate in Pre-clinical Psychopharmacology will advance this.
- Supervisors must submit a brief reference in support of the applicant along with a statement of need and financial necessity.
- All applications and supporting documentation should be forwarded to Katie Hewitt at the BAP office (katie@bap.org.uk). **Bursary application deadline: February 27th 2009**

For further details please contact Katie Hewitt, BAP Education Development and Delivery Coordinator katie@bap.org.uk 01223 358396.

Katie Hewitt August 2008

The UK Government Foresight Project on Mental Capital and Wellbeing will be launched on 22nd October 2008. Currently there are over 80 state-of-the-art reviews on the website:

http://www.foresight.gov.uk/OurWork/ActiveProjects/Mental%20Capital/ProjectOutputs.asp
1. Presidential Address

Professor Thomas Barnes was delighted to report that the BAP has had another busy year.

REVIEW OF MEETINGS

The 2007 summer meeting in Harrogate generated good feedback from attendees, with almost everyone who completed an evaluation form rating the symposia as either ‘relevant’ or ‘very relevant’ to their area of interest, and all rating the meeting as good value for money.

BAP was involved in a Wellcome Trust Masterclass in Neuroscience. Council was delighted to support Hamish McAllister-Williams’ application for funds for one of the Masterclasses. From 11 applications the Wellcome Trust made 3 awards and the meeting titled “Tackling cognitive dysfunction in affective disorders: focus on monoamines and corticosteroids” was held in Newcastle in March this year. The event was extremely well-received by the 50 attendees from Europe, USA and Australia and it achieved many of its objectives. Two projects now being pursued are the development of a website to become the focus for a network for those interested in research in this particular area, and a supplement prepared for the Journal of Psychopharmacology. A fuller, scientific review of the event will be provided in Symposium 4 at this conference.

For the first time, BAP held a Symposium within the Royal College of Psychiatrists’ annual meeting at Imperial College earlier this month. Entitled “Depression – new guidelines, new evidence and new directions”, as Chair Professor Barnes could report that it was very well attended and he thanked Nicol Ferrier, Phil Cowen and Sasha Gartside for their excellent presentations. Professor Barnes felt that the composition of the symposium provided a good model for future initiatives of this sort, including presentations on BAP guidelines, evidence on a particular area of clinical practice and discussion on potential new mechanisms for treatment in the area. BAP paid for a special edition of the Newsletter to be included in delegate bags and this has already produced a surge of interest in BAP activities.

The BAP educational events continue to be well-received and often over-subscribed. Hamish McAllister-Williams will cover these in more detail in his report.

Turning to the current year, as those present will know July is always a busy month for conferences and this year is busier than ever, including both FENS and CINP congresses, the Venice Schizophrenia meeting and of course the Serotonin Club meeting which has only just finished in Oxford. Council believes that this deluge of meetings, coupled with the general ‘credit crunch’ has led to a reduction of attendees at the BAP meeting (down 50-60 on 2007 figures). Council works hard to maintain the high quality programme expected at a BAP meeting and this hard work will continue in our planning for the future in the hope that this is a blip rather than the start of a trend.

Professor Barnes thanked Michael Meaney for travelling to England to present a superb Guest Lecture, and all the speakers, chairs and organisers for their participation in the event.

As always, Council has been happy to help support young scientists’ attendance at the annual meeting in the form of waived fees and bursaries to help with travel. This support increases annually and Professor Barnes believes this is a very worthwhile way of spending BAP funds.

Professor Barnes thanked Alan Bateson and his Programmes Sub-Committee for their handling of the abstract submissions this year.
As always, Council appreciates the support of Industry towards the summer meeting and attendees were encouraged to visit the stands during the breaks. There have been 5 interesting satellite symposia so far and of course another two follow the AGM.

Looking to the future, the incoming BAP President, Gavin Reynolds, will organise a BAP symposium within the British Neuroscience Association meeting in Liverpool next April.

The next summer meeting will be held in Oxford next year and we hope that there isn’t a repeat of the heat-wave suffered in 2006. The 2010 meeting will be back in Harrogate

CONSENSUS GUIDELINES

Professor Barnes reported that the updated version of the BAP Antidepressant Guidelines were published earlier this year and he thanked Ian Anderson for his conscientious and thoughtful work in undertaking what turned out to be an enormous (but very worthwhile) task.

Guy Goodwin has almost finished the revision of the BAP Bipolar Guidelines and we hope these will be published later this year.

Professor Barnes will chair a meeting in September to produce BAP guidelines on the pharmacological treatment of schizophrenia, to be published in 2009.

Professor Barnes thanked Steve Cooper for co-ordinating the BAP’s relationship with NICE over the past year in his role as Secretary of External Affairs.

PRIZES AND AWARDS

Professor Barnes reported that 76 Part One Certificates in Clinical Psychopharmacology have been awarded over the past 12 months. 5 Part One Certificates in Pre-clinical Psychopharmacology have been awarded over the past 12 months and we have one candidate who is going forward to Part 2.

Professor Barnes was pleased to announce the 2008 Prize Winners, who will collect their awards at the conference dinner on Tuesday evening:

The Wyeth Psychopharmacology Awards. Once again, BAP received excellent applications for these Awards and the review committee had difficult decisions to make. A Junior Pre-clinical Award will be made to Catharine Winstanley. The Clinical Awards will be made to Pradeep Nathan and Anthony Cleare. Many of those present will have just enjoyed their oral presentations in this room.

The Organon Journal Prize is awarded to Philip Corlett, Garry Honey and Paul Fletcher, all from the Brain Mapping Unit at Cambridge, for the paper “From prediction error to psychosis: ketamine as a pharmacological model of delusions” published in the Journal of Psychopharmacology last year. Copies of the winning article are available from the BAP desk.

BAP Undergraduate Abstract Prizes. We were delighted to receive a large number of submissions again this year. The Prizes will be presented to Nilay Hepgul, Jamie Oughton, Joanna Pointon and Philip Yee.

The decisions on the 2008 Poster Prizes will be made on Tuesday and the winners announced at dinner.

Professor Barnes congratulated all the winners and expressed gratitude to all the Council Members who review the prize applications and nominations, particularly the poster prize reviewers who have to work under a great time-pressure.

Professor Barnes talked about the BAP response to the untimely death of Rob Kerwin last year. As BAP members will know, the BAP Office produced a special edition of the Newsletter, containing tributes and memories of many BAP members and Professor Barnes was very pleased to report that the issue was very well received by Rob’s colleagues, friends and family.

Symposium 7 during the current conference, “Pharmacogenetic studies in mental health”, has been
organised by Kathy Aitchison in Rob’s honour.

The long-term tribute to Rob’s long-standing involvement with BAP is the setting-up of annual Robert Kerwin International Conference Bursaries, 2-3 each year, to support people early in their career to attend an international conference. We received 11 applications for the bursaries and awarded 2 this year, to Stella Giakoumaki and Kuan-Pin Su. Both wrote articles for the recent BAP Newsletter and both are presenting posters at the current conference.

Professor Barnes took the opportunity to tell Members of an event organised at the Institute of Psychiatry, to be held in November. “Translating Advances in Biological Psychiatry into Therapeutics” will honour the memory of both Rob Kerwin and Lyn Pilowsky, another long-standing BAP member lost to us last year.

OTHER THINGS TO REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP

Professor Barnes thanked the Governance Panel (Sue Iversen, Barry Everitt and Bill Deakin) for their interest in BAP activities over the last year. Their annual report to Members will be reproduced in full in the next BAP Newsletter. Barry Everitt has now ended his term on the Panel and that place will be taken by Charles Marsden from Nottingham, another of our esteemed Past-Presidents. Thank you, Charles, for your continuing commitment to BAP.

A working group has been set up on Council, led by Mohammed Shoaib, to investigate ways that BAP could support in vivo scientists in the UK. These discussions are ongoing and will be reported in future Newsletters.

Professor Barnes reminded members that Council remains absolutely committed to supporting both clinical and Pre-clinical members. The engagement last year of Katie Hewitt as the part-time Education Development and Delivery Co-ordinator has been a success and so far Katie has concentrated mainly on the Pre-clinical side of BAP educational activities.

This ends Professor Barnes’s last AGM presentation as BAP President. He thanked all the Council members and Officers with whom he has worked over the past few years. The range of issues discussed at BAP Council meetings has seemed to widen each year and he has found it an honour and a privilege to head such a vibrant, relevant and important Association.

Finally Professor Barnes thanked Susan Chandler and Lynne Harmer at the BAP Office in Cambridge. Those present joined Professor Barnes in expressing appreciation to Lynne, who has provided exceptional support over the past 12 months and to Susan for her dedication and personal fortitude over the period.

2. Motions for approval:

2.1 Professor David Nutt proposed that the Minutes of the 2007 Annual General Meeting be adopted as a correct record (Pre-circulated in October 2007 Newsletter). Dr Hamish McAllister-Williams seconded the motion, which was approved.

2.2 Editor’s Report

Professor Nutt reported that the increase to 8 issues each year has been relatively smooth. There has been a significant increase in the number of submissions and this has raised the possibility of increasing to 12 issues each year. Professor Nutt would be interested to receive views from the membership about this, which will be discussed by the Editorial Board with Sage Science.

The online submission system initially incurred some problems with typesetting, but these have now been rectified and the process will continue to be developed to its optimum level. One reason for increasing to 8 issues was to deal with the backlog of accepted papers and to some extent this has been successful. The electronic publication system, Online First, is also helping to overcome the backlog.

The impact factor continues to climb and currently stands at 3.78. For the first time in the Journals history,
the impact factor is higher than that of Psychopharmacology and Professor Nutt was pleased with this demonstration of success. A couple of factors contribute to the increase in impact factor: the consensus statement guidelines, but also the Special Issues, particularly the Ecstasy special issue, which was very heavily cited. Professor Nutt hopes that the high impact factor induces more BAP members to submit their quality work to the Journal.

Kathy Aitchison (Institute of Psychiatry), Illana Crome (Keele) and Jeff Dalley (Cambridge) have joined the Editorial Board. Valentim Gentil has now retired from the Board and Professor Nutt thanked him for his efforts over many years on behalf of the Journal.

Reporting on copy-flow, a broad portfolio during 2007 comprised 191 original articles, 16 Short Reports, 20 Letters to the Editor and 54 Case Reports. Professor Nutt only accepts Case Reports which have a significant intellectual contribution to the field, because they do tend to hinder the impact factor. 7 Critiques, book reviews and 16 Reviews have also been published. The acceptance ratio is still relatively high at 66%; however Professor Nutt is pleased that the increased impact factor illustrates that quality is being maintained.

Professor Nutt is pleased that the BAP Guidelines on Schizophrenia will be published in 2009 and that the revised Bipolar Guidelines are nearing completion. It is hoped that a Sleep Disorders consensus statement will begin during 2009. It has been agreed by the authors and Editors that there is not enough movement in the fields to warrant updating the guidelines on Addiction and ADHD at this stage, so they will be deferred for 2-3 years.

Two supplements have recently been published: one supported by Lilly in March and another sponsored by Servier to be published soon. Professor Nutt thanked Professor Steve Cooper who has taken over as Supplements Editor.

Professor Nutt reminded Members that Volume 25 of the Journal will mark 25 years since its inception and he welcomed views and suggestions from the membership on how best to mark this significant occasion. One idea discussed by Council is that some classic papers be reproduced, accompanied by commentaries from individuals affected by the articles and insights into how the field has changed.

Finally, Professor Nutt thanked the Editorial Manager, Jaci Hopkins, who works tirelessly to keep the Journal running smoothly. Pierre Blier has continued to work very hard as the Editor for the Americas. The team at Sage, particularly Fiona Barratt, the Commissioning Editor, has continued to be active in responding to any problems and has helped the Journal to progress over the past year.

In response to a question from the audience, Professor Nutt confirmed that approximately 7% of submissions come from the Pacific Rim area, 60% from UK and the rest are split between Europe and USA.

Dr Abdulla Badawy suggested that for the 25th anniversary issue of the Journal, a Review should be published on the history of the Journal from its inception to present day. Professor Nutt suggested that Professor Malcolm Lader could write such a Review. Dr Badawy also suggested that landmark findings could be published in a special issue, with experts writing reviews of those findings. Professor Lader further suggested that authors of papers which have been cited regularly over the past 25 years could be contacted and asked to write a commentary. This information is available so Professor Nutt will discuss with Fiona Barratt of Sage and report back to the BAP Council.

Professor Gavin Reynolds proposed that the Editor’s Report be received. The proposal was seconded by Professor Paul Harrison and approved by those present.

2.3. Report from the Trustees/Directors and audited accounts

Professor Harrison, Honorary Treasurer, summarised the 2007 accounts and the financial organisation of the BAP.

The surplus produced in 2007 was somewhat lower than the previous 2-3 years. Income was £650K, down from £876K whereas expenses were up to £635K from £566K, resulting in a surplus of just under £20K. The biggest single factor for this change was that the Journal, which in the past couple of years has
provided a windfall surplus thanks to reprint sales, provided a healthy but smaller surplus during 2007. This emphasises that windfall Journal income, dependent upon reprints, cannot be relied upon to form a constant source of income.

The surplus from meetings during 2007 was greatly reduced too, with the summer meeting only just breaking even. Other sources of income are very similar to those in previous years.

Expenditure increased in 2007, partly due to the investment in a third member of staff at the BAP Office. Other expenses rose mainly in line with inflation, thanks to the efficiency of the Office in that regard.

Council meeting expenses range from £5,000-£10,000 in any one year, depending upon how geographically distant the Council members are from the venues for Council meetings. Professor Harrison reminded Members that those on Council receive no payment whatsoever for their Council work or for any talks they might give for the BAP.

BAP pays professional subscriptions to a number of bodies approved by Council: Biosciences Federation, Biosciences Federation (Animal Science Group), European Biomedical Research Association, Research Defence Society, Foundation for Science and Technology.

The BAP investment portfolio remains at a 70%/30% split between bonds and gilts.

Finally, Professor Harrison reported that BAP has assets of approximately 1.2million, excluding the value of the BAP Office building in Cambridge. Having taken advice on the reserves policy, it is now Council’s objective to keep 2.5 times the annual expenditure in reserve, to ensure that if BAP were to suffer a complete financial collapse one year then we would not have to sell the Office. Professor Harrison pointed out that this does not stop Council spending money on important developments if those arise before the reserves figure is reached.

Professor Harrison ended his report by thanking Lynne Harmer and Susan Chandler for their help and support over the past year.

In response to a question from the audience, Professor Harrison assured Members that Council has not discussed an increase in the membership subscription rate to combat the reduced surplus. The lack of surplus from the summer meeting can be partly explained by Council making a concerted effort to provide many more bursaries and more support for overseas speakers. Registration fees for events may well have to increase over the next year or so, but only because they have not been increased for some time.

Professor Malcolm Lader voiced concern regarding the current and future state of the stock-market. He sought reassurance that BAP has taken advice on switching more of the portfolio to bonds from stocks. He suggested that advice should come from an independent financial adviser rather than a bank. Professor Harrison will discuss this with Susan Chandler.

Professor Barbara Sahakian proposed that the Report from the Trustees/Directors be received and adopted. The proposal was seconded by Professor Stephen Cooper and approved by those present.

2.4. Honorary General Secretary’s Report

Dr McAllister-Williams reported that with a current membership of 1032 there has been a small dip in the number of Members this year. However, the overall number of new applications over the past few years has remained very stable. Most individuals hold Full Membership, with a healthy number of Training Members. Council regularly considers how the number of Training Members could be increased and how this group can best be supported. There is a preponderance of clinical Members compared to non-clinical Members, and then there are a variety of ‘other categories’. Despite many discussions at Council meetings as to how individuals should be classified, no definitive conclusion has been reached. For instance, some individuals are clinically qualified but are only undertaking Pre-clinical work and some work equally in the clinical and Pre-clinical areas. Council is keen to learn more about its Members to ensure that there are no constituencies not being served by the Association.

Dr McAllister-Williams turned to Council issues. The current past President, Dr Stanford, retires from
Council and he thanked her for all her efforts over many years on behalf of the membership and Council. Dr Stanford will remain involved in the Pre-clinical Certificate Course and in other BAP activities. Professor Thomas Barnes will become past President and his wisdom and experience will continue to be called upon by BAP. This means that Professor Gavin Reynolds moves from the President-elect post to become President until 2010. This creates a vacancy for the President-elect post and Professor Nicol Ferrier was elected unopposed. Professor Ferrier has a long relationship with BAP, having served as a Council member from 1997 and General Secretary from 2001. Since leaving Council in 2004 he has continued to play an important role in the Association, including organising the Affective Disorders module of the Clinical Certificate Course, and in fact in 2007 took over co-Directorship of the Certificate with Professor Shôn Lewis.

Dr Mohammed Shoaib has ended his term as Council member and Dr McAllister-Williams thanked him for all his input so far; however he will not be leaving because he has been elected unopposed to the new post of Secretary for Pre-clinical External Affairs. Members will remember that Council created this post last year because of the increasing involvement BAP has with bodies such as the BSF, EBRA, BBSRC and the Home Office. Dr Shoaib will have a very full portfolio of tasks over the next few years.

A vacancy was therefore created on Council and Dr Carmine Pariante of the Institute of Psychiatry was elected unopposed to this post. Dr Pariante has been involved with BAP teaching activities for a number of years and Dr McAllister-Williams welcomed him to Council.

Under the bye-laws of the Association, Council has taken some steps to rationalise the turnover of Council posts; this year there was just one vacant post but in 2007 there were four vacancies. There are concerns when there are big changeovers in post-holders, which can cause problems with new people (understandably) taking time to integrate fully into the various areas of business. From 2009 onwards there will always be two Council posts open for election each year. There will be no change to the number of posts or the duration of Office, once the transition is complete after four years.

Moving on to education, Dr McAllister-Williams spoke about Dr Katie Hewitt, the BAP Education Development and Delivery Co-ordinator. Since joining BAP in May 2007, Katie has worked with the Pre-clinical planning committee to review and develop the Pre-clinical Certificate Course. Her role will develop further, working alongside Dr Shoaib, the new Secretary for Pre-clinical External Affairs. One initiative currently under review is having a number of bursaries available to assist Pre-clinical scientists undertaking the Certificate. Katie has been running an educational stand at the current meeting displaying material from all the BAP educational events and Dr McAllister-Williams encouraged Members to visit her.

The Fundamentals in Psychopharmacology Course has been extremely successful over the past 10 years. However it has now been overtaken by other BAP teaching events. It remains under review and may be relaunched in a different format in the future.

The 3 one-day Masterclasses, launched in 2007 and held twice each year, have been a huge success. Dr McAllister-Williams thanked Dr Anne Lingford-Hughes for jointly organising and chairing the Masterclasses with him. All days so far have been oversubscribed, the November 2008 Masterclasses are already fully booked and people are now registering for April and November 2009. This illustrates the continuing demand for independent, high quality psychopharmacology education. Dr McAllister-Williams reminded Members that all BAP education events are entirely independent of industry support.

The flagship of the clinical education portfolio, the Clinical Certificate Course, continues to be immensely popular. Thanks are due to all the module organisers, Professors David Nutt, Shôn Lewis, Chris Hollis, Nicol Ferrier, Alistair Burns, John O’Brien and Drs Lesley Peters and Anne Lingford-Hughes, together with all the speakers who take part in the six modules each year with such enthusiasm. Content is constantly monitored and the co-Directors, Professors Ferrier and Lewis, will be considering the inclusion of new modules in the future.

Council is delighted that the BAP is seen by many as the best provider of continuing professional development in psychopharmacology for psychiatrists in the UK. With new guidelines on re-certification it is vital that BAP responds to the challenges of maintaining that high quality while providing education to potentially greatly increased numbers. Dr McAllister-Williams assured Members that Council has strong links with the Psychopharmacology Special Interest Group of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. We have
developed a forum for the BAP, PSIG and the new RCPsych President, Dinesh Bhugra, on how best to collaborate on provision of high quality CPD. BAP Council has been considering the potential of an online CPD forum to cope with the significant number of psychiatrists requiring CPD and the results of those discussions will be reported in the Newsletter in due course. Council is also investigating the potential of developing a teaching course for non-medical prescribers, such as nurses and pharmacists taking up supplementary and independent prescribing, who may benefit from the expertise in BAP.

Finally, Dr McAllister-Williams thanked Katie Hewitt for her efforts for the Pre-clinical Certificate and Council hopes that her efforts result in a higher uptake of places on the modules. He also thanked Lynne Harmer for all her quiet efficiency in helping the various educational projects, and Susan Chandler for her ongoing support for Council and the Association.

Professor Brian Leonard congratulated the BAP on the healthy membership figures and sought reassurance that all Members pay their annual subscriptions. Dr McAllister-Williams confirmed that they do, otherwise they are liable to be removed from the list. This accounts for some of the fluctuation in Members each year, as Lynne Harmer regularly removes those who do not respond to reminders.

Professor Leonard asked about the ratio of clinical and non-clinical members. Dr McAllister-Williams confirmed that there have always been a higher proportion of clinical Members. Council does its best to ensure that all constituencies are catered for equally and this topic is discussed extensively and frequently at meetings.

In response to a question from the audience, Dr McAllister-Williams clarified that no BAP training yet exists for non-medical prescribers. BAP does not necessarily have an official view on whether independent and supplementary prescribers should be endorsed; it is something out of the BAP’s hands. However, BAP would always want to make sure that the quality of all prescribing is as good as it can be.

Dr Sasha Gartside proposed that the Honorary Secretary’s Report be received and adopted. The proposal was seconded by Dr David Baldwin and approved by those present.

3. Discussion

Professor Barbara Sahakian asked how BAP engages with the general public with regards to psychopharmacology. She suggested that a lecture may be appropriate on issues relevant to the public. One avenue may be to get involved with the various Science Festivals now held across the country.

Dr Bateson replied that Council has been discussing this matter for the past couple of years, including the hosting of a Public Lecture. However it remains under discussion at present. Professor Stephen Cooper, Secretary for Clinical External Affairs, commented that such a meeting would more likely be held for the media and politicians and in fact had been discussed by Council the previous day. He will be seeking advice from the Science Media Centre in this regard. Professor Sahakian replied that she did in fact mean the general public rather than the media and suggested that the DANA Centre in London would be an excellent starting point.

Dr Bateson encouraged the BAP membership to devise specific proposals for discussion by Council, who would be delighted to receive constructive suggestions for new initiatives.

Professor Val Curran asked if the BAP is ever pro-active in relation to the media and suggested that a number of symposia at the current meeting would be of great interest and BAP could help journalists to report responsibly. Professor Cooper replied that Council’s policy for some years has been to be reactive rather than proactive; rather than give a swift reaction BAP would more likely respond with considered editorials and articles in Journals. However there are clearly situations where a more rapid response is needed and Council are currently discussing the setting up of a small list of experts to respond to media enquiries if necessary. Again, this will be discussed with the Science Media and DANA Centres.

4. Professor Thomas Barnes passed the Presidential Medal to Professor Reynolds. Dr Bateson called the meeting closed.
New Biosciences Federation report on learned societies and publishing

The Biosciences Federation (BSF) published a report in July with the results of several questionnaires they conducted earlier this year. Thanks to all those of you who took part in the researcher questionnaire. The survey and report were carried out by the BSF’s Journals Committee, which is chaired by Sue Thorn of the Society for Endocrinology. The full report can be seen at http://www.bsf.ac.uk/journals/BSF_survey_report_July_2008_FINAL.pdf. Some key details are included below as a taster.

You get more out of your society financially than you put in

You probably knew that already, but we can now show that the UK university system as a whole gets more money from bioscience societies than it spends with those societies in journal subscriptions. The survey showed that, for the 23 societies who responded, they put 2.16 times as much money into the UK university system by way of grants, meeting support and other educational services than they take out by way of journal subscription and licence fees. The societies analysed contributed almost £4M of such support in the last year. You might want to make sure your Vice-Chancellor is aware of that in the light of some of the more radical Open Access people who want only a free repository system which would probably cause the collapse of most journals and of the support that their owner societies provide.

In addition, the report shows that all the societies provide free access to much of their journal material, usually after 12 months, although many also make selected material available earlier than that, eg review articles.

Most of the societies allow researchers to self-archive free in an institutional or other repository (eg PubMed Central) after a delay. Most of them would allow immediate self-archiving on payment of a fee. Many of the publishers would carry out the deposit for the author, especially where a fee is paid.

Do you really know what Open Access is?

The survey of researchers, which had 1349 usable responses, showed substantial confusion about what Open Access (OA) means. Many respondents seemed unable to tell the difference between online journals that are free at the point of use (because the library has paid a subscription fee) and Open Access ones, where all the material is free. Almost half the OA journals respondents said they read, and a third of those they published in, were not OA journals at all.

Only around 15% of the respondents had tried to access OA publication funds from their institutions or research funders to pay for author-side charges. Of these 53% had found it very difficult or fairly difficult. Sue Thorn and Steve Byford are taking part in a Universities UK working group to try to resolve this issue.

Interestingly, as regards self-archived material (usually an earlier version, such as the author’s submitted manuscript), only 3.5% of respondents said they access this version if they have access to the final published version, and 67% rarely or never access the self-archived version even if they don’t have access to the published version.

Sue Thorn, BSF Journals Committee

Prescribing Observatory in Mental Health (POMH-UK)

The BAP is a partner organisation of the Prescribing Observatory in Mental Health (POMH), which started in 2005 with a tapering grant from the Health Foundation and is now supported by subscriptions from participating mental health Trusts. POMH conducts audit-based quality improvement programmes (QIPs) in aspects of psychiatric prescribing. Forty-three Trusts signed up to participate in the 2008 POMH programme.

To summarise recent activity, in January 2008, 12 Trusts participated in a further benchmarking audit of prescribing of high-dose and combined antipsychotics in acute adult psychiatric wards. Seven of these Trusts had also participated in the original QIP audits (conducted in January 2006 and 2007) and of these seven, prescribing practice had moved much closer to the clinical standards in five. The original QIP is reported in a recent paper by Paton et al (Br J Psychiatry 2008;192:435-439). In March 2008, 21 Trusts participated in re-audit in the QIP of high-dose and combined antipsychotics in forensic psychiatry settings. Forty
Psychopharmacology Special Interest Group (PSIG) News

We welcome Kelly as the new secretarial support for the Honorary Secretary/Finance Officer PSIG (available on Fridays at Kelly.Halton@iop.kcl.ac.uk).

**Become a member:** Any psychiatrists who are BAP members are eligible for PSIG membership – please email Kelly if you would like to be a member (or think you already are!) and have not received the two circulars she recently sent out.

**Provide comments on:** Consensus views from the Round Table Discussion on Prescribing Psychotropics in Pregnancy (held at Joint Meeting of the Section of Perinatal Psychiatry and the Psychopharmacology Special Interest Group: 22nd November 2007) posted on the blog www.pgxpsy.blogspot.com. Comments on these can either be emailed to Kelly, or be posted on the blog by going to www.blogger.com and creating an account if you do not already have one (email Kelly for instructions). There are also other useful links of relevance to psychopharmacology here.

**Dr Kathy J Aitchison,** PSIG Honorary Secretary and Financial Officer  
**Dr David Baldwin,** PSIG Chair

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**Robert Kerwin International Conference Bursaries**

Professor Rob Kerwin was instrumental in advising, supporting and acting as mentor for numerous people early in their careers in psychopharmacology. To commemorate this, the Council of the British Association for Psychopharmacology introduced annual bursaries in 2008, to be awarded in his name.

The bursaries are available to individuals who have been a Member of BAP for a minimum of 6 months and who are studying for a higher degree (PhD, MD) or were awarded such a degree in the last 3 years. Each bursary covers travel expenses and the registration fee for an international conference, together with subsistence. The conference could be held in the UK, but should be international.

Bursary recipients are expected to attend the BAP Summer Meeting and also write an article for the BAP Newsletter.

The 2008 Bursaries were awarded to Stella Giakoumaki and Kuan-Pin Su.

Applications for the 2009 Bursaries should be submitted via the website by no later than 28 February.

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**Prescribing Observatory in Mental Health (POMH-UK) Continued**

Trusts are currently participating in a QIP addressing the quality of assessment of side effects in patients prescribed depot/long-acting injection antipsychotics. The baseline audit in July collected information on nearly 6,000 patients.

Also in the programme for this year is a further opportunity for Trusts to benchmark practice with respect to screening for aspects of the metabolic syndrome in patients treated with antipsychotics and under the care of Assertive Outreach Teams, and a new QIP will address the quality of monitoring in patients prescribed lithium.

Further details about POMH can be found at:  
http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/  
researchandtrainingunit/centreforqualityimprovement/prescribingobservatory.aspx

Details about how your Trust can join can be obtained from Amber Shingleton-Smith, the POMH project manager (ashingleton-smith@cru.rcpsych.ac.uk)
Festschrift to Mark the Official Retirement of Professor Charles Marsden from the University of Nottingham

I am sure that many readers will be aware, from the advertisement in the previous BAP Newsletter that Charles Marsden officially retired from the University of Nottingham at the end of August. To mark the occasion, and celebrate his enormous contribution to neuropharmacology a day long Festschrift was held in the Medical School of the University of Nottingham on Wednesday 3rd September. I am delighted to say that the whole event was an enormous success, with well over on hundred people in attendance. Nine speakers from as far away as Melbourne, Australia, New York and California contributed to the event. From left to right, Kevin Fone, Tom Blackburn, Jim Hagan, Andrew Lawrence, Emma Kidd, Nigel Maidment, Allison Fulford and Geoff Bennett are shown with Charles in the centre of the photograph, and Trevor Sharp, who was obviously feeling camera shy, also contributed but managed to escape the picture.

I opened the session with an overview of Charles's career history. The content of each subsequent talk reviewed the speaker's experience gained in their time at Nottingham, during which they had been supervised by Charles or, in the case of Jim, collaborated on research projects. As well as science, each talk included many light-hearted anecdotes relating to their interaction with Charles. As anyone who knows Charles and his vibrant personality and passion for travel will be aware, this was not a difficult task. Indeed, soon the sessions turned into short confessions from neuropharmacologists, including several 'bed-time stories' which can not be reported here. Charles denied them all of course!

As part of the event the Pro Vice Chancellor with responsibility for the Medical Faculty (Professor Alan Dodson) unveiled a plaque in the recently refurbished research laboratories on E floor in the School of Biomedical Sciences, now named the Charles Marsden Neuroscience Laboratories in honour of the 30 year contribution that Charles made to research in Nottingham. In the evening fifty guests accompanied Charles to Mr Man's Chinese restaurant in nearby Wollaton Park and even the monsoon which occurred that evening could not dampen the spirits of all who attended.

Charles will not be leaving us entirely but merely starting a new chapter in his career as an emeritus professor (same email address). However, and I know I am biased, I think this was a wonderful, fitting tribute to a gifted scientist, exceptional mentor and great friend. It was a pleasure to organise and I would like to pass on my thanks to GlaxoSmithKline, Solvay Pharmaceuticals and in particular the British Association for Psychopharmacology for their generous donations which made the whole thing possible.

Kevin Fone, Nottingham
WYETH PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY AWARDS 2009

Generously supported by Wyeth, these 2009 Awards will reward outstanding research in both PRE-CLINICAL and CLINICAL Psychopharmacology

PRE-CLINICAL PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY

One award of £1000 for the best nomination submitted no more than 6 years post-doc
One award of £1000 for the best nomination submitted no more than 12 years post-doc

CLINICAL PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY

One award of £1000 for the best nomination submitted no more than 10 years after medical graduation
One award of £1000 for the best nomination submitted no more than 20 years after medical graduation

Nominations, either from individuals or from members of the BAP wishing to nominate an individual should be submitted by email to the BAP Office, and must comprise the following:

1. A curriculum vitae
2. Three key published papers that have undergone peer review
3. A 250-word resumé of the nominee’s achievements to date and plans for the future

A condition of each Award is that the successful candidates will provide an abstract and make a short oral presentation within the 2009 Summer Meeting (26-29 July, Oxford)

CLOSING DATE: 31 MARCH 2009

Nominations should be emailed to Susan Chandler (susan@bap.org.uk)
SUNDAY 26 JULY 2009
BAP Council meeting, Pre-clinical Certificate Module, Satellite Symposia, Welcome Reception

MONDAY 27 JULY 2009
1. DOES THE TRANSLATION MAKE SENSE? VALIDATION OF MODELS AND MEASURES IN Pre-clinical SCIENCE
   Chairs: Verity J Brown, Hugh Marston
2. OBSESSIVE-COMPULSIVE SPECTRUM DISORDERS: TRANSLATIONAL APPROACHES AND NEW THERAPEUTIC LINES
   Chairs: Eric Hollander, Naomi Fineberg
3. IMAGING BRAIN 5-HT FUNCTION: IMPLICATIONS FOR THE NEUROBIOLOGY AND TREATMENT OF DEPRESSION
   Chairs: Ian Anderson, Rebecca Elliott

Also on Monday: 2009 Guest Lecture presented by Shitij Kapur, Poster session, Wyeth Award winner oral presentations, Satellite Symposia, BAP Annual General Meeting

TUESDAY 28 JULY 2009
4. REPLACING PRIMATES WITH RODENTS IN STUDIES OF DRUG ABUSE: TOO RISKY, OR AN ETHICAL IMPERATIVE?
   Chairs: Clare Stanford, Mohammed Shoaib
5. DEEP BRAIN STIMULATION IN PSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS
   Chairs: Andrea Malizia, Klaus Ebmeier
6. THE IMPACT OF A DYSFUNCTIONAL IMMUNE SYSTEM ON THE PATHOPHYSIOLOGY OF DEPRESSION AND SCHIZOPHRENIA
   Chair: Brian Leonard

Also on Tuesday: Postdoctoral symposium, Poster session, Short Oral presentations, Editorial Board Meeting, PSIG meeting, Conference Dinner

WEDNESDAY 29 JULY 2009
7. NICOTINIC RECEPTOR MODULATION OF ATTENTION: IMPLICATIONS FOR NOVEL TREATMENTS FOR NEUROPSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS
   Chairs: Mohammed Shoaib, Jenny Rusted
8. NEUROGENESIS AND DEPRESSION: BREAKTHROUGH OR BLIND ALLEY?
   Chair: Joe Herbert
9. PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY OF DECISION-MAKING: FROM BRAIN MECHANISMS TO GAMBLING ADDICTION
   Chair: Luke Clark

Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting
November 15 – 19 2008, Washington, DC, USA
Website: http://web.sfn.org/

First Annual Meeting of the Neuroethics Society
November 13 – 14 2008, Washington DC, USA
Website: www.neuroethicssociety.org
VACANCIES

Physician Scientist
Wanted for an industry position in Translational Medicine with a focus in Psychiatry. An MD with a background in depression, schizophrenia and anxiety is preferred to lead early clinical development projects for new drug therapies. The position is based in Basel Switzerland. For more information please contact Nancy.Kovach@Korban.com or call 001-610-399-8370.

BAP SYMPOSIUM AT THE BRITISH NEUROSCIENCE ASSOCIATION MEETING 2009
The Adelphi, Liverpool
Tuesday 21 April, 14:00 – 16:00

5-HT systems in psychiatric disorders
Chair: Stephen Cooper (Belfast)
Peter Talbot (Manchester)
Imaging 5-HT systems in the human brain using PET
Phil Cowen (Oxford)
Monitoring 5-HT function and dysfunction
Angela Roberts (Cambridge)
5-HT modulation of fronto-striatal and fronto-amygdala circuits in primates
Gavin Reynolds (Belfast)
5-HT receptor genes and effects of psychiatric drugs

BAP SYMPOSIUM AT THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PSYCHIATRISTS’ MEETING 2009
BT Convention Centre, Liverpool
2 – 5 June

Bipolar Disorders – new guidelines, new evidence and new directions
Guy Goodwin (Oxford)
“The BAP 2009 Bipolar Disorder Guidelines”
Nicol Ferrier (Newcastle)
“The management of difficult to treat bipolar disorder”
Richard McQuade (Newcastle)
“New potential treatment avenues in bipolar disorder”

Behavioural Pharmacology Course June 14 – 19, 2009
The European Summer School for Whole Animal Pharmacology announces its next course on Behavioural Pharmacology, to be held June 14 – 19, 2009, and hosted by Schering-Plough, Oss, the Netherlands. This course has met with great success with previous participants.

The course is set up specifically for bio-scientists who want to expand their understanding of behavioural pharmacology as the ultimate level of integrative phenotyping, to acquire the knowledge and necessary skills for the good conduct of behavioural experiments, and to soundly extrapolate their data to clinical pharmacology. Seminars cover basics of experimental design, specific types of behaviour and applied behavioural pharmacology, ethical issues and case studies. Uniquely we include a one-day practical session.

Participation is limited to a maximum of 12 students, admitted on the basis of qualification and recommendation by manager and/or supervisor. Detailed information, including a review by participants to the 2008 course is available on website http://www.esswap.org.

Inquiries preferably by e-mail to director@esswap.org or by telephone to +31 26 4432 329 (office) or +31 6 2318 7672 (cell phone).

The European Summer School for Whole Animal Pharmacology is a non-profit organisation. The lecturers are industrial and/or academic experts who voluntarily contribute their services in order to pass on their knowledge and skills to an up-coming generation of behavioural scientists.

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1. Executive summary

1.1 The Council of the British Association for Psychopharmacology established a Governance panel in 2005 to oversee the proceedings of Council, with respect to due process, in furthering the objects of the Association.

1.2 Professor Lader drew up the initial report and chaired the group until AGM 2007. Professor Iversen assumed chairmanship at that time and has acted with Professor Everitt and Professor Deakin. Professor Everitt retires in July 2008 and Professor Charles Marsden has agreed to join the panel. Professor Deakin will be in attendance at the 2008 AGM.

1.3 The Panel has been provided with many relevant documents, including agenda papers and Minutes of the Council Meetings during the year and has been in communication regarding the drafting of this report.

1.4 We are agreed that the framework developed by Professor Lader continues to be appropriate, highlighting as it did areas of Governance of concern to the membership that need regular scrutiny.

1.5 We are pleased with the attainments of the Journal of Psychopharmacology and approve the independence of the Editor and his advisors. Special mention should be made of the contribution of Professor Nutt in taking the Journal forward and of the contributors to the Journal for the quality and impact of many of the papers now being published in the Journal.

1.6 The educational programmes are popular and of value to the membership. A wider role continues to be envisaged but for this to be taken forward Council will need to respond to the stated needs of the membership.

1.7 We note that Council continues to be aware of the efforts needed 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. This is one area where concern continues to be expressed and vigilance is required.

1.8 We are impressed by the co-ordination between Council, its President and the Secretariat. We again note the devoted service of the Executive Officer, Mrs Susan Chandler, and of her assistant, Mrs Lynne Harmer, in furthering the aims and activities of the Association. The BAP is exceedingly fortunate in having had the services of Mrs Chandler for so many years.

1.9 We conclude that the conduct of the BAP conforms to appropriate standards of Governance and that in 2007-2008 no new areas of concern have emerged.

2. Background (adapted from reports for 2005-2006 and 2006-2007)

2.1 The Council of the British Association of Psychopharmacology established a voluntary Governance Panel of three members. We have been asked to oversee Council proceedings and provide reassurance to the membership that all of Council's business is conducted properly.

2.2 For new members joining the BAP in recent years it may be helpful to rehearse the terms of reference of the Panel.

The purpose of the Governance Panel is to assure members that:

a) Council is acting effectively in achieving the objects of the Association.
b) Council’s decisions have been made with due process and in accordance with the regulations laid down by the Memorandum, Articles and Bye-laws of the Association. (Copies of the latest versions of these documents have been provided.)

c) Council is providing members with value-for-money for their annual subscription.

d) Council is promoting the professional interest of psychopharmacologists.

2.3 We have been further instructed that it is not our role to decide whether decisions taken by Council are right or wrong. The responsibility is to confirm that the decisions have been made with respect to due process. The Governance Panel is expected to provide a short written report which will be presented at the AGM. It has the absolute authority to decide on the topics to be included in the annual report.

2.4 Further to 1.2 a) above, the Articles of Association of the BAP, as drafted in June 2003 state that the objects of the Association are:

“To advance education and research in the science of psychopharmacology for the public benefit and to publish the results of such research and in furtherance of that object but not further or otherwise the Association shall have the following powers:

a) To bring together all persons involved or interested in the scientific study of psychopharmacology by arranging scientific meetings, seminars and study groups for the purposes of promoting the practice of psychopharmacology, developing the subject matter and disseminating those developments for the benefit of the public.

b) To provide guidance and information to the public on matters relevant to psychopharmacology as appropriate.”

3. Documentation

3.1 For the purposes of this report, we have noted the following documents:


b) List of BAP forthcoming activities for 2008.

c) The content of these meetings, in particular the Annual Meeting to be held in Harrogate (20-23 July 2008).

4. The Association Activities

4.1 The Panel notes the removal of Bye-laws G1.2 and G1.3. This brings the Bye-laws in line with Rule 50(1) of the Articles and Memorandum: the Directors may from time to time make such reasonable and proper rules or Bye-laws as they may deem necessary or expedient for the proper conduct and management of the Charity. This will permit appointment of a secretary for Pre-clinical External Affairs.

4.2 Membership remains solid and the conditions of training membership have been clarified and publicised. However, it is noted that amongst recent applications for membership all but one of the Full applications were from clinicians and all but one of the training applications were from pre-clinical scientists, emphasising the dichotomy in the membership composition. This remains an area of concern and the balance of pre-clinical and clinical
membership continues to be monitored and discussed at regular intervals with the emphasis on the BAP as one association.

4.3 The Panel welcomes the fact that CPD remains high on the agenda of the Council. The Pre-clinical Certificate course has been reduced from three years to two years, enabling students to complete sooner. Master classes have been a great success and have been fully subscribed for 2007-2008. The Clinical Certificate will now be jointly directed by Professors Ferrier and Shôn Lewis. On-line CPD for psychiatrists remains under active discussion and it is noted that the BAP is seen by many as the pre-eminent provider of clinical CPD.

4.4 The Panel notes active and constructive discussions with other bodies (BPS, BSF, ABPI, BNA, CCNP) continue. The joint activities are to be welcomed, while recognising the Council’s responsibility to promote the professional interest of psycho-pharmacologists. It is noted that the Pre-clinical External Affairs Committee and Clinical External Affairs continue to focus on these important but complex interactions, with BSF, with industry, NICE and other bodies. Council is seen to be fully aware of the important implications and possible outcomes for BAP of a range of these discussions.

4.5 The continuing success of the J. Psychopharmacology is welcomed and with its highest impact factor (of 3.255) achieved to date, is recognised as an increasingly important feature of the BAP. It is noted and welcomed that Council is monitoring discussions on Open Access policy on Society Journals.

4.6 The Guidelines promulgated by the BAP are widely recognised as authoritative and should be encouraged, in particular by regular up-dating.

5. **Overview**

5.1 We emphasise that constant care needs to be taken to ensure that all interests are represented within the BAP. Council has emphasised the convention by which presidents alternate between distinguished people with pre-clinical and clinical expertise. The membership of Council should also maintain this balance. We note that these aims are kept constantly in mind by Council.

5.2 Finally, we note the time and energy that continuing generations of Council members give to the BAP. It is noted with pleasure that the many contributions of Rob Kerwin are to be recognised in a number of ways, including a symposium arranged for 24/25 November 2008 at the Institute of Psychiatry in memory of Rob and his close colleague Lyn Pilowsky, who also sadly died in 2007.

Susan Iversen (Chairman) (term of office ends July 2010)

Barry Everitt (term of office ends 2008)

Bill Deakin (term of office ends 2010)

Charles Marsden (term of office ends 2011)
MEETING REPORT

Measuring Behaviour 2008 Conference, Maastricht, The Netherlands, 26 – 29 August

‘Methods and Techniques in Behavioural Research’ or ‘From donkeys to drosophila with a few rats, humans and zebra fish in between’

Measuring Behaviour originated from a small workshop group, organised by Noldus Information Technology in Utrecht, over 10 years ago. Since then it has steadily grown into a conference held every 2 – 3 years attracting a wide audience of European and International behavioural scientists from all disciplines of behavioural research study, not just humans or rodents, but ALL species of animals (as my alternative title suggests). Consequently the material presented at the meeting was diverse as well as educational and informative. The main aim of these meetings is to share knowledge of existing as well as new technologies and techniques, examine the advances in welfare associated with behavioural methodologies and experiments and forge collaborations between researchers.

Measuring Behaviour was a mine field of symposia, free papers and poster sessions as well as demonstrations, workshops and tutorials – in all, an immensely impressive line up in a short amount of time. I found at times, the need to be in two places at once for relevant symposia, so consequently concentrated predominantly on rodent behavioural paradigms, welfare and new techniques as well as visiting each exhibitor stand for information on clinically relevant equipment and software for products such as EEG, Face readers and eye tracking to name a few.

The most interesting presentations were part of the Keynote Speaker sessions. These kicked off with a very enthusiastic presentation by Professor Sir Patrick Bateson, who gave a very interesting and thought-provoking overview into numerous problems faced by behavioural biologists, such as small sample sizes, non independence of measures, naïve or improper use of statistics and correct visualization of data, poor or ineffective experimental design and the choice of tests available. He discussed the use of new and existing technologies to collect data and concluded that ‘we’ as behavioural scientists need to smarten up the act - ensure tests are interpreted correctly, forge new collaborations between software engineers and scientists, ensure independence of measure, to be sensitive to the problems of data selection and aware of shortcomings.

The Symposium on Clinical and Pre-clinical models for depression included a presentation on anxiety and depressive-like behaviours in prenatally stressed rats (Van den Hove). Brian Leonard (who also kindly arranged for me to visit the Maastricht University behavioural labs) highlighted, perhaps with biased point of view (?), that the olfactory bulbectomised rat model continues to be one of the most reliable rodent models of depression. He further commented that he would not have dedicated over 30 years of his research career to the model if he hadn’t thought much of it. Measuring chronic stress depression models in mice showed that the rat CSM could be translated, with modification, from rats to mice. Other sessions included results obtained from a 2-hole nose poke board designed to measure impulsivity in rodents within the home cage; the measurement of grooming behaviours applied to the research into psychiatric illnesses including depression, anxiety, stress and Tourette’s and finally a presentation on plasticity dysfunction in vivo with awake free-behaving animals, focusing on stress as a risk factor for affective disorders.

Deciding to ‘think outside of the box’ for some of the free paper and poster sessions, I gained an insight into the use of Zebra fish for alcohol and mood disorder research; different breeds of Pedigree Kittens’ responses in challenging situations related to 3 new statistical approaches; special learning abilities of Cavia aperea (Guinea Pigs); Observations of preference (to different toys) in gender behaviour; examining neurotoxicological effects of environmental exposure (pollutants) and Celebration charts as an assessment tool of learning and executive performance in psychiatric patients (using a neuropsychological assessment battery and the Tower of Hanoi to probe executive function with a view to improving diagnostic accuracy within the clinical setting). A symposium on Funding for research in behavioural studies and the award of Grants from bodies such as the US National Science Foundation and the EUFP7 program was also very informative (http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html).

I have come away enlightened into the vast array of behavioural equipment, techniques and software available, as well as challenging and discussing a few ideas and opinions with other scientists in to experimental procedure and what really is the best way to execute a behavioural paradigm. As Psychopharmacologists know, its not just down to the drug effect or the species, but the environment, exposure to stressors, past experience and many other factors which all combine together to determine the behavioural response - how best do we measure it? I am even more aware of the sheer complexity and challenges facing behavioural measurement and testing in a laboratory setting, especially when modelling psychiatric illnesses, which can often be complicated further by probing these behaviours with psychopharmacological tools!

Should any BAP member wish to learn more about the proceedings from the Measuring Behaviour Conference please do not hesitate to contact me or follow the link http://www.noldus.com/mb2008/

Katie Hewitt, September 2008
The British Neuropsychiatry Association

Annual Meeting – February 2009

The BNPA is pleased to announce their 22nd Annual General Meeting
5 - 6 February 2009
With a preceding meeting
(4 February)
for the Section of Neuropsychiatry,
Royal College of Psychiatrists
Venue: The Institute of Child Health, Guilford St, London

All you need to know about the limbic system
Psychopharmacology in neuropsychiatric settings
Tourette’s and OCD
Mechanisms of Psychosis
Neuroscience and Society

A more detailed programme and booking form can be found on our website
www.bnpa.org.uk

For details of exhibition/sponsorship opportunities, contact:

Jackie Ashmenall
on Phone/Fax: 020 8878 0573
Phone: 0560 1141307
Email: admin@bnpa.org.uk
or jashmenall@yahoo.com
The last two decades have seen tremendous advances in biological psychiatry – the sequencing of the genome, the development of molecular biology, the development of functional MRI and neurochemical imaging that have made it possible to see and measure brain processes like never before. These advances have changed our view of these illnesses. As a result it is widely accepted now that most psychiatric illnesses have strong and identifiable biological basis. The challenge now is to translate these biological advances into meaningful therapeutic advances. The conference will highlight some of these advances and will try and address how and when these advances might translate into clinical care.

One of the motivations for organizing this conference and its theme of translating advances into care is the fact that this was a cause dear to the late Profs. Robert Kerwin and Lyn Pilowsky. Both Rob and Lyn were leaders in the field of psychopharmacology, imaging and pharmacogenetics and cared deeply about the impact of their research on patients. Their untimely deaths are a big loss to their colleagues and to the field. To honour their work and contributions the conference will focus on an issue that was dear to both of them: the translation of advances in biological psychiatry into clinical and therapeutic advances.

Speakers
Ed Bullmore
John Krystal
Shon Lewis
Geraldo Busatto
Rene Kahn
Wayne Drevetts
Anne Lingford Hughes
Paul Grasby
Gavin Reynolds
Shitij Kapur
Paul Harrison
David Cotter
Mike Owen
Maria Arranz
Kathy Aitchison

More speakers to be announced
Registration Fee: £100. Student/Trainee rate £50
http://www.iop.kcl.ac.uk/translating
<table>
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<td>27 Nov 2008</td>
<td>Masterclasses: Bipolar Disorder / Perinatal Disorders / ADHD, London</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 Nov 2008</td>
<td>Masterclasses: Depression / Anxiety Disorders / Sleep, London</td>
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<tr>
<td>22-23 Jan 2009</td>
<td>Clinical Certificate Core Module: Anxiety Disorders, Bristol</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-13 Mar 2009</td>
<td>Clinical Certificate Specialist Module: Child and Adolescent Psychopharmacology, Nottingham</td>
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<td>21 Apr 2009</td>
<td>BAP Symposium at the BNA Meeting, Liverpool: 5-HT systems in psychiatric disorders</td>
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<td>22 Apr 2009</td>
<td>Masterclasses: Schizophrenia / Substance Misuse, London</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Masterclasses: Bipolar Disorder / Perinatal Disorders / ADHD, London</td>
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<td>24 Apr 2009</td>
<td>Masterclasses: Depression / Anxiety Disorders / Sleep, London</td>
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<td>8 May 2009</td>
<td>Pre-clinical Certificate Module: Experiments combining neurobiology and behaviour, Nottingham</td>
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<td>14-15 May 2009</td>
<td>Clinical Certificate Core Module: Schizophrenia, Manchester</td>
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<td>2-5 Jun 2009</td>
<td>BAP Symposium at the RCPsych Meeting, Liverpool: Bipolar Disorders – new guidelines, new evidence and new directions</td>
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<td>11-12 June 2009</td>
<td>Clinical Certificate Specialist Module: Substance Misuse, Bristol</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 Jul 2009</td>
<td>Pre-clinical Certificate Module: Genomics, proteomics and psychopharmacology, Oxford</td>
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<td>26-29 Jul 2009</td>
<td>Summer Meeting, Oxford</td>
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<td>1-2 Oct 2009</td>
<td>Clinical Certificate Core Module: Affective Disorders, Newcastle</td>
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<td>Masterclasses: Bipolar Disorder / Perinatal Disorders / ADHD, London</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Nov 2009</td>
<td>Masterclasses: Depression / Anxiety Disorders / Sleep, London</td>
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Further details available at the BAP website.