

Minutes **British Andrology Society Annual General Meeting**

Date, Time: Thursday 15th November 2007, 5.30pm

Venue: GSK, Ware, Hertfordshire

Present:	Professor Bill Holt	Chairman
	Professor Sheena Lewis	Treasurer
	Dr Alireza Fazeli	Secretary
	Dr David Miller	Ordinary Member
	Ms Vicky Sharp	Student Representative
	Dr Jacqui Piner	Ordinary Member
	Dr Jane Stewart	Ordinary Member

Apologies:	Dr Sue Avery	Ordinary Member
	Dr Iwan Lewis-Jones	Ordinary Member

1. **Welcome & Apologies:**

The Chairman, Professor Bill Holt, welcomed everyone to BAS AGM. Apologies were noted as above.

2. **Minutes of Last Meeting – 17th November 2006:**

2.1 Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the last meeting held on 17th November 2007 were agreed to be a true record.

3. **Chairman's Report:**

See appendix 1.

Professor Holt thanked Mrs Sara Gottliebsen, who earlier in the year had been recruited to help with the BAS administration, for her work in improving the data regarding membership, newsletter and finances. He also thanked Dr Alireza Fazeli for recruiting her and also working with her to achieve these improvements.

Ms Vicky Sharp was commended for representing PhD students and also her enthusiast in preparation for the workshop this year for PhD students and postdocs. The Chairman also mentioned that Ms Rhiannan Lloyd has asked to join the Steering Committee and Ms Rhiannan Lloyd and Ms Vicky Sharp will represent postdocs and PhD student on the Steering Committee.

The Chairman also mentioned that as the number of members has been uncertain he has not yet followed up the company limited by guarantee idea for BAS. However, now that we know there are around 160 members he will pursue the idea of changing BAS legal status to company limited that is guaranteed to make the legal liability of any individual member of BAS to a maximum of £1.

The Chairman noted that the main mission of the BAS is to arrange scientific meetings. In addition BAS profile is raised through the organisation of scientific meetings and being in contact

with other legal enteritis such as HFEA (Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority). The Chairman noted that this year the BAS has been consulted by HFEA on several issues.

The Committee noted that next year is the 30th year anniversary (it is actually thirty years plus one) of BAS. The next Annual Meeting will be in Spain and will be in association with AERA (Spanish Society for Animal Reproduction). The Chairman also noted that the programme for AERA BAS meeting is attached to the Chairman's report. The Chairman also mentioned that the BAS is not going to be involved with any financial risk AERA will take the risk, however, BAS will therefore not be a party to either profit or loss of the meeting, however, BAS will only pay for the cost of the speakers that are invited in the BAS section of the meeting and that will be a fixed price contribution.

The Chairman concluded by thanking everyone on the Steering committee for their help for a very successful year for BAS and looks forward to the next year of BAS operation.

4. **Treasurer's Report:**

Professor Lewis opened the treasures report by referring the Committee to appendix II circulated with the agenda papers. She mentioned that the current account is positive and is standing at £7,310 more than what had last year which was £6,984. The Treasurer also noted that the reserve in the business account is £19,891 that is less than what was in the account last year which was £22,488. The total assets of the BAS at present stand at £27,201 compared to £29,472 last year, showing a loss of £2,271. The Treasurer also thanked Mrs Sara Gottliebsen for the excellent job she has done in chasing the members for their membership subscription for 2007 she also noted that because of her work we have had an increase in the subscriptions (£2964).

The Treasurer also noted that Ferring LTD has given BAS a donation of £200, this was a donation from two years ago. The Treasurer agreed to look at the Bioscience Federation fees to ascertain what the fee should be, and consider a fee band or special rate. In February last year the membership fee was increased. Part of the improvement in the income is due to this increase in membership fee.

The Committee noted that only the annual general meeting in 2003 made a profit. The following meetings in 2004, 2005 and 2006 have made a loss, however, she expects that this year the annual meeting will not make a loss and hopefully will make a small profit.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for her report. The AGM approved the both the Chairman and Treasurer's reports.

5. **Committee Membership:**

Professor Bill Holt thanked Dr Rez Prathalingham for his work on the BAS Steering Committee. Dr Rez Prathalingham decided to step down from the Committee as he has changed scientific fields from Andrology to stem cell biology. The Chairman mentioned that Dr Rez Prathalingham carried out specific duties during his service to BAS such as working on the newsletter and he was the editor of the website. The Chairman thanked him for all his efforts. Dr Sue Avery has been asked to be a member of the Committee. The Chairman welcomed Dr Sue Avery to the Committee as a new member, Dr Sue Avery was invited to bring a balance to the combination of scientific and clinical members of the Committee. Dr Sue Avery can help in establishing closer links between BAS and other societies and specialities in reproductive biology.

6. **AOB:**

6.1 AGM 2007 Abstracts:

The question was asked whether abstracts for the next year BAS meeting would be published? The Chairman informed the Committee that the Spanish will print their abstracts in Animal Reproductive Science, however, it has been agreed that the BAS speakers will publish their abstracts in Human Fertility.

It was asked what is the financial arrangement with regard to next year's BAS meeting. The Chairman informed the Committee that there will be a set budget and BAS will not contribute to the loss or benefit of the meeting and BAS will only contribute to the cost of the travel of the BAS invited speakers. At the same time BAS members will benefit from a reduced registration fee, this has been done to avoid any potential high loss that may be involved in organisation of such big meetings that could potentially put the BAS situation in jeopardy. It was also mentioned that this is the first time BAS is having its meeting outside England. It was noted that this is partially due to the low cost of travel out of England and also the availability of high quality conference venues with cheap prices. This will be an experiment to see if in future we can continue this route and have BAS meetings out of England. It was asked if there is any European Union (EU) funding available for this meeting. The Chairman informed the Committee that the BAS has not applied for any EU funding, however, the Spanish would have wanted to have simultaneous translation and for this they have asked for sponsorship form the Spanish government and local authorities and have been able to secure a large sum of money for this use.

6.2 AstraZeneca:

Dr Jane Stewart (AstraZeneca), mentioned that AstraZeneca like GSK would be happy to have BAS meeting in AstraZeneca venues and be sponsored by AstraZeneca.

6.3 Advanced Workshop:

It was also mentioned during this AGM by Dr Miller and Dr Fazeli that they are considering holding a workshop about reproduction without sperm or reproduction without sperm genome contribution. They are looking at having an advanced workshop on this particular subject.

Minutes taken by:
Dr Alireza Fazeli
15/11/07

Minutes wrote up by:
Mrs Sara Gottliebsen
14/12/07