

## **Chair's Report at Annual General Meeting**

**Charles Darwin House, 12 Roger St, London WC1N 2 JU**

It is my pleasure to give this, my THIRD annual Chair's report. I must begin by thanking the whole committee for their support throughout the past year. Special thanks are due to our secretary Jackson and our treasurer David. Thanks also to Sarah our new administrator, for working closely with Jackson on the web as well as taking care of our subscriptions and the organization of this meeting. Thanks to Ben, our BAS trainee executive member for his input as this year's move from our conventional annual conference to this Andrology Open Floor format aimed at young andrologists. This has been largely influenced by him and I think you will agree that it has been this morning has been a great success. The facilities have been great so my thanks as well to Jacqui Piner for suggesting them. Finally thanks to Roy for his sustained drive and input regarding fundraising.

During 2014-2015, we have widened our influence with a number of our Executive committee sitting on other important scientific committees

In particular, I have been invited to join the HFEA Scientific Advances Advisory Committee. I also sit on the National Gamete Donor Trust Advisory Board.

Jackson sits on the HFEA Professional Stakeholder Group and the DoH team overseeing implementation of new coding and import directions.

Bill represents us on The Society of Biology; now Royal Society of Biology given a royal charter this year.

Asif represents us on BAUS and has been elected Chair of their Andrology Section

and Martin represents us on The journal Human Fertility.

Working towards training and Clinical Scientists status (JKB to say more)

## **Events during year**

The second successful Clinical Laboratory Andrology / BSAC (JKB/SM) with 18 attendees and 16 passes. The course ran at a profit of £8000.

## **Press & Media**

Profile through Media and press I spoke for BAS when our expert opinion was sought over the last fortnight on the debate as to the necessity of NHS funded sperm freezing for all 18 years olds.

Also Jackson and I were invited to take part in Women's Hour on the risks of delayed fatherhood and male infertility in general. broadcast last Tuesday and again as pick of the week on Saturday .

Finally, throughout the year Jackson and I have represented BAS on the Science Media Centre and commented on numerous controversial papers prior to publication to interpret them objectively for the public.

## **Grant Schemes & Charitable Giving**

As a means to increasing our funds and raising our public profile, as is a must for any charity, Roy has been a sustained enthusiast an inventor of novel ways to do this. He also gained agreement of Charles Hanson to be our first Celebrity Supporter.

Recently, Bill was cajoled into writing a paper on fundraising and strategy. This was welcomed and supported by the committee as a way ahead for the Society to explore whilst respecting our charitable status aims and current abilities. Bill was given go ahead to form his proposed committee and create a relevant guideline document for its operation to be considered by the executive at a future meeting.

## **Practical Support for Society of Biology**

We signed the concordat on openness in Animal Experimentation with others in the Society of Biology. .

We have also written an article for SOB on Infertility as a public health issue

## **The Fertility Show**

Since last year's stand of UK Professional Fertility Societies was such a success we have agreed to take part again this year 7-8 November, London. Jackson put enormous effort into designing and producing leaflets for couples and they were so well received that BFS suggested making them available for every Fertility Clinic Waiting room. We are designing further more detailed information for this

year.

### **Merger with of Biomedical Andrologists (ABA)**

Given our discussion at the 2014 AGM that the BAS membership is reducing year on year, the numbers of members supporting our annual conferences, however excellent the programme are disappointing and although the Society's accounts are currently in reasonable order, we don't have the reserves of other societies such as BFS or SRF. In general our annual meetings need to make a profit to keep us afloat. This year we made the strategic decision to not have attendance fees for this event for members so we will clearly be making a small loss of around £2500 but we felt this was a useful commitment of our charitable funds and in agreement with the Charity's objectives.

One strategy for survival is to merge with another group with similar aims so we have had significant talks with ABA with a view to examine how a possible merger of the two groups may work. ABA will discuss our proposal in detail at their next Executive meeting and respond to us.

There is a general belief that ABA and BAS should be more closely affiliated or move towards some kind of unified society. Jackson reported that this had also been a strong feeling for Mat Tomlinson and himself. The committee were in agreement with this and would ask ABA to explore the future with us once again. The Andrology STP made this particularly timely as the MSC career structures are much more integrative with regard to ongoing scientific research and training throughout working life.

At the same time we are keen to maintain and build the ongoing health of BAS and are going to focus on that whilst exploratory discussion occur. We are aware that ABA have other approaches so do not take for granted that a merger will be viewed as suitable by both parties.

### **Re-election of Executive Committee members**

In closing, I believe there is still an important role for The British Andrology Society but the Executive Committee will need to develop an innovative strategy to ensure its future.