



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

MINUTE

The Notice of the Annual General Meeting of the British Society for Neuroendocrinology was circulated to all members in advance of the meeting as defined by the constitution. The draft 2019 minute and Annual report were made available to all members, as defined by the constitution, via the BSN website.

The meeting took place at midday on 23 September 2020 via zoom.

1. Present

40 members were present

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Karen Spencer, Amy Warner.

3. Approval of the minute of the 2019 AGM.

The minutes from the 2019 AGM (Dublin) were approved without amendment.

4. Matters arising

None

5. President's report

Giles Yeo (GY) noted that it had been an eventful year in which the BSN had been busy albeit not business as usual. In Dec 2019, the BSN had celebrated JNE'S 20TH birthday with a celebration event, that ran alongside a specific ESR symposium. Both being highly successful.

2020 brought covid 19 which saw the SNE postpone our joint meeting (Bordeaux) until Sept 2021. BSN surveyed members near the start of the covid-19 pandemic, to determine how BSN could assist. Based on the results, BSN ran a covid mitigation grant scheme using money repurposed from travel and meeting support schemes. The covid mitigation scheme, was in addition to project support grants which were awarded from the spring and autumn 2020 grant calls. An additional covid mitigation grant scheme is likely to be released soon.

BSN launched a mentorship scheme, which all are welcome and encouraged to join.

We have revived the topical briefings and are continually working to increase the visibility of JNE.

Within the last 2 months there have been very exciting developments with JNE which Julian Mercer (JM) and Helen Christian (HC) will update on later in the meeting.

GY noted that this would be his last AGM as president, and thanked everyone for their support

5. Treasurer's report (including to receive the 2019 Trustees Annual Report and Accounts)

Mike Ludwig thanked ST for her continued support with the BSN finances.

ML reported that

- 2019 income is £412,230 this is less than 2018 as the Wiley signing bonus fell within 2018 but it is higher than income in 2017.
- Spending @£326021 is less than 2018 (ICN year)
- Overall, reserve has increased to £612859
- Investments are stable, we had been planning on adding to the long term invested money, but we may need to be careful.
- Journal office costs were down but communications costs were up on 2018.
- Grants to individuals and organisations were lower than 2018 (ICN)
- Professional fees increased but this reflects increased work required from ST.
- Subscriptions is lower but this is because a payment to INF occurred late and will appear in the next years accounts.
- Symposium support and conference travel, decreased from 2018 (ICN)
- PANS support ongoing £10000.

6. Membership Secretary's report

Maria Canal reported

BSN membership – Sep 2020

Category	Price	Number
Emeritus/Retired	£10	0
Corporate	£75	1
Honorary	free	25
Full - Academic	£75	157
Full - Postdoc	£30	142
Technician	£10	10
Student	£10	204
TOTAL		539

Postdoc + student = 346 (64.2%)
Rest = 193 (35.8%)

Renewal pending: 79

BSN membership - evolution

Category	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Emeritus/Retired/Corporate	N/A	N/A	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Honorary	23	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	25
Full - Academic	53	46	61	59	107	136	156	168	157
Full - Postdoc	30	44	41	42	59	75	120	139	142
Overseas	28	19	33	29	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Technician	6	2	4	5	5	4	10	9	10
Student	73	68	80	65	90	104	170	208	204
TOTAL	213	203	243	224	285	343	481	548	539*

* September 2020

7. Meeting Secretary's report

Preeti Jethwa (PJ) reported that as noted by GY our annual meeting had been due to be held in Bordeaux with SNE but this had been postponed until 2021. The LOC had done significant amounts of work towards the meeting and significant funding had been achieved that would be rolled over if the meeting was held in Bordeaux.

2022 ICN Glasgow. Neil Evans (NE) reported that aspects of local organisation had been delayed due to covid-19 but that a series of useful and fruitful meetings had been held with the conference organising company. These had looked at a variety of options from full in person, hybrid and online meetings. It is hoped that an in-person meeting is possible but that advances and changes in attitudes may create additional opportunities for online aspects of delivery. New costings have been generated that will be presented to INF council tomorrow. NE reported that Suzanne Dickson (SD) as chair of the programme committee has generated a draft programme.

2023 Exeter

2024 no location decided.

Gareth Leng (GL) – commented that it is important to get the dates and publicity for ICN out on social media.

GL agreed that there were potential opportunities for a virtual aspect to ICN. SD noted that a hybrid meeting is a lot of additional work and costs and that people are wanting in person meetings, having lived for months on zoom. PJ noted some additional meetings such as BNA had/were going completely online and they can be useful sources of information. Paula Brunton noted that, at the FENS meeting, online symposia worked but online poster sessions had not worked. GY reported similar comments and that data blitz sessions worked well.

ST noted that in the Glasgow costings all presenters would be expected to be 'in person' attendees. Fran Ebling asked about fees for online attendance and it was confirmed that they would be lower.

SD encouraged the BSN to generate nominations for plenary speakers ASAP.

8. Grants Secretary's report

Michelle Bellingham (MB) reported funding rates of
0% academic support fund applications n=2
100% BNA attendance grants
100% ECR travel grants.
72% International travel grants
33% Project support grants
33% Public engagement grants
43% Research visit grants
82% Student lab experience
66% Symposium support grants

This amounted to £150807.91 awarded in 2019, this is a 77% increase in grants to members relative to 2018, when ICN and BNA attendance grants were removed from 2018 figures.

The initial covid mitigation grant scheme funded 9 applications (£40000) and a new round would be announced soon.

Total funds awarded £172264.59

9. Communications report

The BSN has continued to develop its social media presence. It was noted that Twitter is working well for promoting JNE

10. Journal of Neuroendocrinology Editor's report

Julian Mercer reported

Wiley have rolled out transparent peer review. Both authors and reviewers can adopt transparent peer review. Uptake by JNE has been similar to other Journals (75% of authors, 30% of reviewers).

Under the JISC deal, authors based in UK institutions can have open access at no cost.

Alliances formed in 2019. We are now the official journal for

- Hypothalamic Neuroscience and Neuroendocrinology Australasia
- Journal of the International Regulatory Peptide Society.
- PANS

We have agreed to fund the Parental Brain and Steroids in the Nervous System meetings.

Within JNE we have Rebadged the Young Investigator Perspectives as the Early Career Perspectives and this is being overseen by Kate Ellacott.

Published 120 paper, 4 special issues. The IF fell below 3 but is on course to get back above 3 for 2020. Already within 2020 we have published a number of special issues the Torino Steroids and the nervous system meeting and WCNH. In October we will publish an issue from the FASEB prolactin GH meeting.

Journal expansion – in the spring the Board of trustees held a specific meeting to discuss a strategy for JNE. At this meeting an option was to increase the the number of papers, the IF and we also discussed expanding the scope of the journal. Since then there was a schism

between the editorial board of the journal 'Neuroendocrinology' and Karger. This resulted in the resignation of most of the editorial board who looked at alternative publishing options for the papers that were published in Neuroendocrinology. The profile of their papers had meant they were not in direct competition with JNE. After assessing different options, the old neuroendocrinology board voted amongst interested parties and the unanimous result was to join JNE. We are currently putting in place the structures to allow a new arm to JNE which will cover, clinical, translational neuroendocrinology including neuroendocrine tumours. The structure will be a single landing site, badged under JNE (holds the IF). It will be administered through the Aberdeen office. There will be a dual track with papers allocated to either the mechanistic/fundamental which will be run as per the exiting JNE or the translational/tumour arm which will initially be under the editorship of Bob Miller. The dual track will proceed through to the point when papers are accepted for publication and they would then appear on the Wiley website under accepted articles. Eventually they would be published in two sections of a single issue of JNE. As we go forward with open access etc, many things will change, discussion with Wiley how we can increase publications, this opportunity gives us the ability to expand the journal, making us more resilient, while also giving the new arm an immediate impact factor. The intention is get up and running within the next month, with papers out in early 2020.

JM Thanked all editors, reviewers and authors and encouraged all BSN members to support JNE with their manuscripts.

GY noted that the BSN is drafting a 'press release' about the changes to JNE.

Simon Luckman asked if the long-term aim was to keep two arms within JNE or to amalgamate fully? GL, there are risks as well as opportunities, there are a number of large societies who have supported the Journal Neuroendocrinology and contributed to its impact factor via the consensus guidelines on the management of neuroendocrine tumours and associated areas. Neuroendocrinology has stature as a publisher of these authoritative guidelines, as such it is important that the new arm is a permanent development and builds a strong reputation. Buy in from the associated clinical communities can allow the journal to grow and strengthen. JM replied that he is aware of the concerns from some of the clinical societies and is aware of the need to engage with them. ENETS are looking for a journal to become their official journal and to publish with, this would include abstracts from their meetings. Wiley can accommodate their wishes within JNE. The expansion of the JNE is a fantastic opportunity to bring the whole community together with the two arms to JNE but we cannot rule out further change when a new publishing contract is negotiated in 2023.

GY reminded the meeting that the BSN will continue to own the journal and the Board of Trustees will continue have overall strategic control of JNE. GL noted that it was critical that BSN remain as SOLE owner of the JNE, to ensure clarity of management and accountability. However, it is important that we actively tie in the other societies and this carries an expectation that some of the revenue will pass to all societies, either directly or by expansion of funding schemes.

11. Journal Secretary's report

Helen Christian noted that BSN/JNE have a strong relationship with Wiley and the strategy meeting with Wiley are highly productive. HC thanked JM and Perry Barret for all the work have and are doing running the journal and leading it through this expansion.

12. Notification of election results for Trustees

13 nominations were received to join the Board of Trustees. A ballot was run online overseen by Dr Tyler Stevenson. Members were asked to cast up to six votes. The six people that received the highest number of votes were Kate Ellacott, Neil Evans Rebecca Dumbell, Allan Herbison, Paula Brunton and Chinedu Udeh-Momoh.

Clerks note, after the initial ballot had been distributed a further two vacancies became available on the Board of Trustees, following discussion the Board of Trustees decided that these posts would be offered based on the election results. Therefore, Karen Spencer and Jo Edward Lewis will also be asked to join the Board of Trustees.

It was announced that the ECR deputy Ashleigh Wilcox will now assume the role of ECR representative on the Board of Trustees and it was announced that David Lyons has been elected as the deputy ECR representative.

GY, KE, NE thanked the Board of trustee members that were stepping down, for all of their hard work over many years, Giles Yeo, Kevin O'Byrne, Mike Ludwig, Jon Johnson, Anne-Marie O'Carroll, Amy Warner

13. A.O.C.B

None

14. Appendix

Board members 2020-21		Current term ends
(constitution states, 1/3 need to retire each year)		
Helen Christian	Journal Secretary	2021
Neil Evans	General Secretary	2023
Maria Canal	Membership Secretary	2022
Waljit Dhillon	Clinical liaison	2021
Paula Brunton		2023
Preeti Jethwa	Meetings Secretary	2021
Michelle Bellingham	Grants subcommittee chair	2022
Allan Herbison	Ordinary member	2023
Gisela Helfer	Ordinary member	2022
Rebecca Dumbell	Ordinary member	2023
Jo Edward Lewis	Ordinary member	2023
Kate Ellacott	Investment advisory subcommittee	2023
Karen Spencer	Ordinary member	2023
Chinedu Udeh-Momoh	Ordinary member	2023
Ashleigh Wilcox	ESR representative	2021

Non voting board members		
Julian Mercer	Journal Editor in chief	2023

Dave Grattan	Overseas rep	2022
David Lyons	ESR deputy	2022

Advisory board		
Joe Herbert	chair	2023
Stafford Lightman		2022
John Russell		2021
Jane Robinson		2022
John Morris		2020