

Minutes of the BMFMS Annual General Meeting

Friday, 26th April 2024, 8.30am

The Spine, Liverpool and virtually

1. Welcome

BMFMS President, Katie Morris (KM), welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes of last meeting

No comments on the minutes were received. The minutes were agreed.

3. Presidential update

KM said that BMFMS would like to hold a series of webinars over the year on topics of interest. Suggestions from the committee were Medicines in pregnancy, Prematurity and Assisted Vaginal Birth. KM asked for suggestions from the membership.

KM reported that the BMFMS position statement with other stakeholders to the Chief Coroner's guidance no.45 was discussed and whether we could support further with standardised consent forms.

KM reported that the BMFMS financial position is strong and the committee agreed to increase the amount for BMFMS research bursaries and advertise these for 2024. There will be a pot of £20,000 for bursaries with a maximum of £10,000 for each bursary. The funding round will be launched at the conference.

KM said the appointment of Executive manager will be discussed later in the meeting today.

KM said the maternal medicine representatives have represented BMFMS on a group looking at the care of women with multimorbidity in pregnancy. They have commented on a draft clinical guideline for managing people with Bechet's and the RCOG Green top guideline: Breast Cancer and Pregnancy. The labour and delivery representatives and the President have represented BMFMS on a group in collaboration with BICS, RCOG and urogynaecologists to develop a consensus statement on assisted vaginal birth.

KM said that she had worked with Fetal Medicine colleagues to prepare briefing statements for MPs with RCOG and other stakeholders related to suggested changes to abortion time limits.

KM said BMFMS have been working with BAPM to hopefully hold a Perinatal conference in 2025.

4. (a) Proposed amendments to the constitution

In late 2023 and again earlier in 2024 proposed changes to the constitution were sent to the membership for their comments and votes if they were unable to attend the AGM. KM outlined the proposals:

- Election of President – President Elect
- Acting officers – in the event an officer cannot fulfil role
- Carrying out the purposes – describes the powers of the Trustees
- Membership of committee - combine the roles of Scientific Representative, Abstract Coordinator and Prize Coordinator into one role of Scientific and research representative. To create two new committee places for nursing and midwifery members.
- Ex-officio members – two roles removed (technology and website co-ordinator), two added parent/carer and the retiring President
- Invited representatives to meetings
- Attendance at meetings
- Manager/Exec role
- AGM description
- Officer meetings description
- Money and property
- General meetings

A vote was taken on this proposal, there was unanimous support for the resolution.

(b) KM outlined the Proposal for BMFMS to appoint a manager.

- To working closely with the Officers to achieve agreed development income targets
- To create and implement a Strategic Plan , incorporating strategic aims and key performance indicators
- To work closely with key staff and officers to advance the role of the Society and its work
- To work with the Officers finalise cases for support and agreed programme of needs, subjecting these to periodic review by the Officers and Committee

A vote was taken on this proposal 22 voted for and one voted against (by email). The proposal was passed.

5. Election results (since November 2022)

The Hon Secretary Emma Ferriman (EF) welcomed the following to the committee:

- Pregnancy Outcome rep - Dr Vicky Hodgetts Morton
- Maternal Medicine, Dr Caroline Ovadia
- Treasurer – Dr Melissa Whitworth
- Education and Training rep - Dr Kate Navaratnam
- Trainee reps – Dr Sian Bullough and Dr Laura Wharton
- Labour and Delivery rep – Dr Sana Usman

EF said that two vacancies are being currently advertised:

- Fetal medicine rep
- DGH representative

6. Finance update

Treasurer Melissa Whitworth (MW) gave a summary of the Society's financial position:

The accounts for the last financial year i.e. year ending January 2023

- Unrestricted funds: £237,255
- Total income: £177,973
- Total expenditure: £177,511

MW said the Society is in a strong financial position. It had been expected that this year's conference would make a substantial profit but due to VAT issues that BMFMS is currently receiving advice on, the conference might just break even. Myles Taylor pointed out that the income and expenditure for the last financial year was similar and that most of the Society's income came from joint courses run with the RCOG so may be vulnerable to curriculum changes so having a new Manager post might be risky. Tracey Johnston said that since BAPM had appointed a Chief Executive their income had soared and the post was, as a result, self-funding. Rita Arya pointed out that the BMFMS membership fee was very low compared to other societies. KM said that the focus in the past year had been to move to online payments and the cost of membership will be re-visited.

Joint Bursaries

Twins Trust – MW said there were still some outstanding invoices. Some bursary holders had had to pause their research due to the pandemic and had agreed extensions. Going forward there is a need to be clearer on when funds need to be claimed.

Wellbeing of Women - Two further joint bursaries with WoW were awarded and paid one for £7,202.50 and the other for £14,821.50.

7. Bursaries

- WoW-BMFMS Entry Level Scholarship £9600.00 to Dr Rosen O'Sullivan to "explore ways to predict premature birth more accurately and at an earlier stage"
- WoW-BMFMS Entry Level Scholarship £7,202.50 to Dr Wilkinson for "Investigating the effect of dexamethasone on the vascular reactivity of chorionic plate arteries in vitro"
- WoW-BMFMS Post-doctoral Research Fellowship £ 14,821.50 to Dr Jardine for "Exploring the relationship between hypertensive diseases in pregnancy, cardiovascular morbidity and ethnicity: a linked data approach"

8. AOB

There was no other business.