

Minutes of the AGM of the British Maternal & Fetal Medicine Society

10 June 2010

Sage Conference Centre, Gateshead

Chairman: Professor Steve Robson

Item 1

The President (Professor Stephen Robson [SR]) welcomed members to the AGM of the Society.

Item 2

Minutes of the previous AGM were accepted as an accurate record.

Item 3: Matters Arising

The only matter arising was to confirm that the Clinical Study Groups for Maternal Medicine and Fetal Medicine were meeting during the Conference in Gateshead.

Item 4: Treasurer's Report

The Society's Treasurer, Tim Overton (TO), presented the current finances of the Society. Income in the past year was £86,000, expenditure £46,000 and the profit for the last financial year £46,649. The conference in Liverpool last year made a profit of around £22,000. Registration fees for this year's conference had therefore not been and the conference dinner had been subsidized. TO expected a profit from this year's conference as it was the biggest to date with approximately 500 delegates registered. The additional expenses highlighted in 2009/2010 were from the Clinical Studies Groups and the 8 bursaries which had awarded (totaling £18,000). There had also been significant investment in the BMFMS website. TO handed the financial responsibilities of the Society over to the new Treasurer, Mark Denbow (MD) after 6 years in post, leaving the Society with a current balance of £178,000.

Item 5: Results of the Elections

SR announced the results of the recent elections:

Secretary:	Tracey Johnston (Birmingham)
Treasurer:	Mark Denbow (Bristol)
Prize Coordinator:	Tim Overton (Bristol)

Abstract Coordinator: Jane Normal (Edinburgh)
Trainee Representative: Kelly Cohen (Leeds)

SR extended thanks to outgoing Committee members; Margaret Ramsay (Secretary), Anna Kenyon (Trainee Rep), Steve Thornton (Abstract Coordinator), Mark Denbow (Prize Coordinator) and Tim Overton (Treasurer).

Following the election of Tracey Johnston to Secretary, there was now a vacancy for a Labour & Delivery Rep. The membership were informed that there would be a call for nominations circulated by e-mail in due course.

Item 6: Bursaries

SR indicated that Travel bursaries (to the value of £1,000) and research bursaries (up to the value of £5,000) would be advertised in September. He reminded members that applicants had to be a member of the Society. SR proposed that current expenditure on BMFMS Travel and Research bursaries be maintained and that, on behalf of the Society, he approach Wellbeing of Women about co-funding 2 Entry Level Research Fellowships in Obstetrics each to the value of £10,000. The membership voted in favour of this proposal.

Action: SR to approach Wellbeing of Women.

Prof. S. Thornton then made the point that Wellbeing of Women already have an efficient system for assessing applications and that BMFMS may wish to utilize this. He raised the possibility of approaching the MRC regarding co-sponsorship of a fellowship to try and attract more funding into Obstetric research. This will be considered by the Committee.

Item 7: Education and Training Group

SR informed members that in the past year the Education and Training Group, under the Chairmanship of Dr D. Anumba, had developed curricula for all the obstetric ATSM courses at the request of the RCOG. The group had also carried out a national survey of trainees, trainers and preceptors of the obstetric ATSM's. This valuable information had contributed to the review of all 5 obstetric ATSM's. The results of the survey had been presented to the RCOG and the amended curricula had been approved by the Curriculum Committee.

The Education and Training Group has also been asked by the Chairman of the RCOG Subspecialty Training Committee to develop criteria for Maternal and Fetal Medicine Subspecialty Training Centre Recognition. This work will be done shortly and proposals would be circulated to Subspecialty Training Program Supervisors before submission to the RCOG.

Dr M. Llewelyn-Jones asked whether ATSM courses run outside of the RCOG but fulfilling the course curricula could be co-sponsored by BMFMS with a view to profit sharing. SR said that the Committee would be happy to look at this on a case by case basis.

Item 8: Website

SR extended grateful thanks to Melissa Whitworth, the website coordinator, who has put in an immense amount of work in developing the new website. There has been a change of web host to **Web Feet** and the website itself had undergone a complete redesign. It is hoped that the new website would go live in July 2010.

Dr B Beattie asked about the potential of using the website to have a neonatal cot locator, possibly in the form of an interactive map with contact numbers for neonatal units throughout the country. SR felt that BAPM were undertaking work in this area.

Action: SR to check with BAPM as to progress on a nationwide cot bureau/cot locator.

Item 9: Consultations

SR said that BMFMS had undertaken a large number of consultations this year. These have been for NICE, RCOG, Department of Health and the Fetal Anomaly Screening Programme. With regard to FASP, some of the consultations have come via the RCOG. However several members of the Society had expressed concern to SR by e-mail about the FASP Information Leaflets for Parents and Professionals on common anomalies. He pointed out that neither the RCOG nor BMFMS had been asked to review these. SR underscored the significant amount of work involved in these consultation exercises. To ensure this was appropriately shared around Committee members, a database had been developed to document workload. He thanked all Committee members who had contributed to reviews.

Dr B Beattie suggested that other members of the Society could contribute to consultations to reduce the burden on the Committee members. It was suggested that an advert be placed on the website when it was up and running for clinical advisers who could be called upon by BMFMS to contribute to these review and consultation exercises. SR agreed that this was a good idea and would take it forward through the Committee.

Item 10: Meetings

SR fed back that the ATSM meetings continued to receive very positive feedback.

The Fetal Medicine and Advanced Antenatal Practice Meeting attracted fewer numbers than expected but course feedback was good. Previously the course had incorporated a one day basic ultrasound component. However following a review of ultrasound training by Dr Christoph Lees (RCOG Ultrasound Lead), this was to be dropped and a new independent Basic Ultrasound Course developed.

The BMFMS/RCOG Maternal Medicine Course had been extremely successful with more than 100 delegates. The RCOG had taken the opportunity to pilot video linking the course to New Delhi and there were a significant number of overseas registrants who were able to participate in the discussions and interactive sessions in real time via video link.

The Labour Ward ATSM continued to be popular, being run twice a year, with good attendance and excellent feedback. There were concerns regarding loss of revenue from the Society as different regions launch their own courses. It was noted that there is nothing the Society could do about this. SR also announced that Helen Scholfield was organizing a second Obstetric High Dependency Critical Care Course in collaboration with RCOG and BMFMS later this year.

The next annual conference is Perinatal 2011 in Harrogate, 15-17 June 2011 in partnership with BAPM, NNS and NNA. SR reported that the RCM were keen to be involved but had declined to be fiscal partners. The main joint topics for Perinatal 2011 were to be preterm birth, obesity, hypoxic ischaemic injury, organization of care and surgical management of fetal abnormalities. The BMFMS Society lecture will be given by Roberto Romero on the topic of preterm birth.

With regards to the BMFMS annual conference in 2012, suggestions had been made for Edinburgh, Birmingham and Dublin, although concerns had been raised about Dublin in terms of cost and the potential need for international study leave.

Action: Hamptons to explore costs for the 3 venues.

Item 11: Constitution

SR informed members that the constitution needed review and revision. Currently BMFMS has 2 Committees, the Executive Committee with 11 core and no ex-officio members, the Organizing Committee with 19 core members and 4 ex-officio members in addition to the Education and Training Group.

SR proposed that there should be one Committee with responsibility for all the Society business. This would result in a membership of 22 and would include the ex-officio invited members; a representative from BAPM, the web site lead and the revalidation lead. He proposed approaching the Royal College of midwives for a representative.

The proposed changes were supported by vote from the membership. Approval was sought by SR for the 4 ex-officio posts and this was carried by a vote of hands.

Action: Constitution to be revised and circulated to all members.

Item 12: European Association of Perinatal Medicine

SR fed back that he had attended the recent meeting of the EAPM in Granada, as the representative of BMFMS. The Society was the sole obstetric representative from the UK. BAPM, who had previously been members of the Association, were considering re-joining. Each member country was entitled to one obstetric and one neonatal representative.

The next meeting of the European Association of Perinatal Medicine is in 2016 and any country is invited to bid to host the meeting. SR fed back to members that the Executive Committee had discussed submitting a bid but had decided against this. Belfast had put in a bid for the 2014 meeting but had been unsuccessful. It was felt that joining forces with EAPM would detract from the BMFMS annual meeting.

There was general agreement with this proposition.

Meeting closed at 6.00 pm.