

# BMFMS Annual General Meeting

Harrogate International Centre

16<sup>th</sup> June 2011

1. **Minutes of the last AGM** – on website. Agreed as correct
2. **Matters Arising:**
  - a. SR informed the membership that it had been agreed by the Executive this morning that BMFMS would again this year put forward £20K for two Wellbeing of Women Entry Level Fellowships
  - b. Cot locator – SR had contacted BAPM who informed him that nothing was happening in this regard and that there were no plans to develop a national neonatal cot locator system
  - c. The revised Constitution has been posted on the website.
3. **Elections:** SR informed the membership of the outcome of the recent elections:
  - a. President Mark Kilby (Birmingham)
  - b. Pregnancy Outcome Devender Roberts (Liverpool)
  - c. Maternal Medicine Rhona Hughes (Edinburgh)
  - d. Scientific Representative Mike Taggart (Newcastle)
4. **Finances:** The current financial position of the Society is good and the balance as of 30<sup>th</sup> April 2011 was £205901.58
5. **Charitable Status:** The membership was informed that BMFMS was pursuing Charitable status, which brings significant benefits in terms of tax and Gift Aid. The finances etc are monitored by the Charities committee, and MD was taking this forward. An update will be available on the website
6. **Bursaries:** Four research and one travel bursaries were awarded this year totalling £39979.
7. **NIHR Partnership:** SR informed the membership that BMFMS now has partnership recognition with NIHR which means that studies in receipt of BMFMS Bursaries were eligible for adoption on NIHR Research Portfolio and hence would be able to access CLRN support costs
8. **President's Report:**
  - a. **Consultations:** BMFMS has contributed to 13 consultations this year, including RCOG, DoH and FASP. This has been done by Committee members and SR expressed his gratitude for the huge amount of work they have done. More members are needed to contribute to this important role, and SR requested that members express interest via the website, stating their areas of expertise / interest.
  - b. **Relationship with RCOG:** The RCOG wants to embrace all the Specialist Societies, and recognises that it needs to consult BMFMS on obstetric matters, and is genuinely listening. There is currently a strategic review taking place of RCOG organisation and functions (led by Ric Warren), and there should

be more information about how we engage with RCOG after this is published. There are concerns however about the balance of Specialist Society representation at RCOG, as BMFMS is the only obstetric specialist society and there are numerous gynaecological ones.

- c. **E & T:** ATSM courses are still well attended and generating income, but less than before. LW course not as busy (due to other courses being set up in other parts of the country), and attendance will be kept under review. The frequency of the LW course may reduce to once a year instead of twice. The MM course was well attended, but FM/AAP was poorly attended as few trainees are registering for these ATSMs. Concerns were raised at the Committee meeting this morning about assessments / requirements for ATSMs and SST. DA will raise these issues with the Subspecialty Committee at RCOG
  - d. **Patron:** Kate Middleton was invited by SR to become the BMFMS patron – response awaited.
  - e. **Confidential Enquiries:** Although the contract for CE was awarded to NPEU – this is not proceeding and the future of the CE is currently under review. There is an expert panel looking to see how to move this forward and this will be followed by a new bidding process. There is strong reassurance that the confidential enquiries will continue.
9. **Website:** It was acknowledged that the old website was not fit for purpose and MW presented the new website to members. Essentially there are two areas – one for members and one for non-members. Bursary forms etc will all need to be downloaded from the website. MW advised how to sign up and get password, and requested that people fill out the boxes specifying areas of interest and whether they would be prepared to contribute to consultations. She did say that the members area was still quite empty as people had not specified what they wanted, and asked that people let her know what sort of things they want on the website. She informed the members of the Forum which will be up and running soon which can be used to share cases and ‘chat’. There will be a list of phone numbers for all labour wards and neonatal units as well, which may facilitate contacting units for in utero transfers. Ideas of topics for inclusion on the website include the possibility of a guideline bank, conference lectures and web streaming. MW asked that people let her know of any ideas as to what to put on website, and of any glitches.
10. **Future Conferences:** Next year the annual meeting will be held in Glasgow at SECC Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> & Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2012. TAJ then presented the options for 2013 which included Dublin, Leeds and the possibility of exploring venues in London. It was felt that Dublin was probably best but the dates should join with a weekend rather than be midweek. There were also some concerns raised about the impact of extra fares, although many felt that flights to Dublin were often cheaper than travel within the UK, and also about attendance numbers as numbers were down in Belfast. Further work would be

done before finalising the venue for 2013. 2014 will be Perinatal and the venue has not yet been decided. Alan Cameron (Glasgow) pointed out that EPCOG will take place in Glasgow in May 2014, and although it will not be possible to join this with Perinatal 2014, BMFMS were asked to explore the possibility of a MFM Symposium at EPCOG.

11. **AOB:** There was no AOB, so SR then thanked the Committee for their work during his Presidency, and handed over to MK.