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**NEXT GRANT SCHEME
DEADLINE**
1st April 2012

We will be pleased to accept applications for:

**Undergraduate Student
Laboratory Experience Grants**

**Student Project Support
Grants**

Open to ALL members

<http://neuroendo.org.uk/>

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Committee Members

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Dr Helen Christian (Oxford)
Prof Neil Evans (Glasgow)
Prof Megan Holmes (Edinburgh)
Prof Kevin O'Byrne (London)
Prof Dave Grattan (New Zealand)
Prof John Morris (Oxford)
Prof Julian Mercer (Aberdeen)
Dr Jonathon Johnston (Surrey)
Dr Allison Fulford (Bristol)

Dr Giles Yeo (Cambridge)
Dr Maria Canal (Manchester)

BSN Annual Meeting 2012
Aberdeen, 8th-10th July

Registration: **4th May**
Abstract submission: **4th May**

Meeting website address for online booking and abstract submission is www.abdn.ac.uk/bsn-2012/ or see the BSN website for details

Members and non-members welcome

BSN 2012 Annual meeting July 8-10, 2012
King's College Conference Centre, University of Aberdeen

We are pleased to announce that the annual BSN meeting will be hosted by the University of Aberdeen this year. It will be held from July 8-10, 2012, in the King's College Conference Centre.

The abstract and registration deadline will be May 4th, 2012. Please go to the BSN2012 page to register: <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/bsn-2012/>

For further information, please contact Nikki Pearce

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We look forward to welcoming all of you in Aberdeen!

Julian Mercer and Perry Barrett

Local Organisers

Annual meeting 2012

This year the Annual BSN meeting will be held in Aberdeen, and we look forward to welcoming you to the Granite City. The meeting will take place from July 8-10, 2012, in the spectacular King’s College Conference Centre on the Old Aberdeen campus of the University of Aberdeen. Accommodation for delegates will be available in the nearby halls of residence, just across a cobbled street, making this a very self-contained venue. This year we will revert to our traditional format with plenary talks and three themed symposia, but we will retain the invigorating and entertaining poster DataBlitzs pioneered in Cambridge last year. In addition, new for Aberdeen 2012, we will run a meeting for Early Stage Researchers – to help the BSN Steering Committee see how the BSN can help promote the careers of the next generation of neuroendocrinologists – and a translational workshop.

For the science of the meeting we are delighted to announce that the Mortyn Jones and BSN lectures will be presented by Fran Ebling (University of Nottingham) and Megan Holmes (University of Edinburgh), respectively. The three symposia we have planned should offer something for everyone, as we invite colleagues from the UK and Europe to share with us their latest findings in the areas of Thyroid/Nutrient Sensing, Energy Balance, and Rhythms/Clocks. In addition to this there will be the Mick Harbuz Young Investigator Prize lecture, a number of short oral presentations to be selected from submitted abstracts, and the usual BSN student presentation prizes.

The abstract and registration deadlines for the meeting will be **May 4th, 2012**, and further details can be found on the meeting website at <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/bsn-2012/>. Another new initiative that you will see when you submit an abstract will be the opportunity to deposit your poster into the F1000 open access poster repository. See Meetings Secretary’s report and website for details.

We cannot guarantee the temperature, but what we can guarantee in the North-East of Scotland in early July is daylength! A must for the rhythms and clocks fraternity! Come and experience the long days and short nights of Aberdeen. A social programme will get things started each evening, with a Civic reception in the resplendent Aberdeen Town House on the evening of Sunday 8th July, and the conference dinner on Monday evening at the Beach Ballroom on Aberdeen’s seafront, complete with expert guided whisky tasting – not to be missed. Thereafter, the evening/night will be yours to enjoy – including perhaps the miles of sandy beach and enticing North Sea!

We look forward to welcoming all of you in Aberdeen!

Julian Mercer and Perry Barrett
Local Organisers, BSN Annual Meeting 2012

Report from the Chair

In writing this report I now realise that it is just about a year since I took over the tiller of the BSN from the previous Chairman, Fran Ebling. I want to warmly thank Fran for his excellent navigating of the Society over the past few years - under his guidance we have become more professional, as well as more advanced in our outreach and more generous in supporting our members in their research and collaborations. I note also that he has said for the past few years now that the expected decline in our financial income from the Journal of Neuroendocrinology has not yet materialised - long may that live! Indeed, under the strong helm of Dave Grattan and his team in New Zealand and the diligence of John Morris (our Journal Secretary), there is no reason at present to expect a sudden decline in journal success. The Neuro-endocrinology Briefings are also going from strength to strength. In the last year, John Bicknell, who initiated these lay publications and has produced an impressive portfolio of articles covering most aspects of neuroendocrinology, passed over the responsibility to Mike Ludwig. Since then we have seen a new wave of Briefings

covering a fresh set of neuroendocrine topics. With their distribution across the UK via various routes they have become a great resource in the field. Beyond the UK, they are now translated into both French and Japanese to further benefit students and scientists across the globe.

Last year Giles Yeo ran a very successful Annual conference in Cambridge, topped by his personally providing the entertainment. This joint meeting with the Turkish Society saw us extend our hospitality into Europe again and it was evident that our Turkish colleagues much appreciated the scientific and social camaraderie. It is intended that the BSN reciprocate and accept a Turkish invitation to join their annual conference in the future, although this is likely to be after the next ICN rather than before - we will discuss this further at the 2012 AGM during the next Annual conference. This is planned for Aberdeen in July, and you will find detailed information from Julian Mercer about that elsewhere in this newsletter.

Another success over the past year has been the introduction of a new grant scheme for project support for postgraduate students. Allison Fulford and her team worked hard on this to ensure a useful and fair allocation of more of our funds, and I want to especially thank her for the effort involved in getting the scheme off the ground so quickly in late 2010. This really boosts our support of our members, encourages new neuroendocrinologists and makes beneficial use of our income - look out for the next deadline on 1st April 2012 (**see details below**). We continue to discuss new ideas for spending money at each Steering committee meeting and AGM and hope to present further proposals to you in Aberdeen in July - your continued input to the process with suggestions for optimising the schemes and initiating new grants is highly valued at all times.

I couldn't wrap up my comments without mentioning the current, huge undertaking of revising the BSN website. Julian Mercer and Kevin O'Byrne have heroically liaised between the Steering committee, Ian Hill (our current web manager) and our newly appointed web services company, PCS, to initiate an extensive review and republishing of the website. This is a long awaited and exciting development for us that has taken time and effort to get right, and many, many thanks go to Julian and Kevin for their commitment to that project over the last 6 months - more about that below, but look out for the live site within the next month or so!! Information will be sent to all members at the time when you can surf the pages to see our new initiatives and use the more professional access and benefits for members and non-members alike.

I wish I could say I'm off now to cruise the Clyde in my yacht, but that will have to wait a few years!! I'll have to console myself with a visit to the Royal Yacht Britannia in Leith Docks (Christmas Fayre raffle prize win!!), and I look forward to seeing you join the crew of the good ship 'BSN' in Aberdeen in July.

Alison Douglas, Edinburgh

Forthcoming grant deadline 1st April 2012:

Undergraduate student laboratory experience grants are available to provide some financial support for a student to undertake a vacation lab project. Grants cover a bursary of £130/week (£150/wk- London) for a maximum of 8 weeks. Additionally up to £1000 is available for consumables required for the techniques to be used.

Student Project Support Grants are available to provide financial support for consumables/research costs associated with a student research project. Although the scheme is primarily intended to support PhD studentships, it will also provide resource for MRes and where appropriate undergraduate projects. Awards will be up to a maximum of £5000 for identified consumables/research costs.

NB: For both grant schemes the Host Supervisor must have been a member of the British Society for Neuroendocrinology for at least 12 months, and should apply on behalf of the student.

Treasurer’s Report

2011 has been a great year for the BSN financially. This success is mainly due to superb performance of the Journal of Neuroendocrinology, generating the increased revenue of £429k and together with decreased costs within Wiley-Blackwell meant that the return for the BSN rose from £150k in 2010 to £155k in 2011. This is due to the fantastic efforts of our editor in Chief of JNE, Dave Grattan and his team, and the marketing by Wiley Blackwell. We have taken full advantage of our positive financial situation to reward our membership as much as possible, even though the interest on our reserves is extremely low. We had an excellent Annual Meeting in Cambridge with wonderful accommodation and facilities as well as a great programme of speakers, all of which were heavily subsidised. We continue to give out the full quota of International conference grants, research visits, summer laboratory experience, student travel grants, as well as the new Student project support grants. Grant support this year was in excess of £48k. We also support Symposia in the name of the BSN as well as through JNE, to advertise the society and its journal, as well as helping members meet together to discuss their research and listen to internationally outstanding science. Also, we will soon be unveiling our new website, this will be a greater expense than the previous one, but the information available to the membership will justify the added expense. Already, the detailed information on membership incomes and information as well the detailed reports on costs provided by Portland Customer Services, makes my life as treasurer much easier – I am excited to see how it goes. Although we have to be relatively cautious in these times of economic uncertainty, we are always willing to consider new funding ideas, so please send your ideas in to the committee – we are here to support the BSN community.

Megan Holmes, Edinburgh

Membership Secretary’s Report

The transfer to our new service provider, Portland Customer Services (PCS), for

membership has gone well. There was one slight glitch when the “old” service provider sent out an automated renewal notice that caused obvious confusion; naturally that was a unique event. PCS were quite insistent that members should provide contact details etc., during the renewal process for 2012 and I supported their initiative to obtain complete and up to date information; so thank you for your patience. As you have already been informed, in subsequent years the renewal process will be simple! Renewals to date for 2012 are in line with expectation except for students where numbers are considerably and alarmingly lower. If you have new PhD students in your laboratory please encourage them to become members as the benefits are considerable. Please visit the BSN website for more information on all grant schemes and application forms: <http://www.neuroendo.org.uk>. Alternatively contact our Grants Panel Co-ordinator, Dr Allison Fulford (A.J.fulford@bristol.ac.uk) for additional information. Finally, Professor Julian Mercer is steaming ahead with PCS to provide a new and exciting website for BSN which will be launched within the next month or so.

Please forward (Kevin.obyrne@kcl.ac.uk) any ideas you consider important to improve the membership experience of BSN.

Kevin T. O’Byrne, London

Outreach Secretary’s Report

As referred to by Kevin in his above report, and as discussed at the AGM in Cambridge (see minutes below), the Society’s website is currently undergoing a complete redesign prior to its relaunch. We will use this opportunity to produce a website with dual functionality, with the ambition of taking the Society and neuroendocrinology forward over the next few years. The intention is that the new site will have a member’s section with the majority of the content of the current site, including details of grants, meetings etc, but also an ‘outreach’ section containing information at an appropriate level highlighting the relevance of our discipline to the wider population. At present we envisage that there will be 6 subject categories on this ‘public’ part of the site, covering Behaviour,

Sex, Stress, Obesity, Maternal Influence and Body Clock. Individual members of the BSN Steering Group have agreed to take on the management of the content of these categories in the first instance. I would encourage members who are interested in contributing to the development of the public engagement pages of our new website to get in touch. I will then put you onto the appropriate person. With input from across the Society, we will be able to make best use of the various resources that we already have at our disposal and generate a web presence of which we can be proud.

Julian Mercer, Aberdeen

For further information, please visit the F1000 Posters web page (<http://f1000.com/posters>) or see the abstract submission page for BSN2012 (<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/bsn-2012/>). The deadline for BSN abstract submission is **4 May 2012**.

Jonathan Johnston, Surrey

British Society for Neuroendocrinology

**Annual General Meeting
Monday 4th July 2011
Downing College, Cambridge**

**In attendance - >25 members of the Society
In the chair - Alison Douglas (AD)**

Meetings Secretary’s Report

Earlier this year, the BSN committee agreed to join forces with F1000 Posters, a new initiative run by the Faculty of 1000 team.

F1000 Posters was launched in June 2010 to increase the exposure presenters receive for their research following conference presentation. It provides a free central site and invites poster presenters from over 100 conferences across the fields of biology and medicine to deposit their work. Users of the site can then search all posters relevant to their own research, irrespective of the conference where the work was originally presented, and provide feedback and ideas. Moreover, following deposition of posters, F1000's expert Faculty of 10,000 members will then view these submissions to identify those they wish to select for positive evaluation.

F1000 Posters is already working with the International Neuroendocrine Federation (INF) and it is hoped that involvement of societies such as INF and BSN will support the overarching aim of improving communication between researchers and clinicians interested in neuroendocrinology. Currently, top-performing posters on the site attract between 400-1200 individual hits in a month.

Importantly, the decision to deposit poster data with F1000 Posters is entirely voluntary and up to the discretion of the authors.

1. Apologies for absence

Domingo Tortonese, Stafford Lightman, Simon Luckman

2. Approval of the minutes of the 2010 AGM Rouen.

The minutes were approved as a fair and accurate record of the meeting, Proposed, Dave Grattan (DG), Seconded, John Morris (JMo).

3. Matters arising from the minutes- minor changes to the BSN rules

The meeting was informed of the proposal that the role of the head of the grants committee should be removed from the remit of the treasurer and become a separate role which would be held by Allison Fulford (AF). This would require a minor amendment to the wording of the constitution which currently states:

‘The treasurer shall be responsible for keeping the accounts of the Society and shall liaise with the Examiner of Accounts. The Treasurer shall chair the Grants subcommittee.’

This change was approved by the membership. Proposed, Gareth Leng (GL), Seconded, Clive Coen (CC).

4. Chair’s report

AD started her report indicating that she was very pleased to represent the society. She indicated that during the year the committee had been reshaped with the variety of roles

(treasurer, membership secretary, grants committee) previously held by the treasurer being split.

A major discussion at the last AGM had centred on ways to increase the distribution of BSN funds. This had formed a major item of steering committee business last autumn and resulted in a new grants scheme being launched in 2010: the 'Student Project Support Grant' which AF would report on later in the AGM. AD reported that the society remains in a very healthy position and handed over to specific committee members to summarise specific activities of the BSN during the last year.

5. Treasurer's report

Megan Holmes (MH) reported that the BSN remained financially secure. MH reported that the main income remained the membership and Journal; while both were reduced in 2010, relative to 2009, income remained in excess of £161K and exceeded expenditure. Expenditure was £99.5K in 2010 and had increased relative to 2009 due to increased grants awarded and conference support. N.B. Funding under the first round of the new student support grant was awarded in 2011 and so did not feature in 2010 accounts. Next year's accounts are predicted to show a further increase in expenditure due to the new grants scheme and investment in the BSN website. GL asked about the decrease in journal income. JMo responded that the decrease in income had been predicted by Wiley-Blackwell as there had been major exchange rate fluctuations. MH reported that she was aware that the current return on the held reserve was low and that she was investigating alternatives for when current fixed term contracts finish. John Russell (JR) reiterated that the low interest rate meant that effectively Society assets were diminishing in the light of inflationary increases, hence the need to look for alternate accounts, reminded the meeting of the FSA guarantee and asked if the BSN was secure that its accounts, while held within different named banks, are all covered given that many banks are own by parent companies. MH - indicated that she was aware of this issue

and the banks were regarded as separate re the FSA guarantee.

6. Membership secretary's report

Kevin O'Byrne (KOB) reported that membership remained buoyant at 179, contrasting with other scientific societies which had seen decreased membership. The BSN continues to have a healthy post graduate student population but the number of post doctoral members had declined. Overseas membership remained relatively stable (-2). 36 members had not renewed in 2010-11. KOB indicated that the problem with online membership experienced last year have been resolved. Giles Yeo (GY) asked if there was a plan to develop membership. AD responded that of course we would like to increase membership and that one of the aims of the new website would be to increase engagement and thus membership. GL suggested that some Scandinavian countries had small communities of neuroendocrinologists, too small to merit their own national societies and they should be encouraged to join the BSN. Germany was also suggested as an additional country that might contain potential BSN members.

7. Meeting secretary's report

Numbers at this meeting - 23 members of the Turkish Neuroendocrine society, ~98 UK/others. About 80 BSN members were attending the 2011 meeting. AD reported that the annual BSN meeting in 2012 would be held in Aberdeen (8-10th July, subject to check of Phys soc meeting dates) The Annual BSN in 2013 may be held in Manchester, although the possibility of a reciprocal meeting with the Turkish neuroendocrine society was also being discussed. DG reminded the AGM that the BSN would not hold an annual meeting in 2014 as this is the year in which the next ICN would be held in Australasia.

8. Grant panel co-ordinator's report

The grants committee is made up of 5 members of the BSN steering committee, awarding grants under the following schemes: International conference travel fund, Research visit grant, Undergraduate student laboratory experience grants, Symposium support,

Student travel grants, Student Project Support Grant. There had been a steady stream of applications for all schemes. 3 research visits had recently been funded along with 8 of the new student project support grants. 10 travel awards (out of 20 applications) and 7 summer student experience grants had also been awarded.

AF was asked about the possibility of using funds to create a new scheme awarding pilot grants for post doctoral students. It was agreed that this could be covered by the existing travel grant scheme and that this area had been debated at last year’s AGM and subsequent committee meetings. There was a feeling was that there were existing schemes available from other sources and that the BSN should not duplicate such scheme, hence the development of the Student Project Support Grant. It was maintained that postdoctoral pump priming support specifically for neuroendocrinologists would be especially valuable in the current academic/funding climate. Fran Ebling (FE) commented that it would be good to allow the new grant scheme to embed for a year and to review after that time. FE also suggested that recipients of the Student Project Support Grant be asked to contribute a lay summary of their work to the website.

AF was also asked about funding studentships. JMo indicated that the financial implications of this were too great for the BSN to take on at this time.

It was suggested to the AGM that recipients of the summer student experience grants be given BSN membership for 1 year and registration and accommodation at the following BSN annual meeting. This suggestion met with support. Proposed, Joanne Murray, Seconded, JMo

(Clerks note – the details with regard to years in which the BSN does not meet, in lieu of the ICN, will need to be clarified)

John Russell (JR) commented that it was important, for the trustees, that reports are submitted from grant awardees as the trustees have to ensure that there is no fraudulent use of funds.

9. Outreach co-ordinators report

There were no proposals submitted by individual members for support for outreach

activities this year. BSN has previously agreed that while we should be involved in the preparation of outreach materials there is no point unless these materials are used, hence the investment with the Practical Biology website for schools. However this avenue has not proved to be very exciting and has limited exposure. Following discussion at the steering committee, it is proposed that the BSN website should be redeveloped to increase public engagement. The old site is currently uninspiring and the functionality of the member’s areas is considered poor. Julian Mercer (JM) showed the AGM a series of web pages from other societies and scientific bodies. JM proposed that the BSN home page should be a ‘public engagement front page’ which would link (one click away) to the members only section rather than start with the page that is principally directed to academic members. JM informed the AGM that the steering committee had viewed two quotes and were now looking to seek competitive tenders to develop the website, specifically with organisations with a track record of public engagement. The aim is to get the new site running by the end of 2011. The next issue would then be site maintenance. It was indicated that we have lots of material that could be used to populate the site, e.g. Neuroendocrinology briefings, but that new material would also be required. The set up of such a website is likely to be expensive but was considered to be worthwhile to enhance interaction, membership facilities and membership outreach.

GL indicated that Neuroendocrinology and its Editor (Bob Millar) have developed a Neuroendocrinology Now! website, but that it is more directed to the academic community (confirmed by JM); this will be a valuable link from our website in the future.

JM indicated that we should not only be directing the site at the UK and that we could look to link with other international organisations/societies. Perry Barrett asked about links with Twitter and Facebook. JM indicated this had been discussed with companies and JMo indicated that Wiley-Blackwell has a Facebook page.

**10. Journal of Neuroendocrinology
Editors report**

DG directed members to the written report that had been submitted and circulated but highlighted the following:

- that relative to other scientific societies, the BSN was lucky to have the financial assets generated by the Journal.
- the impact factor of the Journal had increased to 4.65, its highest ever. This was in part due to the 20th anniversary issue which will not contribute next year, so a decrease is expected but it should remain above 4.
- submission rate continues to be good.
- the July issue contains one of the new controversy reviews where two protagonists have come together to debate a long standing issue.
- DG has asked for combined symposium reviews to be generated for publication from the Boston Neurohypophyseal (WCNH) meeting later this year.
- DG also indicated to the meeting that he had initiated discussions with AD regarding succession planning.

**11. Journal of Neuroendocrinology
secretary's report**

JMo reported that our excellent relationship with Wiley-Blackwell continues. There are 2 formal meetings each year but lots of communication occurs outside these meetings. Wiley-Blackwell remains very proactive in promoting J Neuroendocrinology. They report a 96% reuptake by consortia which is better than other journals. There has been a 13% increase in online readership. Wiley-Blackwell predicts that income for 2011 will be in line with 2009. Wiley-Blackwell and the BSN Committee have agreed to provide free colour printing for authors where necessary and useful.

**12. To receive and approve the 2010
Trustees report and Accounts**

Printed copies of the report were circulated before the AGM and were made available at the meeting. Acceptance of the account and report were proposed by GY and seconded by Julian Mercer (JM).

**13. Re-appointment of an external
examiner of accounts: Greenhalgh**

AD proposed and JMo seconded re-appointment of Greenhalgh as the external examiner of the BSN accounts.

14. Re-election of Trustees

The fixed terms of Joe Herbert and Stafford Lightman are due to end. AD reported that she had spoken to them and they had both indicated that they would be happy to stand again if the BSN so desired. This was officially proposed by DG and seconded by CC.

**15. Proposal and election of new
Honorary Members**

AD reported that Stafford Lightman, Julia Buckingham, Jon Wakerley, Gareth Leng and John Bicknell had all been made Honorary members of the society.

16. Any other competent business

AD reported that she had been approached by Bob Millar offering his services to the committee. While the steering committee had not seen any conflict of interest Bob is the Editor of Neuroendocrinology it was agreed that he could make a valuable contribution and could be asked to join the committee but it was it was agreed that it should be checked with Wiley Blackwell.

AD thanked Fran Ebling for his term as chair of the BSN and reflected on the major changes that the BSN had been through under Fran's leadership including the development of additional grants schemes to distribute funds, updating the rules of the BSN and introduction of online registration for meetings.

17. Date and location of next meeting

Aberdeen, 09 July 2012

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