

AGM, British Psychosocial Oncology Society, 4th December 2008, Thorpe Park Hotel, Leeds

Present

14 full members, 4 associate members, plus 14 non-members. The meeting was therefore not quorate.

Full members present:

Sue Catt, Nick Hulbert-Williams, Anthony Duffy, Donald Sharp, Maggie Watson, Judith Mills, Diane Harcourt, Annie Jones, Darja Bradenburg, David Horne, Sheila Fisher, Ita Durkin, Teresa Young, Galina Velikova (14)

Associate members present:

Elena Takeuchi, Emma Podmore, Zoe Cockshott, Lucy Zeigler, (4)

Non members present:

Ziv Amir, Alison Clutterbuck, Rob Whistance, Jane Blazeby, Emily Arden-Close, Clare Harley, Simon Rogers, Aikaterina Kaltsa, Danielle Selby, Christine Allmark, Kate Absolom, Annet Kleiboer, Laura Hodges, Gary Young, (14)

Apologies:

Alex Mitchell, Val Morrison, Dawn Storey, Clare Foster

1. Minutes from the 2007 AGM held 18th Sept 2007 in London

were agreed as an accurate record.

2. Matters arising

None

3. Chair's Report

- New website launched. www.bpos.org Feedback please. Suggestions for new content
- BPOS commissioned survey now complete. Summary available on website. Full report available by contacting Galina Velikova
- BPOS has recently joined the IPOS Federation. Aim is to champion psycho-oncology. Only brief membership details given (surname + initial)
- Peer Review Measures for Psychological Support for Cancer Networks. Ian Manifold asked BPOS to contribute. Karen Cox and Galina Velikova are involved.
- Making links with British Psychological Society (BPS), in particular Special Interest Group on Palliative Care (SIGOPAC). Nick Hulbert-Williams planning joint meeting in Birmingham on 17th March 2009. Details available soon on website.
- NICE Appraisals – BPOS often approached to contribute when any new cancer drug is assessed. But ‘experts’ required. Might be possible to put requests on BPOS website, but deadlines for response are often short
- CRUK – 5 Year strategy just published. Emphasis is on curing cancer – basic science and clinical trials. Withdrawing funding from survivorship, supportive care, communication skills, palliative care, service deliver, and psychosocial oncology project involving emotional or practical support. This has major implications. Members responded by expressing concerns that other disease specific funders are following similar strategies with medical models which

ignore the importance of psychosocial issues (e.g. oesophagus and head and neck cancer groups). Organisations such as Macmillan, NIHR, NCRN may take over some of the funding

4. Treasurer's Report

The charity commission financial year runs from 1st October to 30th September. The accounts were presented for the year 2007-2008. Balance on 01/10/07 was £16,204.13 and on 30/09/08 was £14,133.65. Income for the year was £9,707.17 and in the main came from repayment and profit from the IPOS conference 2007, membership dues and conference registration fees for the BPOS conference 2008. Outgoings came to £11,777.65 and went in the main to BPOS conference 2008 first deposit for hotel, executive committee meeting expenses, newsletter printing & postage and final payment for BPOS survey. Although outgoings exceeded income this was due to the first deposit for the conference being paid prior to the bulk of registration fees being collected. The conference is likely to break even or show a small profit so this difference should be reflected in next years account.

5. Secretary's Report

- New computer system means that it will be easier for Wiley to maintain our membership database, especially the associate members who do not subscribe to the journal.
- 79 full members, including 13 new members this year
- 33 Associate members
- Lacking e-mail addresses for some older members, so may be contacted and asked to supply

6. Psycho-Oncology Editor's Report (Maggie Watson)

- Wiley merged with Blackwell to form worlds' largest scientific publishing house
- Keen to try and keep cost of journal subscription below £100
- Negotiations have been taking place with organisations such as CRUK which require open-access publications from all their funded projects. This has now been agreed
- Impact Factor is just below 3. Number of submissions from 'Rest of the World' (i.e. not USA or Europe) has doubled, so now truly an international journal
- Members of national societies affiliated to IPOS will be eligible for society rate subscription for online access to journal

7. Elections

- **Chair Elect** - Clare Foster was nominated and duly elected. (Health Psychologist from Southampton with an interest in End of Life Care, Self Management and Family Support)
- **Medical** – Dawn Storey was nominated and duly elected. (Oncology SpR at Edinburgh Cancer Centre with an interest in Evaluation)
- **Palliative** – no nominations received, post still vacant

8. Newsletter

- Alex Mitchell has now stepped down as Newsletter Editor. Nick Hulbert-Williams has now taken over the role
- Next edition due early 2009. All contributions to Nick please
- Previous two versions of newsletter available on the website with 3 month interval from release of paper version.
- Cost of printing paper version may no longer be justified. To be discussed by Exec Committee and members views sought in the New Year

9. AOB

None

10. Date of Next Meeting

To be decided once date and venue agreed for 2009 Scientific meeting.