



## BPOS 2024 AGM minutes

Held in September 2024, Zoom

### Attendees:

First Name	Last Name
Nick	Hulbert- Williams (Chair)
Stephanie	Archer
Lauren	Matheson
Rachel	Starkings
David	Wright
Jo	Armes
Lynn	Calman
Debbie	Cavers
Eila	Watson
Claire	Foster

N.B- 15 BPOS members attended in total including non-executive committee members.

### 1. Minutes and actions from 2023 AGM

- a. Minutes from last year's AGM approved by members.

### 2. Chair's report (outgoing chair- SA, and new chair – NHW)

- a. Our outgoing Chair - SA thanked everyone who had helped with BPOS during her term as Chair, and committee members who have worked with her to keep the society going through a difficult period.
- b. NHW thanked SA for all of her hard work as Chair. NHW reported that as the new chair, he would like to explore opportunities for growth of the society, particularly with regards to increasing the numbers of clinical members. He would also like to re-start our yearly conferences, grow our links with the International Psycho Oncology society (IPOS) including exploring whether we can share their benefits (e.g. webinars and training) with BPOS members, as well as overseeing the updating of the BPOS website. NHW is hopeful of setting up 'special interest groups' (SIGs) that may serve to fill the gap left by the close of the NCRI and all of the SIGs within NCRI. Since becoming the new Chair, NHW has continued discussions with our appointed Solicitors regarding changes to the BPOS constitution and has been discussing dates for our upcoming conference with a conference organising company. It has been agreed that membership fees will be frozen for people who paid their membership before the end of July this year as there has been no conference organised.
- c. NHW asked all whether there was agreement that two past BPOS chairs- Professor Eila Watson and Professor Claire Foster are co-opted back onto the executive committee in order to share their expertise- there were no objections. NHW thanked outgoing committee members- Debbie Cavers (Psychology representative) and Aneesh Shrivat (open representative) for their contributions and time on the committee.
- d. New committee members- NHW reported that we have had a recent call for new committee members and will let people know next week once they have been selected. We had no

applications for the consumer representative vacancy, so this will go out for advert again. If individuals are aware of anyone who may be suitable for this post please forward this advert to them.

### 3. Secretary's update (JA)

- a. As of 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024, we have 60 members
  - 50 full members
  - 5 student members
  - 5 honorary life members
- b. JA reported that there have been many issues with the platform LoveAdmin for collecting membership fees- JA has found a more suitable platform and the system will transition to this in November.

### 4. Treasurer's update (DW)

- a. DW and LC have been sharing the Treasurer role following the vacancy, and DW has agreed to solely take this role on for a term.
- b. Overview of yearly accounts (to be inserted--Table below) – DW reported that in the last financial year we have had a loss of £xx , mainly due to legal fees for costs to changes to our constitution. We have also had a lower income as we have not had a conference this year. However, the society has a current balance of £21,017.75
- c. Main ongoing payments from society accounts for the next year
  - i. Wiley contract: This will be renegotiated at the end of this financial year.
  - ii. Legal fees following final changes to the constitution
  - iii. 2025 conference costs
- d. Discussion – there were comments from attendees that the overall picture going forward for BPOS looks positive, and that BPOS has a good buffer in the finances. It was queried whether we could get sponsorship for the next conference- NHW confirmed that we are investigating this as a possibility. NHW also commented that the committee will have discussions on what other benefits of joining BPOS might be in the future, to boost membership numbers.

### 5. BPOS Media Update (RS)

- a. Social media: RS reported that we are currently on the platform X, formerly Twitter- we have 1700 followers. RS has considered how we might increase our traffic on this platform, such as having a highlight on particular members each month. It was discussed whether BPOS should continue on this platform as many academics are leaving this year. LC suggested this could be a discussion at our next conference. Other platforms were suggested as alternatives such as LinkedIn and Bluesky that are becoming more commonly used by academics and clinicians.
- b. Website: This needs a revamping and will be added to the agenda of future meetings.

### 6. Presentation by honorary life member- Professor Maggie Watson, by video

- a. MW provided a recorded talk to give an overview of the history of BPOS as it's our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. This included how the society began, the very first few conferences that were held, and the beginnings of the journal Psycho Oncology in 1992 as the first official BPOS journal. NHW expressed his thanks to MW for her presentation.

### 7. BPOS Constitution Update

- a. There have been new constitutional changes that have been drafted by our solicitors and circulated to participating members at the AGM ahead of the meeting. NHW summarised the key changes, which are that student and consumer membership categories (that were previously removed as categories), have been added back into the constitution, to allow these members to vote at meetings and have representation on the committee. There is now a statement included to say that the purpose of BPOS is to include 'advancing clinical care' in our Society aims. The statement that members have access to the Psycho Oncology

journal has also been removed (as we don't yet know the new terms with Wiley, our publisher, which will be renegotiated at the end of this year), however this will be listed as a member benefit on our website. This was voted in by the AGM.

**Action- to confirm this with our solicitors and circulate our new constitution to all members.**

#### **8. 2025 conference**

- a. NHW reported that it was deemed too late to organise a conference for this year, so the BPOS conference has been postponed to Spring 2025. Provisional dates have been booked for early April at the Holiday Inn in Manchester – this date will be confirmed soon and circulated to members. It is anticipated that the conference will be over 2 days, with an optional day beforehand. The call for abstracts will be sent out soon with a deadline of late autumn (to be confirmed).
- b. LC will be taking a lead organising 'special interest groups' which will be launched at the conference. The purpose will be to help build collaborations, particularly with clinical colleagues since the end of the NCRI. One idea was to have a SIG focused on implementation science.

#### **9. AOB**

- a. Discussion- one member queried how we might raise the profile of BPOS across the UK. EW suggested that we might explore further how BPOS might engage more with charities, potentially hosting workshops jointly with charities or hold study days with them, working with the funders to shape future grant calls. NHW has spoken with some charities about sponsorship our conference already.

The meeting drew to a close.