

BSACI

Improving Allergy Care through education, training and research

BSACI ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8am – 9am, Saturday 5th October 2024

Queen's Suite 1, Harrogate Convention Centre,

King's Rd, Harrogate HG1 5LA

Minutes:

No of attendees: 40

No for quorate: 20

Minutes: Shifa Shaikh

President: Professor Graham Roberts

1. President's welcome: (Professor Graham Roberts)

Professor Roberts opened the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and welcomed the attendees. He expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve as the President as he steps down from the role this year.

The BSACI Joint Scientific Programme leads, Dr Nandinee Patel and Dr Natasha Gunawardana were commended by Professor Roberts for putting together a fantastic programme in their final year as leads. He then introduced the leads for the next two years Dr Joseph Jayasundera and Dr Constantinos Kotsapas. The next annual conference is in ICC Wales between 16th and 18th of October 2025.

The President acknowledged the contributions of various individuals that have helped him deliver his 3-year strategy. He thanked all the fellow trustees for their contributions, especially Dr Deb Marriage who stepped down as Secretary of the society at the AGM. Dr Marriage was presented with a gift in recognition of her valuable work and commitment to the Society. Professor Roberts thanked the BSACI office staff, without whom the organisation would not function as smoothly.

2. Apologies:

Dr Gillian Vance, Dr Mohamed Shamji and Dr Bob Boyle.

3. Approval of the draft 2023 minutes:

A copy of the 2023 AGM minutes and other documentation were circulated to the membership before the meeting. Members were asked to ratify, by a show of hands, the 2023 AGM minutes.

4. Presidents report: (Professor Graham Roberts)

- I. Implementation and development of themes for the national BSACI Allergy Education Strategy:** Education was prioritised and the reserves were dipped into to help develop a generic high-level framework that sets out five tiers of practice with allergy focused capabilities and learning outcomes for each tier. Work has now begun on the development of an online education platform and resources.

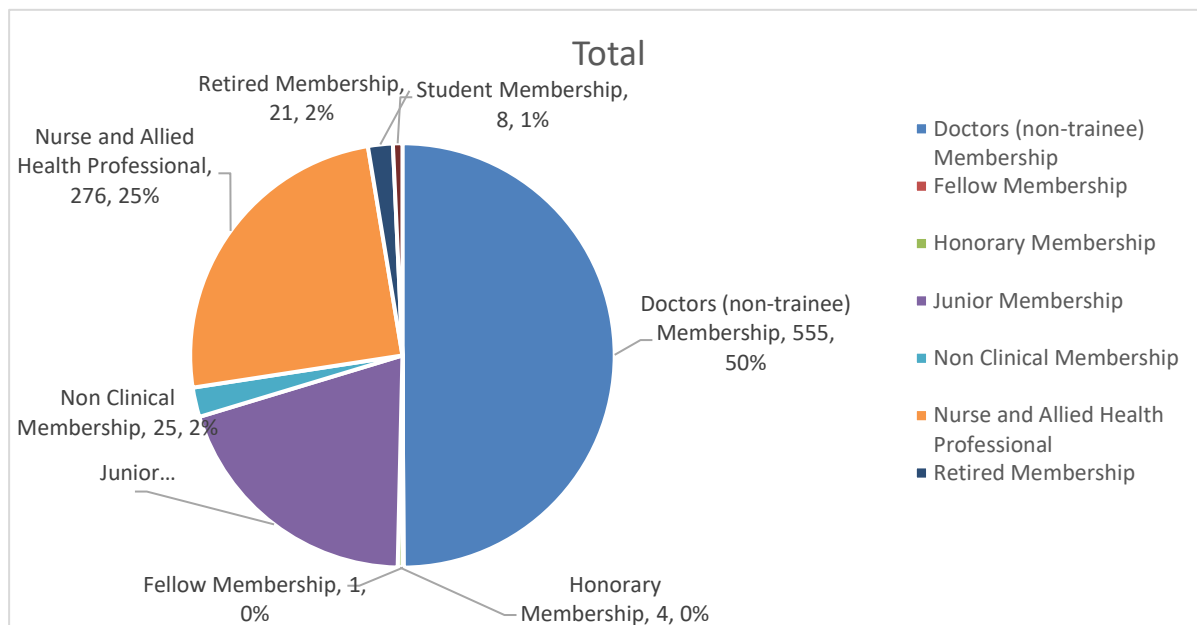
- II. **Support research into Immunotherapy to understand the effects immunotherapy has on patient outcomes (BSACI Registry for Immunotherapy [BRIT]):** The registry has gone from strength to strength. The first 'Inequalities Paper' has been sent to CEA for review to be published. Data has been analyzed and abstracts submitted to BSACI 2024 Conference.
 - III. **Resources hub for transition from paediatrics to adult services:** Transition Group Workstreams headed by Dr Claudia Gore and Dr George Gkimpas (who has now stepped down from leading the group to focus on the Global symposium) are well underway: Liaison with IQAS – agreed to have transition as a KPI and also requirement to have data on 16–25-year-olds in service. Improvement of transition pathways for allergic adolescents and young adults is one of the 2024-2027 priorities.
 - IV. **Develop guidance for managing Palforzia:** This has been completed and is on BSACI website and paper published in CEA.
 - V. **Recognize, reward and celebrate outstanding achievements and advancements as well as services to allergy, BSACI has reviewed all awards and now have an award programme which is comprehensible and more inclusive**
 - VI. **Increase awareness of allergy as a career by offering medical students the opportunity to apply for Medical Scholarships to attend conference. Evaluate effectiveness of the scheme:** Since 2019 around 21% of all those who have received a medical scholarship have gone on to work in allergy/immunology.
 - VII. **Increase the knowledge of allergy management of Allied Health Professionals members and non (Nurses and Dietitians) by developing educational opportunities such as an Annual Study Day:** Nurses Annual Online Study Day established now for over two years. The first day (in 2023) 55 attendees; second day (2024)121 almost double the delegates.
 - VIII. **Develop Adult Allergy Action Plans:** Editorial on the Adult Allergy Action Plans, has been published in CEA and the plans can be accessed via the BSACI website [here](#)
 - IX. **Undertake an options appraisal for expansion of Allergy services to areas of unmet need:** Completed two separate surveys of access to adult services which will shortly be published. This has highlighted specific problems within the devolved nations (along with several areas in England), presented at the Expert Advisory Group for Allergy (EAGA). With regards to alternative models of care, this is a 2024- 2027 strategic priority.
 - X. **To grow our work in primary care to enable the sharing of resources, provide support and good practice:** GPwER Framework and Accreditation in place. GPs signed up and working towards allergy accreditation. The RCGP have endorsed the framework.
 - XI. **Build our collaboration with patient organizations and wider stakeholders working together to develop a national allergy strategy:** BSACI is part of the NASG and is funding a National Allergy Strategy. BSACI has appointed a Project Manager to support the development of a NAS, of which patient organizations are part of the wider stakeholder group.
5. **Strengthen the leadership structure to ensure that the Society can effectively deliver strategy across all its priority areas:** BSACI has restructured the leadership of the society. Widened the senior leadership to share in the decision making, now have four VPs. The council is repositioned as a consultative body representing views of the wider membership. Monthly Trustee meetings allow us to discuss important issues more frequently and act faster. Job Descriptions for Trustees have been drafted. Re-designated Sub-committees as Special Interest Groups developing clearer terms of reference for Sub-committees and Working Groups (including an end date for 'task and finish' groups). Diversification of income is a priority and Fiona Rayner has been working to develop this area working with a range of industry colleagues by developing an annual proposal for industry partnerships including funding for BRIT, UKFAR and National Allergy Strategy which have all have been fully funded. Actively working with a wide range of companies seeking support in areas where our strategic objectives align. Identified new potential partnerships, building relationships with these as well as growing and maintaining existing industry partnerships. Working with Alchemis Publications as the official society for first ever consumer publication 'All About Allergy'. **Secretary's Report: (Dr Deb Marriage)**

- I. The list of applications for BSACI membership is distributed to council members each quarter. Between 1st August 2023- 31st July 2024, the BSACI Council approved 148 new applicants for membership. A list of applicants was sent to the members in advance.
- II. The year 23/24 ended with a membership total of over 1,000 (1,112 members). We continue to receive a steady number of new members each month, with the biggest growth in the Nurse and Allied Health Professional membership category.
- III. Members were asked to ratify, by a show of hands, the new members' list.

Result: Approved

- IV. The Secretary thanked the membership for their continued support and asked for emails regarding suggestions on how to improve membership services be sent to melanie@bsaci.org. Dr Marriage also thanked Melanie Parrienen, the BSACI Membership Officer, who is doing a brilliant job in supporting the Secretary.

Current BSACI Membership



6. Treasurer's Report: (Dr Runa Ali)

The BSACI financial year runs from August 2023 – July 2024

- I. **Summary of Income and Expenditure Year Ending July 31st, 2024:** There was a surplus of £180,566 from 2021/22 conferences which has been used to maintain cashflow. £40,000 was drawn out in 2023 from reserves to invest in the implementation of an Allergy Education Strategy by appointing Education Fellow (develop a framework in Yr 1; build resources for a sustainable online allergy education platform in Yr 2). The deficit for 2024 is £43,234, which isn't very different from last year.

	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE	(2023 ACTUAL)
INCOME	£535,741	£562,382	£26,641	£395,234
EXPENDITURE	£649,049	£605,815	£43,234	£483,608
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	-£113,308	£43,433		£93,062

- II. Dr Ali elaborated that investing in an Operations Manager to free up CEO's time, has enabled us to: Apply for a grant to fund UKFAR which was successful, obtain funding from industry partners to support the BRIT Registry, fund a National Allergy Strategy and increase sponsorship for the BSACI Annual Conference. It has also helped build new partnerships to increase revenue eg: new allergy consumer magazine & by providing UK expertise for international webinars.

III. **Conference Budgets:**

	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE	2023
INCOME	£369,691.67	£371,998.33	£2,306.66	£315,891.84
EXPEND	£307,897.79	£298,455.41	£9442.38	£265,380.62
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	£61,793.88	£73,542.92	£11,749.04	£50,511.22

IV. **Global Symposium budgets:**

	BUDGET	ACTUAL 2024	VARIANCE	ACTUAL 2023
INCOME	£22,000	£28,933.33	£6,933.33	£22,995.83
EXPEND	£21,304.37	£21,304.37	£0.00	£37,342.30
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	£695.63	£7628.96	£6,933.33	-£14,346.47

There was a loss in the first year in 2023 as expected when setting up a new project. In the year 2024 there was a small profit of £7628.96 as compared to the expected £695.63.

V. **Proposed Income and Expenditure Budgets for Year Ending July 2025**

	2025 Proposed Budgets	(2024) Actual
Income:	£587,046	£562,382
Expenditure:	<u>£620,154</u>	<u>£605,815</u>
Deficit/Surplus:	-£33,108	-£43,433

If there is any shortfall in cashflow, the BSACI would draw down from the reserves which currently stands at £1,001,717, Dr Ali informed everyone that to safeguard the Society's financial stability and fulfil our objectives, the BSACI hold unrestricted financial reserves sufficient to cover the total operating costs for a period of 18 months.

Members are asked to approve these income and expenditure budgets for year ending 2024/25

Result: Approved

V. **Accounts for year ending July 31st, 2023 submitted to the Charity Commission in May 2024**

Year Ending	2023	2022
Income:	£396,532	£1,225,256
Expenditure:	£551,922	£1,101,891
Surplus/Deficit	-£155,390	£123,365

VI. **Members were invited to vote on the re-appointment of our accountants SAWIN & EDWARDS by a show of hands**

Result: Approved

7. CEA JOURNAL REPORT: (Professor Graham Roberts)

The editors Dr Bob Boyle and Dr Mohamed Shamji sent in their apologies. The President presented the report on their behalf. The impact factor has gone up in the last 2 years as compared to other allergy journals. There has been an increase in the article views and downloads. The concept of special issues introduced by the current co-editors has made a difference to the overall impact. Professor Robert mentioned that the end of the term of office for the co-editors will be coming up soon and the next steps should be planned accordingly.

8. BSACI Annual Conference Report: (Dr Natasha Gunawardana, Dr Nandinee Patel)

This year we had 782 attendees for the conference and out of this 371 attended on the Wednesday, which was an extra day added this year to the conference. There were 174 Abstracts with 74 speakers. There was more joint society collaboration this year. EDI was added to the oral abstract awards. Panel discussions were added after direct feedback from the planning committee. Poster walks and oral abstracts are now done by subject matter, especially for the Barry Kay awards category. Junior members were included as chairs for various sessions. The programme was EACCME accredited which is acknowledged globally. As for social events there were 35 runners at the fun run, 251 delegates registered for the welcome reception and there were 195 people turned up at the gala dinner.

With respect to awards 13 medical scholarships and 17 travel fellowships were awarded this year. Natasha and Nandinee thanked Fiona Rayner and the Medivents team for their support. They informed everyone that the next annual meeting in 2025 is in Newport between 16th and 18th of October at the ICC Wales. Finally, they thanked everyone involved in the planning of the conference, the programme planning committee, the conference organising committee, the BSACI team especially Fiona and the Medivents team.

It was observed that the app was used more this year as compared to last year, there was a drop in the number of printed programmes used this year. The Scientific Programme Leads discussed the additional half-day added to the conference, which incurred extra costs for accommodations and fees. Feedback on the extra day will be solicited from attendees, and early responses indicated that it was well received. Participants appreciated the slower pace and the more practical approach, which differed from the usual conference format. Some participants also mentioned enjoying the opportunity to collaborate with others at various workshops, finding it beneficial to engage with colleagues in a more relaxed setting.

9. Secretary Election

The Society held an election for the position of secretary, and Claudia Gore was the only nominee therefore was elected unanimously.

10. Ratification of the following:

i. AMEND ARTICLE 27 of the BSACI ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION:

The first change clarified that VPs could serve a two-year term and be re-elected.

Members were asked to vote by a show of hands.

Result: Approved

ii. PROPOSE BSACI REGISTRY OF IMMUNOTHERAPY (BRIT) TO BE A BSACI STANDING COMMITTEE INSTEAD OF A WORKING GROUP

The second proposal involved making the BRIT allergy registry a permanent committee, rather than a time-limited working group, due to its ongoing success.

Members were asked to vote by a show of hands.

Result: Approved

iii. PROPOSE BSACI TRANSITION GROUP TO MOVE TO STANDING COMMITTEE

INSTEAD OF WORKING GROUP

The final change proposed moving the transition working group, which focuses on allergy care, into a permanent committee. This decision is important for continued focus on transitional care.

Members were asked to vote by a show of hands.

Result: Approved

11. HANDOVER TO NEW PRESIDENT: (Professor Graham Roberts)

Professor Roberts the outgoing president praised the incoming president, thanking him for his leadership and ensuring the society's continued success. Dr Gore appreciated the tireless effort the outgoing president had put in during his tenure ensuring that the society is in great shape. The new president presented the outgoing president with a gift in recognition of his hard work and commitment to the Society.

Dr Gore the incoming President spoke about the strategy meeting that was held in May , where wide stakeholder involvement from members and patient organizations will shape the society's strategic direction. The meeting emphasized that the new strategy represented "evolution, not revolution," and several interesting ideas were discussed, including aligning with the national allergy strategy.

12. Summary of BSACI Three Year Strategy (2024-2027) (Dr Robin Gore)

The new President emphasised that the strategy was built on the strengths of the new structure with our four VPs leading on each individual aspect of the BSACI, science and research, services, workforce, education, and training.

Science and research:

Professor Schwarz, VP for science and research will be setting up an allergy research network. The idea for this is to help connect young researchers with established researchers to provide a mentorship model to help aspiring researchers see a career into allergy and allergy research. To act as a focus for bringing existing research groups together to foster cross-staff collaboration and better inclusion of cross-staff in studies, to act as a portal for dissemination of research output. There is a plan for developing a summer school for basic scientists and non-scientists as well as the need for representation of mechanistic research in the societies, conferences and other educational events. In terms of aligning research priorities, the society will be working through our representation on the expert advisory group to the National Allergy Strategy to align national research objectives.

Services:

VP of Services Dr Louise Michaelis. Will be focusing on developing BSACI transition material, defining national standards of transitional care, integrating education and training on healthcare transition, and developing pragmatic pathways, and the Improvement in the quality of allergy services, with emphasis around spin training for adult allergy services. Liaising with the Royal Colleges, medical specialist boards, the GMC will be needed. These collaborations will bring allergy expertise to wider members of the workforce which will help increase allergy services provision.

Education and training:

The priority of Professor Gillian Vance the VP of Education and Training is to promote the BSACI education strategy for building with external relations, establishing a route for communication and for sharing learnings across BSACI educational activities. The team have already set an educational target for Tier 3 learning and that's at approximate to a general practice level. The intention of that being that we would cover the broadest number of patients, the broadest number of healthcare professionals working in the allergy field to make the biggest impact.

Workforce:

Though there is some overlap between workforce led by Lucy Common and services led by Dr

Louise Michaelis, the strategy here is to focus on publishing competencies for nurses and AHPs, there's also been a great interest in having a portfolio where we can publish and promote plans and successful business applications, so that we do not waste resources in reinventing the way we're bringing about our services. A theme that's been replicated, not just in the Nurses Forum but also in as well as the GPs as well.

Dr Gore mentioned that he would continue to work with the BSI CIPN Steering Committee and on the joint training, mutual training pathway for the trainees.

He highlighted the GP with Extended roles. It took 10 years on getting that through, and that we need to make sure that the GPs who are at the threshold of achieving that status have access to support structures with tertiary care managers, so that they can have their training validated and move on to full authorization.

Dr Gore said even though the strategy has already had a lot of input he was happy to take any comments.

13. Any Other Business: (Professor Graham Roberts)

None

14. Date of the AGM 2025: (Professor Graham Roberts)

The next AGM will be held on Saturday, October 18th, 2025, at the ICC Wales.