



2019 Annual General Meeting of the British Neuroscience Association

Tuesday 16th April 2019, Dublin Conference Centre, Ireland

MINUTES

Chair: Professor Stafford Lightman

1.0 Report from the President, *Professor Stafford Lightman (SL)*

1.1 *Governance: Confirmation of elected Council and Committee members, and announcement of President-Elect 2019-2021*

SL welcomed all to the meeting and proceeded to thank the following members of the BNA council and committee who have now stepped down from their respective terms:

- Mark Ungless (Education & Engagement Secretary)
- Jo Bailey (Students & Early Careers Representative)
- Deborah Castle (Equal Opportunities & Diversity Representative)

SL announced new council and committee members as follows:

- Zoe Kourtzi (Honorary Secretary 2019-2023) [Trustee]
- Crawford Winlove (Education & Engagement Secretary 2018-2022)
- Elizabeth Coulthard (Membership Secretary and Neurology Advisor)
- Emma Yhnell (Equal Opportunities & Diversity Representative 2019-2023)
- Richard (Rik) Henson (President Elect 2019-2021)

No objections were observed.

1.2 *Strategy: Update on the BNA's strategic plans*

SL reported on recent BNA activities (since the last AGM in 2018), including the following:

- Funding from Wellcome Trust has allowed us to recruit a much-needed development director, Sophie Sykes-Jerrold.
- In March 2018, the Trustees made a key decision for 'Credibility in neuroscience' to be a core theme for the next 5-10 years. This core theme would run alongside and help fulfil the strategic pillars of 'inform, connect, influence' strategic pillars.
- In June 2018 BNA were awarded our largest grant ever from Gatsby (£450,000 over 3 years).
- BNA's education work has expanded including work within schools and BNA has undertaken two separate education projects;
 - (1) Core Concepts of Neuroscience, supporting secondary schools to teach neuroscience at Key Stages 4 and 5.
 - (2) supporting primary schools to include neuroscience with resource toolkits for Key Stages 1-3 (funded by Roche).
- BNA produced an online Brain Awareness Week (BAW) 'neuro' calendar and sponsored a public lecture by Paul Howard-Jones.

- BNA surveyed members about Brexit and Neuroscience and SL spoke at European Parliament on how Brexit might affect neuroscience, innovation and people affected by neurological conditions, highlighting the damage that Brexit (especially a 'no-deal' Brexit) would have on research and medicine supplies. The event was organised by the European Brain Council, of which the BNA is a member via Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS).
- Online communications: The website continued to be a well-used resource for informing any and all visitors about the BNA and neuroscience. Information on careers consistently remains the most used section of the site, showing how the BNA is used as a way to find out how to study and pursue a career in neuroscience.
- During 2017-2018 the BNA had 39 Local Groups (LGs) across the UK and Ireland and through the course of the year £3780 was awarded to nine LGs.
- Women in Science Database (WISDAT). In May 2018, this initiative to raise the profile of women researchers in psychology and neuroscience - founded by a BNA Trustee and financially supported by the BNA with the British Psychological Society - was officially launched.

1.3 *Journal: Brain and Neuroscience Advances*

Year End 2018 (YE2018)

As of YE sept 2018 (1st October 2017 - 30th September 2018) the following was reported:

- Indexing - this is a long process, and the journal has been caught in a longer-than-usual queue. Therefore, although the journal became eligible for indexing on PubMed during this period we are still waiting to be indexed. It was noted that submitters can add papers directly to PubMed.
- 'Open Science' initiatives - there was decision from Editorial board and BNA to introduce Open Science Initiatives (which are now being implemented, with help from Chris Chambers) - including Registered Reports, TOP badges and CRediT taxonomy.
- Two special collections were published, both of which proved extremely popular:
 - Pre-frontal cortex
 - BNA 50th collection

Members were encouraged to submit primary papers to the journal, especially ideas for special issues. Thanks were given to Jeff Dalley (Editor-in-Chief) for his efforts.

2.0 **Report from the Treasurer, Professor Catherine Harmer**

2.1 *Annual accounts for the British Neuroscience Association Ltd and for BNA Events Ltd*

Catherine Harmer (CH) presented the accounts for the charity (British Neuroscience Association Ltd) and for its subsidiary company, BNA Events Ltd. Accounts were approved as a true description.

At year end 2018 (1st October 2017 - 30th September 2018), the Charity (British Neuroscience Association Ltd) had £390,428 in reserves of which £18,626 is held in restricted funds. Unrestricted reserves decreased from £415,250 for YE2017 to £371,802.

This decrease was largely due to investment of money, received the previous year, into appointing a new Development Director, alongside increased administrative support to allow this post to reach its full potential.

BNA Events Ltd is showing little income for YE2018 as the year in question was a non-Festival year and therefore no Festival-related income (sponsorship, donations and exhibition income) is present.

Refer to Appendix 1.0 (Value of the BNA YE2018) for further information.

3.0 Report from the Secretary, Dr Anne Cooke for Zoe Kourtzi

3.1 Membership report

Membership continues increase, reaching 2000 members for the first time by the end of YE2018. This is a significant increase from the <1400 members recorded when reports began in September 2016. Postgraduate members constitute the largest majority membership type (around 700 members).

The BNA is continuing to work on the recruitment and retention of members and this remains at the forefront of our activities.

Please refer to Appendix 1.0 for membership trend graphs.

3.2 Meetings: 2017 Christmas Symposium

18 December 2017 in London's Canary Wharf, 'Brain technologies: A brave new world?'

The day saw 280 people come together to find out about neurotechnologies. As well as neuroscientists at all stages of their career, from undergraduates to professors, the BNA Christmas symposia are also designed to be accessible by non-experts, and we were delighted to see that those attending included members of the public from various career backgrounds.

3.3 2017 Prize winners

- Michael Owen (Outstanding contribution to neuroscience)
- Dervila Glynn (Public Engagement of neuroscience)
- Gido van de Ven (Postgraduate Prize)
- Irene Altura (Undergraduate Prize)
- Honorary Memberships were awarded to Steven Rose, Robert Balazs and John Lagnado

4.0 Any other business

President Professor Stafford Lightman as of today (16.04.19), has stepped down as BNA President of the BNA and this is officially his last AGM in this post. Professor Annette Dolphin (UCL), is now the President of the BNA until April 2021.

BNA is the host society for the FENS Forum in Glasgow in July 2020. Chair of the FENS host society committee (HSC), made a plea to all those present to be involved with preparations of the event where they can and to look out for further communications calling for action from the BNA office.