



# Annual General Meeting of the British Neuroscience Association 2023

For the period 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022

12:15 Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2023 | The Brighton Centre, Brighton, UK

---

## Draft minutes

Introduction and welcome by the Chief Executive, Dr Anne Cooke. The meeting was quorate.

- Code of Conduct and Safe(r) Spaces Policy
- Poll will be held after Trevor Bushell has presented the accounts
- Year Ending 2022 (YE2022) starts on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021 and runs through to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022

### 1) Report from the President, Professor Rik Henson

- Governance: Confirmation of elected Council and Committee members since previous Annual General Meeting (AGM)
  - Association Secretary; thanks to Zoe Kourtzi, welcome to Sarah King (Sussex).
  - Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Representative; thanks to Emma Yhnell, welcome to Vasanta Subramanian (Bath). Special thanks were given to Emma for huge strides in BNA EDI and outreach.
  - Education and Outreach Secretary: thanks to Crawford Winlove, welcome to Sandrine Willaime-Morawek (Southampton).
- Strategy: Update on the BNA's strategic plans
  - Last year's main priority was to maintain income after the Gatsby Charitable Foundation grant came to an end; we were delighted to be awarded a second, 3-year grant from Gatsby that will take us through to Year Ending 2025.
  - Our strategic pillars remain 'Inform, Connect, Influence', with priority areas in sector development, community building, inclusion and careers.
  - At present, some specific strategic goals are to:



- Professionalise the sector by way of providing an endorsement scheme for taught neuroscience courses.
- Increasing the inclusion of clinician neuroscientists in BNA membership, activities and continued professional development.
- Providing more alternative career opportunities for members, across academia, the clinic and commercial sectors, e.g. introductions of junior members to possible positions in industry.

## **(2) Report from the Treasurer, Dr Trevor Bushell**

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

- British Neuroscience Association Ltd:
  - For YE2022, total income was £407,416 (major sources were membership subscriptions, grant funding (Gatsby Charitable Foundation), Building Bridges and the BNA2021 dividend).
  - There were some small losses (£34,059) on investments due to COVID-19.
  - Expenditure totalled £319,236, and major expenses came from office/staff costs, Gatsby Credibility in Neuroscience activities, bursaries, subscriptions/membership and BNA Bulletin production.
  - £85k of reserves are restricted for Gatsby-funded and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) activities.
  - 0% of investments are in alcohol, gambling, fossil fuels or weapons.
  - In summary, YE2022 accounts show a stable pattern of income and planned expenditure. British Neuroscience Association Ltd remains in a good position, with planned expenditure in line with its core mission, activities, and further support from Gatsby Charitable Foundation funding.
- BNA Events Ltd:
  - For YE2022, total income was £59,555 and expenditure was £18,244. Profit (£41,304) was higher than expected – this is primarily from new ‘Annual sponsorship’ packages plus sponsorship for the Festive symposium.
  - Reserves follow a 2-year cycle in line with income from the biannual Festival of Neuroscience.
- There is currently a discussion underway regarding the BNA’s Reserves Policy, around whether or not the BNA might reduce reserves to less than 12 months’ predicted expenditure, or to a smaller fraction of current expenditure, so as to free up more funds for investment.

**Accounts were approved by unanimous vote from those present.**



### (3) Report from the Secretary, Professor Zoe Kourtzi (*in absentia*)

- **Membership report** for Year Ending 2022: over the course of YE2022 we saw membership make a modest but important increase from 2,466 to 2,621 (+155). This builds on the increases seen in recent years, with the total number of members now doubled since 2016 (from 1,344 to 2,621). The membership types with greatest percentage increase growth over YE2022 were those at earlier career stages, 'particularly student/undergraduate' and 'career starter'. Having a growing community of early career members is one reason why the Association is making career development one of its priority areas, as this is clearly an area of need for our members and one where the BNA can have a positive impact on developing the sector.
- **Meetings during YE2022:** A full list of meetings can be found in the Trustees' Annual Report. During the reporting period, most meetings continued to be held online, but we also held our first in-person meeting since March 2020. Two highlights of the meeting schedule were:
  - The first 'BNA Members' Meeting': a meeting exclusively for members of the BNA, creating a safe and supportive safe for sharing ideas and feedback on current research.
  - The workshop '– Improving translation in neuroscience', part of the 'Building Bridges Between: Industry and Academia initiative, held in partnership with the Sainsbury Wellcome Centre in London.
  - 2021 Prize winners
- **2021 Prize winners:**
  - Outstanding Contribution to Neuroscience 2021: Professor Joanna Wardlaw at the UK Dementia Research Institute at University of Edinburgh.
  - Public Engagement of Neuroscience 2021: The BrainBus team, MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit, University of Cambridge
  - Honorary Membership: Awarded to Professor Narender Ramnani, in recognition of his many years of service to the BNA
  - Postgraduate award 2021: Alberto Lazari, University of Oxford
  - Undergraduate Award 2021: Sioned Williams, University of Leeds
  - Credibility in Neuroscience Prize (student): Fiona Ramage (University of Dundee)
  - Credibility in Neuroscience Prize (researcher): Matthew Grubb (King's College London)
  - Credibility in Neuroscience Prize (Team): Experimental Design Assistant development team (NC3Rs)
- **Announcement of the President-Elect 2023-2025 (Rik)**
  - The new BNA President-Elect is Narender Ramnani of Royal Holloway, University of London

### (4) AOB



- Special thanks were extended to Annette Dolphin (outgoing Past-President), Duncan Banks (BNA Local Group Representative at the Open University, BNA representative to the Royal Society of Biology, and previous BNA Treasurer), and Anne Cooke (outgoing Chief Executive, to whom proper thanks will be given at the Gala Dinner