

THE ASSOCIATION FOR CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY & LABORATORY MEDICINE

Minutes of the Sixty-ninth Annual General Meeting of the Association held via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday 13th July 2022.

The Company Secretary of the Association, Dr Sarah Glover, called the meeting to order at 13.32h.

There were 52 voting members present.

The Company Secretary welcomed members to the meeting being held by videoconference. Members were advised of the proposer, seconder and voting procedures to be considered under these circumstances.

69/1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Mike Bosomworth (Director of Finance), Kamaljit Chatha (Director of Publications & Communications), Alexandra Yates (Director of Scientific Affairs), Emma Lewis (Director of Regulatory Affairs/FCS Chair), Ian Godber (National Member), Rebecca Pattenden (Chair of ACB Scotland), Jennifer Cundick (Chair of ACB Northern Ireland), Jennifer Brady (Chair of ACB Republic of Ireland), Oliver Clifford-Mobley, Ann Bowron and Janet Smith. Proxy vote submissions were received from two members.

69/2 THE MINUTES OF THE SIXTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on Friday 18th June 2021 were received and approved with no amendments. The acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Dr Sarah Glover, seconded by Mrs Sarah Robinson and accepted *nemine contradicente*.

69/3 MATTERS ARISING

There were none not covered in the agenda of this meeting.

69/4 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR 2021 / PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President of the Association, Dr Bernie Croal, brought the Annual Report to the attention of members.

Although we have seen less direct effects of the Covid-19 pandemic during 2021 and into 2022, we have increasingly seen the after effects including long patient care waiting lists, backlogs and an economic downturn. Despite this, 2021 has seen the Association maintain our strong profile and develop an impressive suite of activities. Thanks were relayed to the staff team, Directors and members of the Association for their hard work.

In 2021, we have continued on our 5-year roadmap to build on the reach and influence of the Association. We have rebranded and relaunched our national meeting to UKMedLab (the first of which was held in June 2021, and was very successful with over 400 delegates), we have redeveloped our digital platform (winning a Best Digital Transformation of the Year Award), we have grown our membership over the year (by 4.6%), we have increased the readership of the Annals of Clinical Biochemistry (to 1.3 million downloads, and have moved up 5 places in the rankings of best laboratory medicine journals to 15th), we have rebranded and relaunched the Research & Innovation Grant we offer, and we have launched a new strategic industry partnership initiative (the first of which is with Abbott, and many members have joined and appreciated the co-hosted webinars resulting from this).

Going forward into 2022, with funding from Health Education England (HEE) we have been developing a series short course on Whole Genome Sequencing and Infection (being delivered in partnership with Great Ormond Street Learning Academy), we have been working with the Royal College of Pathologists (RCPath), Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS) and, as remarked by member Dr Danielle Freedman, the members of the Lab Tests Online Board (who have worked tirelessly in support of Lab Tests Online) we are now working to reimagine and relaunch Lab Tests Online (after the transfer of ownership to the ACB at the end of this year), we have been developing our own educational resources under the working title the Laboratory Medicine Learning Academy (which will provide interactive tailored learning as well as links and portals to other resources such as the EFLM Academy and the North American Adaptive Learning), we have now launched a Mentoring Programme, we have undergone a review of the membership structure and benefits (covered further under item 9 of this meeting), our Equality, Diversity & Inclusion working group have been ensuring that we meet our aims in this across all of our areas of activity, and we have recently established an Environmental Sustainability working group who will be devising a strategy and action plan for how members and the Association can engage in the 'net zero' agenda. Further digital development is planned and we are currently working towards our UKMedLab22 national meeting taking place in London on 7th-9th November 2022. We are also considering submitting a bid to host EuroMedLab25.

The President summarised that as an Association we are currently where we want to be with a stronger more visible voice in laboratory medicine, providing members with the resources they need to learn, train and function as professionals. The Association is not about the President or its Directors or Committee Chairs, it is about the members and what we can collectively achieve. Membership is not about paying subscription fees and determining what you get back, it is about collective ownership and how we can collectively contribute to the areas that are important to us. The current times, post-pandemic and not least with the Government and the impact this uncertainty has on being able to put across new ideas and initiatives and dealing with the problems we and the NHS in particular are facing, these moments provide an opportunity for us in laboratory medicine to demonstrate the importance of what we do like never before, to influence patient pathways, to drive efficiencies, and drive improvements and patient outcomes.

Acceptance of the Annual Report as an accurate reflection of the Association's activities during 2021 was proposed by Dr Bernie Croal, on behalf of the Association Council, seconded by Dr Danielle Freedman and accepted *nemine contradicente*.

69/5 THE ASSOCIATION ACCOUNTS AND BALANCE SHEET FOR 2021, having been previously circulated, were received by the meeting.

The Director of Finance, Dr Michael Bosomworth, sent apologies for this meeting. The President, Dr Bernie Croal, reported on his behalf.

As like many others we have seen some unexpected costs during the Covid-19 pandemic but we have kept close management control of our finances and we are reporting a surplus of approximately £40k for 2021.

The accounts have been audited and, based on the information provided, have satisfied our auditors H W Fisher LLP and have been presented to members.

Moving into 2022, we have developed a new investment strategy (and have researched and appointed new investment managers) and we are progressing with the sale of the 4th floor, 130-132 Tooley Street, London SE1 2TU, which should complete by the end of August 2022.

Thanks were relayed to Dr Michael Bosomworth who has reached the end of his term of office following the adjournment of this meeting and we welcome his successor following their appointment today. At a recent meeting of the Association Council, Dr Bernard Croal was delighted to award Dr Michael Bosomworth with the President's Shield in 2022 for his hard work as Director of Finance over the past five years.

Acceptance of the accounts and balance sheets was proposed by Dr Bernie Croal, on behalf of Dr Michael Bosomworth and the Association Council, seconded by Dr Sarah Glover and accepted *nemine contradicente*.

69/6 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Company Secretary, Dr Sarah Glover, announced the unopposed re-elections of the following officers:

Company Secretary	Dr Sarah Glover
Director of Publications and Communications	Miss Kamaljit Chatha
Director of Scientific Affairs	Mrs Alexandra Yates
Director of Clinical Practice	Dr Mayur Patel
Director of Regulatory Affairs	Dr Emma Lewis
Director of Conferences and Events	Mrs Sarah Robinson
Chair of the Microbiology Professional Committee	Dr Robert Shorten
Chair of the Immunology Professional Committee	Dr Elizabeth Bateman

The Company Secretary announced that the Director of Education, Training & Workforce has reached the end of her term of office, however in accordance with Bye-Law 6.2 Council agree to the proposal for Mrs Hazel-Ann Borthwick to remain in Office for a further two years:

Director of Education, Training & Workforce	Mrs Hazel-Ann Borthwick
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No objections to any of the above re-appointments were raised by members at this meeting.

The Company Secretary announced that Dr Michael P Bosomworth has reached the end of his term of office as Director of Finance. We have received one nomination for his replacement which was wholeheartedly supported by Council and presented to members at this meeting:

Director of Finance	Mr Ben Nicholson
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The above appointment was proposed by Dr Sarah Glover on behalf of the Association Council, seconded by Mrs Hazel-Ann Borthwick and carried *nemine contradicente*. Mr Ben Nicholson shall assume office as Director of Finance from the adjournment of this meeting.

Dr Sarah Glover thanked Dr Michael Bosomworth on behalf of the Association Council for his work as Director of Finance during some difficult years.

69/7 APPOINTMENT OF PRESIDENT ELECT OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Company Secretary, Dr Sarah Glover, reported that this year marked the first year of the new selection process for our next President Elect. Following a successful interview by the Nominations Committee, a proposal was put forward to Council on 31st May 2022 that our next President Elect be Dr Katharine Hayden which was unanimously agreed to.

The appointment of President Elect of Dr Katharine Hayden was proposed by Dr Sarah Glover on behalf of the Association Council, seconded by Dr Rachel Wilmot and carried *nemine contradicente*. Dr Katharine Hayden shall assume office as President-Elect from the adjournment of this meeting and assume the role of President from the adjournment of next year's Annual General Meeting in 2023.

69/8 ELECTION OF EMERITUS, FELLOW AND HONORARY MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Company Secretary, Dr Sarah Glover, presented to members the following proposals from Council for membership award nominations:

Fellow of the Association

Dr John Frater, nominated by the Trent, Northern & Yorkshire Region, seconded by Mrs Hazel-Ann Borthwick

Dr Mike Badminton, nominated by the Wales Region, seconded by Mr Paul Newland

Dr Paul Thomas, nominated by the South West & Wessex Region, seconded by Mr Geoff Lester

Ms Catherine Shearing, nominated by the Scotland Region, seconded by Dr Bernie Croal

Dr Peadar McGing, nomination by the Republic of Ireland Region, seconded by Miss Karen Heverin

Honorary Member of the Association

Professor Terry Lappin, nominated by the Northern Ireland Region, seconded by Miss Prangige Dilini Peiris

Professor William Garry John, nominated by the Southern Region, seconded by Mrs Sophie Barnes.

There were no nominations for Emeritus Member of the Association or Friend of the Association presented at this meeting.

All of the above nominations were accepted *nemine contradicente*.

69/9 RECOMMENDATION FROM COUNCIL TO ADJUST THE MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURE AND CONFIRM MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION FEES EFFECTIVE FROM 1st JANUARY 2023, AND THE RESULTING RESOLUTIONS FROM COUNCIL FOR CHANGES TO THE ARTICLES AND BYE-LAWS

The Company Secretary, Dr Sarah Glover, reported that since the Association's last significant membership review in 2008/9 there have been huge changes in laboratory medicine and the Association. Following Council approval, over the last 3 months a working group has undertaken a full membership review, considering our target membership groups and benefits of membership. The aims were to simplify membership, engage with members from a diverse range of institutions, deliver high value services and diversify subscription payment options.

The recommendation from Council is to simplify the membership structure from 1st January 2023 to that of Student, Member and Retired. The categories of Emeritus, Fellow and Honorary would remain unchanged. The pre-circulated Appendix paper details the proposed membership categories, the benefits of each and the simplified fee structure.

Membership would be free for Students and Retired members, with limited content available. The paying members fee will be £240, with a discounted fee of £150 for those in their first 5 years of membership and those currently in Ordinary subscription band 1 for 5 years commencing from 2023. Members of the Association of Clinical Biochemists in Ireland may also be entitled to the discounted fee. There will also be the introduction of the option for monthly subscription payments.

In line with the proposed membership structure, changes to the Articles of Association and the Bye-laws are proposed, which have been also made available to members to review. Dr Rachel Wilmot remarked that we have also taken this opportunity to assess some of the language used throughout the Articles and Bye-Laws which has been changed to be more inclusive.

Dr Sarah Glover proposed these changes to the membership structure, the Articles and Bye-Laws and the resulting subscription fees, seconded by Dr Rachel Wilmot and accepted *nemine contradicente*

69/10 APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Director of Finance, Dr Michael Bosomworth, sent apologies for this meeting. The Company Secretary, Dr Sarah Glover, reported on his behalf.

On behalf of the Association Council, the Company Secretary proposed that the Association Executive appoint *H W Fisher* to be Auditors of the Association for the year and authorise the Directors to determine their remuneration. The proposal was seconded by Mr Geoff Lester and accepted *nemine contradicente*.

69/11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Company Secretary, Dr Sarah Glover, reported that no other matters of business were received beforehand but gave the opportunity for members to raise any at this time. No other matters of business were raised at this meeting.

The Company Secretary thanked members for their participation at this Annual General Meeting and called the meeting to a close at 13.58h.