

Chair's update July 2017

We've had a busy few weeks. I have been in touch with you recently with the response from the BSGM to the Chief Medical Officer's Annual Report Generation Genome. It is important to reiterate how this report detailing the opportunities in Genomic Medicine was only possible due to your remarkable work over the past number of years and how valuable that has been to your patients.

A number of you will be attending or will have attended the market engagement days on the 25th and 27th July relating to the Proposed Requirements of the Genomic Laboratory Hubs in England. We will strive through the BSGM and constituent groups to keep all members abreast of developments and represent your views so that the best outcomes can be achieved through this process.

BSGM policy and projects

We have revised the Constitution of the Society. This is currently being assessed by the Charity Commission. Once approved, we will circulate, post on the website and seek your approval (electronically).

BSGM in the media

Genetics has been high profile in the media over the past few weeks with not only through the CMO's report but with the tragedy of the Charlie Gard case. The BSGM strongly supports the statement released by Mary MacLeod, the Chair of Great Ormond Street Hospital recognizing the distress of the parents and tragic situation but condemning the abuse of health professionals and other parents and visitors to the Hospital. It is important that health professionals are able to act in the best interests of their patients free from such harassment. Such behaviour makes health professionals less willing to provide expert views or provide context to medical situations or research advances through the media for fear of retribution.

We are keen to support members to contribute to the national debate surrounding genomics and are looking at ways to create an expert panel of individuals to draw upon when media opportunities present. If anyone is prepared to put themselves forward then please contact Michelle Bishop on michelle.bishop@hee.nhs.uk

We would like to express our huge thanks to Alison Lashwood for her work as Press Officer for the Society. As Alison is retiring later in the year, we are keen to find someone interested to take on this role. We will cover costs for the appointed individual to receive training. We will also explore ways to provide media training for members. If you are interested in accessing this please let Michelle know.

The BSGM responded to the Guardian article "[We're all mutants now; the trouble with genetic testing](#)" considering the complexities of sequence variant interpretation by posting a comment [here](#).

Also, we contributed to an article in the Observer about [Direct to Consumer Genetic tests](#).

Conferences and Meetings

We hope you can join us for our annual conference: **UK Clinical Genomics** on 5th October 2017 at the Royal College of Physicians, London. Please see details of the [programme](#) Registration will open very soon.

The Annual General Meeting for the Society will take place at 5.30pm immediately after the conference.

Join us also for the [Joint BSGM and Genetics Society meeting](#) 23rd and 24th November 2017 at the Royal Society, London on **The Human Genome in Healthcare**.

A date for your diary: 8th March, 2018 at the Royal College of Physicians, London as part of the 500th anniversary of the College. The BSGM is hosting a one day meeting **Medicine – transformation through genomics** with the Renal Association, British Association for Neurology, the Associations for Cancer Physicians and the British Cardiovascular Society. Download the programme [here](#).

Congratulations

Many congratulations to BSGM members recognized in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours List. Dr Rachel Butler Head of Laboratory at the All Wales Genetics Laboratory at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board [was awarded an MBE](#) and Prof Graeme Black, Strategic Director at the Manchester Centre for Genomic Medicine who was [awarded an OBE](#)

BSGM Administration

The administration for the BSGM is managed by the Royal Society of Biology. Any questions call 020 37937851 or email membership@bsgm.org.uk

Please contact me (william.newman@manchester.ac.uk) if you have any queries about the content of this email or any other suggestions relating to the Society.

Have a great holiday.

William Newman, Chair BSGM

BSGM Membership Services
020 3793 7851

<http://www.bsgm.org.uk/>

Follow us on [Twitter](#) | Find us on [Facebook](#) | Manage your membership via [mySociety](#)