The Physiological Society

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Annual General Meeting 2012

Thursday 5 July 2012|14:00- 15:00|Edinburgh International Conference Centre (EICC)

1. **Welcome and nomination of Chairman**

1.1 The meeting commenced at 14:00 and was attended by 45 Members.

1.1 On the proposal of M Spyer, R Ribchester was elected as chair of the meeting nem con. Professor R Ribchester asked the meeting to approve the presence of Society staff members. This was approved *nem con*.

2. **Stand in memory of deceased Members**

2.1 R Ribchester asked Members to stand for a minute's silence to remember the Members who died during the last year.

3. **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 13 July 2011**

3.1 The minutes were approved *nem con* as a true and accurate record.

4. **Election results**

4.1 R Ribchester announced that the elections were very competitive this year for the Trustees, The successful candidates were: Richard Vaughan-Jones, who was also appointed Deputy President; Blair Grubb, who was also appointed Chairman of Education & outreach Committee; Judy Harris; Ken O'Halloran; Lucia Sivilotti; and David Thwaites. R Ribchester thanked all those who put themselves forward and asked that unsuccessful candidates would continue to contribute to the activities of The Society and put themselves forward for election in the future.

5. **Retiring members**

5.1 R Ribchester thanked outgoing Trustees and especially the members of the Executive Committee who have made exceptional contributions to The Society's activities over the last four years. The retiring members of the Executive Committee were Mike Spyer (outgoing President), Louise Robson (outgoing Chairman of Education & Outreach Committee) and Jeremy Ward (outgoing Chairman of Policy Committee).

5.2 R Ribchester also thanked the other retiring Trustees who have contributed to the membership of committees and Council governance. These were Patricia de Winter, Susan Jones and Ian McGrath. Ian McGrath in particular had contributed to the work of the Executive Committee in many roles since 2004 and deserved special thanks.

6. **Honorary Members**

6.1 The approval by Council of Richard Axel, Linda Buck, David Colquhoun, John Nicholls, Venki Ramakrishnan and Semir Zeki as Honorary Members for their outstanding contributions to either The Society and/or the science of physiology was noted. R Ribchester suggested a short round of applause and this was duly observed.

7. **Report by the President**

7.1 M Spyer gave an update to Members on developments over the last year (see attached slides). Since the development of the last 5 year plan in 2010, The Society had made progress on many fronts including enhancing the profile of The Society through its communication and outreach activities as well as enhancing its policy work and engagement with Government and other stakeholders, in part facilitated by the appointments of Outreach and Policy Managers. These activities were reported in more detail in the Annual Report.

7.2 As reported at the 2010 AGM, The Society established two Task Forces in 2011, which were continuing to meet – one reviewing the publications strategy and the other The Society's property needs. As previously announced on the website and in The Society's eNewsletter, M Spyer confirmed that The Society had recently bought a property in Farringdon Lane, currently named Priory Court, to act as both The Society's offices and support its charitable activities. Two floors in the building would also be sub-let, which would generate some income. Following consultation with, and the approval of the respective families and in light of the 60th anniversary of the Hodglin-Huxley papers, it is proposed to rename the building as Hodgkin-Huxley House subject to approval by the local Council. The views of Members on the naming of meetings rooms within the premises will be sought over the summer months.

7.3 A question was raised on possible tenants that were likely to co-locate with The Society. M Spyer said that the upper two floors are available to let and a likely tenant had already been identified that was a charity itself and with complementary if not identical objectives to The Society.

7.4 After M Spyer had completed his President's report, J Ashmore thanked him for his leadership and contribution to The Society over many years. J Ashmore proposed a round of applause for M Spyer, which was duly observed.

8. **Annual Report and Accounts of the Trustees for the year ended 31 Dec 2011**

8.1 R Dimaline, Honorary Treasurer gave an update on The Society's financial position and performance (see attached slides) and in particular noted that there had been an increased spend on The Society's charitable activities. The Members received the Annual Report and Accounts. Members approved the report *nem con* .

9. **Membership subscriptions**

9.1 R Dimaline reported on the proposed subscription rates for 2013. Members approved the proposed subscriptions *nem con*

10. **Re-appointment of Auditors - ordinary resolution**

10.1 The appointment of haysmacintyre (Chartered Accountants) as the Auditors of The Society until the next general meeting and authorisation of Council to fix their remuneration was approved nem con.

11. **Reports from the Editor in Chief of Journal of Physiology**

11.1 In the absence of D Paterson, Editor-in-Chief of *The Journal of Physiology*, who had sent his apologies, M Shipston, Chairman of Publications Committee gave a presentation on the recent performance of *The Journal* (attached). Members approved the report *nem con.*

11.2 It was reported the impact factors for both JP and EP had declined slightly, but that this was in line with trends on other journals. Submission rates and download figures for both journals had increased significantly and it was anticipated that the strategy to increase visibility of JP n particular would positively affect the impact factor in the next few years.

12. **Reports from the Editor in Chief of Experimental Physiology**

12.1 P McLoughlin, Editor-in-Chief, gave an update to Members on *Experimental Physiology's* achievements over the last year (see attached slides). There has been a renewed focus on leading edge discoveries in integrative physiology and pathophysiology.

13. **Additional report from the Chairman of Publications Committee**

13.1 M Shipston reported that The Society had entered into a joint venture with APS and would be launching an open access (OA) journal, called *Physiological Reports*. *Physiological Reports,* while only accepting robust and good quality scientific papers, novelty would not be a priority, positioning the new OA journal to compete with a number of other Open Access Journals, especially in relation to the author submission fees. Consequently it was noted that this positioning would mean the new journal would not be competing with JP or EP.

13.2 A question was raised on the structure of the editorial board for the OA journal. It was noted that nominations for the role of Editor-in-Chief are being from both the United States and the United Kingdom. It was stated that, if an Editor-in-chief were to be appointed from the United Kingdom, it was envisaged that a Deputy Editor-in-chief would be appointed from the United States and vice versa. Members approved the report *nem con.*

14. **Date of next meeting and Close of AGM**

14.1 The date of the next AGM is to be confirmed at a later date, but will be held during the IUPS Congress in Birmingham July 2013.