

History of the BACR

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Summary

Today the British Association of Cancer Research is the largest British-based cancer society with a membership of almost 1,200. The Association was formed in 1960, primarily on the initiative of Sir Alexander Haddow, the then Director of the Chester Beatty Research Institute, when a group of cancer researchers and clinicians met to found the British Association for Cancer Research (BACR). Haddow's vision was that an association, embracing all aspects of cancer research, would provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and discoveries that could be focused into patient benefit. Today these aims and ideals are achieved by educational and training opportunities for all those involved in the cancer field, particularly the next generation of cancer research professionals, and the Association now functions in a very different way from that established 50 years ago. The change in role is also a reflection of the changes in the organisation of cancer research within Britain, particularly the prominence of the National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI) and Cancer Research UK.

In the early years the Association, through annual meetings, provided a forum that facilitated the dissemination of new discoveries and advances, and the interchange of ideas among workers in all branches of cancer research. It became apparent, however, that annual meetings alone were an insufficient forum to fulfill the primary aims of the Association, and biannual meetings, symposia and workshops became a regular part of the Association's activities. The working of the Association became more professional in 1982 when an agreement with the Institute of Biology established a secretariat. This was further enhanced in 1997 when an anonymous donation of \$1M enabled the Association to establish a permanent secretariat at the Institute of Cancer Research. The 1990s also marked major developments in the organization and running of the Association. Successful meetings began to generate significant reserves allowing the Association to support travel bursaries and workshops. A more professional accounting system was introduced and subscriptions were collected by direct debit.

The 40th Annual Meeting held in Edinburgh, jointly with ACP and BOA, became the "British Cancer Research Meeting" (BCRM) and its success became the role model for future meetings. From its early days BACR had always had prestigious Award Lectures as a key part of its annual meetings. Whilst the nature of some of the original awards may have now changed to support Fellowships and Bursaries, several of the Award Lectures remain as important features, enhancing the international standing of the meeting. Further changes occurred in 2004 with the instigation of the NCRI Cancer Conference, which replaced the BCRM and incorporated BACR Award Lectures. At this time the Association focussed further on specialist meetings and, particularly through the website and biannual newsletters, ensuring that members were aware of and had access to the various awards made by the Association. The more recent affiliation with the European Association for Cancer Research has been particularly successful and has further broadened the scope of scientific meetings and activities available to members.

History of the BACR

In the late 1950's, Professor Alexander Haddow had a vision that an association should be formed that would embrace all aspects of cancer research, and provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and discoveries that could be focused into patient benefit. The primary aim of the association would be to facilitate the interchange of ideas among workers in all branches of cancer research.

Whilst this may seem a fairly obvious objective and one that is probably the basis for most of the "Cancer Associations" today, against the background of cancer research in the late 1950's it was quite novel. It also has to be remembered that in those days communication and travel were very different. At that time cancer research was quite compartmentalised into carcinogenesis or anticancer drug development. Haddow firmly believed that cancer research must always have a patient benefit. He was convinced that the unique situation brought about by the closeness of the Chester Beatty Research Institute to the Royal Cancer Hospital (now the Royal Marsden) would enable advances in cancer research to be taken into clinical practice. Indeed, drugs developed in the Chester Beatty, with the help of companies like Burroughs Wellcome and ICI, were taken directly into patients at the hospital and some of these early drugs are still in use.

On Thursday 15th September 1960 at the University of Glasgow Dr PR Peacock presided at the Inaugural Meeting and formally called the Association into existence. Thanks were extended to the British National Cancer Committee for providing funds that had made it possible to organise the inaugural meeting and to Professor Garry and his staff for their welcome and hospitality. Professor Garry gave a short address of welcome and the single item of preliminary business was then transacted. It was moved and seconded that the number to be elected to serve on the first Committee of the Association should be nine. Members were then invited to mark their ballot papers for the election of nine nominees and by general consent Dr LA Elson and Dr JO Laws were appointed to act as scrutineers.

The following were elected:

Professor F Bergel (London), Dr GM Bonser (Leeds), Professor JN Davidson (Glasgow), Professor A Haddow (London), Professor GF Marrian (London), Professor JW Orr (Birmingham), Dr PR Peacock (Glasgow), Dr AL Walpole (Alderley Park), Professor E Boyland (London). Dr JG Bennette (London) was elected Honorary Secretary and Dr JW Jull was elected Honorary Treasurer.

Seventy four members were present at the meeting, and scientific papers and demonstrations were given throughout. Dr Peacock described in greater detail the sequence of events that had led to the formation of the Association, with particular reference to meetings held with the Northern Cancer Research Club and its representatives. At these meetings, attempts had been made to define the future relationship between the new Association and the Northern Club. Dr Peacock announced that the Committee had met and had formulated proposals for discussion and decision by the General Meeting, stressing that they were intended as interim recommendations until the next General Meeting, when detailed proposals for a Constitution would be made, and that the Committee would circulate proposals for a written Constitution before the next General Meeting.

The meeting agreed that the first annual subscription should be £1. It should be remembered that in those days a senior researcher would probably only earn about £2,000 *pa* and, in this context, the 2010 subscription of £50 *pa* for a full member (£25 *pa* for students) represents very good value. It was agreed that all who had registered for the Inaugural Meeting and all who had expressed the wish to join the Association up to this time should be recorded as 'Founder Members', and that prospective new members must be sponsored by two existing members. Further agreements were that the publication of titles of papers and their authors should be considered as an historical record, and it was proposed that the Committee should ask the Editor of the British Journal of Cancer to do this.

One hundred and two members were present at the second AGBM which was held on Friday September 15th 1961 in the Edward Lewis Theatre of the Middlesex Hospital Medical School, London, with Professor A Haddow presiding. The title British Association for Cancer Research was adopted in preference to the alternative Cancer Research Association of Britain. It was agreed that the title should be taken to embrace Eire and the Commonwealth, and furthermore that 'alteration of the Constitution shall require a two-thirds majority vote of members attending the Annual General Meeting'.

Two further key agreements were made, firstly, that in order to further the aims of the Association a Programme Subcommittee should be formed to arrange scientific programmes with, initially, the Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary responsible for these arrangements. Secondly, the Honorary Treasurer would take steps to see whether the Inland Revenue Department would recognise the Association and authorise tax allowance on the annual subscription.

By 1962, there were 259 members of the Association, although only 64 attended the AGM in Birmingham. Dr JS Howell of Birmingham University was elected Honorary Treasurer and Dr JG Bennette Honorary Secretary. The meeting agreed that the Association should be affiliated to the Biological Council and should consider establishing links with other foreign cancer societies, and welcomed an invitation from Professor Muhlbock of the Netherlands Cancer Society to consider a joint meeting for the following year. Plans for such a meeting were made in 1963 and it was held successfully in Edinburgh in 1964, interestingly enough several members did raise concerns of potential conflicts with activities of the Northern Cancer Research Club and the 4-yearly International Cancer Congress producing too many meetings in one year. Over the next few years there were more meetings, at which international speakers were invited to give conference lectures. The Association became an associate member of the International Union Against Cancer.

1967 saw the first proposal to increase subscriptions to £2. The Association agreed to sponsor the formation of the British Cancer Council and to hold its first symposium the following year and efforts would be made to seek funds from outside sources to support the venture. By 1968 membership had grown to 438 and the Association agreed to establish the post of President, and that Professor Alex Haddow should be invited to accept the post. The Association received a generous donation from Mr Walter Hubert and it was agreed that this should be set aside to sponsor a conference lecture that would bear his name. Professor Alex Haddow took up the office of President in 1969 and Professor Heidelberger gave the first Hubert Lecture at the AGM held in Owens Park, Manchester.

An overview of the Association activities since its formation in 1960 was presented to the 1969 meeting. Annual meetings had been held in Glasgow, London, Birmingham, Leeds, Edinburgh, Dublin, Nottingham, Bournemouth and London. Along with presentations at the 1969 meeting, 317 papers or lectures had been delivered at these meetings, which had included 8 colloquia and 2 symposia. In addition, the BACR had developed an association with the Netherlands Oncological Society, had become a member of the International Union Against Cancer (UICC) and had sponsored the formation of the British Cancer Council.

The British Cancer Council was now independent of the sponsorship of the Association, and members of BACR were invited to attend the first symposium of the Council in March 1969. Contributions towards the costs of the meetings had been received from British Empire Cancer Campaign for Research and from Tenovus.

The Committee recommended, and the meeting accepted, that the Association should retain its independent membership of the UICC but that it should delegate responsibility to the British Cancer Council in all matters of UICC business requiring national representation or consultation. The Committee considered that the original constitution of the Association had proved to be inadequate in so many respects that it would not be satisfactory to make piecemeal amendments. It had accordingly invited Dr DC Roberts to draft a new form of Constitution and Rules to be submitted to the membership and presented for acceptance at the 11th AGM, which would be held in the University of Hull. The meeting agreed that the new subscription rate of £2 should take effect from 1 Oct 1969.

Dr RJC Harris Chaired the 1970 AGM at the University of Hull and the new constitution was adopted with an amendment to limit the length of service of the Honorary Officers. Dr JN Riggott was elected as Honorary Secretary. The 1971 AGM was held in Bristol and the 1972 AGM in Cardiff. In recognition of his services to the Association, Dr Bennette was made a Vice President. The meeting incorporated, with generous support from Mr Walter Hubert, Tenovus and the Cancer Research Campaign, a symposium of the Secondary Spread of Cancer, jointly organised with the British Cancer Council.

The 1972 AGM in Cardiff saw the beginning of further developments, it was agreed that an association, similar to the existing one with the Netherlands Oncological Society, should be formed with the Belgian Association. However, in a more significant development Dr PE Thompson Hancock spoke to a proposal put forward by the Committee that there should be two meetings of the Association each year. At one there would be an emphasis on a particular theme, possibly in the form of a symposium, and at the other members proffered papers would be the priority. It was generally agreed that it would not be possible to accommodate both these aspects of the BACR's work at a single Annual General Meeting. Dr Hancock suggested that every effort be made to encourage increasing collaboration between clinicians and experimentalists. His suggestion that a Winter meeting be organised, particularly concentrating on members papers, was agreed. It was decided to ask the Editor of the British Journal of Cancer to publish both the titles and abstracts of papers presented at meetings of the Association.

1973 saw a further development when, following the results of a questionnaire, the Committee decided to organise a series of workshops, and draft proposals for subjects for the first dozen were presented. The Committee proposed that members with expertise in a specific topic of current interest should be invited to set up a workshop for

25-30 people, and should invite speakers with similar expertise. According to subject the workshop might or might not include laboratory demonstrations. The objective would be to cover a wide range of clinical and experimental subjects, each being on a narrowly defined area. It was envisaged that the programme would run with approximately twelve workshops *per annum*. It was agreed that as numbers attending workshops would be limited, preference would be given to members and, furthermore, funding bodies would be approached to seek financial assistance to offset some of the running costs.

The 1974 AGM was held in The University of Leeds and Sir Michael Woodruff was elected President. The meeting was very successful and perhaps marked an important development on the social side that was greatly facilitated by the closeness of the halls of residence to the lecture theatres, and the late bar opening. Younger members were able to meet more senior colleagues in a very informal setting that went on to become one of the hallmarks of BACR meetings. The AGM at the University of Birmingham in 1975 was similarly successful. Dr M Moore was elected as Honorary Secretary and Dr Tony Nias elected as Honorary Treasurer. The meeting agreed that the Association should seek charitable status and that this would require a change in the constitution.

The 1976 AGM was held at University College, Swansea, and the 1977 AGM held at Churchill College, Cambridge. The latter meeting agreed to a proposal from Professor Kurt Hellmann to support a Lecture instituted in memory of the Association's first President, Sir Alexander Haddow, the first of these lectures to be given at the autumn 1977 joint meeting of the Association with the Section of Oncology of the Royal Society of Medicine, and thereafter every two years. However, no decision as to the form or extent of the financial commitment of the Association was taken. The meeting agreed that BACR members who had retired be entitled to continue in membership without payment of the annual subscription fee, and the suggestion that such persons should be defined as 'senior members' rather than 'emeritus members' was accepted. Scientifically, the meeting saw the first poster session; it was very successful and would be encouraged at future meetings.

By 1978 membership had grown to 610, and the AGM was held at the University Department of Zoology, Oxford. There was considerable discussion on whether non-graduates might be eligible for ordinary membership of the Association. The consensus was that non-graduates (defined as persons with certain technical qualifications or medical students undertaking special projects in departments of Cancer Research) should be eligible for membership provided that their Supervisors/Directors could give written evidence to the Committee of their participation in research. The 1979 AGM in Glasgow saw another increase in membership to 681, Michael Moore continued as Honorary Secretary, Tony Nias retired as Treasurer and Andrew Creighton was elected to succeed him. In terms of the development of the Association, Imperial Cancer Research Fund donated £5,000 to be used to endow a lecture in memory of Professor Gordon Hamilton-Fairley, who did so much to found the modern discipline of medical oncology as a defined clinical specialty and was so tragically killed by a car bomb intended for his neighbour. It was resolved that the first of these lectures would be given no later than the autumn of 1980.

At the 1980 AGM in Southampton, Michael Moore said he would like to stand down from the post of Honorary Secretary, but agreed to serve for a further year and Dr MJ Embleton agreed to be Secretary Elect. The meeting saw an interesting debate initiated by clinical members of the Association on whether the Association could assume a more

“political” role. It was explicitly stated that whilst the BACR could accommodate a substantial clinical element in its scientific programme, it could have no part in functioning as a pressure group in the interests of one section of the membership.

The Winter meeting of 1980 was jointly held with the Royal Society of Medicine and was the first to incorporate the Gordon Hamilton-Fairley Lecture and the Alexander Haddow Lecture. There had been a very successful workshop on monoclonal antibodies in Manchester, promoted by BACR and sponsored by Cancer Research Campaign. Plans were announced for a joint Winter meeting with the British Institute of Radiology in 1981, which would incorporate the 2nd Gordon Hamilton-Fairley Lecture to be given by Professor Peter Alexander. There would also be a December workshop jointly with the British Toxicology Society and Guy’s Hospital on “Toxic and Carcinogenic properties of Mycotoxins”.

The 1981 AGM in Keele, where the theme was “Occupational Exposure to Carcinogens” was very successful, as were the joint meetings with other Societies. More such meetings were planned, but it was becoming clear that if the success were to continue changes to the constitution would be needed to ensure continuity. Changes were approved at the 1982 AGM in Edinburgh, and it was agreed that the current format of the AGMs circulating around the country with Autumn/Winter meetings in London should be continued. The Association finances were very sound and it was agreed that strategies needed to be developed to ensure the most benefit for the membership. Michael Moore was elected Vice-President in recognition of his services to the Association. The BACR was now seen as the primary Cancer Research Meeting in the UK, and with the increasing activity the workload on the officers, particularly the Honorary Secretary and Executive Committee, was considerable and it was suggested by Andy Creighton that the Institute of Biology might be able to provide some central secretarial support services. The cost of such a service might be met by income generated from circulating advertising material along with Association notices and circulars. Following discussions with the Institute of Biology it was agreed that for a trial period and sum of £2,000 pa a secretariat would be established. Mrs Barbara Cavilla, from the Institute of Biology, would be responsible for providing the secretarial services to the Association.

The 1983 Winter meeting was on endocrine aspects of cancer and was the first held jointly with and sponsored by the ICRF. The results of a survey that year also showed that the membership favoured poster sessions at both meetings and also felt that the status of posters needed to be upgraded to ensure that they were not seen as second best to oral presentations. It was agreed that in future posters would be judged by members of the Committee and that a poster prize of £50 be awarded. CRC and ICRF agreed to provide support for an invited speaker at future joint BACR/RSM winter meetings.

The 1984 AGM was successfully held in York. Professor Ken Calman, Chairman of the Executive Committee, informed the meeting of the establishment of the Secretariat and thanked in particular Mrs Barbara Cavilla for her hard work. Plans were announced for the Silver Jubilee Meeting in Manchester, which would be the first to have parallel sessions and a high quality programme booklet. It was hoped that a special social function could be organised to which founder members would be invited. During the year discussions were held with the British Journal of Cancer and CRC, and it was resolved that members would be eligible for a reduced subscription and that BJC would be designated as the “official” journal of the Association.

As hoped, the 1985 Silver Jubilee AGM in Manchester was very successful, and prompted a move from the Executive to keep the cost of future annual dinners down by a “commercial” subsidy to ensure that the younger members were able to afford to go and enjoy all the interactions which were by now very much part of BACR meetings. Around this time and arising from discussion a few years earlier, the British Association of Cancer Physicians (BACP) was formed. BACP had similar scientific aims to BACR and its formation and the potential to work together in joint meetings was welcomed. Soon after the BACP was formed the organisation decided to drop the “British” from its title, to become the ACP. The BACR and ACP worked well together, and later the ACP became formally affiliated with BJC. Invitations were sent to other UK societies with similar interest to BACR to participate in joint annual meetings. Generally the response was poor but this did not detract from successful AGMs in 1986 in Bristol and 1987 in Newcastle and, following an initiative from the pharmaceutical company Lederle, industrial sponsorship for named lectures was accepted. The standing of the BACR was also recognised in an invitation to submit evidence on the state of cancer services to a House of Lords Select Committee. The AGM meeting produced a significant surplus, which was shared with the ACP. It was now becoming clear that the Association needed to become more professional and proactive to ensure its assets were managed in the best interests of the membership. The 1988 AGM in Norwich produced a significant surplus and the year also saw an interesting joint Winter meeting between BACR, AACR and the PAMM Group of the EORTC.

1989 saw successful discussions with the pharmaceutical company ICI who agreed to sponsor a new named lecture in memory of Dr Frank Rose, a distinguished medicinal chemist. The first of these was given by Dr Bruce Chabner at the 1990 AGM in Brighton. Although the assets were very sound, the 1989 AGM in Glasgow saw a proposal to increase subscription to enable the Association to develop further. A proposal from the BJC that a meeting supplement to the Journal could be produced if “camera ready” abstracts were provided was welcomed.

The early 90s marked significant developments in the organization and running of the Association. There were successful AGMs in Brighton (1990) and Manchester (1991), that endorsed Executive decisions to improve the way the Association ran and to create maximum benefits for the members. It was approved that up to 15% of the reserves could be earmarked for travel bursaries, furthermore, additional income could be generated through commercial sponsorship and Mrs Pat Russel was employed to facilitate this. The Association’s reserves were in the region of £100K and Professor John Hickman suggested that the Association could afford to fund “mini sabbaticals” of £15 -£20K for “older members”. John Hickman suggested that there was now a clear need for more professional accounting and Dr Anne Simmonds become responsible for this and also for the switch to collecting subscriptions by direct debit. Anne’s financial initiatives were clearly beneficial, but if organizational and meeting standards were to be maintained continued commercial sponsorship would be necessary. The Manchester meeting produced a surplus of £30K which was shared with the ACP. Around this time Dr Barry Furr (from the then ICI) approached the Association with a proposal to sponsor a “Young Investigator Award”. This was warmly welcomed and rules for the BACR/ICI Young Scientist of the Year were established. Applicants would be less than 35 years of age and would be selected by a Sub-Committee of the Executive; the award being £600 plus expenses to attend the meeting.

Whilst the 1992 AGM in Southampton was successful it ran up a loss of £9K which was met from reserves. During the year, the Executive discussed potential amendments to the constitution that could facilitate Committee membership which would be put to the next AGM in Sheffield. Dr John Hartley was selected as the Young Scientist of the Year and presented the award lecture at the Sheffield meeting. The Winter meeting was held in conjunction with the ACP/BCSB and the Oncology Section of the RSM, and was also highly successful. The 1993 AGM in Sheffield was the first tripartite meeting with ACP and BOA, and such an ambitious programme was only possible through generous support of £20K by Yorkshire Cancer Research. The meeting was attended by over 600 delegates and was considered an outstanding success scientifically and socially. Michael Parkinson was guest speaker at the annual dinner and generously refused a fee, asking instead for a donation to be made to a cancer charity; BACUP were the beneficiaries. The Winter meeting was held jointly with ACP and the Society for Drug Research, and despite a relatively low attendance was considered a scientific success. During the year, the Association received a generous donation of £12K from a Dr Gillard and the Committee decided that this should be used specifically to finance travel awards.

Professor David Kerr was the local host at the 1994 AGM in Birmingham and demonstrated his talents as a drummer in a Ceilidh following the Civic Reception. The meeting was held jointly with the ACP and was a great success as was the Winter meeting, also held jointly the ACP and Oncology Section of the RSM. Despite the meetings being successful, the Association's other activities were proving hard to support and it had been necessary to use some reserves to cover these. Membership had fallen, possibly due to the introduction of the direct debit system, and an increase in subscription rates was the only way to address this and was fully supported by those at the AGM.

Professors Malcolm Steven and Jim Carmichael were the joint hosts for the 1995 AGM in Nottingham, held jointly with ACP. The meeting was attended by over 500 delegates, and the scientific and social programme were well appreciated by all including the Trade Exhibitors who felt the facilities were excellent and produced a well integrated meeting. The Winter meeting was tripartite with ACP and BOA and its success was in no small way due to the good offices of Professor Ged Adams. Sir Richard Doll gave an outstanding Gordon Hamilton-Fairley Lecture. Throughout the year the Association supported a total of 19 travel bursaries, two fellowship awards and one mid-career award, totaling £20K. The Association also underwrote a number of highly successful workshops.

The 1996 AGM was held in Edinburgh jointly with the ACP and EACR. Professor Bill Miller was the local host and there was excellent co-operation with the Council of the EACR that along with the local organisers produced an outstanding meeting and two well attended satellite workshops. Throughout the year, 25 travel bursaries, three fellowship awards and two mid-career awards were made. The year also saw the establishment of a BACR web page, and the Association was indebted to Dr Derry Willman and the Institute of Cancer Research for producing this facility for members. Dr Anne Simmonds-Walder was made a Life Vice President of the Association in recognition of her services, particularly the recent financial restructuring. The Executive decided that the 1997 meeting would be the sole responsibility of the BACR and would be an opportunity to introduce a new organiser for the Trade Exhibition, Dr Uta Böger-

Brown. The future direction of the Association was discussed with the views of the full membership sought before the next meeting.

1997 proved to be an interesting and eventful year for the Association. The 38th annual meeting in Southampton was very successful, as was the Winter meeting, held jointly with BASO. Outside the scientific meetings the Association had received an invitation to take up Society membership of the EACR, and as there were obvious benefits for the members and little financial consequences the Executive agreed to take up the invitation. The Executive received a proposal from Professor Alan Hall that it should support an annual award lecture to recognize the contribution of a British Scientist to Cancer Research. This proposal was approved and it was agreed that subject to his approval, the lecture be named the Tom Connors Award Lecture. Tom approved and it was agreed that David Lane would be the most appropriate first recipient. Probably the most significant event in 1997 was that the Association received an anonymous donation of US\$1M (£625K). It was anticipated that with judicious investment this sum would produce around £50K *pa*. Such an income had the potential to substantially change the way the Association could work and the services it could provide to its members.

One of the main aims of the Association is “To promote the advance of research in relation to all aspects of cancer by encouraging the exchange of information” and the Committee stressed that all new initiatives should support and provide benefit to as many individuals as possible. Funds would be made available to ensure that the best possible speakers would be invited to meetings, and support for workshops, travel fellowships and meeting bursaries would be increased. There were also changes to the format of the Winter meetings.

The 39th Annual meeting was held jointly with the IACR in Dublin in June 1998 and marked the beginning of the changes to come. The 39th Annual General Business meeting was held in London in December 1998, where further changes and plans were presented, perhaps the most important of which would be the establishment of a BACR Secretariat with a full time administrator. The Institute of Cancer Research had agreed to provide office space on the Sutton site with Barbara Cavilla the Association's administrator from January 1999. It was envisaged that, over time, member's subscriptions would be able to pay for the running of the Association and that services would no longer be purchased from the Institute of Biology, although membership would still be maintained. Interest and other income would then be used to ensure maximum benefits for the members. Importantly, it was announced that the 40th Annual meeting would be held in Edinburgh in July, jointly with ACP and BOA, and would be called the “British Cancer Research Meeting” (BCRM).

The Edinburgh meeting was very successful and became the model for future meetings. Although there were clear benefits from the involvement of the other associations in ensuring the wider involvement of the cancer research community, there were some conflicts of interests in the aims of BACR and BOA. Professor Ian Hart, Chairman of BACR and President of BOA, played a major role in harmonizing relationships but it was clear that there were significant administrative and financial management issues that would need to be resolved if the success was to continue. The BCRM occupied a substantial amount of secretariat time, which would need to be reviewed, and the financial organization of the BCRM separated from that of the BACR. The membership was consulted on the shape and style of future meetings, with Professor John Wyke being responsible for coordinating the responses and producing a position paper on the

ethos of the Association. The results of the survey on members' views on the shape and style of future meetings showed general satisfaction with the existing system, and the membership were in favour of establishing a Membership Directory. In the same year, Professor Wyke produced a written response on behalf of the Association to the Science and Technology Committee of the House of Commons Enquiry into "Cancer Research : A Fresh Look".

The 41st Annual General Business Meeting was held at the University of Sussex and featured a new service to members in the form of a workshop giving career advice "Science Plus: Maximising Careers in Science", organised by Dr Nicol Keith. The meeting saw the introduction of the BACR/Hamilton-Fairley Young Investigator Award. Mrs Daphne Hamilton-Fairley had approved the change from the named lecture to recognize and encourage the talents of more junior cancer researchers eligible for the Young Scientist of the Year Award.

During the year, BACR contributed to the 2nd Round Consultation on the Code of Practice for Scientific Advisory Committees and the House of Lords enquiries into Animals in Scientific Procedures and Stem Cell Research *via* the Institute of Biology. Dr David Shuker represented BACR at the launch of the Charter for Science and Engineering at the Houses of Westminster. BACR contributed to the Affiliated Societies Science Policy Priorities publication. The first edition of the Members Directory was circulated to members, but was not offered to outside agencies. Plans were announced for the production of a 3-year rolling programme of talks which would eventually be compiled into a virtual 'career manual' for students, particularly focusing on careers in academia or industry.

The year was saddened by the deaths of two of the Association's most active, enthusiastic and respected members, Tom Connors and Peter Twentyman, who besides their considerable Executive Committee work were responsible for the production of the BACR Song Book.

The Annual British Cancer Research Meetings in 2002 (held from the 30th June to 3rd July at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre in Glasgow) and 2003 (held from the 2nd to 5th July at Bournemouth International Centre) were the main scientific meetings, with the BACR Annual General Business meetings held within the conferences where the main BACR award lectures were significant features. The focus of the Association was, however, shifting to provide more support for members and the organization of specialized meetings. A new style newsletter was produced and the web site upgraded. The Association finances were sound and the constitution was amended to include a reserves policy as required by the Charity Commissioners. Further changes occurred in 2004, constructively catalysed by Sir Alex Markham, who was at the time Chief Executive of Cancer Research UK and Chair of the National Cancer Research Institute, when it was announced that the BCRM would become the NCRI Cancer Conference; however, the BACR named lectures would continue. The Association moved even further to organizing more specialist meetings, whilst continuing to ensure that members were aware of, and had access to, the various awards made by the Association.

The Association lost another long serving member in 2005, Derry Wilman. The Annual General Business Meeting was held at the NCRI meeting in Birmingham where three new sub-committees were formed to support the membership in the areas of: meetings

and training, membership services, and awards and fellowships. As anticipated, due to the loss of secretarial support revenue following the termination of the BCRM, 2006 saw a fall in membership and there were concerns that the original identity of the Association could be lost in the larger NCRI meeting. It was suggested that the identity of the BACR might be sustained at the NCRI meeting by organizing BACR workshops and presenting the BACR Tom Connors and BACR/Astra Zeneca Young Scientist Frank Rose awards at the meeting, and plans were made to ring fence the award accounts to ensure their continuation in the new format of the NCRI meeting.

Since 2005 the BACR has continued to provide and practically support special meetings. These have continued the general format of one residential and two one day meetings per year, although this was not a rigid requirement and depended upon secretariat time commitments. All the topics and meeting ideas have come from members of the BACR. The recent meetings and events organised by the Association have all run either at break-even or at a small profit, due to prudent budgeting and sponsorship (see Appendix 5).

At the 2007 AGM it was agreed that membership subscriptions would increase to £50 per annum for full members and £25 for students. The following individuals were made Honorary Members:

- Professor Robert Baldwin, previously at the University of Nottingham - founder member, Honorary Secretary 1960-1965 and Chairman 1970 -1972
- Professor Ken Harrap, previously Director of CRC Centre for Cancer Therapeutics at the Institute of Cancer Research, Sutton – founder member and Chairman 1987-1990
- Professor Kurt Hellman, previously at St Bartholomew's Hospital, Department of Medical Oncology, London - founder member and Chairman 1972-1975

At the 49th Annual General Business Meeting held at the International Convention Centre, Birmingham 7th October 2008, and Chaired by Professor Bob Brown, it was reported that, following an initial slow response, two small companies had expressed interest in becoming "Supporting Partners". Plans to link with Cancer Research UK for training events had been explored, but were not found to be viable. It was announced that Professor Andy Gescher (Leicester) had accepted the invitation to Chair the Executive Committee for the next 3 years. 136 new members were elected bringing the total membership to 1025.

The Honorary Secretary reported that the meetings held during the last year had been very successful and, most importantly, the meetings had been of a high scientific standard and positive feedback had been received from participants at all the meetings.

Following the Honorary Secretary's report, there was a question from the audience about the future of the Association and a comment made indicating that it might be timely to consider whether the BACR had fulfilled its remit. The Chair noted that membership numbers were a good indicator of interest in the Association, and that judging by current membership (approximately 1,000 for over 10 years) it would appear that the Association was still a viable entity. The Honorary Treasurer added that he felt that the BACR offered something unique to members with the opportunities available for

funding to attend meetings and to apply for prestigious awards in addition to enjoying reduced fees at BACR and EACR meetings. It was felt that the 50th anniversary might be a time to re-evaluate the continuation of the organisation. In the meantime the Executive would monitor attendance at the special conferences to ascertain whether they met the needs of the membership.

The BACR 50th anniversary meeting was held between the 13th-15th June 2010 at the Edinburgh Conference Centre at Herriot-Watt University and focused on the "Hallmarks of Cancer". The programme included world-renowned speakers, many of whom were Members of the Association, and the full scientific and social agenda is attached as Appendix 6. In addition to the outstanding scientific presentations, the 50th Anniversary Dinner at the home of Scottish Rugby, Murrayfield, was particularly noteworthy and included renditions from the "BACR Song Book". In so doing, the meeting ensured that both the scientific contributions and camaraderie of the Association were appropriately marked at the end of the first 50 years. The 50th Anniversary Meeting was also noteworthy for the retirement of Barbara Cavilla who has been the public face of the Association for over 25 years. Barbara has provided unstinting and outstanding service to the Association and its membership, often under challenging circumstances, and in so doing has made a major contribution to the success of cancer research in the UK and the fight against cancer. Her welcoming disposition, and professional approach and organizational skills, have been central to the success of the BACR in its first 50 years, and the membership joined the Officers and Executive in thanking Barbara and wishing her a very happy and well deserved retirement.

In 2010 the BACR has 6 Supporting Partners": Abcam, AstraZeneca, Integrated DNA Technologies, Millenium, Mole Genetics AS and Roche Applied Science. The Association is particularly grateful to AstraZeneca for their sustained support, which in particular has funded the ICI/AstraZeneca Award Lectures that have been an important feature of the BACR calendar for many years.

As the BACR looks forward the Secretariat has moved to a new home at the Leeds Institute of Molecular Medicine at St James's University Hospital, Leeds. In addition to a new home and administrative secretary, the BACR has a new Chair elect, Professor Caroline Dive, Clinical and Experimental Pharmacology Group, Cancer Research UK Paterson Institute for Cancer Research, Manchester. Caroline joins the BACR Committee in October 2010 as the second female BACR Chair. The BACR and its membership wish her all the very best and look forward to the exciting future.

Conclusion

After 50 years, the primary aim of the Association remains to facilitate the interchange of ideas among workers in all branches of cancer research. In conceiving the Association, Sir Alexander Haddow firmly believed that cancer research should always focus on improving outcomes. His vision was that an Association embracing all aspects of cancer research would provide the best forum for the exchange of ideas and discoveries leading to patient benefit. Facilitated by interactions catalysed by the BACR and sister organisations world-wide, and as a result of the outstanding progress made by the international cancer research community, clinical benefits for cancer patients today and greatly improved prospects for the future are being realised on many fronts. Despite increases in the incidence of many cancers, linked primarily to greater longevity, deaths overall from cancer have been falling in the UK since 1990. The BACR and its members

have played a major role in this progress; however, much remains to be done and the justification for the BACR remains as strong as ever.

Post Script

"This history has been put together by John Double and colleagues using all readily available documents and is, to the best of their knowledge, a correct record of events. However, members are encouraged to read the document and corrections would be very welcome to ensure that the history is as accurate as possible."

Appendices

1. Officers, Presidents, Chairmen and Vice-Presidents of the Association

BACR Committee Members

First Committee 1960

Prof F Bergel, London
Dr G M Bonser, Leeds
Prof JN Davidson, Glasgow
Prof A Haddow, London
Prof GF Marrian, London
Prof JW Orr, Birmingham
Dr PR Peacock, Glasgow
Dr A L Walpole, Alderley Park
Prof E Boyland, London

BACR Presidents

The Presidential Office was created in 1968

Prof Sir Alexander Haddow (1969) First President
Sir Michael Woodruff (1974)
Sir Richard Doll (1978)
Sir Eric Scowen (1982)
Prof Peter Alexander (1986)
Prof KD Bagshawe (1990)
Prof TA Connors (1994)
Sir Walter Bodmer (1998)
Prof Robin Weiss (2002)
Prof B Souhami (2006)
Sir Bruce Ponder (2010)
Prof Margaret Frame (2014)
Karen Vousden (2019)

Vice Presidents

Dr Bennette (1971)
Dr Michael Moore (1982)
Prof J S Howell
Dr Anne Simmonds-Walder

Honorary Members

Professor T Symington
Sir Eric Scowen
Prof Robert Baldwin
Prof K Harrap
Prof K Hellman

Chairmen

Dr P R Peacock (1960)
Prof Sir Alexander Haddow (1961)

Prof Orr (1962)
Dr J G Campbell (1963 signed the minutes off)
RVC Barry (1964 signed the minutes off)
Prof H N Green
RW Baldwin (1965 -68)
Dr RJ C Harris (1969-70)
Prof R Baldwin (1970-72)
Prof K Hellmann (1972-74)
Dr KD Bagshawe (1974-77)
Prof NM Bleeheh (1977-79)
Prof M Hicks (1979-81)
Prof KC Calman (1981-84)
Prof DG Harnden (1984-87)
Prof K R Harrap (1987-90)
Prof TA Connors (1990-93)
Prof G Adams (1993-96)
Prof I Hart (1996-99)
Prof J Wyke (1999-2002)
Prof H Newell (2002-05)
Prof R Brown (2005-08)
Prof A Gescher (2008-11)
Prof C Dive (2010-2015)
Prof J Downward (2016-

BACR Honorary Treasurers and Honorary Secretaries

Honorary Secretary

Dr JG Bennette (1960-71)
Dr J M Riggott (1971-72)
Dr CR Ball (1972-75)
Dr M Moore (1975-81)
Dr M J Embleton (1981-84)
Dr A Creighton (1984-86)
Dr PR Twentyman (1986-89)
Dr I Hart (1989-92)
Dr W Miller (1992-95)
Dr R Brown (1995-99)
Dr Sue Eccles (1999-2003)
Dr Sue Bailey (2003-08)
Prof Sue Burchill (2008-2013)
Prof Michelle Garrett (2013-2018)
Prof Val Speirs (2018-

Honorary Treasurer

Dr JW Jull (1960-62)
Dr J S Howell (1962-73)
Dr AHW Nias (1973-78)
Dr A Creighton (1978-84)
Dr BAJ Ponder (1984-87)
Dr JA Hickman (1987-90)
Dr A Simmonds-Walder (1990-95)

Dr Derry Wilman (1995-99)
Professor David Shuker (1999-2002)
Dr Stewart Martin (2002-07)
Dr Andy Westwell (2007- 2012)
Dr Stephen Hiscox (2012-2017)
Dr Amanda Harvey (2017-

BACR Executive Committee

Dr JG Bennette (1960-71)
Professor F Bergel (1960-63)
Dr GM Bonser (1960-63)
Prof JN Davidson (1960-1961)
Prof A Haddow (1960-62) (1964-67)
Prof GF Marrian (1960-
Prof JW Orr (1960-63)
Dr PR Peacock (1960-62)
Dr AL Walpole (1960-62)
Prof E Boyland (1960-61 (1962-65)
Dr RW Baldwin (1961-64) (1965-68) (1969-) (1973-76)
Dr R Doll (1961-64)
Dr JG Campbell (1961-64)
Prof E Boyland (1962-65)
Prof APM Forrest (1962-65) (1967-70)
Dr RJC Harris (1962-65) (1967-70)
Dr DB Clayson (1963-66)
Dr J Marchant (1963-66)
Dr FJC Roe (1963-66)
Dr MC Berenbaum (1964-67)
Dr RD Bulbrook (1964-67)
Dr ML Conalty (1965-68)
Dr D Kissen (1965-68)
Prof A Currie (1965-)
Dr AJS Davies (1966-69)
Dr A Howard (1966-69)
Dr WT Smith (1966-69)
Dr J Paul (1967-70)
Prof EH Cooper (1968-71)
Prof DW Smithers (1968-71)
Dr MGP Stoker (1968-71)
Dr TA Connors (1969-)
Dr LG Lajtha (1969-)
Dr JM Anderson (1970-73)
Prof DG Harnden (1970-73) (1973-76)
Dr JM Riggott (1970-)
Dr FC Chesterman (1971-73)
Dr BW Fox (1971-74)
Dr K Hellmann (1971-74)
Dr MO Symes (1971-74) (1985 co-opted for one year) (1986-89)
Dr JJ Roberts (1972-75)
Dr LM Franks (1972-75)

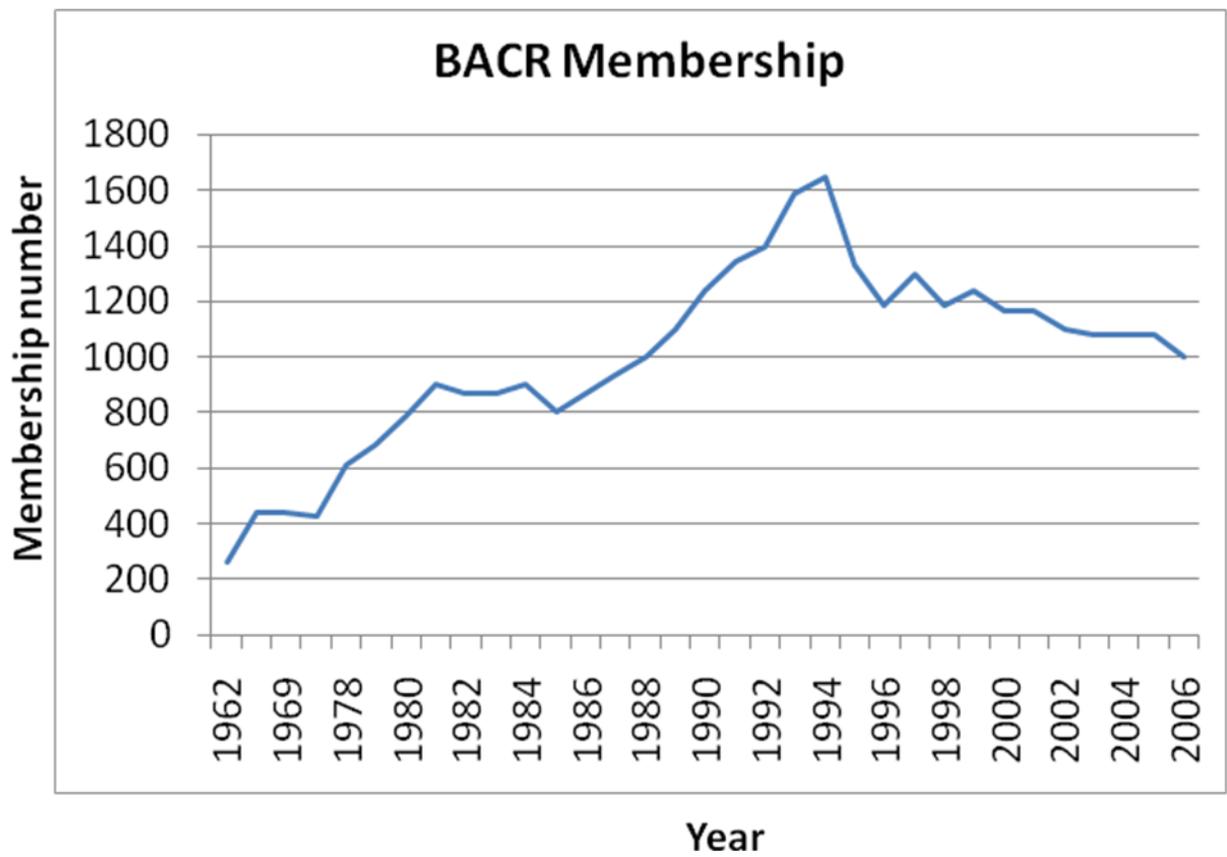
Dr AHW Nias (1972-1978)
Dr RL Carter (1972-75)
Mr JI Burn (1973-76)
Dr L N Owen (1973-
Dr KD Bagshawe (1974-77)
Dr TB Brewin (1974-77)
Dr M Moore (1974-77)
Dr P Brookes (1975-78)
Dr JA Dickson (1975-78)
Dr KR Harrap (1975-78)
Prof NM Bleehen (1976-79)
Dr AJ Cochran (1976-79)
Prof D Crowther (1976-79)
Dr P Grasso (1977-80)
Dr K Halnan (1977-80)
Mr GD Oates (1977-80)
Dr RM Hicks (1978-81)
Mr ER Money Penny (1978-81)
Dr PM Wrigley (1978-81)
Prof KC Calman (1979-82)
Dr MR Price (1979-82)
Dr PM Wilkinson (1979-82)
Dr DB Jones (1979 co-opted for one year) (1980-83)
Dr A Howell (1980-83)
Prof JMA Whitehouse (1980-83)
Dr DE Hathway (1981-84)
Dr TA Lister (1981-84)
Dr RTD Oliver (1981-84)
Dr WH McBride (1981 co-opted for one year)
Dr SA Eccles (1982-85)
Dr A Timothy (1982-85)
Dr P Workman (1982-85)
Dr P Farmer (1983-86)
Prof B Ketterer (1983-86)
Dr JL Millar (1983-86)
Dr R King (1984-87)
Dr M Soukop (1984-87)
Dr RCF Leonard (1984-87)
Dr JA Hickman (1984 co-opted for one year) (1985-88)
Dr PJ Selby (1985-88)
Dr RP Twentyman (1985-88)
Dr RC Garner (1986-89)
Dr AZS Rohatiner (1986-89)
Dr A Simmonds (1986-89)
Prof AL Harris (1986 co-opted for one year)
Dr I Gibson (1987 co-opted for one year)
Dr I Hart (1987-)
Dr E Rankin (1987-)
Dr N Thatcher (1987-)
Dr J Masters (1988-91) (1995-98)
Dr M Jarman (1988-91)

Prof S Kaye (1988 co-opted for one year)
Dr J Carmichael (1989-92)
Dr DJ Kerr (1989-92)
Dr PJ Nicholls (1989-92)
Dr M Dorreen (1990-93)
Dr A McGown (1990-93)
Prof T Cooke (1991-94)
Dr B Gullick (1991-94)
Dr B Miller (1991-94)
Dr M Bibby (1992-95)
Dr G Brooks (1992-95)
Dr R Brown (1992-95)
Dr N Lemoine (1992-95)
Dr DEV Wilman (1992-95)
Dr P Woll (1992-95)
Prof A Gescher (1993-97)
Dr J Birch (1993-96)
Dr Manson (1993-96)
Dr E Anderson (1994-97) (2010-)
Dr L Kelland (1994-97)
Dr R Leake (1994-97)
Dr V Brunton (1995-98) (2006-09)
Dr C Dive (1995-98)
Dr A Hall (1996-99)
Dr S Eccles (1996-99)
Prof P Hall (1997-2000)
Dr N Keith (1997-2000) (2003-06)
Dr RM Phillips (1997-2000)
Dr S Bailey (1998-2001)
Dr L Kelland (1998-2001)
Dr M Seckl (1998-2001) (2004-07)
Dr A Boddy (1999-2002)
Dr P Edwards (1999-2002)
Dr J Evans (2000-03)
Dr R Mairs (2000-03)
Dr N Curtin (2000-03)
Dr R Wheelhouse (2000-03)
Mr O Pardo (student rep 2000)
Dr S Langdon (2001-04)
Dr S Martin (2001-2002)
Prof I Stratford (2001-04)
Dr M Ashcroft (2002-05)
Dr A Sharrocks (2002-05)
Dr S Burchill (2003-06)
Dr H Earl (2003-06)
Dr E Aboagye (2003-06)
Dr G Tozer (2003-06)
Dr A Westwell (2004-07)
Dr M Campbell (2004-07)
Dr M Garrett (2005-08)
Prof C Robson (2005-08)

Dr W Gallagher (2005 co-opted for 1 year)
Dr N Brown (2006-09)
Dr L Gallagher (2006-09)
Dr D Jodrell (2006-09)
Dr K Williams (2006-09)
Dr S Hiscox (2007-10)
Dr S Wedge (2007-10)
Tomasz Zaremba (2007 student member)
Dr K Pors (2008-2011)
Dr A Thomas (2008-2011)
Dr R Sharma (2009-2012)
Dr V Speirs (2009-2012)
R E Willmore (2009-2012)
Dr S Burtles (2009-2012)
Dr C Kanthou (2009-2012)
Victoria Foster (2009 student member)
Dr C Ireson (2010-2013)
Dr E Anderson (2010-2011)
Dr Paul Loadman (2011-2014)
Dr Helen Reeves (2011-2014)
Dr Jacqui Shaw (2011-2014)
Dr Robert Clarke (2012-2015)
Dr Simon Crabb (2012-2015)
Dr James Flanagan (2012-2015)
Dr Ingunn Holen (2012-2015)
Dr Frances Richards (2012-2015)
Lucy Shaw (2012 student member)
Dr Constantino Carlos Reyes-Aldasoro (2013-2016)
Dr David Scott (Co-opted in 2013)
Dr Penelope Ottewell (2014-2017)
Professor Catrin Pritchard (2014-2017)
Professor Charles Swanton (2014-2017)
Danielle Potter (2014 student member)
Dr Richard Bayliss (2015-2018)
Dr Charlotte Bevan (2015-2018)
Dr Amanda Harvey (2015-2018)
Dr Claire Perks (2015-2018)
Dr Isabel Pires (2015-2018) (co-opted member from 2018)
James Coates (2015 student member)
Prof Anna Grabowska (2016-2019)
Prof Barry Davies (2017-2020)
Dr Craig Murdoch (2017-2020)
Prof Kevin Ryan (2017-2020)
Dr Sarah Storr (2017-2020)
Sophie Roberts (2017 student member)
Dr Joanne Edwards (2018-
Prof Ian Hickson (2018-
Dr Richard Grose (2018-
Prof Xin Lu (2018-
Demi Annemarie Wiskerke (2019 student member)
Prof Iain Hagan (2020 -

Dr Martin Miller (2020 -
Dr Sarah Holt (2020 -
Dr Lesley Stark (2020 -

2. Membership



3. Prizes, Grants and Bursaries awarded by the BACR

a) Recipients of Awards

Frank Rose Memorial Lecture

ICI gave a cheque for £5000 as an endowment in memory of Dr Rose who was a founder member of BACR who made many outstanding contributions to cancer chemotherapy during his long and distinguished career at ICI. The First Frank Rose Lecture took place in March 1990 at the 31st BACR Annual Meeting in Brighton.

1990 Dr Bruce Chabner
1991 Dr Michael Berridge
1992 Prof Andrew Wyllie
1994 Prof Harold zur Hausen
1995 Prof Nicolau
1996 Prof James Darnell Jnr
1997 Prof Ron Laskey
1998 Prof Ann-Marie Pendergast
2000 Prof Anton Berns
2001 Prof Laurence Hurley
2002 Prof T Kouzarides
2003 Prof William Denny

Gordon Hamilton-Fairley Lecture

ICR donated £5k to endow a lecture in the memory of Professor Gordon Hamilton-Fairley (1979) and became known as the BACR/Hamilton-Fairley Young Investigator Award in 2000.

1st Prof D Crowther
2nd Prof P Alexander
3rd Prof KD Bagshawe
4th Prof S Brenner
5th Dr RT Shimke
6th Dr D Burke
7th Prof G Klein
8th Prof Russell Ross
9th Dr Alfred Knudson
10th Dr R Dalla-Farea
11th Dr Wallace Clark (1990)
1991 Prof Robert Weinberg
1992 Dr David Livingston
1993 Prof M Gottesmann
1994 Prof T Pawson
1995 Sir Richard Doll
1996 Prof Web Cavenee
1997 Prof Jack Roth
1998 Prof Bruce Ames

BACR Hamilton-Fairley Young Investigator Award:

This award was started in 2000 to recognise and encourage the talents of more junior cancer researchers than are eligible for the Young Scientist of the Year Award. This change was discussed and agreed with Mrs Daphne Hamilton-Fairley who was happy to accept the change from the previous award that had been inaugurated to honour Gordon's life and work.

2000 Andy Sharrocks
2001 Mark Morgan
2002 Marie Boyd
2003 Judy Coulson
2004 William Gallager

Recipients of the BACR Hamilton-Fairley Young Investigator Award (poster prize from 2003):

1999 Rachel Chapman
2000 William Gallagher
2002 Ramsay Cutress
2005 Constantino Carlos Reyes-Aldasoro
2006 Donal Cumiskey
2006 Joanna Peak
2007 Christopher Morrow
2008 Carine Joffre
2009 Noel Wortham
2009 Ana Behrendt
2010 Malgorzata Gozdecka
2010 Tina S Mantoni
2011 Wei Dai
2012 Victoria Forster
2012 Madeline Young
2012 Katarzyna Leszczynska
2013 Abbie Fearon
2014 Yousef Hawsawi
2015 John H Saunders
2016 Viola Walther
2017 David Favara
2018 Stelios Chrysostomou
2018 Michael Hodder
2019 Hugh Nicholson

Recipients of the BACR/AstraZeneca Young Scientist Award:

1993 John Hartley
1994 Alan Clarke
1995 Caroline Dive
1996 Julian Blow
1997 Val Brunton

1998 Tedd Hupp
1999 Bob White
2000 Andy Sharrocks
2001 Richard Marais
2002 Marie Boyd
2003 Judy Coulson
2004 William Gallagher
2005 Kaye Williams
2006 Thomas Helleday
2007 Owen Sansom
2008 Munitta Muthana
2009 Jason Caroll

Recipients of the BACR Translational Research Award:

2001 Eric Aboagye
2002 Tracey Bradshaw
2003 Steve Clifford
2004 Stephen Taylor
2005 Carolyn Staton
2006 Luke Gaughan
2007 Jorge Reis-Filho
2008 Richard Hubner
2009 Janine Erler
2010 Britta Weigelt
2011 James Flanagan
2012 Rachael Natrajan
2013 Nitzan Rosenfeld
2015 Maria Romina Girotti

BACR/AstraZeneca/Young Scientist Frank Rose Award:

2005 Kaye Williams
2006 Thomas Helleday
2007 Owen Sansom
2008 Munitta Muthana
2009 Jason Caroll
2010 Grant Stewart
2011 Dmitry Pszhezhetskiy
2012 Janine Erler
2013 Chris Bakal
2014 Elizabeth P Merchison
2015 Agnieszka Gambus
2016 Oliver Maddocks
2017 Alan Serrels
2018 Seth Coffelt
2019 Nicola Valeri
2021 Vivian Li

Recipients of the BACR Tom Connors Commemorative Award

1998 David Lane
1999 Paul Nurse
2000 Alan Balmain
2001 Mike Stratton
2002 Malcolm Stevens
2003 Karen Vousden
2004 Leona Samson
2005 Paddy Johnston
2006 Chris Boshoff
2007 Frank McCormick
2008 Rebecca Fitzgerald
2009 Paul Workman
2010 Herbie Newell
2011 Mike Stratton
2012 Lee Helman
2013 Richard Marais
2014 Margaret Frame
2015 Richard Triesman
2016 Kat Arney
2017 Steve Jackson
2018 Charles Swanton
2019 Fred de Sauvage

Walter Hubert Lecture – 1968-1998

Mr WI Hubert had made a generous donation enabling the Association to invite Professor C Heidelberger to deliver the Conference Lecture at the 10th AGM it was agreed to call this 'The Walter Hubert Lecture'.

1969 C Heidelberger
1970 W R S Doll on behalf of C Hammond
1971 H S Kaplan
1973 O Muhlbock
1974 T C Hall
1975 W R S Doll
1976 C G Moertel
1977 G J Todaro
1978 V R Potter
1979 E Jensen
1980 C Bernard
1981 E D Acheson
1982 M Woodruff
1983 J Miller
1984 G M Cooper
1985 A Sartorelli
1986 M A Epstein
1987 T Lindahl
1988 C Helene
1989 R Blamey

1990 B Vogelstein
1991 F P Li
1992 E Ruoslahti
1993 C Harris
1994 A Levine
1995 C C Harris
1994 H Moses
1996 M Lippman
1997 C Marshall
1998 D Sidransky

Roger Griffin Prize for Cancer Drug Discovery – 2016

Roger was a highly successful and internationally respected medicinal chemist, and a longstanding and valued member of the BACR. He was Professor of Medicinal Chemistry and Co-director of the Cancer Research UK Drug Discovery Programme at Newcastle University. Roger graduated in Pharmacy from the University of Portsmouth in 1981 and completed a PhD in Medicinal Chemistry at Aston University. He moved to Newcastle in 1990, and became Professor in 2001.

2016 Mathias Baub
2017 Aurelie Mallinger
2018 Sean Lim
2019 Liam Hudson

The BACR Chris Marshall Prize for Cell Signalling – 2018

2018 Zoi Diamantopoulou
2019 Mirella Georgouli

Current Awards and Bursaries

Young Investigator Award - The Hamilton Fairley Young Investigator Award is given to a candidate not more than 5 years post PhD/MD, in order to recognise and encourage the talents of more junior cancer researchers, and features a poster presentation at the NCRI conference

BACR Astra-Zeneca Young Scientist - Frank Rose Award - To recognise and reward achievements of a young scientist (aged under 35) in any field of cancer research. This is given as an oral presentation at the NCRI conference

BACR Translational Research Award - This award recognises contributions to translational cancer research by scientists aged less than 35 who give an oral presentation at the annual NCRI Conference

Travel/Exchange Fellowships - For candidates aged under 40 years to enable experience in another lab, either learning new techniques, developing collaborations or giving lectures

Mid-Career Fellowships – To support travel to a laboratory, with reasonable subsistence, in order to advance an ongoing programme of work or to facilitate a collaboration which may lead to new programmes of work

BACR/CRUK Student awards - To attend scientific meetings relevant to cancer research

Non Student awards - For non-students to attend scientific meetings

Poster prizes - The establishment of a poster prize in 1983 reflected members' wishes that greater importance should be attached to this method of presentation, notably parity with oral presentations

4. Biographies of Individuals Supporting or Accorded Named Lectures

Sir Alexander Haddow FRS

Professor Haddow was the visionary behind the establishment of the Association and reflected the manner in which he had conducted his professional life, namely through fostering collaboration and generous recognition of the work of colleagues. Professor Haddow's early work in Edinburgh and London demonstrated that the carcinogenic agents polycyclic hydrocarbons could also inhibit tumour growth and it was during his time as Director of the Chester Beatty Research Institute (part of the Institute of Cancer Research) that the concept of cancer chemotherapeutic drugs and cancer chemotherapy first became a reality. During his tenure the drugs busulphan, melphalan and chlorambucil were developed.

He was founder President of the Oncology Section of the Royal Society of Medicine (RSM) 1970-1971 and Vice-President of the British Cancer Council which, at that time, monitored relationships between Britain and the UICC. He held numerous other offices including membership of the Press Council and Chair of the BBC's Science Consultative Group. Foreign collaborations and honours for his work also came from the USSR, USA and France. Other interests included membership of the Pugwash group, an international movement of scientists and others with concerns about the social impact of science, with a particular aim of banning weapons of mass destruction.

Gordon Hamilton-Fairley

Dr Gordon Hamilton-Fairley, ICRF Professor of Medical Oncology at St Bartholomew's Hospital London, was killed aged 45 by a terrorist bomb on October 23 1975. The bomb was intended for someone else. Gordon Hamilton Fairley was an eminent physician and teacher with an international reputation, former Director of the Clinical Research Unit of the Institute of Cancer Research and Royal Marsden Hospital in Surrey, and founder of the Tumour Immunology Group of the European Organisation for Research in the Treatment of Cancer (EORTC), has been remembered in the Gordon Hamilton-Fairley series of lectures at the Winter Meetings. For many years Mrs Hamilton-Fairley was a regular guest at these meetings and, in 2001, approved the change from named lecture

to the BACR/Hamilton-Fairley Young Investigator Award to encourage junior cancer researchers.

Frank Rose FRS

Dr Frank Rose had a distinguished career with ICI spanning more than 50 years developing chemotherapeutic drugs. He joined ICI in 1932 as an azo-chemist, but was seconded to the medicinal chemistry group whose objective was the development and subsequent clinical evaluation of compounds for CNS, tropical and infectious diseases. Frank Rose was closely involved in the development of the sulfapyrimidines, specifically sulfadimidine; the first drug effective against pneumococcal pneumonia. He also played a leading role in the development of the antimalarial proguanil (paludrine), a milestone of chemotherapy, and was involved in the development of beta-adrenergic drugs, ICI being the first company in the world to introduce this class of drugs into clinical practice. In a long and prestigious career, Frank Rose was part of radical changes in drug discovery and development, including the application of computational chemistry.

Mr Walter Hubert

Mr Walter Hubert is an American/Israeli industrialist and philanthropist, who arrived in the UK as a child refugee from Germany at the time of the Second World War. He went on to develop several businesses, including metal re-cycling and publishing. He donated invaluable funding for a named lecture during the early years of the Association, thus enabling invitation of key speakers from this country and overseas, thereby reinforcing the academic excellence of the annual meetings.

Professor Tom Connors

Professor Tom Connors died in 2002 from the disease he had spent his life studying. His contributions to the field of cancer drug discovery and cancer medicine were immense, with perhaps the most telling being the establishment of the Cancer Research Campaign (now Cancer Research UK) Phase I/II Committee with Lazlo Lajtha and Brian Fox in 1980. By identifying four areas which had hindered academic cancer drug development, the Committee enabled the selection of compounds for future clinical trials by encouraging submission of compounds for Phase I testing, providing access to preclinical toxicology, driving development of formulations for new drugs that met regulatory requirements and establishing a framework within which clinical trials could be run, by opening a dialogue with the Committee on Safety of Medicines. In the first 20 years, the committee selected 89 agents for clinical trials, with four agents progressing to market and other showing promising activity in clinical trials.

Tom also had a long association with the US National Cancer Institute (NCI) and became a key advisor to the NCI's Developmental Therapeutics and Toxicology Programmes, and also paved the way for highly successful international alliances such as those with the CRC and EORTC. He also was instrumental in helping the NCI to bring about changes at the FDA that allow IND applications from expert groups in Europe and the UK. His involvement as an active member of the EORTC (on the board from 1991 to 1996), resulted in his election to Chairman of the Laboratory Research Division in 1993. Tom was an inspiration to all who worked with him, either directly or through collaboration, and was a role model for all who approached the interface between laboratory science and practical application to medicine.

5. BACR Specialist Meetings and Workshops 2006-2014:

2006

- a) BACR & British Microcirculation Society. "Tumour Vasculature: New Targets & Therapies" held from 25th to 28th June at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester. The meeting was organised by: Roy Bricknell (Birmingham), David Bates (BMS), Stewart Martin (Nottingham) and Gill Tozer (Sheffield).
- b) BACR Special Conference. "Telomerase & Cancer Stems: Exploiting Cellular Immortality for Therapeutic Gain" held from 4th to 6th September at The National Centre for Early Music Conference Centre, York. The conference was organised by: W. Nicol Keith (Glasgow) and Dr Jerry Shay (University of Texas SouthWestern Medical Centre).
- c) BACR/APS (Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences). "Development of Cancer Medicines: Preclinical Models, Strengths and Challenges for Novel Therapeutics" held on 30th November at Regent's College Conference Centre, London. Sue Burchill (Leeds) and Andreas Schatzlein (The School of Pharmacy, London) organised this meeting which has now become a regular feature of the BACR meeting calendar.
- d) At the NCRI Meeting 2006 - the BACR organised two workshops: BACR Educational Workshop 1 – "Cancer Drug Discovery" led by Michelle Garrett and Andy Westwell, and BACR Educational Workshop 2 – "Imaging of cancer targets" by Eric Aboagye and Kevin Brindle

2007

- a) BACR special Conference. "Diet and Cancer: Susceptibility, Prevention and Therapy", held from 18th to 19th June, at the University of Nottingham. The meeting attracted approximately 70 delegates and was organized by Moray Campbell (Birmingham).
- b) BACR/RSM Oncology Section Joint Meeting. "Cell Signaling and Novel Cancer Therapeutics" held from 29th to 30th November at the Royal Society of Medicine, London. The meeting was organized by: Mike Seckl (Imperial College, London), Ana Costa-Pereira, Olivier Pardo and Sue Burchill.
- c) CRN Summer School and BACR/EACR Symposium – held in June at the University of Nottingham.
- d) NCRI 2007 The RNAi Workshop was organized and chaired by Liam Gallagher, and the Apoptosis Workshop organized and chaired by Caroline Dive.

2008

- a) BACR Special Conference. "Advances in Cancer Drug Discovery" held from 7th to 9th September at Homerton College, Cambridge. The conference was organized by: Michelle Garrett (ICR, Sutton), Duncan Jodrell (Cambridge) and Andy Westwell (Cardiff). There are plans to organize a follow up meeting in 2011.
- b) BACR/RSM Oncology Section APS Meeting. "Preclinical Models: Biomarkers and Targeted Therapy" held on 27th November at The Royal Society of Medicine, London. The meeting was organized by: Sue Burchill (Leeds), Val Brunton (Edinburgh), Michael Seckl (Imperial College London), Andreas Schatzlein (The School of Pharmacy, London) and Steve Wedge (Astra Zeneca)..
- c) NCRI, the BACR educational workshops were on "Tissue microarrays and image analysis", hosted by Liam Gallagher and Elaine Kay, and "Small animal imaging and Models" hosted by Val Brunton

2009

- a) BACR/EACR Symposia. “Chromatin and Cancers & Transcription and Cancer” held from 6th to 10th July at Churchill College, Cambridge. The symposium was organized by: Jessica Downs (Sussex), Penny Jeggo (Sussex) and Robert White (Beatson Institute, Glasgow)
- b) BACR/RSM Oncology Section Joint Meeting. “MicroRNAs and Translational Regulation in Cancer” held on 18th November at The Royal Society of Medicine, London. The meeting organizers were: Mike Seckl (Imperial College London) and Nicola Brown (Sheffield).
- c) NCRI BACR workshops on the “Design of clinical trials” and “DNA repair mechanisms” were organised and hosted by Anne Thomas (UK) and Elaine Willmore (UK)

2010

- a) BACR/RSM Oncology Section Joint Meeting. “Predictive Biomarkers of Response to Cancer Therapeutics” held on 25th March at The Royal Society of Medicine, London. The meeting was organized by: Andy Gescher (Leicester) and Anne Thomas (Leicester).
- b) BACR 50th Anniversary Meeting. “Hallmarks of Cancer: From Mechanisms to Therapies” held from 13th to 15th June at Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh. The meeting organizers were: Bob Brown (Imperial College London), Andy Gescher (Leicester), Sue Bailey (Bristol Myers Squibb), Nicola Brown (Sheffield), Val Brunton (Edinburgh), Sue Burchill (Leeds), William Gallagher (University College Dublin), Michelle Garrett (Institute of Cancer Research), Duncan Jodrell (Cambridge), Andy Westwell (Cardiff) and Steve Wedge (AstraZeneca). Appendix 5.
- c) NCRI BACR Workshops: “Drug development metabolism as a generic target” – Klaus Pors (UK) and “Opening the vaults of industry” – Steve Wedge (AstraZeneca).
- d) BACR/RSM Oncology Section Joint Meeting “Development of Cancer Medicines: modeling of disease and preclinical testing” held on 25th November 2010 at The Royal Society of Medicine, London. The meeting was organized by: Sue Burchill (Leeds), Val Brunton (Edinburgh), Owen Sansom (Glasgow) and Steve Wedge (AstraZeneca).

2011

- a) BACR Special Meeting – “Cancer Epigenetics” held on 19th May 2011 at The Royal Society of Medicine, London. The meeting was organized by: James Flanagan (London) and Adele Murrell (Cambridge)
- b) NCRI BACR Workshops: “Unlocking the development and progression of childhood cancers” – Sue Burchill (Leeds). “the endothelial cytoskeleton: a dynamic target for cancer therapy” – Chryso Kanthou (Sheffield) and Georgia Mavria (Leeds)

2012

- a) BACR Special Meeting – “DNA Damage Repair: Translating Scientific landmarks into new treatments for cancer” held on 14th March 2012 at St Catherine’s College, Oxford. The meeting was organized by Ricky Sharma (Oxford) and Elaine Willmore (Newcastle)

- b) BACR Special Meeting – “Chasing Cancer Stem-like Cells” held on 12th to 14th September at the Old Swan Hotel, Harrogate. The meeting was organized by Robert Brown (London), Sue Burchill (Leeds), Anne Collins (York) and Valerie Speirs (Leeds)
- c) NCRI BACR Workshops: “Pre-clinical breast cancer models” – Valerie Speirs (Leeds), Ingunn Holen (Sheffield) and J. Louise Jones (London) and “Translation of radiation biology into meaningful clinical trials. All Aboard!2 – Ricky Sharma (Oxford), Anthony Chalmers (Glasgow) and David Sebag-Montefiore (Leeds).
- d) Joint BACR/Oncology Section, RSM Meeting “Development of Cancer Medicines – Preclinical *in vivo* models to interrogate cancer biology, biomarkers and therapeutic response” held on the 29th November 2012 at The Royal Society of Medicine, London. This meeting was organized by Val Brunton (Edinburgh), Owen Sansom (Glasgow) and Steve Wedge (Newcastle),

2013

- a) Joint 34th EORTC-PAMM BACR Winter Meeting held at the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff on 23rd to 24th January 2013. The local organizer for this meeting was Andrew Westwell (Cardiff).
- b) BACR Special Meeting “Tumour Microenvironment – Basic Science to Novel Therapies” held on the 3rd and 4th July at Wills Hall, Bristol. The organizers were David Bates (Nottingham), David Morgan (Bristol) and Carolyn Staton (Sheffield)
- c) NCRI BACR Workshops: “Academic cancer drug discovery – Integrating chemistry and biology” _Michelle Garrett (London) and Ian Collins (London and “Relative merits of ctDNA and CTCs as circulating biomarkers to aid cancer patient management”. – Jacquie Shaw (Leicester), Caroline Dive (Manchester), Ged Brady (Manchester) and Nitzan Rosenfeld (Cambridge).

2014

- a) BACR Special Meeting “Advances in Cancer Drug Discovery” held on the 30th March to 1st April 2014. The organizers were Michelle Garrett (ICR), Roger Griffin (NICR, Newcastle), Duncan Jodrell (Cambridge) and Keith Jones (ICR)
- b) BACR Special Meeting “Development of Cancer Medicines. From Target to Disease: Modelling Stratified Approaches in Oncology” held on the 27th November 2014. The organizers were Val Brunton (Edinburgh), Owen Sansom (Glasgow) and Steve Wedge (Newcastle).
- c) NCRI BACR Workshops: Tools for Image Analysis in Cancer Research – Constantino Carlos Reyes-Aldasoro (London) and “Epigenome – Wide Association Studies (EWAS) in Cancer – Converging on Consensus Approach” – James Flanagan (London), Robert Lowe (London) and Jonathan Mill (Exeter).

2015

- a) Joint BACR/CRUK Evolution and Intratumoural Heterogeneity Meeting held on 11th June 2015. The organizers were Caroline Dive (CRUK Manchester Institute) and Charles Swanton (CRICK Institute)
- b) Breast Cancer held on the 7th to 9th October. The organizers were Robert Clarke, James Flanagan, Ingunn Holen and Valerie Speirs.

2016

- a) Joint BACR/ECMC Therapeutic interventions for cancer prevention – the way forward. 18th to 19th July 2016. The organizers were Karen Brown (Leicester), Ann C Williams (Bristol), Kate Davies, (Bristol) and UKTCPN Steering Committee.

2017

- a) BACR Special Meeting – Non Coding RNAs in Cancer and Development held on the 8th May. The organizers were Charlotte Bevan, Claire Fletcher and Leandro Castellano. (Imperial College London)
- b) BACR Special Meeting – Tumour Microenvironment – Basic Science to Novel Therapies (Including a 3D Model Workshop held on the 14th to 16th June . The organizers were David Bates, Stewart Martin, Anna Grabowska, Sarah Storr and Andrew Benest (University of Nottingham) and Penelope Ottewell and Neil Cross (University of Sheffield)
- c) BACR Special Meeting - Development of Cancer Medicines held on the 21st November. The organisers were Valerie Brunton, Owen Sansom and Steve Wedge.

2018

- a) BACR Special Meeting - Building Capacity in 3D Tissue Modelling and Applications: A hand on interactive workshop held 16th May 2018. The organisers were Anna Grabowska (University of Nottingham), Penny Ottewell (University of Sheffield), Anke Bruning-Richardson (University of Leeds) and Valerie Speirs (University of Leeds)
- b) BACR Special Meeting - Response and Resistance in Cancer Therapy held on the 10th to 12th September. Organised by Michelle Garrett, Mark Wass, Tim Fenton and Martin Michaelis (University of Kent)
- c) BACR Student Conference held on the 26th November 2018. The organisers were Laura Gomez Cuadrado (Cancer Research UK Edinburgh Centre), Natasha Murphy (MedImmune and University of Cambridge), Sophie Roberts (University of Leeds), Dorota Sabat-Pospiech (University of Liverpool), Fabrizio Simeoni (CRUK Manchester Research Institute) and Hanum Binti Yaakub (The University of Manchester)

2019

- a) BACR Special Meeting – Challenges Preventing Cancer Cure held on the 10th to 12th March. Organised by Julian Downward, John Hickman and Lisa Hutchinson – Francis Crick Institute, London.
- b) BACR Special Meeting – Tumour Microenvironment (Basic Science to Novel Therapies) held on the 1st to 3rd July. Organised by: David Bates, Andrew Benest, Hester Franks, Steward Martin, Alan McIntyre and Sara Holt – University of Nottingham.
- c) BACR Special Meeting – New Developments in Breast Cancer Research – From Lab to the Clinic held on the 9th to 11th October. Organised by: Robert Clarke, James Flanagan, Ingunn Holen and Valerie Speirs.

2020

No meetings were held this year due to the COVID pandemic

2021

- a) Virtual BACR Student Conference – Online Event held on the 8th and 9th February. Organised by: Demi Annemarie Wiskerke (Queen Mary, University of London), Anna Richards (University of Cardiff), Christopher George (University of Sheffield) Cinderella Jawahar (University of Southampton), Emma Reeves (Institute of Cancer Research), Helen Grimsley (University of Kent), Katie Hanna (University of Aberdeen) and Nathan Olliverre (City University of London)

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She would be delighted to help you with any queries you have in relation to the BACR.

For more information please go to www.bacr.org.uk