

Chair's Report

Dear Members,

As I write this I am hoping the cold weather is now behind us and that spring is not far off. However, this also reminds me of the looming BMSS deadlines that will come and go over the next few months. These deadlines could provide many opportunities, for you or someone who has influenced your career, so please make sure you take note and don't miss out. You will find further details of these within Mass Matters or at www.bmss.org.uk.

Each year the BMSS has the opportunity to reward those who have made a major contribution to the teaching, promotion or development of mass spectrometry. We strive to be an inclusive society in every way and ask for your help in making sure the recipients of our awards reflect this. Over the past two years we have reintroduced the award of "life membership" of our society. The intention of this is to reward those members who have made a sustained contribution over many years in any area relating to MS. The past two years have seen your Committee nominate five worthy recipients. However, we know that there are many other deserving individuals that may not be known to the current Committee. Therefore, we need your help to

make sure no one deserving of recognition is overlooked. The cut-off date for receiving nominations for the Aston medal, BMSS medal and life membership awards is the 20th April. A full description of the award criteria and nomination process can be found on the BMSS website.

In October this year several current Committee members will step down having served their term in Office. This is one mechanism for ensuring the Committee is rejuvenated with new members and ideas. If you are interested in serving on the Committee please keep a look out in May, when we will call for nominations for new committee members. We are a busy committee that meets four times a year and always have several projects on the go. If you think you have the time to help out and are interested in joining the Committee, please do not hesitate to contact me to find out more.

Due to the International Mass Spectrometry Conference now running biennially, the BMSS has committed to running its meeting every year. Mark McDowall and the rest of the meeting sub-committee have been working hard to put together something slightly different this year. During

this year's meeting we will hand over two whole sessions to the Joint Pharmaceutical Analysis Group and the International Reid Bioanalytical forum. These groups will hold dedicated sessions to pharmaceutical impurity profiling and the Mass Spectrometry quantification of small and large molecules. I very much look forward to meeting delegates from these other groups and scientific networking opportunities that these collaborations will bring. As an extra incentive this year's registration will include a BBQ social evening for all attendees. This, along with the normal excellent short course and scientific programme, will make this an excellent opportunity for both new and more established users. The Committee is also looking into replacing our current website. This has been in the planning stages for a long time, but we hope to have something to report back to our AGM in September. Work continues on our bid to host IMSC in 2022 and I hope we will have a positive outcome to report in September. As always, if you have any questions or want further information on anything the Society is doing, please visit the website or contact Lisa (bmssadmin@btinternet.com).

Gavin O'Connor, BMSS Chair



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