

BRITISH PHOTODERMATOLOGY GROUP

www.BPG.org.uk



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Newsletter

Winter 2007

Vacancies on Committee

The current BPG committee membership is shown in the table at the end of this Newsletter. There will be vacancies for new committee members from July 2008, where current members are due to retire in rotation, unless re-elected. It is important that the committee should add new members periodically, to avoid becoming too predictable (or too old!). The duties are not onerous, and involve two or three committee meetings a year, usually to coincide with major scientific meetings. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please contact the secretary, or use the copy of the nomination form attached to this newsletter and post, fax or e-mail it back. Election to the committee will be by postal or e-mail ballot of all Full Members, if several candidates offer themselves.

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Recent meetings and workshops

BAD 10-13 July 2007 Manchester

BPG scientific session was on Thursday afternoon, as usual, immediately preceded by the group's Annual General Meeting. Our guest speakers were Dr Susan Walker

(London) on *'The beneficial effects of UVR-induced immunosuppression'* and Prof. Mark Birch-Machin (Newcastle-upon-Tyne) on *'Sunburnt DNA; how mitochondria record UV exposure of the skin.'* A wide range of subjects was covered by the presenters of proffered papers, and the prize for best paper, as voted by the BPG committee, was awarded to Dr Muneeza Rizwan and colleagues (Manchester) for her work on the photoprotective properties of dietary tomato product. Congratulations to the Salford group on this well-deserved award.

European Society for Photobiology, September 2007, Bath

For the first time this year, BPG agreed to sponsor a joint symposium with the organisers of this major European meeting, held biennially, and to host a symposium to commemorate Professor Ian Magnus, a founder member of BPG whose death was announced in February 2006. This year the joint symposium was on *Photodermatoses*, and was chaired by BPG members Prof. Antony Young and Dr Neil Gibbs. The programme included invited speakers from Europe and proffered papers on the topic.

For further details of the programme and speakers, and for membership details, visit the ESP website: www.esp-photobiology.it/.

Forthcoming BPG meetings and workshops

BSID April 2008, Oxford

The BPG guest speaker will be Prof. Brian Diffey, who recently retired from his post as head of the Regional Medical Physics Department in Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

BAD 1-4 July 2008, Liverpool

Our guest speakers at the main scientific session of BPG during the 89th annual meeting of the British Association of Dermatologists will be Prof. Peter Wolf (Graz, Austria) who will be speaking about his recent work on 'Mechanisms of PUVA (PAF + 5-HT)' and/or 'The combination of phototherapy with Biologics' and Prof. Jimmy Ferguson (Dundee, UK) on the *Scottish Photonet project*.

No workshops have been held since July 2006, though the previously published *Topical PDT Guidelines* are under review by Dr Lesley Rhodes, Dr Colin Morton and Dr Kevin McKenna. The revised guidelines are expected in print shortly.

BPG website

The BPG website can be accessed at www.BPG.org.uk/ or by following the link from the BAD website. A major restructuring of the website was finished in early 2007, which allows quicker updates of web information.

Please send any feedback or suggestions for the BPG website to the website editor: (Robert.Sarkany@gstt.nhs.uk).

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PPP journal

The Group journal continues to be popular in the photodermatology and photobiology community and has an impact factor of 1.22. Submission and review of articles is now on-line, facilitating prompt publication. To submit an article for publication, visit:

<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/> and follow the on-screen instructions.

Articles of all kinds are invited, including original research, reviews, case reports and correspondence.

We continue our relationship with the Photomedicine Society in the USA, partly facilitated through the sharing of our joint journal PPP. Joint membership of both societies was established in January 2007, with one of the important benefits being that people can be a member of both groups without paying for the journal twice.

Blackwells remind us that Full Members subscribing to PPP can access back issues (2000 onwards) by registering at their website (www.blackwell-synergy.com) using their Username and Password. Click on the blue 'My Synergy' button at the top of the Home page to access PPP digitally.

Report on the activities of the UK Skin Cancer Working Party in 2007

Prof. Lesley Rhodes (Manchester) remains the chair of the group, and representatives from a wide range of bodies, including the British Association of Dermatologists, Cancer Research-UK, the Department of Health and BPG, normally attend the meetings. Topics addressed during 2007 include:

SunSmart Campaign 2007

The *SunSmart* Campaign is hosted by Cancer Research-UK and this year focused on sunburn, following the ONS survey which revealed that 30% of 16-24 year olds were certain they would get burned this summer while trying to achieve a tan, and a further 30% said they might get sunburned. Many people believe that sunburn was a pre-requisite for obtaining a tan. Prof. Rhodes was the dermatology spokesperson for this year's campaign, which attracted wide media coverage.

In addition, two *Molewatch* clinics were run – one at St Helen's Rugby League on 13 June, and another with MPs at Portcullis House on 20 June.

In collaboration with *Network Rail*, a *SunSmart* poster on the dangers of sunbed use was displayed throughout the month of August at 50 sites in 17 major railway stations across the UK, ten in London and seven others including Edinburgh and Gatwick Airport.

Sunbeds for cosmetic tanning

Three members of the UK Skin Cancer Working Party (Prof. Brian Diffey, Dr Alastair McKinley and Prof. Lesley Rhodes) have agreed to prepare an article on current issues concerning sunbeds, to be published as an editorial in the British Journal of Dermatology.

Sun Awareness Week

Sun Awareness Week this year took place between 7th and 11th May, planned to coincide with EuroMelanoma Day (which fell on 7th May).

National Skin Cancer Registry

Dr Julia Verne, Director of the SW Public Health Observatory, gave a detailed presentation at one of the meetings, of current issues concerning skin cancer registration in England and Wales, and her proposals for improvements in this area. Skin cancers differ from other cancers in that there is a lack of sound epidemiological data, there are large numbers, and a lack of in-patient care compared with most other cancers. We currently do not know the disease burden attributable to skin cancers, and in fact there is little complete skin cancer registration data available worldwide. Currently there are nine cancer registries in England, one in Wales and one in Northern Ireland.

Her proposal is that comprehensive skin cancer data be recorded at the south-west region, including all types of skin cancer, and every skin cancer experienced by the individual. The south-west region represents the worst case scenario for skin cancer, and could be used to make projections for other regions. It was also proposed that all skin cancer data collected by other regions (i.e. just the first skin cancer experienced by an individual) be sent to the south-west Public Health Observatory for collation. A bid for funding

is currently being made to the NCRI Cancer Informatics Platform.

Draft Guidance on Health in Strategic Environmental Assessment

A proposal is currently under consultation with plans to integrate environmental awareness into Local Authority and National planning. However, skin cancers have been completely omitted from the document, and UV radiation is mentioned only obliquely. The UK SCWP had been made aware of the proposal through the BAD President, who required our input in order to forward her views to the RCP President. The Working Party agreed that skin cancer and UV are important omissions from the document, and a response was forwarded to the BAD President.

Prof. Brian Diffey
BPG Representative

Hand-held MED/MPD phototesters

BPG members may be familiar with various commercially-available hand-held devices for determining patient MED or MPD prior to UV phototherapy. Many designs utilise the 'shaver foil' principle first developed by Brian Diffey and colleagues in Durham and Newcastle to produce a graded sequence of UV exposures simultaneously, and some are based on UV combs originally designed for treatment of scalp psoriasis.

There has been correspondence recently among the medical physics/engineering groups in the UK concerning the spectral match of these with full-sized therapy tubes used in whole body cabins. MED testers fitted with compact fluorescent UVB lamps (CFLs) are available in TL-01, UV21 (TL-12) and UV6 phosphors, which match those of whole body cabins.

However, no lamp manufacturer makes UVA-emitting CFLs of the size and wattage used in these MPD devices, ONLY UVA-1 (narrowband UVA or TL-10 phosphor). THIS PHOSPHOR IS NOT THE SAME AS USED IN PUVA CABIN TUBES (Cleo or UVA, previously TL-09). Attempts to obtain patient MPDs using the incorrect spectral content from TL-10 lamps will result in

errors in determining starting dose, with possible patient overdose. In particular, the absence of traces of UVB in the UVA-1 spectrum will make the MPD appear much higher than it would be with standard UVA tubes.

Until standard UVA CFLs are available, it is not recommended to use these devices to determine patient MPDs; consult your medical physicist or contact the Secretary for advice.

Membership

Membership continues to increase and we now have around 120 members. New members are always welcome. The BPG membership application form can be downloaded from the website (or print off the form attached). The committee is keen to encourage applications from all professionals with interests in photodermatology, including phototherapists, nurses, technicians, scientists and doctors working in the NHS, university and industry.

The Photomedicine Society, USA

BPG members have been eligible for joint membership with our sister organisation,

the Photomedicine Society, in the USA, (www.photomedicine.org) since January this year.

BPG members are reminded that they may choose joint membership of both organisations for the annual subscription of **£60-00**, the extra £15 being to cover administration and clerical costs associated with the US membership.

BPG members who wish to take up joint membership should contact the Secretary.

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Subscription collection

*Members are reminded that subscriptions are collected by the BAD in January each year. You are asked to pay promptly or to advise the Secretary in good time if you do not intend to continue membership. There are still a few members who have set up standing orders in favour of the BPG but **HAVE NOT CANCELLED THEM**. If you have not already done so, please check your bank statements for March and/or August and cancel any standing order.*

Please email the secretary (David.Taylor@glos.nhs.uk) to confirm <u>any changes</u> in your email address if you wish to continue to receive Newsletters and communications from the BPG electronically.
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BPG Committee

Post	Name	Designation	City	Term
Chairman	Prof. Antony R. Young	Experimental Photobiologist	London	2006-2008
Secretary/Treasurer	Mr David Taylor	Clinical Scientist / Medical Physicist	Gloucester	2005-2007
Committee Members	Dr Robert Dawe	Consultant Dermatologist	Dundee	2006-2008
	Dr Neil Gibbs	Lecturer – Dermatological Sciences	Manchester	2005-2007
	Dr Robert Sarkany	Consultant Dermatologist (website editor)	London	2005-2007
<i>Ex-officio</i>	Dr Lesley Rhodes	Consultant Dermatologist (co-editor PPP)	Manchester	2002-2007
<i>Ex-officio</i>	Dr Warwick Morison	Dermatologist (Editor PPP)	Lutherville, USA	

Sponsors

The BPG are very grateful for generous sponsorship in 2007 from

Stiefel Laboratories Inc. (www.Stiefel.com)

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Chairman

Prof. Antony R. Young
Photobiologist
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London, SE1 9RT
Tel: +44(0)207 188 6367
Email: Antony.R.Young@kcl.ac.uk

Membership Application Form

New membership applications are considered at the BPG Executive Committee Meetings, which normally take place 3 times a year. You will be contacted again shortly after the next meeting.

Please complete this application and return it to the secretary at the address above, enclosing a cheque (payable to *The British Photodermatology Group*) for your first subscription of £45-00 (£60-00 if you wish to join the Photomedicine Society at the same time). The British Association of Dermatologists will collect subsequent subscriptions in January from all members (including non-members of BAD). Please indicate whether you are interested in joint membership with the Photomedicine Society in America, so that your contact details can be forwarded to the Society's secretary.

Name:

Position:

Workplace:

Address for journal
mailing/communication:.....

.....

E-mail address:
(E-mail is the preferred method of routine communication with members unless you request otherwise. Your contact details will be known only to BPG Officers)

Qualifications:.....

Please supply a couple of sentences describing your interests and involvement in photodermatology/photobiology (you may continue overleaf if required):

.....

.....

Declaration: I confirm that the information given on this form is correct. I understand that membership of the BPG confers no professional status, but reflects my interest and involvement in photodermatology and/or clinical science.

I am* / am not* interested in joint membership of the Photomedicine Society (USA) at an increased annual subscription of £60-00. (* delete as appropriate)

Signed: Date

Membership Application for BPG Committee



Applicant Information

Name:

Current Post:

Employment and Contact Information

Current Employer:

Employer Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

Fax:

Proposer

Name of Proposer: (who must be a BPG member)

Position:

Address:

Signature

Date:

Seconder

Name of Seconder: (who must be a BPG member)

Position:

Address:

Signature

Date:

Membership Application for BPG Committee



Applicant's Name:

Please give brief details of your career, interests and your reason for applying for BPG committee membership. This information will be circulated to members for voting purposes.

Please indicate whether you are a clinician or other health care professional

I confirm that I am a full member of the BPG and I wish to put my name forward for nomination to the BPG executive committee.

Signature of Applicant:

Date:

Please return completed form to:
Mr David Taylor, BPG Secretary/Treasurer
Medical Physics Dept, Gloucestershire Royal Hospital, Great Western Road, Gloucester, GL1 3NN
Tel: 08454 225976 Fax: 08454 226489