

Registered number: 04307833  
Charity number: 1103852

**BRITISH NEUROSCIENCE ASSOCIATION LIMITED**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**UNAUDITED**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2016**

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**BRITISH NEUROSCIENCE ASSOCIATION LIMITED**  
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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2016**

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**Trustees**

Professor J Aggleton, Trustee  
Dr M Berners, Trustee  
Dr K P Cox, Trustee  
Professor R G Foster, Trustee  
Professor S L Lightman, Trustee  
Professor A M Palmer, Trustee  
Professor A Sik, Trustee (resigned 14 February 2017)  
Dr E C Toescu, Trustee

**Company registered number**

04307833

**Charity registered number**

1103852

**Registered office**

1-3 Crosby Road South  
Waterloo  
Liverpool  
Merseyside  
L22 1RG

**Accountants**

Goodman Jones LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
29/30 Fitzroy Square  
London  
W1T 6LQ

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**BRITISH NEUROSCIENCE ASSOCIATION LIMITED**  
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2016**

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The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of for the 1 October 2015 to 30 September 2016.

**Message from the President and CE**

In 2015 the British Neuroscience Association (BNA) celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. First known as the Brain Research Association, the BNA has grown from a small group of scientists meeting in a London pub, to a community of around 1500 members at all stages of their career, from sixteen year old students to retired professors, and covering the full breadth of neuroscience research.

In terms of actual celebration, guests and members of the BNA had the chance to toast our 50th birthday at the annual Christmas Symposium, which considered the, 'Past, Present, and Future of Neuroscience' (see more under Part 4, 'Achievements and Performance'). Secondly, a unique book was commissioned which will describe advances across the same fifty-year time period in different fields of neuroscience (see 'Publications').

Perhaps more importantly, having such an anniversary provided the ideal opportunity to reflect on the original goals of the BNA and consider current and future priorities. This culminated in work to consolidate the BNA's strategic pillars to 'Inform, Connect, Influence'. These strategic pillars reflect the strong consensus that the BNA should continue to connect different people and different aspects of neuroscience, and to inform people who share an interest in the brain, whether in a professional context or in wider society. Moreover, as a membership organisation, the BNA should exert influence over and above what any individual member can achieve. Such influence is achieved by its communications with the general public, with other neuroscientists, and with those who make policy decisions that affect neuroscience and neuroscience research.

A significant event in this reporting period was the appointment of Dr Anne Cooke as Chief Executive (CE) in October 2015. Having lacked a CE for some months, this signalled a further opportunity to take stock of the status of the BNA and initiate long-term, strategic innovations. To help facilitate this process, in July-August 2016 an external review of our governance was completed (by Sue Thorn Consulting Ltd). Initial outcomes of Sue Thorn's report has been a streamlining and clarification of procedures, with further actions due to take place in 2016-17.

New connections have included closer ties with the Association of British Neurologists (ABN), resulting BNA's attendance at the ABN's annual congress in April, and a joint meeting in September 2016. The Physiological Society is collaborating with the BNA as a 'Festival Partner' for the forthcoming 2017 Festival of Neuroscience. We have also established partnership with organisations such as One Nucleus whereby members derive mutual and reciprocal benefits. Our links with international organisations, especially the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS), remains of critical importance. The decision to award the BNA Host Society Status for the 2020 FENS meeting in Glasgow reinforces our status and influence. Groundwork for Glasgow 2020 is continuing.

Facilitating connections within the membership has included an increase in the number of BNA Local Groups has grown to 37. Funding for Local Groups was reviewed early in the year, and adapted in order to encourage and support more innovative activities. The membership database was also reviewed, and work has been started which will improve information held about members' expertise and increase ability of members to find others with shared interests. Following feedback from our more junior members (see Membership) plans are underway to involve more people at the start of their neuroscience careers in the Local Groups and the UK neuroscience community.

To enable greater informing about and sharing of neuroscience, we created a new class of membership: Associate members (see Membership). The public window of the BNA, its website, has undergone a complete transformation, making it easier not only for members but for anyone wishing to find information about neuroscience, connect with neuroscientists and with the BNA. We have worked closely with the Wellcome Trust with respect to their programme on neuroscience and education.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2016**

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Consistent with all three goals of 'informing' 'connecting' and 'influencing', the BNA held discussions with publishers about launching its first neuroscience journal. After much negotiation, a contract was signed with Sage Publishing to create 'Brain and Neuroscience Advances', a gold open-access journal (see Publications).

Amongst numerous other activities in 2015-16, the BNA has supported initiatives to redress gender imbalance within neuroscience; hosted its first summer intern and taken its first year-long placement student; expanded its reach via social media; attended The Physiological Society's annual meeting in Dublin; helped promote the mental health research charity 'MQ'; supported member initiatives such as the London Students' Neuroscience Network; and much more..

Marking our half-century anniversary, this has been a year of careful scrutiny of past practices and future goals. A number of key, fundamental changes have been put in place to ensure that the BNA can meet these goals. Consequently, the BNA can attend better to its members and the public in order to promote and support neuroscience.

The last comment in this message must be a sincere thank you to the many people who have contributed their time to support the BNA. Supporting organisations include Wellcome for their critical core support, and Royal Holloway University London, Imanova and especially both Cardiff and Bristol Universities, who have helped to host the BNA during this period.

## **Objectives and Activities**

### **a. Policies and objectives**

The Association's objects (The Objects), as formulated in the Rules of the Association (Rule 2) and in the Memorandum of the Association (point 3), both documents revised in April 2016, are, "To preserve and protect health and advance public education in neurosciences related to health and disease (in particular, but not exclusively)" by:

- a) Promoting on a multidisciplinary basis the study of the development structure and function of the nervous system in health and disease.
- b) Promoting the dissemination of information to all those interested in the neurosciences and related disciplines by means of lectures, discussions, meetings and reports from time to time obtained from such researchers.
- c) Advising as far as possible on issues in neurosciences related to health and disease.
- d) Endeavouring to increase public awareness and understanding of neuroscience research in health and disease.
- e) Assisting in the training of neuroscientists and other professionals engaged in neuroscience teaching and research.
- f) Representing the interests of neuroscience researchers and promoting the case for the advancement of neuroscience research in the United Kingdom to government, to agencies providing research funding and to bodies engaged in science administration, regulation and standards.

All trustees had due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising powers and duties on behalf of the charity.

### **b. Activities for achieving objectives**

Every year, the Association provides a range of activities to promote and fulfil its objectives. In the main, much of the activity of the Association relates with its objectives b and d - to promote the dissemination of neuroscience-related information both within the scientific community and also to the wider public. To this end, the Association organises an annual Christmas Symposium, open to both specialists and general public and, every two years, a

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2016**

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Festival of Neuroscience. This latter event - that features the latest research in all fields of neuroscience, representing both basic and clinical science, with an international participation - is the only wide-ranging neuroscience-dedicated congress of science in the UK, and thus is a major mean of delivering most of our aims (objectives a, b, d and e).

The promotion of neuroscience research (objective a) is supported directly by the Association awarding a number of annual prizes: for Outstanding Contribution to Neuroscience to an established member of the research community, and two other awards to mark the achievements of members earlier in their career: the Undergraduate award and the Postgraduate award.

In addition, the aim of informing the community (objective b) is facilitated by a good and reliable website, that is constantly updated by our secretariat and with input from members, promoting our activities and other major events of interest for our membership.

Representing the interests of neuroscience research (objective f) is achieved through: i) having established contacts and regular dialogue with bodies such as the Wellcome Trust, ii) direct co-operation with other sister learned societies, e.g., The Physiological Society of the UK and Northern Ireland, for a variety of conferences, and iii) active participation in the activities of wider-umbrella associations such as The Society of Biology. To achieve this, the Association has a specific Committee position: the Professional Society Liaison representative. The Association assumes its role of representing the interests of the British neuroscience community by being a member of the International Brain Research Organisation and the UK representative in the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS). Another dimension of representing the interests of neuroscience is advising, participating and being co-signatory to wider cross-science societal initiatives, such as, for example, the Concordat on Openness on Animal Research (objective c).

As a professional association, the strength of our voice depends on the breadth and depth of our membership. Through a dedicated Membership Secretary on the National Committee, we are continuously working to increase the number of our members, reaching out to all those working in neuroscience, neurology or related fields, at all stages of their career. The communication between the governance structures of the Association and the members is mediated by a wide network of Local Group Representatives (LGRs). Their activity is crucial to the capacity of the Association to deliver on its objectives to its membership, and thus the person coordinating the activity of the LGRs has a seat on the Association's Council.

## **Achievements and performance**

### **a. Review of activities**

In the period covered by this report, one scientific events organised by the BNA was of momentous importance. On 14th December 2015, at King's College, London, the 50th BNA Anniversary symposium took place, marking the anniversary of our Association and an occasion to celebrate the contributions of British scientists to the development of neuroscience. The Symposium: Neuroscience: Past, Present and Future was open also to the interested general public, and covered topics from the description of synapse biology (Prof. Seth Grant) and the molecular genetics of brain disease (Prof. John Hardy) to explorations of our understanding of human pain through neuroimaging (Prof. Irene Tracey) to an interesting and eye-opener presentation of how we can understand human mind through the art of Shakespeare and brain imaging (Prof. Paul Matthews). As a sign of our standing in the neuroscience community and a reflection of our efforts to promote this event, we registered for this event a record number of members and sponsors.

As usual, the Christmas Symposium is also the occasion for us to celebrate the achievements of our members and of the community. The 2015 BNA award for Public Understanding of Science was conferred to Prof. Mark Lythgoe (UCL), while the work of Prof. Angela Vincent (Oxford) was recognised by the awarding of the Outstanding Contribution to Neuroscience prize. Dr. Kate Mills (UCL) and Veselina Petrova (Edinburgh) received the postgraduate and undergraduate awards, respectively.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2016**

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Enhancing the range of scientific activities and engagements for the benefit of our membership, in 2015-16, BNA initiated a policy of co-organising scientific meetings. The first such event was the BNA-ABN (Association of British Neurologists) Joint Symposium 'Meeting of Minds' (Sept. 2016, Cardiff, with the assistance of Cardiff Neuroscience and Mental Health Research Institute), with a declared intention to explore the translational links from basic to clinical neuroscience in two areas: epilepsy and amnesia. As an example of the continuous commitment of the BNA to the support and training of the young BNA members, a number of bursaries were provided for attending this meeting.

In addition to organising, singly or in collaboration, scientific meetings, another mechanism through which BNA is aiming at providing benefits and support for its members is through providing support for local groups of members. BNA has a very strong and well developed system of Local Group Representatives, and almost all the Universities in the UK at which there is a neuroscience community will have such a representative. This year we have introduced a new scheme for funding local activities, inviting applications that will engage creatively with the aims and objectives of the Association, be it in providing training and career opportunities in the field of neuroscience, or opportunities to foster translational or indeed to find novel ways to recruit new members to the BNA.

Regarding our policies, during this period, the BNA, through our Equal Opportunities and Diversity representative, Deborah Castle, has produced a specific document on Equality and Diversity Policy detailing our approaches. Of particular relevance is the stipulation that BNA will endorse or fund a meeting only under condition that at least a third of the total number of speakers should be women and that individual sessions at meetings and any committee meetings in which we are represented should not be populated only by men. This document, confirmed by the BNA council at its April 2016 meeting, is an ongoing and evolving document and we are inviting comments and suggestions. At the same Council Meeting, a new Animal Research Policy has also been confirmed and BNA became a signatory of the Concordat on Openness on Animal Research in the UK.

Public engagement is one of the core objectives of the Association, and period covered by this Annual Report has seen two important developments. One is the creation of a new membership category: the Associate Member (see section 8 on membership). In addition, and as a part of the range of benefits that we are offering to our members, we signed a contract with a professional web site designer for the development and maintenance of a new web site. As a result in July 2016 our new web presence was launched (with the same address: [www.bna.org.uk](http://www.bna.org.uk)). The relevance of this is that such a site provides an essential conduit for promoting the dissemination of information to all those interested in the neurosciences and related disciplines. Through it we provide a wealth of information on the activities of the BNA, various member notices, as well as informing of relevant and important external events in international neuroscience community. More relevant to the issue of public engagement is that our site provides now a specific area for resources, both as written material and as videos and talks. We are continuously looking to enhance and expand the range of material offered.

## **Financial review**

### **a. Going concern**

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Accounting Policies.

### **b. Financial review**

The Trustees have reviewed the current accounting systems and processes of the Charity and the trading subsidiary and professional advice has been sought as part of a review of operations. As a result, various adjustments have been made to the prior year financial statements and restatements have been made

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2016**

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accordingly (see Prior year adjustment note in notes to the accounts).

At year end 2016, the charity stood in a good financial position with £309,105 in reserves, and with income sufficient to meet the year's expenditure.

More specifically, the BNA generated £118,901 through charitable activities, with expenditure of £118,312. The largest contribution to income was from membership subscriptions, followed by support from Wellcome. The largest expenditure was staff costs and the second largest was the members' newsletter, the BNA Bulletin.

Total funds at the end of the year was £309,105, of which £9,500 is restricted. This represents an increase of £12,774 from the restated accounts of the previous year. It is important to note that £105,338 of the YE2016 funds is represented by debtors, of which £96,000 is the amount owed to BNA Ltd by BNA Events Ltd.

**c. Reserves policy**

In January 2016, the BNA adopted a more formal reserves policy as follows:

It is the policy of the Company that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to three month's expenditure. The directors/trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that in the event of a significant drop in revenue they will be able to continue the Company's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. The level of this reserve will be maintained throughout the course of the accounting year.

During the period of this report, three month's expenditure for the company group (both BNA Ltd and BNA Events Ltd) equated to £35,000-£40,000. At the year end, reserves stood at £309,105 (with £299,605 unrestricted) which was well over the required reserves level.

**d. Details of fund materially in deficit: BNA Events Ltd**

Following an initial review of the charity's structure, governance and accounting practices by the CE in spring 2016, it became apparent that the operating procedures and finances of the subsidiary trading company of the charity, BNA Events Ltd, were in need of attention. The Trustees therefore decided to commission an expert consultant (see Structure, governance and management section below) to carry out a full external review. As a result of this work the Trustees established that BNA Events Ltd was running at a significant deficit and represented a substantial risk to the charity.

The Trustees acted rapidly to assess the situation and take steps to address the risk: the external report was published on 2nd August 2016 and the Trustees met on 4th August 2016.

Following further external advice and consideration of different options, the Trustees took the decision, on 24th August 2016, to continue operating BNA Events Ltd, on the basis that the company will generate sufficient profit over a number of years to eliminate the deficit. Projections of income and cash reserve estimate it will take 6-10 years to achieve. Overall the Trustees decided the benefit of continuing BNA Events Ltd outweighed the risk, although the situation continues to be monitored closely.

Whilst BNA Events Ltd is in deficit, the Charity has made a pledge to ensure that BNA Events creditors will be paid, thus enabling it to continue as a going concern.



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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2016**

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**e. Principal funding**

For the time period in question, the principal sources of funds were membership subscriptions, charitable donations (chiefly from the Wellcome Trust) and income generated via corporate sponsorship and advertising.

**f. Investment policy and objectives**

The trustees' investment powers are governed by the Memorandum and Articles of Association, which permits the charity's funds to be invested in securities or property as may be thought fit, subject to conditions and consents as laid down in the Association's governing documents.

The trustees' policy is to optimise income on temporarily invested funds and to maintain a balanced portfolio of long-term investments. To this end, the charity's investments have continued to be managed in conformity with our policy and Trust Deed.

In August-September 2016 the BNA sought external advice on developing a more comprehensive investment policy. The outcomes resulting from this advice falls outside the period of this report.

**Structure, governance and management**

**a. Constitution**

British Neuroscience Association Limited was incorporated on 19th October 2001 (Company registration 04307833). On 1st March 2005, all of the assets and activities of the British Neuroscience Association (formerly Brain Research Association, Charity registered No. 264450), were transferred to British Neuroscience Association Limited. British Neuroscience Association Limited is a company limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006, and is governed by its Memorandum, Articles of Association and Rules, as amended by special resolutions dated 17th December 2003 and 9th May 2011. The Company was registered as a charity on 20th May 2004 under the registration number 1103852.

Following the appointment of the new CE (Oct 2015), we implemented a rapid revision of the Governance documents, a process that resulted in a number of minor changes in Rules of the Association (see Annex 1). However, this process also identified a number of potential issues relating to the overall organisation of the Association and its governance. As a result, the Council of the Association took the decision to request an external review of the Association by a specialist consultant, as to provide a view on the long-term pathways for restructuring and development, in line with the new legislation and views on management and governance. The process was initiated in the summer of 2016 (July-August). Outcomes and actions of the resultant report falls outside the period covered by this report.

**b. Organisational structure and decision making**

In agreement with the Rules of the BNA (rule 4), as revised and approved in May 2011, the Trustees are the incumbents of five of the important positions in the Association: the President, the Immediate Past President and the President-Elect, the Honorary Treasurer and the Honorary Secretary of the Association, plus three appointed Non-Executive Directors, as per the following list:

Trustees

Professor J Aggleton	Current President
Professor R G Foster	Past President
Professor Stafford Lightman	President Elect
Professor Attila Sik	Honorary Treasurer (resigned 14/02/2017)

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2016**

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Dr. Emil Toescu	Honorary Secretary
Dr. Kevin Cox	Non-Executive Director
Dr. Manfred Berners	Non-Executive Director
Professor Alan Palmer	Non-Executive Director

The methods for nominating, electing and the length of terms for the Trustee positions and for the Non-Executive Directors have been revised in the new Rules, and are referred to in Rules 4, 5d, and 8a (see Annex 1 for the revised rules).

All Trustees are members of the BNA Council, joined by an additional four individuals (see Part 1). All Council members are, in turn, members of the BNA National Committee, plus an additional seven people. The BNA Council and Committee work together to direct and lead on activities of the BNA.

**c. Risk management**

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. Potential risks, once identified, will be monitored and controlled to mitigate any impact that they may have on the Association in the future.

**d. Membership**

The most significant change in membership has been the introduction of an Associate category for people with a genuine interest in neuroscience, but who do not work in neuroscience in a professional capacity. This category enables us to open up membership to people such as school teachers, journalists, nurses, lawyers, business leaders or indeed members of any profession in which neuroscience might have an impact. The idea arose from sporadic approaches from the general public and was developed into a formal category which was adopted by Council during the current year. Four Associate members have joined during the two months the category has been available. During the first few years we will need to ensure we understand what Associate members seek to gain by joining BNA, and work to deliver for them. Retention is an important issue, which was hard to address before the recent introduction of improved membership management software.

Total membership was 1340 on 30th September 2016, a substantial decrease from 1830 in October 2015. We suspect this reflects people joining to gain reduced fees at the biennial Festival (which took place in April 2015). Improved membership management software will allow us to determine whether there is a 2-year oscillation in membership numbers, and which categories are most affected. Retention is crucial and may need action to make BNA membership attractive even during the years when the Festival makes way for the FENS meeting. In parallel we are working to make BNA more attractive to other professional groups with potential interests in neuroscience research, including by adjusting membership categories to suit careers that differ from the typical academic path.

The split of membership by type was approximately:

Postgraduate Masters/PhD	35%
Full Member	25%
Undergraduate/Student	25%
Early Career Scientists	10%
Retired Member	2%
Associate Member	2%
Corporate Member	1%

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2016**

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## **Publications**

There are three main publications on which to report for the year October 2015 to September 2016:

1. the first academic journal to be published by the BNA, Brain and Neuroscience Advances
2. the BNA Bulletin, the Association's membership newsletter
3. a book to mark 50 years of the BNA

### **BNA Journal: Brain and Neuroscience Advances**

The most significant development during the year with respect to publications was the decision to work with Sage Publications Ltd to launch the first ever academic journal of the BNA. During the year prior to this report, the Publications Secretary and President had explored the possibility and viability of launching a society neuroscience journal with a number of publishers and/or other learned societies. In the first few months of this reporting period, and joined by the newly appointed CE, the Council and Committee agreed that the best option would be for the BNA to have sole ownership rather than joint with other societies, and to work with SAGE as the chosen publishing partner. A contract between SAGE and the BNA was duly signed in April 2016.

The purpose of the BNA having a journal is to meet the Charity Objects 3a and 3b:

Promoting on a multidisciplinary basis the study of the development structure and function of the nervous system in health and disease.

Promoting the dissemination of information to all those interested in the neurosciences and related disciplines

In addition it helps meet the BNA's strategic pillars to inform, connect, influence, particularly with respect to connecting the international neuroscience community, and to influence the nature of scientific publishing.

It achieves this purpose by:

- being an international, broad neuroscience journal
- being a gold open-access journal (no cost to view or download published content)
- having a title, Brain and Neuroscience Advances, which succinctly covers the breadth of neuroscience whilst not limiting the journal geographically (unlike, British Journal of Pharmacology for instance)
- having a scope which allows for 'unconventional' papers, for example those reporting null results

In the first half of 2016 the BNA advertised for an Editor in Chief; in June 2016 Prof Jeff Dalley (University of Cambridge) was duly appointed. By the end of September Prof Dalley had begun appointing an international editorial board. We look forward to reporting on the launch of Brain and Neuroscience Advances and the first articles to be published in next year's annual report.

### **BNA Bulletin**

The BNA bulletin (ISSN 1475-8679) is the BNA's newsletter that is distributed to every member. Articles include the "Message from the President", "Secretary's report", short news items of relevance to British neuroscientists and more in-depth 3-4 page non-specialist articles about research and/or researchers. The content is sourced and put together by the Editor, Ian Jones of "Jinja Publications", with input from Council members, the CE, Publications secretary, LG Co-ordinator and others.

A new development this year was the development of the 'Bright Brains' section. This newsletter is composed and edited by students, postdocs and early career members of the BNA with additional 'Bright Brains' content can also be found on the BNA website. Bright Brains demonstrates the BNA's commitment to representing and supporting early career researchers.

The BNA produces three issues of the BNA Bulletin per annum, and continue to print a hard-copy version. The reasons for this are to improve the profile of the BNA – we understand that members are still more likely to read a hard-copy than an online version, and that a hard copy can help promote the BNA by being left in tea-rooms and other communal areas – and to generate advertising revenue for the Bulletin.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2016**

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#### BNA Book

To mark fifty years since the start of the BNA (then the BRA), the Trustees decided to create a book covering the breadth of neuroscience over half a century. With a working title of 'Neuroscience: past, present and future' the remit of the book is that, "leading UK neuroscientists will review the past and present in their respective areas of expertise and consider future developments."

A publishing agreement was made in November 2015 between Elsevier and the BNA. Work continued throughout the year and we look forward to reporting the book's publication in future annual reports.

#### Education and Engagement

In 2015 we established a new committee position for an Education and Engagement Secretary, taken up by Dr Mark Ungless, based at Imperial College London. As a first step, in collaboration with The Wellcome Trust, we conducted a survey of UK neuroscientists concerning their public engagement activities. We found that many neuroscientists are looking for further engagement opportunities. To address this, as part of the new website we are developing a searchable database of members who are looking for engagement opportunities that we will be able to share with groups looking for scientists (e.g., teachers, journalists, and patient groups).

The new website also includes an updated page of links to various useful public engagement resources. The BNA office continues to promote UK neuroscience through news articles on our website and its social media communications.

The annual BNA Public Engagement of Neuroscience award was given to Professor Mark Lythgoe of University College London, 'as someone epitomising the best of public engagement. Through a multitude of TV and radio programmes, directing the Cheltenham Science Festival – alongside an active and highly successful research career – Mark has well and truly taken neuroscience beyond the lab and into wider society'.

Following revision of the BNA Local Group Funding scheme (see section 4) we are now offering funding to members to run public engagement events.

#### Reference and administrative details

##### Members of BNA Council

1. President: Professor John Aggleton (April 2015 - 2017)
2. Immediate Past President: Professor Russell Foster (April 2015 - 2017)
3. President Elect: Professor Stafford Lightman (April 2015 - 2017)
4. Honorary Secretary: Dr Emil Toescu (April 2015-2019)
5. Honorary Treasurer: Professor Attila Sik (2014 – 2018)
6. Meetings Secretary: Dr Thelma Lovick (April 2015 - 2019)
7. Local Groups Co-ordinator: Dr Rosamund Langston (April 2015 - 2019)
8. Co-opted Member of Council: Professor Narender Ramnani (from April 2015)
9. Member of Council: Professor Irene Tracey (2012 -2016)
10. Non-Executive Director: Professor Alan Palmer (2014 – 2017)
11. Non-Executive Director: Dr Kevin Cox (2014 – 2017)
12. Non-Executive Director: Dr Manfred Berners (2014 – 2017)

##### Members of the National Committee

In addition to members of the BNA Council:

13. Professional Body Liaison Representative: Professor Peter Brophy (2013 – 2017)
14. Membership Secretary: Professor John Jefferys (April 2015-2019)
15. Publications Secretary: Dr Anthony Isles (April 2015-2019)

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2016**

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16. Corporate Representative: Dr Gary Gilmour (2013 – 2017)
17. Education and Engagement Secretary: Dr Mark Ungless (April 2015-2019)
18. Students and Early Career Representative: Dr Joanne Bailey (April 2015 - 2019)
19. Equal Opportunities Representative: Deborah Castle (April 2015 - 2019)

**Secretariat**

20. Dr Anne Cooke (Chief Executive: commenced October 2015)
21. Mrs Louise Tratt (Executive Officer)

**Annex 1**

That the existing Memorandum and Articles of Association and Rules of Association should be amended as follows (document approved at the BNA AGM of 16 April 2016, Cardiff)

**Amend Article 26:**

The Trustees of the Association shall be appointed from the membership and approved by general meetings

**Amend Rule 3:**

3. Membership of the Association shall be open to:

a) Professional membership: research workers in the nervous system and related sciences and to members and student members of the medical and other professions related to the nervous system and related sciences. (Undergraduate, postgraduate, early-career, full or retired members.)

b) Associate membership: individuals who have a genuine interest in neuroscience but who are not research workers in nervous systems or related sciences, nor members or student members of the medical and other professions related to the nervous system and related sciences. (Associate members).

Professional members (3a) can participate in all functions of the Association as specified in the Association's Articles and Rules. Associate members (3b) are not entitled to vote or stand for election to become a member of the Council or Committee.

**Amend Rule 4:**

The Trustees of the Association shall be the President, the Immediate Past President, the President-Elect, the Treasurer, the Secretary of the National Committee of the Association and up to three Non-Executive Directors (NEDs).

**Replace rule 5a with:**

a. With the exception of the President-Elect, nominations for members of Council including the Trustees, Meetings Secretary and LGR Co-ordinator shall be requested from the membership three months prior to the Council post/s in question becoming vacant. The nominees need to be members of the Association and can include Committee members. The nomination (which can be a self-nomination) must be sent to the Secretary accompanied by a letter of support from another Association member and a statement of intent from the nominee. For each post, the Secretary shall compile a list of nominees and organise a ballot of the Committee at least four weeks before the post becomes vacant. Every member of the Committee, including the President, shall have one vote; in case of equality of votes the President shall have a second or casting vote. The Council reserves the right not to appoint a candidate from the list of nominees.

**Amend Rule 5b:**

b. Nominations for the post of President-Elect shall be requested from the membership within six months of the AGM at which the President-Elect is to be announced to the members. The nominees need not be ordinary members of the Association at the time of their nomination. Each nominee must have given approval to the Secretary for his name to go forward. The Secretary shall compile a list of nominees and organise a ballot of the Committee at least four weeks before the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Every member of the Committee including the President shall have one vote and in the case of equality of votes the President shall have a second