



MINUTES OF THE 14th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE AVA HELD ON 31st MARCH 2009 AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

1 ATTENDANCE

- 1.1 Twenty-one members were present. The meeting was chaired by the AVA's chairman, Dr Tim Meese.
- 1.2 Apologies for non-attendance were received from Mr Nick de Brunner, Dr Richard Jones and Prof Tom Troscianko.

2 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE FOR 2009/2010

- 2.1 Dr Meese reported that this year 9 nominations had been received for 9 places on the Executive Committee, and there was therefore no need to hold an election on this occasion. The meeting ratified the following to serve on the Executive Committee until the next AGM:

Dr Marco Bertamini	Prof Ron Douglas
Prof Mark Georgeson	Dr Richard Jones
Dr Eugene McSorley	Dr Tim Meese
Dr Mark Scase	Dr Andrew Schofield
Prof Tom Troscianko	

- 2.2 The chairman, vice-chairman & treasurer would be appointed at the next Committee meeting.

3 MINUTES OF THE THIRTEENTH AGM HELD ON 1st April 2008

- 3.1 The minutes of the thirteenth AGM had been circulated to all members of the Association present. The minutes were approved and signed.

4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- 4.1 There were no additional matters arising from the minutes.

5 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- 5.1 On behalf of the AVA Committee, Dr Meese welcomed members to the meeting and thanked them for attending. He commented that it was a pleasure to have the meeting in Birmingham, where the AVA Christmas meeting but not the AGM had been held before.
- 5.2 Dr Meese reiterated that the AVA's objectives are to advance, promote, develop and improve the study & knowledge of vision science, achieved mainly by holding scientific meetings and supporting young researchers with grants. He noted that the AVA had added to the usual awards this year with bursaries for AVA meetings, something that it is hoped will continue, and by introducing the Marr medal to promote vision research more widely. This is an award to be made every two years to an outstanding Vision Scientist in the early part of his or her research career. Another call would be made later in 2009. He reported that the role of the website (theAVA.net) was also continuing to be developed,
- 5.3 As in previous years, three scientific meetings were held in 2008. The annual meeting was organized by Dr Emma Gowan, at Manchester, with Dr Kate Plaisted (University of Cambridge) giving the Burton Memorial lecture on *Magnocellular Processing in Autism*. A fourth Animal Vision meeting was held in September at the University of Cambridge, as a

workshop with student presentations and discussion involving senior academics – a format which worked well. The AVA's 13th Christmas meeting was organised by Dr Meese and Prof Troscianko in Bristol, with invited talks from Prof Matteo Carandini (UCL) on *Dynamics of population responses in visual cortex*, Prof Innes Cuthill (University of Bristol) on *Getting distracted: camouflage and attention* and Dr Petroc Sumner, the Marr Medal winner (University of Cardiff) on *Rapid sensory influences on motor competition*. He noted that this meeting has gone from strength to strength with a record attendance of 99 and 15 talks and 29 posters this year.

- 5.4 Dr Meese had canvassed opinion on how many AVA scientific meetings to hold, as the possibility of merging the Christmas and Easter meetings into one was under consideration. Questionnaires, completed by 78 members, showed support for this idea but equal support for maintaining the status quo. Thus, for now, the AVA will continue with 3 meetings a year.
- 5.5 Dr Meese reported that membership now stands at over 350 lifetime members. He encouraged proposals from members for new meetings or joint meetings with other societies, and as always encouraged members to put themselves forward for Committee membership or co-opting for a specific role, noting that a slow but steady turnover of personnel can only be a healthy feature of the Society.
- 5.6 Finally, Dr Meese thanked the Bristol secretariat, Tom Troscianko and Gillian Porter, for their ongoing work, and Andrew Schofield for his hard work in organising the meeting.

6 TREASURER'S REPORT

- 6.1 The treasurer, Dr Andrew Schofield, presented the summary accounts to the members present. He noted that a small and deliberate deficit of £350 was recorded last year. The accountant inspecting the previous year's finances had noted that as a charity the AVA should be distributing rather than accruing money, hence an increase in the number and value of awards made last year. Dr Schofield also noted that a further deficit in the near future was probable owing to the sharp decrease in bank interest rates.
- 6.2 The accounts were accepted.

7 VOTING ON PROPOSED RESOLUTION

- 7.1 Prof Troscianko, seconded by Dr Meese, proposed the resolution that clauses C and D1 of the constitution should be amended to replace the phrase "*human vision*" with "*vision sciences*", so that they read as follows: (C) "The Charity's objects ("the objects") are to advance, promote, develop and improve the study and knowledge of *vision sciences* including the study and knowledge of all medical problems relating to vision." And (D1) [The Executive Committee may exercise...] "power to fund, aid, maintain and endow scholarships, travel grants and bursaries and generally to assist in the remuneration, instruction and support of persons and institutions engaged or involved in the study or improvement of *vision sciences*". The resolution was carried unanimously by the members present.

8 VISION SCIENTISTS' MEMORIAL FUND

- 8.1 Dr Meese announced that applications for the GJ Burton travel award had been numerous and of a very high standard, and consequently two awards were to be made. The first was of £600 to Sarah Zylinski (University of Sussex), to attend ECVP and the AVA Animal Vision meeting and present "*The use of multiple visual cues in cuttlefish camouflage*" and "*The power of redundancy! What might the power spectra of cuttlefish body patterns tell us about signalling and camouflage?*" respectively. The second was of £750 to Tracey Brandwood (University of Cardiff) to present "*Visuomotor adaptation: The roles of optic flow and attention*" at VSS.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 9.1 There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting.