

Trustees Annual Report for the period 1st January 2018 to 31st December 2018

Reference and Administration Details

Charity Name :- Midlands Asthma and Allergy Research Association
Other names by which it is known:- MAARA
Registered Charity Number 257131

Registered Office:
7 Stadium Business Court
Millennium Way
Pride Park
Derby
DE24 8HP

Names of the Trustees who manage the charity:-

Dr Roger Chappell
Mr Stuart Mills
Dr Martin Stern
Prof Andrew Wardlaw
Mr Stephen Watson

All trustees acted as such for the whole year.

Structure Governance and Management

The charity is governed by its constitution which was last changed in 2013 to reflect the changes in the objects of the charity, reflecting the cessation of medical trials and the disposal of the former premises in Vernon St. Derby. The association had a membership of 60 during the year and the trustees are appointed or reappointed according to the constitution, which stipulates that the committee will consist of:-

- i) The officers of the Association, i.e. the Patron, President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Association and a Medical Advisor. All such officers shall be elected for a five year period and shall be eligible for re-election for a further period of five years after the expiry of the original five years
- ii) Not more than eight elected members, one third of whom shall retire at each Annual general Meeting of the association. The members of the Committee [other than the afore-mentioned Patron, President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary] to retire every three years and again each of the eight elected members shall be entitled to stand for re-election for a further term of three years.
- iii) The Committee may elect members to fill casual vacancies in the officers and members of the Committee until the next Annual General meeting

The trustees are appointed from the committee and therefore elected and re- elected in accordance with the Constitution at the AGM held in September.
Trustees and officers of the Association continue to give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or other benefits

Objectives and Activities

Objects of the Association

- a. Sponsoring of research into the causes and treatment of Asthma and Allergy
- b. Sponsoring the dissemination of this to the public and/or to the medical profession by publication or through seminars or conferences
- c. Providing general information on Asthma and Allergy to the public.
- d. Fulfilling requests for information from academic bodies, interested groups and the public on matters relating to asthma and allergy, including research findings and information gathered by the Association or its agents, at the discretion of the Executive.
- e. Undertake fundraising in support of the objects a – d

Summary of Activities undertaken

The activities of the Charity are largely dependent on the success of applications for funding from medical researchers and institutions in the East Midlands. A key responsibility of the Trustees is to ensure that the public will benefit from the research or projects which we fund.

We have a separate Medical Advice Committee (MAC) chaired by Dr David Luyt which critically appraises applications, including the amount of public benefit likely to accrue, in accordance with the Charity Commission's guidance.

Acceptance of applications involves a protocol identifying differing levels of authorisation for different values of grant, including the involvement of an external referee for higher value grants. All MAC recommendations for funding over £5k are subject to approval by a vote of the Executive committee.

Achievements and Performance

MAARA held a very successful event at Leicester University, in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of its founding in 1968. It was decided to organise a keynote public lecture in furtherance of our aim to disseminate information. Professor Philip Baker, Dean of Medicine at the University of Leicester, introduced our speaker Professor Ian Pavord, Professor of Respiratory Medicine, who spoke about the Future of Airways Disease. The event included an exhibition of posters and the opportunity for the public to meet MAARA members and the researchers we are sponsoring.

Pollen counting and Public Information

Pollen counting was under way within 18 months of the formation of MAARA in 1968 and our current counting continues to add data to our archive which is now the longest running in Europe. Originally MAARA directly employed Aerobiologists to collect and count Pollen in our own premises, but the cost of staffing and maintenance of even modest facilities and the upcoming retirement of key staff members led us to investigate outsourcing the service.

Accordingly, in 2006 as part of a major grant, counting was transferred to Glenfield Hospital and more recently to The University of Leicester. The service is currently being provided as part of a three year project with the University which commenced in 2016. The Executive committee believe that the Archive is an important resource for researchers nationwide as well as for MAARA's own projects, but we check this on an ongoing basis, before agreeing to further funding.

One Research project was agreed for funding during the year:-

1. Characterisation of type-2 innate lymphoid cells in the sputum of wheezing children

Asthma is an immunological disease, however our understanding of the mechanisms driving the development of asthma is limited. Understanding the immune processes underlying asthma attacks in children may help us to increase our understanding of how asthma develops in the first place. This could in time lead to new treatments to alter the natural history of asthma.

To further our understanding of the immune processes leading to the development of asthma, I propose a research project to study a specific cell type, known to secrete large amounts of powerful mediators, in the sputum of wheezing children. These protein messengers (called cytokines) are known to be involved in the asthma disease mechanism. What we do not understand well is where they are coming from.

To date there have been few research studies on the role of type-2 innate lymphoid cells (ILC2s) in children with asthma. The majority of clinical studies have been conducted in adults with asthma and in this population it is suggested that ILC-2s have an important role in maintaining the inflammation in the airways. We now need to study ILC2s in children with asthma.

In accordance with our rules, the project was reviewed by an external referee in view of the high value, before being agreed by the Executive Committee

Other projects continue from previous years:-

a) E-Nose

The E--NOSE project is about examining breath of children with asthma using state of the art electronic (The 'E' in E--NOSE) chemical analysers.

b) Helping Children and adolescents manage their food allergy

A PhD studentship undertaking a collection of studies to explore ways in which we can improve attitudes and knowledge of food allergy and its management by children and adolescents.

c) British Paediatric Surveillance Study of Food Protein Induced Enterocolitis Syndrome (FPIES)

The survey aims to collect information through the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health BPSU to better understand Food Protein Induced Enterocolitis Syndrome (FPIES – pronounced effpies) which is a delayed-onset type of food allergy in infancy that leads to repeated vomiting and other gastrointestinal symptoms and often leads to rapid dehydration and circulatory shock

d) Investigating mechanisms of ILC2 tissue recruitment

Recently, scientists have identified a new type of lymphocyte that seems to be important in asthmatic responses. This new cell, called a type 2 innate lymphoid cell (ILC2 for short), is found in the lungs and can make large amounts of the damaging proteins. The aim of this study is to identify which receptors are found on the ILC2s in human blood and to see if signals found within the lung can tell the ILC2s, through these receptors, to move. If we understand how ILC2s are getting to the lungs of

asthma patients then it may be possible in the future to design a drug to turn off this signal and help prevent asthma attacks.

Harry Morrow Brown Award

The Harry Morrow Brown Award is an annual award commemorating the death of the founder of MAARA, it provides an annual sum of £5000 to support a range of health professionals wishing to present at suitable conferences and seminars, by paying bursaries covering conference fees and travel costs. Seven Awards were made this year for individual researchers to present papers or participate in the following events:-

- EAACI Conference 2018
- 7th World Congress Oxidative Stress, Calcium Signalling and TRP Channel Conference
- ERS Congress, Paris
- Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis meeting in Copenhagen
- ERS Congress, Paris x 2 delegates
- ERS Congress and ERS asthma taskforce meeting, Paris

Financial Review

Reserves policy

Unrestricted funds are currently £367,108 and are used to meet our liability in payment of agreed grants as well as the day to day operating expenditure.

A decision was taken in 2006 to invest some of our funds in investment accounts in order to improve returns. These funds have performed well despite the financial crisis and it is our policy to leave these in place until the funds they contain are needed for our work

We have no funds materially in deficit.

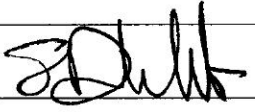
Our main source of funds this year has again been legacies, but events such as the golf day also yield valuable funds and publicity. We were also pleased to receive two substantial donations from the Freemasons.

The charity is run frugally using only one member of staff working part time, meaning more money is available for our work.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signed	
Full name	STEPHEN DAVID WATSON
Position	CHAIRMAN
Date	15th October 2019

**MIDLANDS ASTHMA AND ALLERGY
RESEARCH ASSOCIATION**

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2018

**THE MIDLANDS ASTHMA AND ALLERGY
RESEARCH ASSOCIATION**

CHARITY NUMBER 257131

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS FOR
THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2018 TO 31 DECEMBER 2018**

	Unrestricted Funds 31.12.18	Unrestricted Funds 31.12.17
RECEIPTS		
Donations, Legacies and Grants	102438	170984
Fund Raising Events etc	3662	2940
Members Subscriptions	260	80
Investment Income	25741	25123
TOTAL RECEIPTS	132101	199127
PAYMENTS		
Cost of Fundraising Event	904	1098
Salaries	14243	14507
Rent, Rates and Water	1440	1440
Insurance	438	396
Printing, Postage and Stationery	3416	1256
Telephone	1014	801
Courses and Travelling	6068	309
Website Costs	224	216
Accountancy and Book-keeping	3832	1300
Sundries	514	173
Grants	150677	125474
TOTAL PAYMENTS	182770	146970
NET (PAYMENTS)/RECEIPTS	(50669)	52157
CASH FUNDS AT 31 DECEMBER 2017	417777	365620
CASH FUNDS AT 31 DECEMBER 2018	367108	417777

**THE MIDLANDS ASTHMA AND ALLERGY
RESEARCH ASSOCIATION**

CHARITY NUMBER 257131

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
AT 31 DECEMBER 2018**

	(Unrestricted Funds) 2018	(Unrestricted Funds) 2017
CASH FUNDS		
HSBC	70067	120730
Nottingham Building Society	5047	5042
Barclays	15581	15581
COIF Charities Deposit Fund	276261	276261
Cash in Hand	152	163
TOTAL CASH FUNDS	367108	417777
 OTHER MONETARY ASSETS		
Other	383	130
 INVESTMENT ASSETS		
COIF Charity Fund (market value £175571)	150000	150000
M & G Group (market value £145774)	125000	125000
Newton Fund (market value £253538)	150000	150000
Cordea Savills (market value £68695)	75000	75000
TOTAL INVESTMENT ASSETS	500000	500000
 LIABILITIES		
Grants	74820	19208
Other	2029	2729
TOTAL LIABILITIES	76849	21937

Signature  Trustee/Chairman

Name **S.D. WATSON**

Date of Approval **23rd September 2019**

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
MIDLANDS ASTHMA AND ALLERGY RESEARCH ASSOCIATION**

We report on the Accounts of the Association for the year ended 31 December 2018 which are set out on pages 1 and 2.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Association's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is our responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under Section 145 of the 2011 Act);
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a true and fair view and the report is limited to those matters set out below.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with our examination, no matter has come to our attention:

1 which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare Accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met, or

2 to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached,



Richardson Nutt Limited
Chartered Accountants
7 Stadium Business Court
Millennium Way
Pride Park
Derby

Dated:

1st October 2019