

Meeting Minutes

Meeting: CSC Biological and Medicinal Chemistry (BM) Division Annual General Meeting

Date: May 25, 2026 (rm 501, Metro Toronto Convention Centre)

Time: 12h40 to 13h30 (EST).

Executive Attendees: Dustin King (Chair), Lakshmi Kotra (Treasurer), Samy Cecioni (Secretary, remotely) Christopher Boddy (Vice-Chair), Avena Ross (Member-at-large)

Excused: Tabitha E. Wood, Dustin Duncan

Planned agenda:

1. **Call to order**
2. **Approval of the agenda**
3. **Approval of the minutes of the preceding AGM**
4. **Discussion for meeting planning for IUPAC/CSC 2027 (Ramsay)**
5. **Report by the division chair (Dustin)**
 - Overview of the past year
 - CIC divisional award fees
6. **Financial report by the division treasurer (Lakshmi)**
7. **Report by the member-at-large on special projects (Dustin for Tabitha)**
 - Division webpage
8. **Elections**
 - Chair
 - Secretary
 - Members-at-large
9. **New business and matters arising**
10. **Adjournment**

Minutes:

1. **Call to order at 12:46pm (Chair, Dustin King)**
2. **Approval of the agenda**
 - Lakshmi Kotra moved, Paul Harrison seconded, Passed without objection
3. **Approval of the minutes of the preceding AGM**
 - Comment: Brief comment noting the minutes were very well written.
 - Dustin King moved, Chris Boddy Seconded, Passed without objection
4. **Report by the division chair (Dustin)**
 - Overview of the past year
 1. Support (\$500 each) was provided to student-centered conferences: SOUCC (for poster prizes), WCUCC, and QOMSBOD. The division maintains its mandate to support both regional and interprovincial meetings, provided they contain direct BM content.
 2. Support provided for 3 Posters prizes at the CSC in 2025, \$200 each. Awardees to be showcased on the division's website.
 - CIC divisional award fees
 1. We currently support 4 awards, Bernard Belleau, BM lectureship, Melanie O'Neill, XChem award.

2. A new fee of \$800 per award has been instituted to cover CIC salary/administrative costs (a \$52,000 national admin fee divided across all CSC awards). This will be automatically deducted annually, from BM Division treasury, by CIC.
3. Discussion: How do we offset this cost? do we ask industry sponsors to increase what they give?, or ask hosting symposia to fundraise? (awards fees imposed on the symposium, might not be well received), or do we separate the awards from CSC and only make it a divisional award (concern about loss of prestige and increased financial responsibility).
4. Question: How long have Paraza and XChem been supporting the awards (It is believed longer than 5 years)
5. Error on slide: Note BM Lectureship is a \$2900 total request, not \$2400
6. Concerns were raised that we are looking at a total amount for awards of ~\$10,000 per year.
7. Question: How was the award fee determined? Apparently, based on salary costs, and CIC committee divided the cost across the number of awards.
8. Concerns raised that Melanie O'Neill Award (\$500) is much less than the amount required to administer it (\$1,400).
9. Discussions continued suggesting transfer of the Melanie O'Neill award to division management and potential for a similar option with the joint awards with the Organic division. A joint awards symposium and dinner were suggested as an alternative to the awards dinner which is already unable to include all awards due to length.
10. Comment: in previous years financial administration was decentralised and there is an increased risk of mismanagement in a single year having trickle-down effects.

No final decision was made on the disposition of the BM awards and their administrative fee.

5. Discussion for meeting planning for IUPAC/CSC 2027 (Ramsay Beveridge)

- Ramsay Beveridge, the Industrial Liaison for the CSC, reported that one preliminary meeting has occurred regarding the joint 2027 CSC/IUPAC conference in Montreal. Question: How will symposia be organised at 2027 conference? Themes will be used to merge IUPAC and CSC structures. Call should allow ownership for symposia through BM as well as falling under a theme.
- Question: Will the themes be determined by division? Division-level decision-making will likely remain, though symposium organizers proposing their own themes may encounter friction or overlap when integrating with IUPAC's structure.
- Question: Do we need international symposium co-organizers? Ramsay is unsure and will bring this question back to the organizing committee.
- Another meeting of the organizing committee is scheduled in a few weeks. The deadline for symposium proposals is September 1st, 2026.
- Members can contact Ramsay at ramseybeveridge@gmail.com with questions.

6. Financial report by the division treasurer (Lakshmi)

- Finances are currently in a strong position. The division is hosting 8–9 excellent

symposia this year with a very exciting program.

- **Balances & Commitments:**

1. Jan 2026 Balance: \$58,276.92
 2. Current expected balance: \$80,347.09 (including symposia sponsorship)
 3. Total pledged to Symposia (May 23, 2026) \$37,572
 4. Total received to Symposia (May 23, 2026) \$28,072
- Some funds were received by CIC but not passed along to Division until they were explicitly requested.
 - Comment: Michelyn from CSC commends Lakshmi for doing an excellent job as Treasurer (Lakshmi returns appreciation for Michelyn's work).
 - Question: For 2027 will IUPAC-sponsored symposia bring in additional funds? Lakshmi expects potential effect of international conference on fundraising, but competition for funds may be an issue.
 - Symposia are expected to fundraise separately from the main IUPAC/CSC efforts. Currently, the main sponsorship prospectus does not include opportunities for direct symposium sponsorship.
 - There is a desire to coordinate funding, so sponsors aren't forced to choose between the national conference and division symposia. A successful example was cited from CSC 2025 (Ottawa), where Gilead split funding between the overall conference and a specific symposium, facilitated by having company members involved in the organizing process. Curtis Rieder's involvement with the CSC credited with the company understanding the way the conference works. This highlights a need to have members of companies involved in the organisation.

7. **Report by the member-at-large on special projects (Dustin for Tabitha)**

- Division Webpage: Currently hosts executive details, AGM minutes, student award winners, and BM awards. (The X-Chem award needs to be added, along with a note directing potential sponsors to the Treasurer).
- Website Independence: The current CIC-hosted page is slow and difficult to update. Lakshmi proposed creating a separate, modern website managed directly by the division to allow for better engagement and historical tracking (e.g., the history of Bernard Belleau). The CIC page would simply serve as a landing page linking to the new site.
- Action: Lakshmi volunteered to take responsibility for looking into feasibility, costs and setting up this new BM website.

8. **Elections**

- **Transition plans:** Dustin King becomes past Chair, Chris Boddy remains as Vice Chair, Samy Cecioni moves into Treasurer role, Kristen Burford is nominated for Secretary (future Treasurer for Victoria CSC), Lakshmi Kotra expressed interest for the Chair position.
- **Chair:** Lakshmi Kotra is nominated by Chris Boddy, seconder James Jaquith, Elected unanimously.
- **Secretary:** Kristen Burford (Xenon) is nominated by Lakshmi Kotra, seconder Chris Boddy, Elected unanimously.

- **Members-at-large:** Roles include supporting organizational items, such as mixer planning and poster judging logistics.
- Trevor Clark (UPEI) and Kalindi Morgan (UNBC) are nominated by Lakshmi Kotra, seconder John Sorenson, Elected (Note: Kalindi Morgan's election is pending her formal acceptance, as she was not present).
- Current executive team moving forward:

BM executives

- **Lakshmi P. Kotra**, Chair (2026 – 2028), *University of Toronto*
- **Dustin King**, Past Chair (2026 – 2028), *Simon Fraser University*
- **Christopher Boddy**, Vice Chair (2026 – 2028), *University of British Columbia - Okanagan Campus*
- **Samy Cecioni**, Treasurer (2026 – 2028), *Université de Montréal*
- **Kirsten Burford**, Secretary (2026 – 2028), *Xenon Pharmaceuticals*

Executive members at large:

- **Trevor Clark** (2026 – 2028), *UPEI*
- **Kalindi Morgan** (2026 – 2028), *UNBC*, To be confirmed
- **Avena Ross** (2025 – 2026), *Queen's University*
- **Jumi Shin** (2025 – 2026), *University of Toronto Mississauga*
- **Tabitha Wood** (2025 – 2026), *University of Winnipeg*
- **Dustin Duncan** (2025 – 2026), *Brock University*

9. New business and matters arising

- John Sorensen thanked Dustin King on behalf of the division for his excellent stewardship as Chair.
- Lakshmi Kotra thanked everyone for attending and encouraged colleagues to begin proposing symposia for 2027. He emphasized that the upcoming Montreal CSC is a great opportunity to strengthen Canadian Chemistry particularly considering struggles with the US. Engaging industry is critical for the forward movement of our division and our science. Montreal will be a great place for the upcoming CSC.

10. Adjournment

- Lakshmi Kotra moved to adjourn and Chris Boddy seconded motion, passed. Meeting was adjourned at 13:30 hrs.