

Trustees Annual Report for the period 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020

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

Mr Stephen Watson

Mr Peter Teasdale

All of whom acted as trustees 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 56 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 aforementioned 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 July.

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

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 two year project with the University after review of an existing 3 year contract which expired in early 2020. 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.

Three MAC meetings were held this year, each one to review a different project proposal. Two of these projects were approved for funding with all three projects having been passed to our independent external referee due to their value.

The projects approved were:-

Investigation of mast cells from asthmatic bronchial biopsy tissue by single cell RNA-sequencing for the assessment of novel therapeutics £35606

Severe (uncontrolled) asthma affects a subset of people with asthma and does not respond to current treatments. Mast cells (MC) are a type of white blood cell in the airway that play an important role in uncontrolled asthma, causing both day-to-day symptoms and attacks. Drugs that block MC function in asthma do not currently exist, because until now researchers have not been able to investigate the mechanisms driving abnormal MC function. We will use a new technique called single-cell RNA sequencing that will allow us to identify the abnormal molecular signalling pathways that drive abnormal MC function. We will use MCs obtained from the bronchi of people with severe asthma and expect to uncover new ways which MCs in asthma can be targeted effectively with new drugs, hence improving the care for people with this disease.

Investigating the immunological response to coronaviruses following exposure to pollens, fungal spores and particulate matter. £7200

Experimental evidence has shown an association between pollen exposure and a reduced immune response to rhinoviruses, one of the viruses causing common colds. No studies have investigated the effect of fungal spores on immunity to respiratory viruses, nor the response to coronaviruses following pollen exposure. We hypothesise that exposure to pollen and fungal spores will increase the risk of coronavirus infection by affecting immunity to respiratory viruses. We propose to use tissue culture exposed to combinations of coronaviruses known to cause common cold, pollens, fungal spores and air pollution particles. We aim to determine whether the two main allergenic pollens (grass and birch) and three renowned fungal aeroallergens (*Alternaria*, *Aspergillus* and *Cladosporium*) can affect susceptibility to coronavirus infection. Coronaviruses are important triggers of asthma attacks, and findings may have relevance to the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus (responsible for the COVID-19 pandemic), the second wave of which coincided with the fungal spore season.

Other projects continue from previous years:-

a) Characterisation of type-2 innate lymphoid cells in the sputum of wheezing children

b) Investigating mechanisms of ILC2 tissue recruitment

A no cost time extension to the completion of this project was agreed in July 2020 due to disruption caused by the pandemic

c) Identification and Characterisation from *A. Fumigatus* associated with lung damage

A no cost time extension to the completion of this project was agreed in July 2020 due to disruption caused by the pandemic

d) CRTh2 activation of SLAMF positive non-classical monocytes & effect on anti-viral CD8+T cells

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. Due to the pandemic, no grants were made under the award, however the rules allow expenditure to be carried forward into successive years if warranted by application numbers.

Financial Review

Reserves policy

Unrestricted funds are currently £200390 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 and we plan to leave these in place until the money 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 which, by their nature, are difficult to predict or budget

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	31 st August 2021

**MIDLANDS ASTHMA AND ALLERGY
RESEARCH ASSOCIATION**

MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

MIDLANDS ASTHMA AND ALLERGY RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	2020 £	2019 £
INCOMING RESOURCES		
Fund Raising and Other Income		
Fund Raising, Donations, etc	2124	2400
Legacies	10599	130580
Members Subscriptions	200	110
	12923	133090
Investment Income	21825	26925
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	34748	160015
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
COST OF GENERATING FUNDS		
Administrative and Other Expenses		
Salaries and Pensions	16169	15583
Rent, Rates and Water Charges	1440	1440
Insurance	442	440
Printing, Postage, Stationery and Newsletter	1321	1608
Telephone	610	733
Courses and Travelling Expenses	51	3486
Website	96	31
Accountancy, Book-keeping and Examination	3114	2872
Sundry Expenditure	2549	129
Bank Charges	99	71
	25891	26393
Charitable and Research Expenditure		
Aerobiology Contract	24716	21200
Other Research Grants	87700	101194
	112416	122394
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	138307	148787
NET INGOING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	(103559)	11228
OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES		
Unrealised Gain/(Loss) on Investments	(22829)	68127
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	(126388)	79355
Total Funds brought forward	1014592	935237
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	888204	1014592

MIDLANDS ASTHMA AND ALLERGY RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Note No.	2020 £	2019 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible Assets	2	2	2
Investments	3	688876	711705
		688878	711707
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors and Prepayments		792	224
Cash at Bank and in Hand		200390	304464
		201182	304688
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year		1856	1803
NET CURRENT ASSETS		199326	302885
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		888204	1014592
FUNDS			
Unrestricted Funds		888204	1014592

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by


 Trustee Chairman

15th July 2021
 Date

MIDLANDS ASTHMA AND ALLERGY RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES**Depreciation**

Depreciation is provided on all Fixed Assets on a straight line basis calculated to write off the cost over their estimated useful lives as follows:-

Computers	-	33.3% p.a.
Medical Equipment	-	20% p.a.

Donations and Legacies

These are accounted for in full in the year of receipt.

Operating Leases

Annual commitments under operating leases are written off in the year in which they are incurred.

Investment Income

Bank interest receivable is accounted for on the accruals basis.

Going Concern

The accounts are prepared on the going concern basis and there are no material uncertainties in this regard.

2 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Computers £	Medical Equipment £	Total £
Net Book Values Brought Forward	1	1	2
Less: Provision for Depreciation	-	-	-
Net Book Values Carried Forward	1	1	2

3 INVESTMENTS

	2020 £	2019 £
Market Value, brought forward	711705	643578
Add: Gain/(Loss) on Revaluation	(22829)	68127
Market Value, carried forward	688876	711705

(In UK Unit Trusts for Charities)

**MIDLANDS ASTHMA AND ALLERGY
RESEARCH ASSOCIATION**

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2020

**THE MIDLANDS ASTHMA AND ALLERGY
RESEARCH ASSOCIATION**

CHARITY NUMBER 257131

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS FOR
THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2020 TO 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	Unrestricted Funds 31.12.20	Unrestricted Funds 31.12.19
RECEIPTS		
Donations, Legacies and Grants	12723	132980
Members Subscriptions	200	110
Investment Income	21938	27194
TOTAL RECEIPTS	34861	160284
PAYMENTS		
Salaries and Pension	16168	15528
Rent, Rates and Water	1440	1440
Insurance	443	441
Printing, Postage and Stationery	2001	703
Telephone	610	733
Courses and Travelling	70	3467
Website Costs	96	31
Accountancy and Book-keeping	3043	3172
Sundries	2549	128
Grants	112416	197214
Bank Charges	99	71
TOTAL PAYMENTS	138935	222928
NET (PAYMENTS)/RECEIPTS	(104074)	(62644)
CASH FUNDS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019	304464	367108
CASH FUNDS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020	200390	304464

**THE MIDLANDS ASTHMA AND ALLERGY
RESEARCH ASSOCIATION**

CHARITY NUMBER 257131

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
AT 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	(Unrestricted Funds) 2020	(Unrestricted Funds) 2019
CASH FUNDS		
HSBC	20667	23985
Barclays	758	720
COIF Charities Deposit Fund	146261	226261
Lloyds	32586	53343
Cash in Hand	118	155
TOTAL CASH FUNDS	200390	304464
 OTHER MONETARY ASSETS		
Other	2	114
 INVESTMENT ASSETS		
COIF Charity Fund (market value £191155)	150000	150000
M & G Group (market value £140669)	125000	125000
Newton Fund (market value £291489)	150000	150000
Cordea Savills (market value £65563)	75000	75000
TOTAL INVESTMENT ASSETS	500000	500000
 LIABILITIES		
Other	1856	1803
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1856	1803

Signature  ~~Trustee~~/Chairman

Name Stephen David Watson

Date of Approval 12th July 2021 (AGM)

**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 2020 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: 22.7.21