Table 1: Time-table of BBS discoveries

1753	Maupertuis and then Réaumur (1749) describe hereditary polydactyly
1809	Martin reports the first case of familial progressive blindness in a three-generation family (dominant hereditary; Hereditary blindness)
1858	Albrecht von Graefe first reports familial cases of blindness accompanied by deafness (not BBD, but Retinitis pigmentosa), also called von Graefe's syndrome (cited by Laurence in his work)
1866	Lawrence and Moon describe cases of familial blindness accompanied by obesity, hypogonadism, poor cognition, nanism, paraplegia. They view this in the optics of cretinism and retinitis pigmentosa. They do not report signs of polydactyly or kidney problems
1890	Immobile cilia are described. This finding is then forgotten until year 2000.
1901	Froehlich drives the attention of researchers to hypothalamic/pituitary obesity
1920	Bardet presents cases of obesity, hexadactyly and retinitis pigmentosa; he does not recognize renal anomalies and attributes the syndrome to the pituitary
1922	Arthur Biedl reports familial cases of polydactyly, retinitis pigmentosa, poor cognition. Following the main paradigm of the time, as in the case of Bardet, he believes that the syndrome was a dystrophia adiposogenitalis of cerebral origin, but without involvement of the pituitary
1924-1939	Several reviews on the argument appear (cited in (16)): Raab (1924 Wien Arch Inn Med 7, 443), Reilly and Lisser (1932 Endocrinology 16, 336), Cockayne, Krestin and Sorsby (1935 Quart J Med 4,93), Streiff and Zeltner (1938, Arch Ophtal, Paris 2, 289) and Sorsby, Avery and Cockayne (1939, Quart J Med 8,51), Rony HR (Rony HR. Obesity and Leanness. Philadelphia Lea and Febiger; 1940). No mention of the renal involvement.
1801-1959	New syndromes are described and there is discussion about their similarity or identity with BBD (cited in (16)): Biemond's syndrome (infantilism, coloboma, skeletal abnormalities. Biemond A 1934 Ned Tijdschr Geneesk 78, 1801), Cockayne's syndrome (familial, dwarfism, mental deficiency, deafness, retinal atrophy; Cockayne EA, 1936, Arch Dis Childh 11,1), Alstrom's syndrome (retinal degeneration, gynoid obesity, diabetes mellitus, neurogenic deafness, hypogonadotropic hypogonadism. 1954, Alstrom CH, Hallgren B, Nilsson LB, Asander H. Retinal degeneration combined with obesity, diabetes mellitus and neurogenous deafness. Acta Psychiatr Scand. 1959;34(ppl129) 1-35.). It is even discussed the existence of the syndrome (Warkanym Frauenberger, Mitchell 1937Amer J Dis Child 53, 455)
1945	The attention to the syndrome is still on the adipose aspect. Jaso and Curbelo refer to it as "monstrous infantile obesity", and hypothesize a complex pathogenesis with hypopituitarism followed by hyperpituitarism (Am J Dis Child. 1945;70(1) 9-18)

1969	First description of renal involvement in BBD (18)
1984	Further investigations on renal abnormalities in BBS (20, 30)
1993	First localization of a BBD gene (now BBS2) on chromosome 16q (31)
1994	Localization of a BBD gene (now BBS1) on chromosome 11q (32)
1994-1995	Mapping of other two BBS genes (BBS3-4) (33, 34)
1995	Bray (16) reports that BBD (autosomal recessive, pigmentary retinopathy, obesity, congenital heart disease, nephropathy**,** hexadactyly, hypogonadism, mental retardation, anal atresia) should be considered as a different entity from Laurence-Moon syndrome (autosomal recessive, tapetoretinal degeneration, rarely obesity, paraplegia, mental retardation, hypogonadism)
2000	Identification of the first BBS gene, MKKS, based on the similarity between the BBS and the McKusick-Kaufman syndrome (MKS) (21)
2000	Pazour et al drive the attention of scientists again towards the primary cilium in the kidney proposing it to be linked to the development of polycystic kidney disease (35)
2003	First observation that BBS genes are mainly expressed in ciliated cells (36), with subsequent proposal that they are responsible for correct functioning of the primary cilium (37)
2005	Laurence-Moon syndrome is again considered similar to Bardet-Biedl syndrome (38)
2005	A similitude among BBS, nephronophthisis (NPH), Joubert syndrome (JBTS), and Meckel-Gruber syndrome (MKS), Astrom syndrome, Oro-facio-digital syndrome is noted
2006	The term “ciliopathy” is proposed (39)
2010	Definition of the BBSome, the multiprotein complex of the cilium encoded by BBS genes (40)