

**THE GENETICS SOCIETY**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

The Annual General Meeting of the Genetics Society was held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at The Roslin Institute, Edinburgh.

28 members of the Society, including 6 members of the Committee, were in attendance. Present for the purposes of the minutes: Elsa Montes (PCS).

**1. Minutes of the previous General Meeting (Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2014).**

The minutes of the previous AGM had been available to view and/or download from the Genetic Society's website. There being no objections, it was agreed that these minutes provided a true reflection of the proceedings at that meeting.

**2. President's Report**

The President, Wendy Bickmore, thanked everyone for attending the conference and highlighted the fact that the next conference 'Building the brain: from genes to circuits and cognition' will be held at the Royal Society in November and that abstract submission would be accepted for poster and oral presentations.

**3. Honorary Treasurer's Report.**

The Honorary Treasurer, Anne Donaldson, presented the finance report noting that the 2014 figures are pending production of the audited accounts in May.

The Honorary Treasurer gave the breakdown of grants awarded last year and ran through the support costs.

The Honorary Treasurer presented the movement of the investment value and indicated that all investments made by the Genetics Society are safe and ethical.

The Honorary Treasurer showed the Fund Balance and highlighted the growth trend in the past 5 years. She explained that a reserve will be made for the centenary of the Genetics Society in 2019.

The Committee is open to ideas from the membership about what could be done for that occasion.

Helen Sang, present at the meeting, proposed the idea of having public engagement grants available for members.

Josephine Pemberton noted that the attendance cost at the Genetics Society events is quite high and asked if they could be subsidised further.

DJ de Koning responded that registration fees are fixed by Committee decision and that the catering at the conference cannot be covered by society funds.

Her comment will be taken into account for future meetings.

The Honorary Treasurer explained that the full details of the Society's financial affairs will be publicised in the next edition of the newsletter.

#### 4. Honorary Secretary's Report

Tanya Whitfield (TW) reminded everyone of the 2015 awards:

**2015 Genetics Society Medal** - Awarded to Professor Alan Ashworth (Institute of Cancer Research, London) for his work on cancer genetics. Professor Ashworth will deliver his lecture at the Genetics Society Autumn Meeting, 2015.

**2015 Balfour Lecture** – Awarded to Ben Lehner (Centre for Genomic Regulation, Barcelona, Spain) for his work on genotype/phenotype variations in *C. elegans*. He will present his work at the Genetics Society Autumn Meeting, 2016.

**2015 JBS Haldane Lecture** – Awarded to Professor Alison Woollard, (Oxford University, Oxford). Professor Woollard will deliver her lecture at the BSA Festival, Bradford in September 2015 (to be confirmed).

**2015 Mary Lyon Medal** – Awarded to Professor Loeske Kruuk (University of Edinburgh, UK) for her work on evolutionary genetics. Professor Kruuk will deliver her talk at the PopGroup Meeting, Edinburgh (15-18 December 2015)

Tanya Whitfield (TW) announced the following awards, which had been made by the Genetics Society during the past year:

- a) **2016 Genetics Society Medal** - Awarded to Professor Ottoline Leyser (Sainsbury Laboratories, Cambridge) for her work on plant genetics and plant hormone action.
- b) **2016 Balfour Lecture** – Awarded to Felicity Jones (International Max Planck Research School, Tuebingen, Germany) for her work on evolutionary genomics and mechanisms underlying ecological speciation.
- c) **2016 JBS Haldane Lecture** – Awarded to Aoife McLysaght (Trinity College Dublin, Ireland) for her contributions to science engagement with the public.
- d) **2016 Mary Lyon Medal** – Awarded to Dr Duncan Odom (Cancer Research UK, Cambridge) for his work on comparative functional genetics and evolution of the mammalian genome.
- e) **The Sir Kenneth Memorial Prize** - was awarded to Laura Corbin (University of Edinburgh) in 2012/13 and to Tom Booker (University of Edinburgh) in 2013/14.

The Honorary Secretary is accepting nominations from members for the 2017 awards.

#### f) Applications for new membership

The Honorary Secretary then asked whether there were any objections to any of the new 402 members who had applied to join the Society over the past year. None were raised and TW accordingly asked for a show of hands from those willing to have these members elected. In total, 33 members cast their vote in favour: 18 members attending the meeting, 9 members voting online, and 6 votes from attending Committee members. This was carried.

The Honorary Secretary thanked Chris Smith, DJ de Koning, Colum Walsh, Jane Rogers, Ian Henderson, Jon Slate and Enrico Coen for their time in the Committee.

The Honorary Secretary then asked if there were any objections to the changes in Executive Committee and Committee membership, as follows:

- g) Executive Sub-Committee – election of Alison Woollard (University of Oxford) as Vice-President, Public Understanding of Genetics and Lynsey Hall (University of Edinburgh)

as Postgraduate Representative. There were no objections and in total, 33 members cast their vote in favour: 18 members attending the meeting, 9 members voting online, and 6 votes from attending Committee members.

- h) Ordinary Committee Members – election of Douglas Vernimmen (The Roslin Institute, University of Edinburgh) as Committee member Area “A” (Gene structure, function and regulation), Michael Simpson (King’s College London) as Committee member Area ‘B’ (Genomics), Marika Charalambous (Queen Mary University of London) as Committee member Area ‘C’ (Cell and developmental genetics), Kay Boulton (University of Edinburgh) as Committee member Area ‘D’ (Applied and quantitative genetics) and Jim Huggett (LGC) as Committee member Area ‘F’ (Corporate genetics and biotechnology). There were no objections and in total, 33 members cast their vote in favour: 18 members attending the meeting, 9 members voting online, and 6 votes from attending Committee members.

TW highlighted that the next vacancies would include:

**Vice-President, External Relations** (To replace Rebecca Oakey in 2016)

**Honorary Secretary** (To replace Tanya Whitfield in 2016)

**Committee member Area “C”** (Cell and developmental genetics, to replace Elizabeth Fisher in 2016)

**Committee member Area “E”** (Evolutionary, ecological and population genetics, to replace Judith Mank in 2016)

Members were asked to send nominations for any suitable candidates to Tanya Whitfield.

There being no further business, the 2015 AGM was formally closed by the President, Wendy Bickmore.

Minuted on behalf of the Genetics Society by Portland Customer Services.



Honorary Secretary

Date

14.05.2015