



**Genetics Society
Annual General Meeting
Thursday 14th November 2019
Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh**

1. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the previous AGM held on Thursday 22nd November 2018 were circulated to members electronically on 4th November 2019. No objections were raised and the minutes were accepted as a correct record.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the last AGM.

3. President's Report

It has been an exceptional year for the Genetics Society, with numerous activities taking place to celebrate the society's centenary. The Genetics Society President, Professor Laurence Hurst, thanked the centenary committee for all the work that had gone in to making the year such a success.

The Genetics Society is in good shape, with membership at an all-time high, and finances healthy.

The society is seeking to maintain the momentum gained through its centenary year. With a view to establishing a legacy, the committee have decided to retain the services of Centenary Project Manager, Cristina Fonseca, for a further year.

Public engagement grants are now available up to a maximum of £5,000, with five projects having already been funded, this programme will be continued.

The society aims to revivify its connection with geneticists in industry, efforts are being led by committee members Lindsey Leach and Alison Bentley who recently organized the successful PlantQuant meeting.

Plan S remains on the horizon; presenting a potential threat to the society's journal income. The society is actively preparing for Plan S, but with so much uncertainty surrounding the plan, this has been challenging.

The Genetics Society could not run without the effort of its committee members, in his closing comments Professor Hurst paid tribute to the committee, and thanked those whose terms would come to an end in 2020.

4. Honorary Treasurer's Report

The Honorary Treasurer, Professor Martin Taylor, announced that finance reporting to the Charities Commission had concluded and the society was in good order.

The Genetics Society is currently in a healthy financial position, though there is uncertainty on the horizon. Funds are growing steadily with the society currently holding £2m in unrestricted reserves.

Expenditure has also risen steadily; this is largely accounted for by the increase in spending due to centenary related activities. The majority of spending has gone into events/centenary (£244k) and grants (£279k) rather than support costs (£120k).

Professor Taylor described some of the activities funded in the 2018 financial year, including:

- 10 Sectional interest group meetings, and the autumn Genetics Society meeting
- Partnering with Ri and BBC to deliver the 2018 Christmas Lectures
- 16 Heredity Fieldwork Grants
- 24 Training Grants
- 29 Genes and Development Summer Studentships
- 124 Junior Scientist Travel Grants

As of next year, students taking part in the Genes and Development Summer Studentships will be paid a stipend in line with the UK Living Wage.

Expenditure is expected to reduce in 2020 as the centenary year comes to an end. The society aims to have reserves of around 2.5x annual turnover.

Professor Taylor reiterated that the Genetics Society remains in excellent financial health. Currently income from journals is sustaining and membership subscriptions are steadily rising. Centenary spending peaked in 2019 but Centenary Legacy spending set to continue for at least the next year.

5. Honorary Secretary's Report

Honorary Secretary, Dr Jonathan Pettitt, thanked committee members who had stepped down in the past year:

Dr Lynsey Hall

Newsletter Editor

Dr Doug Vernimmen

Ordinary Committee Member (Gene Structure, Function and Regulation)

Dr Michael Simpson

Ordinary Committee Member (Genomics)

Dr Pettitt also thanked those committee members whose terms would be coming to an end in April 2020:

Professor Martin Taylor

Honorary Treasurer

Dr Jonathan Pettitt

Honorary Secretary

Professor Malcolm Logan

Vice-President, Corporate Affairs

Professor Colum Walsh

Vice-President, External Relations

Helena Wells

Postgraduate Representative

Dr Frank Hailer

Ordinary Committee Member (Evolutionary, ecological and population genetics)

Dr Jim Huggett

Ordinary Committee Member (Corporate genetics and biotechnology)

Dr Pettitt welcomed the following new members onto the committee:

Margherita Colucci

Newsletter Editor

Emily Baker

Shadow Postgraduate Representative

Dr Michelle Holland

Ordinary Committee Member (Gene Structure, Function and Regulation)

Dr Araxi Urrutia Odabachian

Ordinary Committee Member (Genomics)

Professor Paola Oliveri

Ordinary Committee Member (Cell and Developmental Genetics)

The Genetics Society is seeking nominations for the following committee posts, which become vacant in 2020:

Vice-President, External Relations

Ordinary Committee member (Genomics)

Ordinary Committee member (Evolutionary, Ecological and Population Genetics)

Nominations should be sent directly to the Honorary Secretary.

Incoming Honorary Secretary, Dr Kay Boulton, announced the winners of next year's Genetics Society prizes:

Genetics Society Medal

Professor Peter Donnelly (University of Oxford)

Balfour Lecture

Dr Sarah Flanagan (University of Exeter)

Mary Lyon Medal

Professor Alastair Wilson (University of Exeter)

JBS Haldane Lecture

Dr Jonathan Pettitt (University of Aberdeen)

In his closing remarks Dr Pettitt thanked those in attendance, and encouraged members to use all available channels to interact with the Genetics Society. Dr Pettitt promoted the Communicating Your Science Workshop to students/ECRs who are considering becoming more involved in communicating science to the public.

After these final statements the meeting was called to a close.

Appendix A

Results of an electronic ballot circulated to members of the Genetics Society on 4th November 2019, regarding the approval of new members joining the Society since 1st November 2018.

Q. Please confirm that you wish to admit the new members listed here into the Genetics Society.

Yes: 98.44% (126)

No: 1.56% (2)

Abstain: 0% (0)