

# **AGM Minutes 2011**

## **Minutes of the Genetics Society Annual General Meeting held at Surgeons Hall, University of Edinburgh on Friday April 1<sup>st</sup> 2011**

Forty-one members of the Society, including 6 members of the Committee attended the meeting. In addition, 127 members had registered online votes in advance, including eleven attending the meeting in person who were not allowed to vote again. Because members voting in advance online are deemed to contribute to the quorum, there were therefore online votes or attendance at the meeting to total 157 members, and the meeting was declared to be quorate.

### **Agenda Items**

1. The 2011 AGM was opened by President van Heyningen, and the minutes of the previous year's AGM (Friday April 1<sup>st</sup> 2011), which had been made available on the Society's web site, were agreed by those present to be an accurate record of proceedings and were duly signed by the President van Heyningen.

2 President van Heyningen reported on the state of the Genetics Society. She commented that the Society was thriving and in good financial health due to the income generated in the journals *Heredity* and *Genes and Development*, which are owned or part-owned by the Genetics Society. She reported that the Genetics Society and Cold Spring Harbor would be holding a 2-day scientific meeting in Autumn 2012 to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of *Genes & Development*. Vice President Ian Jackson and Honorary Treasurer Josephine Pemberton and her successor Hiro Ohkura were credited for their efforts in developing an investment strategy to protect the Society's finances, in order to ensure that the Society retains the ability to support meetings and provide grant funding. Committee members, Executive sub-Committee officers and office staff were thanked for their hard work on behalf of the Society. President van Heyningen reported that Enrico Coen would become the President-elect of the Society at the conclusion of the AGM. She expressed disappointment that the Society was unable to award the JBS Haldane Lecture and encouraged members to nominate individuals who excel at communication in genetics to the public. President van Heyningen also encouraged members to stand for election to the Committee and to make proposals to hold scientific meetings with a strong genetic content that could be sponsored by the Society.

3. Honorary Treasurer Josephine Pemberton gave a brief overview of the financial state of the Genetics Society and explained how the Society generated revenue through its journals *Heredity* and *Genes and Development* and distributed funds to sponsor meetings and to support training initiatives such as the *Genes & Development* Summer Studentship. She described the various grant schemes available to those who had been members of the

Society for more than a year, and noted recent changes to the Byelaws, which increased the sums and the frequency by which some grants could be obtained. She reported that the Committee had retained a financial advisor who had developed a long-term financial portfolio for the Society based on conservative low-risk ethical investments. She described the various grant schemes available to those who had been members of the Society for more than a year, including the newest Genetics Society Training Grant. Honorary Treasurer Josephine Pemberton finished her report by actively encouraging members of the Society to apply to the various grant schemes that are available to students and other members of the Society.

4(a-e). Honorary Secretary Patricia Kuwabara announced the most recent recipients of Genetics Society award:

2012 Mendel Medal: Eric S. Lander (MIT)

2012 Balfour Lecturer: Örjan Carlborg, Uppsala University

2012 Genetics Society Medal 2012: Stephen C. West, LRI (CRUK)

2011 Mather Prize: Kay Boulton, University of Edinburgh

2011 JBS Haldane Lecture: No award was made.

4(f-h). Honorary Secretary Patricia Kuwabara explained the process for voting on the admission of new members to the Society and of new members to the Committee. She reported that:

4(f). A list of 251 people proposed for membership to the Society had been posted on the Society web site, circulated by email to members and distributed in hard copy at the AGM. No objections were raised to prevent the admission of any of these individuals to the Society; on a show of hands there were 27 votes cast in favour to add to the 126 cast online, with no votes against. These 251 individuals were therefore elected to the membership of the Society.

4(g). The Committee had recommended a ballot to elect four new members to Committee: Area A (Gene structure, function and regulation) Rebecca Oakey to replace Anne Ferguson-Smith; Area B (Genomics) Jane Rogers, returning to stand for a full term; Area C (Cell and developmental genetics) Ian Henderson, returning to stand for a full term; Area D (Applied and quantitative genetics) Jon Slate to replace Dirk-Jan de Koning. The ballot proposed by the current Committee was supported by 27 votes cast at the AGM with no votes against, and by 119 cast online with 3 votes against. Thus, the new Committee members were duly elected by majority to join the Society's Committee.

4(h) The Executive sub-Committee members: President-elect, Enrico Coen; Vice President Public Understanding of Genetics, Chris Smith; Scientific Meetings Secretary, DJ de Koning, as proposed by the current Committee were supported by 27 votes cast at the AGM with no votes against, and by 119 votes cast online with 3 votes against. Thus, the new Committee members were duly elected by majority to join the Society's Committee.

4(i) The Honorary Secretary noted that she wished to bring changes made to the Society's Byelaws to the attention of members, but that these changes did not require ratification by the Membership. A copy of the Byelaws is available on the Genetics Society website at <http://www.genetics.org.uk>.

5. Under Any Other Business, Honorary Secretary Patricia Kuwabara thanked the outgoing Committee members for their contribution to the Society's work. As no other items were raised the meeting was closed.