



**Genetics Society
Annual General Meeting
Thursday 22nd November 2018
Great Hall, University of Exeter**

1. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the AGM held on Thursday 23rd November 2017 were circulated to members electronically on 14th November 2018. 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

In 2016 the prior president of the Genetics Society, Wendy Bickmore, set a target of having 2,019 members by the year 2019. This target has been achieved with membership currently standing at 2,147. Given the desire to grow its membership the Genetics Society will no longer require new members to be nominated by an existing member, and the society is making moves to recruit a greater number of members from corporate backgrounds.

Preparations for next year's centenary celebrations are well under way. The Genetics Society will present a garden at the Chelsea Flower Show, for which we are seeking volunteers, those interested should contact [Cristina Fonseca](#). The centenary conference 'A Century of Genetics' takes place in Edinburgh next November. The Genetics Society is eager to fund further public engagement activities, to this aim the society will now offer two streams of Public Engagement Grant, one up to a maximum of £1,000, and for more ambitious projects a grant of up to £5,000 may be applied for.

This year's Royal Institution Christmas Lectures will be sponsored by the Genetics Society. The lectures on the subject 'Who Am I?' are presented by Alice Roberts and Aoife McLysaght.

In another collaboration with the Royal Institution the society will be running 'I'm a Scientist, get me out of here!' a chance for students all over the world to talk to scientists about their work. Professor Hurst encouraged graduate students and early career researchers to get involved with this, contact [Cristina Fonseca](#) for more information.

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 majority of the society's income comes from its journals and this income has remained largely stable at around £500,000 per year. In the last year income from investments has dipped due to market volatility. Membership and conference fees make up a small portion of the society's income but have increased.

At the moment the society's income is healthy, however the advent of Plan S poses a risk which we need to be aware of in our future planning. For this reason, the society will be less aggressively paying down its surplus, this will provide a buffer against a future downturn in income.

The society's major expenditures are conferences, grants, and to a lesser extent the newsletter. £770,000 had been set aside for centenary spending, of that £215,000 is currently unassigned, in the light of Plan S the society may hold on to this amount until it has a better idea of future income.

In summary the Genetics Society is in excellent financial health, with sustained income but there are risks on the horizon.

5. Honorary Secretary's Report and Business for Transaction

Honorary Secretary, Professor Jonathan Pettitt, announced the winners of next year's Genetics Society prizes:

- Mendel Medal: Professor William G. Hill (University of Edinburgh)
- Genetics Society Medal: Professor Deborah Charlesworth (University of Edinburgh)
- Mary Lyon Medal: Professor Oliver Pybus (University of Oxford)
- Balfour Lecture: Dr Susan Johnston (University of Edinburgh)
- JBS Haldane Lecture: Dr Giles Yeo (University of Cambridge)

The prize lectures will all take place in Edinburgh at the 'A Century of Genetics' conference, with the exception of the Haldane Lecture which takes place at the Royal Institution (date to be confirmed).

6. Applications for new membership

(a) Election of new members

A list of new members elected from 1st November 2017 – 1st November 2018 was circulated to the membership for approval on 14th November by email. The results of this ballot are provided in Appendix A.

(b) Ratification of new committee members

It was noted that the following appointments had been formally ratified following an electronic ballot of committee members:

- Lindsey Leach (University of Birmingham)
Applied and Quantitative Genetics
- Alison Bentley (NIAB, Cambridge)
Corporate Genetics and Biotechnology
- Jason Wolf (University of Bath)
Evolutionary, Ecological and Population Genetics

(c) Election of new committee members

There are a number of committee vacancies coming up in the following areas:

- Cell and Developmental Genetics
- Gene Structure, Function and Regulation
- Genomics
- Corporate Genetics and Biotechnology

Members were encouraged to put themselves forward for nomination for these vacancies, regardless of whether they fit into the above categories, as it is more important that the society attract candidates who are engaged and excited to work for the Genetics Society.

7. Any Other Business

In his closing comments Professor Pettitt encouraged members to engage with the Genetics Society through social media, the website, or by direct contact.

Appendix A

Results of an electronic ballot circulated to members of the Genetics Society on 14th November 2018, regarding the approval of new members joining the Society since 1st November 2017.

Q. If you are unable to attend the Genetics Society's AGM on Thursday 22nd November, please could you confirm that you wish to admit the new members listed here to the Society.

Yes: 96.38% (133)

No: 1.45% (2)

Abstain: 2.17% (3)