



Minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting of the Outreach and Education Committee of the Royal Microscopical Society which was held on Tuesday 30th June 2015 during mmc2015 at Manchester Central, Manchester

Present: Dr Susan Anderson (Chair), Mr Owen Green (Secretary), Dr Pippa Hawes, Dr Debbie Stokes (RMS International Secretary), Dr Lynne Joyce (RMS Honorary Treasurer), Dr Peter O'Toole (RMS Honorary Secretary Science – Life), Mr Eric Bennett, Dr Neil Wilson, Dr Alan Poole, Dr Peter Evennett HonFRMS, Dr Chris Hammond, Mr Steve Metcalfe, Dr Paul Gunning, Mr Jean-Yves Mugnier, Professor Michelle Peckham, Professor Klaus Qvortrup, Professor Ursel Bangert, Dr Paul Verkade, Fredrik Wallberg, Dr Roland Kroeger, Dr Noah Russell, Professor Beverley Inkson, Alanna Stanley, Kerry Thompson, Dr Andrew Scott, Kevin Smith, Matt Russell, Dr Thomas Walter, Ms Allison Winton (RMS Event Director) and Ms Jill Kennedy (RMS Staff).

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Mrs Niga Nawroly, Dr Susan Brooks, Dr Roland Fleck, Dr Claire Wells, Ms Tracey Barton and Dr Tony Kendrick.

2. Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting

The Minutes were signed and approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

3. Matters Arising

Three were no matters arising.

4. Diplomas

Dr Anderson was very happy to award Diplomas to two candidates. Kevin Smith for his submission entitled: "The role of microscopy in the preparation and evaluation of metallographically prepared materials" and Fredrik Wallberg for his submission entitled: "Lighting up necroptosis and other types of cell death."

5. Report from Section Chair

Dr Anderson said "Yet again it has been a busy year for the Outreach section. I'd like to update you on the activities of our Committee in our 3 main areas, namely School's outreach, Professional CPD and public outreach

School's Outreach:

The main activity in this area continues to be the Microscope Activity Kits. This year marked a milestone for the Kits - we have now reached over 25,000 children nationwide, engaging them in science in primary school via microscopy! Through the work of the dedicated staff in the office, in particular, Kate, Adam and Mel, the Microscope Activity Kit scheme has operated flawlessly and it has been promoted far and wide.

A second exciting development is the first step to the internationalisation of our scheme. This year, thanks to funding from both Science Foundation Ireland and Explore, we now have 4 kits in Ireland. One of these projects, the Under the Microscope project has seen over 300 Children, mainly from rural schools, using the kit alongside researchers and students from NUI Galway and we have today been discussing ways of keeping this going. Special thanks to Kerry and Alana for their hard work on this project and for getting us on the radio!

In addition to the Microscope Activity Kit scheme we also ran a hugely successful large event in London in conjunction with the Worshipful Company of Scientific Instrument Makers to celebrate the 350th anniversary of the publication of Hooke's *Micrographia*. 200 students spent the day with us engaging in a range of tasks centred on microscopy. There were a number of especially pleasing things about the day. Firstly the range of students spanned in age from 8 to 13 and came from a variety of different backgrounds, all enjoyed the activities and gave great feedback. Secondly, the range of activities was fantastic and I have to thank some very dedicated people for their help in this. Mel and Steve Metcalfe for the CSI-based sessions, Pippa Hawes and Steve Murray from Hitachi for the SEM sessions. The table top SEM was supplied by St Paul's school complete with student helpers their teacher, James Perkins. Thirdly, Adam for the heroic manning of a task singlehanded and finally Arts St Martin in the Fields Prof Rob Kessler for giving up his day and for engaging his students as helpers. The day was rounded off with a visit from the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of London who tried out some of the sessions and presented the afternoon's prize giving.

Professional CPD:

As many of you will already know the RMS offers a Diploma for professional microscopists /flow cytometrists. The Diploma consists of a portfolio of work, the largest part of which is a project locally supervised in your own institution/place of work with the support of an RMS mentor. If anyone is thinking about this please do get in touch with any questions you may have. Last year we had the delightful celebration of the award of the first DipRMS and I am very proud to say that today we have 2 more candidates who have satisfied the requirements and put a lot of hard work into two excellent and worthwhile projects. I would like to take this opportunity with you all, to award them both with an RMS Diploma and to confirm that they can now use the post nominal DipRMS!

Fredrik Wallberg: Lighting up necroptosis and other types of cell death

Kevin Smith: The role of Microscopy in the Preparation and Evaluation of Metallographically Prepared Materials

The undertaking of the project is a lot of hard work, the project needs to be of a high standard and show their understanding of the fundamental principles and application of microscopy. There are a range of other tasks too including outreach work, presentation, self-evaluation, a technical essay and attendance on an RMS course. I'd like to thank our Diploma holders for their dedication and for perseverance as well as our mentors and members of the Outreach and Executive committees for their input. We are setting up an education subgroup of the Outreach Committee over the next year to oversee the Diploma projects which will be led by Susan Brooks.

Public Outreach:

In addition to the successful Hooke event with the Worshipful Company of Scientific Instrument Makers, the Outreach section have exhibited at a number of external events to promote the activities of the section. The annual conference of the Association for Science Education is always a popular and busy event for us and January 2015 proved to be no different. We also took the opportunity to launch our new RMS Approved Secondary School microscope which we have developed with SciChem. We gained some brilliant feedback, it was great to hear from secondary teachers first-hand about their thoughts on the microscope.

We also attended the Malvern Festival of Science and Innovation, the Wychwood Festival and Inverness Science Festival which are family events, attracting a huge number of public attendees, rather than teachers or the microscopy community. We took a Microscope Activity Kit to each of these events with bugs, poppy seeds and other simple samples for both children and parents to look at under the microscope and drew a lot of interest in the Kits, with many parents passing on information to their child's school. We are always keen to attend new public events so please let me know if there are any near you that you think we should be at.

Thank you to all of the Outreach & Education committee for their help and hard work throughout the last year, I look forward to another busy and prosperous year in 2016!"

6. Election of Members

There being no other nominations, the following members of the committee were duly elected.

Chair: Dr Susan Anderson, University of Nottingham

Secretary: Mr Owen Green, University of Oxford

Dr Susan Brooks, Oxford Brookes University

Dr Peter Evennett, University of Leeds

Dr Roland Fleck, King's College London

Dr Chris Hammond, University of Leeds

Dr Pippa Hawes, The Pirbright Institute

Ms Niga Nawroly, Bio.Rad Laboratories

Dr Noah Russell, University of Nottingham

Dr Andrew Scott, University of Leeds

Dr Claire Wells, King's College London

Dr Neil Wilson, University of Warwick

School Advisors:

Ms Tracey Barton – Primary Schools

Dr Tony Kendrick – Secondary Schools

7. Any Other Business