



## **Minutes of the 2023 AGM of the Flow Cytometry Section of the Royal Microscopical Society which was held on Thursday 16 November 2023 during the FlowcytometryUK 2023 Meeting**

**RMS Members Present:** Karen Hogg FRMS, (Flow Cytometry Section Chair), Pete O'Toole FRMS (RMS President), Joanne Cerveira, Isabel Correa-Otero, Derek Davies FRMS, Roy Edward, Bev Goward, Richard Grenfell, Chris Hall, Katy Moffat, Lucia Pinon-Giraldez, Rachael Walker FRMS, Raif Yuecel, Michael Zachariadis, Sali Davis (RMS Chief Executive) and Katie Reynolds (RMS Events Organiser)\*

**Attended virtually:** Andrea Holme and Jade Sturdy (RMS Committee Co-ordinator and PA to Chief Executive)

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Gareth Howell had sent his apologies for the meeting.

### **2. Minutes of the 2022 AGM**

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

### **3. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **4. Report from Section Chair**

This is the end of the third year as my term as Chair of the Flow Cytometry Section. The last AGM was held in July 2022 at *flowcytometryUK2022*, which was a great success, held in-person at the Edgbaston Park Hotel, University of Birmingham, 20-22 July 2022. It was a huge relief that these dates did not clash with any of the train strikes and it was fantastic to meet together again. Scientific organisers were Derek Davies (The Francis Crick Institute) and Rachael Walker (Babraham Institute). The conference highlighted advances in flow and image instrumentation, high content screening, cancer and stem cell biology, applications of clinical cytometry and the development of novel probes and approaches in many areas of biomedical research. The scientific and commercial tutorials generated lots of interest and were very well attended, it was good to again see and hear the dynamics of discussion and debate in real action. The presentations and the posters were of excellent scientific content, and we thank the organisers for their choices. The RMS team did an outstanding job and were professionally prepared for the conference and were fantastic at dealing with all manner of delegates requests onsite.

2023 started with the 7<sup>th</sup> Flow Facilities meeting held in-person (hooray) at 15 Hatfields, Chadwick Court, London 30-31 January, after being rescheduled due to train strikes. Scientific Organisers were Yasmin Haque (King's College London), Derek Davies (The Francis Crick Institute), Peter O'Toole (University of York) and Sukhveer Kaur Mann (The Francis Crick Institute).

The meeting was aimed at all those that run, or work in, a flow facility and addressed common issues within the community. Presentations and forums focused on technology as well as the operational aspects of a flow facility and updates from UK Funding bodies and relevant Societies were provided. The popular short style presentations from current core facilities (Crib talks) and also from our industry colleagues (Technobites) were very well received. Thank you to all delegates, the session chairs, the amazing RMS team, the companies who have been generous in their continued support of this annual meeting. The 8<sup>th</sup> Flow Facilities meeting is taking place on 8–9 January 2024 in Birmingham.

The 2023 Virtual Flow Cytometry Data Analysis Course was held on 6-9 March with additional Clinical Module included on 13 March. The course organisers were Peter O'Toole, Derek Davies, Dan Payne (James Cook University Hospital), Karen Hogg (Flow Cytometry Section Chair, University of York) and Sukhveer Kaur Mann (The Francis Crick Institute). The Course was fully subscribed. Delegates used provided data files to follow along with directed analysis by the course demonstrators using software

FlowJo or FCS Express. Applications specialist Andrea Valle (De Novo Software) also formed part of the expert demonstrator team and a presentation was provided by Serena Di Cecilia (FlowJo), we acknowledge and appreciate their support. Huge thanks to the RMS team for their online expertise and attention to all the details needed to make this course a success. The course will run again on 26-29 February 2024.

Mmc2023 was held at Manchester from the 4-6 July. The event was very successful with six parallel streams comprising 36 conference and EMAG sessions, an exhibition and a learning zone. The Flow Section session was chaired by Gareth Howell (University of Manchester) with invited speakers: Michael Haley (University of Manchester) and Kim Thrane (Science for Life Laboratory, Sweden). Yanping Guo volunteered to assist with the Learning Zone throughout the congress and gave an introduction to Flow Cytometry we thank her for making such a huge contribution. I gave a Learning Zone introduction to Confocal Microscopy which was well attended, Access to the exhibition and the Learning Zone at mmc2023 (as in previous years) was free of charge. Planning for mmc2025 has already started.

The RMS Flow Section was represented at CYTO 2023 by RMS committee members and ambassadors, there was a scheduled meeting with other ISAC associated societies to discuss common aims and how general communication including publicity of events and shared resources can be disseminated. Events can be listed on the ISAC website [https://isac-net.org/events/event\\_list.asp](https://isac-net.org/events/event_list.asp). CYTO 2024 will take place in Edinburgh on 4-8 May 2024.

The annual RMS Flow Cytometry Course was held on 4–8 September 2023 at University of York and was aimed at both clinical and cell biology applications (days one and two covered the basics of flow cytometry and then days three to five were more advanced topics separate tracks). Course organisers were Peter O'Toole, Derek Davies (now at Derek Davies Cytometry) and Dan Payne (James Cook University Hospital). The course attracted delegates from Europe, Asia and America and the feedback was extremely positive. The sponsorship from the exhibition vendors is much appreciated and an extra mention of thanks goes to Beckman Coulter and BD Bioscience for providing flow cytometers and an application specialist. Thank you to the RMS team for supporting this unique course that is internationally renowned. It was agreed that the course will run again from 2-6 September 2024.

The Facility Managers Training Course Core ran on 10-11 October 2023, in association with the LM and EM sections, at the University of York. Scientific Organisers were Derek Davies, Joanne Marrison (University of York), Peter O'Toole, Alex Sossick (University of Cambridge), and Jemima Burden (University College London). The full (20 delegates), and oversubscribed, course was split over three days. The course covered the fundamentals needed for the development and running a core facility. *Note: check out the RMS Facilities database (<https://www.rms.org.uk/network-collaborate/facilities-database.html>) if yours is not there, please submit the details, or request edits if it is out of date.*

The Flow Cytometry Section met at The Francis Crick Institute on 16 November 2022 (with invited guests Mark Cheetham and Ian Titley to wish them a happy retirement and Ricardo Morilla) and the 18 July 2023. Thank you to Derek Davies for hosting these meetings. Virtual meetings via Zoom were held on 28 March and 9 November 2023.

There is more to come for 2023 as we have *flowcytometryUK2023* in November 2023, an in-person event, at which the Flow Cytometry Section Award will be presented to Christopher Hall (Babraham Institute) and an RMS Honorary Fellowship will be awarded to J. Paul Robinson, congratulations to them both.

The Flow Cytometry Section are extremely grateful to the very many companies that sponsored and participated in the events during 2022-3 and for their continued support.

I would like to thank all the Section Committee members who have worked hard to provide and participate in a range of scientific and training events when time is often in short supply and schedules are busy. Particular thanks to those leaving the Flow Section, Rob Jepras and Niga Nawroly for the many years of contribution.

Finally, we thank the RMS team lead by Allison Winton, and now Sali Davis, you are all fantastic with an outstanding level of expertise and professionalism and lots of patience.

Karen Hogg, Flow Cytometry Section Chair

## **5. Election of Officers**

There being no other nominations, the following Officers were duly elected:

Chair: Karen Hogg, University of York  
Deputy Chair: Gareth Howell, University of Manchester

## **6. Election of Ordinary Members (8)**

There being no other nominations, the following Ordinary Members were duly elected:

Bev Goward, Sony Biotechnology  
Yanping Guo, University College London  
Rajeev Gupta, University College London  
Andrea Holme, University of Aberdeen  
Katy Moffat, Pirbright Institute  
Barry Moran, Trinity College Dublin  
Radhika Patel, AstraZeneca  
Hilary Sandig, CRUK – Therapeutic discovery laboratories

In addition to the nominated Committee Members, Jessica Back, Derek Davies, Helen Ferry and Rachael Walker have been co-opted onto the Committee. Irene Del Molino Del Barrio has been co-opted as the Early Career Representative.

## **7. Any Other Business**

There were no further items discussed.

**\*Non-members present:** Chris Armstrong, Sitara Ballal, William Grey, Rui Pereira-Sousa, Bhagyashree Satam, Yuliya Semochkina, Sam Thompson and Ruhani Varma