



**Minutes of the 2020 AGM of the Life Sciences Section of the Royal Microscopical Society
which took place on Monday 16 November 2020 during the
Virtual Microscopy: Advances, Innovation, Impact 2020 Meeting**

Members Present: Dr Theresa H Ward FRMS, (LS Chair), Professor Grace Burke FRMS (RMS President), Dr Peter O'Toole FRMS (RMS Vice President), Professor Michelle Peckham FRMS (RMS Honorary Secretary), Dr Lynne Joyce FRMS, (RMS Honorary Treasurer), Professor Rik Brydson FRMS (Honorary Secretary for Education (Physical Sciences)), Professor Maddy Parsons FRMS (Honorary Secretary for Education (Life Sciences)), Dr Debbie Stokes FRMS (International Secretary), Dr Brad Amos Hon FRMS, Dr Kurt Anderson FRMS, Dr Paul Appleton FRMS, Dr Miryam Arredondo FRMS, Mr Mike Ashton FRMS, Mr Steve Bagley FRMS, Dr Saskia Bakker FRMS, Mr Paul Balas, Dr Alex Ball FRMS, Ms Eliana Battistella, Mr Ian Belding, Dr Jacquelyn Bond FRMS, Professor Stanley Botchway, Ms Beatrice Bottura, Dr Nicola Cayzer, Miss Jessica Chandler, Dr David Chatelet, Mr Jay Christopher, Dr Paola Ciselli FRMS, Dr Laura Clark, Dr Charles Clifford FRMS, Dr Joel Cohen, Dr Sean Collins, Dr Lucy Collinson FRMS, Ms Maria Conejero, Professor Sonia Contera, Dr Susan Cox FRMS, Mrs Tracey Davey, Mr Derek Davies FRMS, Dr Giovambattista Depietra FRMS, Dr Emmanuel Derivery, Dr Michael Dixon, Dr Peter Djali FRMS, Professor Vinayak Dravid FRMS, Dr Elizabeth Duke, Professor Rafał Dunin-Borkowski FRMS, Dr Chris Dyer, Dr Anna Lena Eberle, Professor Francis Adelaide GO Fakoya, Mrs Kim Findlay FRMS, Professor Roland Fleck FRMS, Dr Leslie Franchi FRMS, Mr Matthew Francis, Mr Adrian Garcia Burgos, Dr Iria Gonzalez-Dopeso Reyes, Dr James Gott, Dr Joelle Goulding, Dr Nicola Green FRMS, Mr Owen Green FRMS, Mr Paul Gunning FRMS, Miss Pamela S Hamer FRMS, Dr Sarah Harper, Dr Daniel Haspel, Professor Pippa Hawes FRMS, Mr Qamar Hayat, Dr Brian Hayes FRMS, Mr Daniel Hewes, Professor Jamie Hobbs, Dr Karen Hogg FRMS, Dr Andrea Holme, Miss Carmel Howe FRMS, Dr Gareth Howell, Dr Ashley Howkins, Dr Chen Huang, Professor Sir Colin Humphreys Hon FRMS, Dr Grenham Ireland FRMS, Mr Gareth Jackson, Dr Izzy Jayasinghe, Dr Mark Jepson FRMS, Mr Peter Johnson, Dr Errin Johnson FRMS, Dr Martin Jones, Dr Sohini Kar-Narayan, Dr Georgeanna Kawaley, Dr Daniel Kelly FRMS, Dr Demie Kepaptsoglou, Professor Rob Kessler FRMS, Mr Sarfraz Khan, Dr Werner Knebel, Dr Marie Kokolski FRMS, Professor Oleg Kolosov, Professor Roland Kröger FRMS, Dr Alex Laude FRMS, Dr Nicola Lawrence FRMS, Dr Leandro Lemgruber, Dr Imre Lengyel, Professor Stefan Linder, Mr Yunxing Ma, Mr Pedro Machado, Mr Kevin Mackenzie FRMS, Dr Kirsty MacLellan-Gibson FRMS, Dr Alessandro Di Maio FRMS, Mr Ofentse Makgae, Dr John Mansfield, Ms Joanne Marrison FRMS, Mr Patrick McBean, Professor Gail McConnell FRMS, Dr Emma McDermott, Mr Eddie McGuigan, Dr Greg McMahon FRMS, Mr Steve Metcalfe FRMS, Dr Katy Moffat, Mr Barry Moran, Dr Flavia Moreira-Leite, Mr David Morgan, Mr Ricardo Morilla FRMS, Dr Caroline Muellenbroich FRMS, Ms Marlies Muernseer, Dr Duncan Muir, Mr Tiarnan Mullarkey, Professor Sebastian Munck, Dr Mogana Das Murtey, Mrs Niga Nawroly, Dr Chas Nelson, Dr Glyn Nelson FRMS, Dr Ulla Neumann FRMS, Dr Shirley Northover FRMS, Dr Fabio Nudelman, Dr Tom O'Hanlon, Mr Richard Osgood, Dr Dogan Ozkaya FRMS, Dr Graeme Park FRMS, Dr Julia Parker, Dr Christopher Parmenter FRMS, Mr Seymour Perlowitz FRMS, Dr Lucia Pinon-Giraldez, Dr Aleks Ponjavic, Dr Eric Prestat FRMS, Ms Frances Quigley, Professor Klaus Qvortrup FRMS, Dr Stefanie Reichelt, Dr Roland Remenyi FRMS, Ms Lorelei Robertson, Professor Brian Rodriguez, Dr Liam Rooney FRMS, Dr Eduardo Rosa-Molinari, Dr Mara-Camelia Rusu, Dr Rebecca Saleeb, Ms Nicole Salgado Cortes, Dr Hilary Sandig, Dr Andrew J Scott FRMS, Mr Rod Shipley, Ms Jennifer Simpson FRMS, Mr Kevin Smith FRMS, Mr Alexander J Sossick FRMS, Mrs Harriet Spatharakis, Dr Natasha Stephen FRMS, Dr Jane Stinchcombe, Dr Kornelis Straatman FRMS, Mr Leslie Stump FRMS, Dr Cassandra Terry, Mr Michel Theron FRMS, Dr Steven Thomas FRMS, Mr Ashutosh Tiwari, Ms Dhani Tracey-White, Miss Beatriz Vale, Professor Ventsislav Valev, Professor Paul Verkade FRMS, Ms Suzy Vitale, Dr Kison Voitchovsky FRMS, Ms Margaret I Walby FRMS, Dr Thomas Walther FRMS, Dr Ecaterina Ware, Dr Claire Wells FRMS, Miss Lucinda Wight FRMS, Dr Neil Wilson FRMS, Professor Tony Wilson Hon FRMS, Dr Christopher Wood, Mr Heath Young and Ms Xiangli Zhong FRMS.*

1. Preliminary Courtesies and Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Dr Adrian Burden FRMS, Mr Mark Cheetham, Mr Maurice Dunman FRMS, Dr Nadia Halidi, Mrs Gillian Hibbs, Dr John Hutchison Hon FRMS, Professor Beverley Inkson FRMS, Dr Alexander Lichius FRMS, Dr James Perkins, Professor Anthony W Robards OBE FRMS and Professor David B. Williams Hon FRMS.

2. Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting

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

Dr Theresa Ward:

"This year has not been a normal one. Firstly, Claire Wells handed on the baton of Chair of the LS committee at last year's AGM at the MMC. I would really like to thank Claire for all her work leading the committee over the previous 3 years, she did a fabulous job energizing the committee and keeping us in touch with all the other arms of the RMS.

And what a year to hand over. We started with a calendar full of activities, including events that engage with other societies and scientific meetings. The RMS provided £100 sponsorship towards Glasgow Imaging at Work meeting for students in August 2019; the meeting was very successful and highly attended, co-organised by Liam Rooney, the LS Early Career committee member and now very active Early Career Committee Chair; we again sponsored the Bristol Actin meeting, awarding a prize for best imaging in a talk; and an RMS-sponsored session at the British Society of Immunology annual meeting last December, together with a prize for best imaging in a talk.

Come March's upheaval, many meetings were initially postponed to the autumn, with the hope of being able to run face-to-face by then, or have now been bumped for a year. We are looking forward to this year's Frontiers in Bioimaging due to start online on 17 November, organised by Mark Leake from the LM section, Leandro Lemgruber Soares from EM, and myself. It features many high profile speakers and we are really happy that after its initial postponement we will get to see everyone virtually. Following on from the success of 2019's High Content Screening workshop run by Steven Briddon, Jacqui Bond and Sam Peel, they are hoping to run this online in the new year. Stephen Thomas who is LS representative on the training interest group is looking at feasibility of an online light sheet course, following the success of the recent Light Sheet meeting. And the European Cytoskeletal Forum meeting with organizers Michelle Peckham, Jan Faix and Stefan Linder, our outgoing and incoming European representatives respectively, also coming up in 2021 after being postponed from this year. And of course, we are looking forward to next year's mmc2021 where members of the LS committee are session organisers. Further down the line we look to future events including Abercrombie meeting, co-organised by LS committee member Brian Stramer, in 2022, hoping to return to a more normal format. The committee has also been pleased to award the Life Sciences medal this year to Yanlan Mao from University College London who we will look forward to seeing at MMC next year, and the Mid-Career Scientific Achievement Award to Serge Mostowy from London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine who is speaking later this afternoon.

As every year, we are happy to welcome new members, and it has been a particular shame to see the departure of some previous members of the committee without a goodbye in person, though of course we hope to see them at meetings in the future. We extend our warmest thanks to Jan Faix, our European representative, to Imogen Sparkes, who we will see again at the Botanical Microscopy conferences, and to Will Jackson who is kindly helping the committee by sending some training histology slides in response to a school request. We are very happy to welcome onto the committee Liam Rooney as our Early Career representative, Dr Emanuel Derivery from MRC-LMB, Dr Izzy Jayasinghe who has been moving her lab somehow this summer to Sheffield University, Dr Mark Rigby from Nikon as an industry representative, and Professor Stefan Linder from UKE in Hamburg.

In this particularly difficult year, I would really like to commend the adaptability of the RMS staff, the committee, and our extended community to embracing online connectivity. The increased accessibility to our international colleagues as small departmental seminar series have had to upgrade their zoom licenses to accommodate the huge audiences has been eye-opening as a communication tool. The fantastic meetings held by the RMS in May directing the safe working practices in facilities certainly paved the way for opening up research again in my institute following lockdown and, judging by the attendance, by many many others, really underlining the pivotal role the RMS has in the technical community. But nonetheless we miss our face-to-face meetings, the nuanced comments, the audience feedback and interaction, the 10 minute chats over coffee. So we really hope that the longed-for silver bullet might really be this vaccine and fingers crossed for mmc2021 and I look forward to seeing you all there."

5. Election of Officers

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

Chair: Dr Theresa Ward, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
Deputy-Chair: Dr Steve Thomas, University of Birmingham

6. Election of Ordinary Members

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

Dr Jacquelyn Bond, University of Leeds
Dr Steve Briddon, University of Nottingham
Dr Emmanuel Derivery, University of Cambridge
Dr Izzy Jayasinghe, University of Sheffield
Dr Sam Peel, Astra Zeneca

Dr Mark Rigby, Nikon
Dr Brian Stramer, King's College, London
Dr Ferran Valderrama, St George's University of London

In addition to the above nominated Committee Members Professor Susan Brooks, Dr Emily Eden, Professor Stefan Linder and Dr Claire Wells have been co-opted onto the Committee. Dr Liam Rooney has been co-opted as the Early Career Representative.

7. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

***Non-Members Present:** Ms Stella Aslanoglou, Dr Maria Manuela Azevedo, Professor Daniel Bahena Uribe, Mr Ganesh Bangar, Ms Alison Beckett, Mr Paul Bennett-Hughes, Dr Olga Biskou, Dr Matthew Boebinger, Ms Katherine Brown, Dr Matthieu Bugnet, Miss Kate Burgoyne, Mr Benjamin Butler, Dr Anderson Caires, Dr Pasquale Cervero, Ms Raquel Checca, Dr Helena Coker, Dr Marie-Charlotte Domart, Ms Elizabeth Duffy, Mrs Linda Duncan, Mr Mohammed Fadhil, Dr Alessandro Felder, Dr Aruni Fonseka, Professor Jacky Goetz, Miss Abi Graham, Dr Wei Guan, Dr Fredrik Hage, Mr Glenn Harper, Dr Xavier Heiligenstein, Ms Annemarie Held, Ms Elizabeth Hillman, Mr Ian Holton, Dr Tzipi Hyams, Dr Jung Ho Hyun, Miss Lucy Isherwood, Dr Deidre Kavanagh, Mr Christian Koch, Miss Eleni Konstantinopoulou, Dr Vineet Kumar, Dr Penny Lawton, Professor Alice Liang, Miss Shu En Lim, Mr Paco Lopez-Cuevas, Ms Ying Lui, Mr Omar Matar, Dr Maria J Mazon-Moya, Dr Elizabeth McCarthy, Dr Sudhajit Misra, Dr Aleksander Buseth Mosberg, Dr Ali Mostaed, Professor Serge Mostowy, Dr Dorothea Muecke-Herzberg, Dr Hoan Ngo, Dr Giuseppe Nicotra, Mr James Nunn, Miss Adaobi Ojiakor, Dr Anna Oliveras Martinez, Ms Elizaveta Olkhova, Dr Gizem Ozbaykal, Dr Hilda Amalia Pasolli, Mr Vinay Patel, Mr Peter Pilecki, Professor Quentin Ramasse, Mr Cam Robinson, Ms Marta Rudzite, Dr Matthew Russell, Mr Ebrima Saho, Dr Yannick Schwab, Mr Stan Schwartz, Mr Kieron Scully, Dr Violaine See, Mr Ankur Sharma, Mr Benjamin Shaw, Dr Alpesh Shukla, Dr Avinash Singh, Dr Maria Chiara Spadaro, Professor Toma Susi, Dr Raymond Unocic, Dr Chloe van Oostende-Triplett, Mr Daniel Waiger, Dr Shihao Wang, Ms Lauren Wilburn, Ms Steffi Woo, Dr Charles Wood, Dr Mingjian Wu and Mr Mingquan Xu.