



**Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting of the Life Sciences Section of the Royal Microscopical Society which was held on Thursday 27 September in the Wolfson Room at the Royal Society, London**

**Present: Dr Claire Wells (Chair), Dr Theresa Ward (Deputy Chair), Professor Michelle Peckham (President), Ms Natalia Alexander, Dr Trevor Almeida, Professor Susan Anderson, Dr Jacquie Bond, Professor Rik Brydson, Professor Grace Burke, Dr Lucy Collinson, Dr Ian Dobby, Dr Elizabeth Duke, Mr Paul Edwards, Mr Matthew Francis, Mr Owen Green, Dr Richard Grenfell, Dr Paul Gunning, Professor Chris Hawes Hon FRMS, Professor Beverley Inkson, Dr Lynne Joyce, Dr Roland Kröger, Professor Mark Leake, Mr Steve Metcalfe, Mr Jean-Yves Mugnier, Dr Duncan Muir, Professor Pete Nellist, Dr Peter O'Toole, Dr Dogan Ozkaya, Professor Maddy Parsons, Dr Klaus Qvortrup, Mr Peter Sainsbury, Mr Jan Soetaert, Mr Duncan Stacey, Dr Natalie Stephen, Dr Debbie Stokes, Mr Leslie Stump, Dr Steve Thomas, Dr Kerry Thompson, Dr Rebecca Thompson, Mr Ian Titley, Mr Fredrik Wallberg, Mr Dongsheng Wu, Ms Allison Winton (RMS Chief Executive), Ms Victoria Masters (Event Director), Mr Adam Clay (Finance Director), Mrs Kate Wooding (Event Director) and Ms Sarah King (Secretary to the PA).**

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Dr Steve Briddon and Dr Susan Brooks.

**2. Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting**

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

**3. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**4. Report from Section Chair**

“As always the year has flown by incredibly fast and I find myself again at the Life Sciences (LS) Section AGM. Last year’s AGM was delivered at mmc2017 which I sure we can all agree was a resounding success. Members of the LS committee were involved in all aspects of mmc2017 including but not limited to planning, session organising and poster judging. Thanks go to Theresa Ward, Maddy Parsons, Steve Briddon, Jan Faix and Peter Rosenthal for bringing in a great selection of speakers.

In September 2017 Professor Maddy Parsons (along with Dr Guillaume Charras and Dr Kurt Anderson) hosted the Abercrombie meeting in Oxford. This was a fantastic meeting, thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. The meeting has a historical association with the RMS LS committee and organisers normally join the committee. The next Abercrombie meeting in 2022 will be organised by Brain Stramer, Ewa Paluch and Gaudenz Danuser. We are delighted that Brian has agreed to join the LS committee.

As a committee we are keen to engage with other Societies and in December 2017 the LS committee sponsored the Bristol Actin meeting again in awarding a prize for best imaging in a talk to Kasia Kozyraska from Eugenia Piddini’s Lab in Bristol. Kasia wrote a great article for infocus on her award. In March 2018 the LS section of the RMS sponsored a session at the Biochemical Society Dynamic Cell Meeting in Manchester. Many thanks go to Theresa Ward for arranging this

session. Further developing our society links I am delighted to report that the LS committee has very recently been involved with the German Society of Cell Biology meeting in Leipzig Germany in September 2018. Jan Faix was on the organising committee and the RMS sponsored a session chaired by Michelle Peckham titled “Novel approaches to imaging in cell biology”. We are keen to expand on our involvement with this meeting in the future consolidating European links in these challenging times.

In June 2018 members of the LS committee also took part in our joint meeting with the Light Microscopy committee “Frontiers in Bioluminescence” which took place in Glasgow. In particular many thanks to Imogen Sparkes for being on the organising committee. As always this meeting was well attended and is becoming a highly regarded meeting within the microscopy community. Looking ahead we have some exciting events coming up. Imogen Sparkes is on the organising committee for the Botanical Microscopy Meeting in April 2019 and the LS committee has plans for a new meeting on high content screening in 2019, an initiative led by Steve Briddon and Jacqui Bond.

Spearheaded by Will Jackson we are also bidding to host a session at the British Society of Immunology Congress in December 2019. The LS committee is also actively involved in planning for mmc2019 with many of our members involved in session organisation. I am delighted to announce that we have recently awarded our LS medal to Dr Cristina Lo Celso from Imperial College London and the formal presentation will be at mmc2019.

As you will have gathered from this report I am privileged to chair a vibrant, active committee that engages with all aspects of the RMS portfolio. Members of the committee are incredibly generous with their precious time to engage with RMS activities. Susan Brooks continues her work as Wiley Book Series Editor and oversees the RMS Diploma programme. Stephen Thomas is our LS representative on the Training Focused Interest Group.

Members of the committee are also acting as mentors on the RMS Diploma programme. Jacqui Bond is our new representative on the Outreach committee and Emily Eden is now our liaison with In Focus Magazine. European representation from Jan Faix and commercial input from Ian Baldwin (GT Vision) adds welcome breadth to our meetings.

We are delighted to extend a warm welcome to our new committee members Ferran Valderrama, Brian Stramer and Samantha Peel.

It is inevitable that as we welcome new members we also say goodbye to old friends. Jason Swedlow has been a valuable committee member providing a direct link to the EuroBioluminescence initiative and we thank him for his input. Jason is still working with the RMS to push forward the Bioluminescence agenda and we wish him the very best in his efforts.

Now I come to our other committee departure; Nick Read has been on the LS committee in various positions, including as committee chair, for well over 20 years. He has worked tirelessly on behalf of the RMS, organising meetings, taking part in many mmc conferences over the years and much more. We thank Nick for all his contributions and hope that when his health improves he can once again play an active role within the RMS.

Last but by no means least I would like to thank the RMS office for their fantastic support. My particular thanks go to Allison for her key role in supporting our committee and keeping me so expertly on track. Thanks also to all the other RMS staff past and present who manage our events and make everything run so smoothly.

To conclude I would therefore like to thank the committee and the RMS office once again, and look forward to a busy and rewarding 2018/2019.”

**5. Election of Officers**

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

*Chair:* Dr Claire Wells, King's College London

*Deputy Chair:* Dr Theresa Ward, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

**6. Election of Ordinary Members**

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

- Mr Ian Baldwin, GT Vison Ltd, Haverhill
- Dr Jacquelyn Bond, University of Leeds
- Dr Susan Brooks, Oxford Brookes University
- Dr Emily Eden, University College London
- Professor Jan Faix, University of Hannover
- Dr Steve Thomas, University of Birmingham
- Dr Ferran Valderrama, St George's University of London

In addition to the above nominated Committee Members, Dr Steve Briddon, Dr Imogen Sparkes, Dr Sam Peel and Mr Liam Rooney have been co-opted onto the Committee. Dr Will Jackson has been co-opted as the Early Career Representative.

**7. Any Other Business**

There was no further business.