



Annual General Meeting Friday 18 November 2022 Hybrid Meeting

1. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the previous AGM held on Wednesday 18th January 2022 were circulated to members electronically on Friday 21st October 2022. No objections were raised, and the minutes were accepted as a correct record.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the 2021 AGM.

3. President's Report

Professor Anne Ferguson-Smith welcomed everyone and said a few words regarding The Society's first year returning to in-person events since pandemic restrictions were lifted.

Professor Ferguson-Smith highlighted the success of The Society's event at RHS Wisley celebrating the 200th Birthday of Gregor Mendel. To mark the occasion, an art competition for young students was launched and it is intended that this is developed into an annual competition.

Professor Ferguson-Smith went on to highlight the opportunities available to members for funding through The Society's various grant schemes.

Professor Ferguson-Smith expressed her thanks to the committee and local ambassadors for their continued hard work and expressed how delighted The Society is to be back face to face.

4. Honorary Treasurer's Report

The Genetics Society Honorary Treasurer, Dr Alexander Lorenz, provided an overview of The Society's financial situation.

An independent audit of The Society's finances was carried out by Price Bailey LLP, completed in October 2022 for the period Jan 2021 – Dec 2021. Statutory reporting to the Charity Commission and Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator was completed and filed in October 2022 for the same period.

The Society's finances are in good health, with unrestricted reserves of >£2.5m available at the end of 2021, with an expected ~£2.0m at the end of 2022. An annual turnover of £0.4m was reported for 2021 with this expecting to return to pre-pandemic values of £0.5 - £0.6m. Dr Lorenz noted that a large proportion of The Society's reserves had been moved into investments at the end of 2021, to reduce risk and gain interest.

Dr Lorenz's report broke down society income, noting that figures for 2022 had not yet been finalized but are predicted to be similar.

£17,509 Investment income
£0 Conferences
£32,682 Membership Subscriptions
£507,558 Publication profit-share

Similarly, The Society's expenditure was outlined:

£62,487 Newsletter/Podcast
£87,976 Meetings & Events
£126,089 Grants
£168,423 Support costs
£37,819 Publication

The Society supported 12 junior scientist conference grants, 8 '*Heredity*' fieldwork grants, 5 training grants and 33 '*Genes and Development*' summer studentships during 2022.

In summary, The Society remains in good financial health. Income from journals is showing a downwards trend but this was unsurprising. COVID did not cause any threat to society finances but as predicted did severely impact The Society's ability to carry out its usual charitable activities. 2022 saw a return to near-normal levels of activities in conference organisation and grant making as well as an increase in membership subscriptions bucking the trend of 2020-2021.

5. Honorary Secretary's Report

Society Committee changes

Dr Kay Boulton highlighted changes to The Society committee during 2022, thanking the outgoing committee members for their contribution:

Anne Donaldson (University of Aberdeen) - Vice-President for External Relations

Aziz Aboobaker (University of Oxford) - Vice-President for Corporate Affairs

Margherita Colucci (University of Leicester) - Newsletter Editor

Barbara Mable (University of Glasgow) – '*Heredity*' Editor

Rebecca Oakey (KCL) - Policy Officer

Dr Boulton also thanked **Craig Anderson (Edinburgh)** who is acting as Website Editor while **Natalia Bulgakova (Sheffield)** is on Maternity leave.

Dr Boulton announced that **Jason Wolf (Bath)** has been elected to the new Partnership and Membership Officer role with immediate effect, and welcomed the following new members to the committee:

Gunes Taylor (Francis Crick Institute) - Magazine Editor

Ed Hollox (University of Leicester) - Evolutionary, Ecological & Population Genetics

Alison Woollard (University of Oxford) - Policy Officer

Sara Goodacre (Nottingham) – '*Heredity*' Editor

Dr Boulton requested nominations for the following committee post becoming vacant on 1st January, to be received by 18th December:

Ordinary Committee Member (Genomics) – Four-year term Jan 2023 – Dec 2026

The Genetics Society is seeking nominations for the following committee posts that become vacant in 2023. Application deadline 30th April 2023:

Honorary Secretary –shadowing during 2023 then three-year term Jan 2024 – Dec 2026

Postgraduate Student Representative – shadowing from July 2023 then two-year term Jan 2023 – Dec 2025

The Genetics Society is seeking nominations for the following committee posts which become vacant in January 2024. Application deadline 31st October 2023:

Executive Committee Member: Treasurer – Four-year term Jan 2024 – Dec 2027 with first year shadowing

Executive Committee Member: Scientific Meetings Secretary – Four-year term Jan 2024 – Dec 2027 with first year shadowing

Ordinary Committee Member (Applied and Quantitative Genetics, Gene Structure, Function and Regulation & Cell & Developmental Genetics) – Four-year term Jan 2024 – Dec 2027

Nominations and any questions regarding these vacancies should be sent directly to the Honorary Secretary at secretary@genetics.org.uk

Society Membership

Dr Boulton presented The Society Membership numbers for 2022, available in Appendix Fig 1.

Dr Boulton announced that Professors Veronica van Heyningen and David Sherratt had been elected as Honorary members by the committee this year, bringing the total to nine, leaving three such honours available. Nominations should be sent to the Honorary Secretary at secretary@genetics.org.uk

2023 Society Awards

Dr Boulton announced the winners of the Genetics Society prizes for 2023:

Genetics Society Medal - Professor Doug Higgs (University of Oxford)

Balfour Lecture - Dr Lucy van Dorp (UCL)

Mary Lyon Medal - Professor Cecilia Lindgren (University of Oxford)

JBS Haldane Lecture - Dr Adam Rutherford (UCL)

Bruce Cattanach Prize - Louisa Zolkiewski (MRC Harwell)

Sir Kenneth Mather Memorial Prize - Sam Mitchell (IEB, Edinburgh)

Dr Boulton also announced that from 2023, there will be two Sir Kenneth Mather Memorial Prizes awarded annually, one for BSc/MSc students and one for PhD Students.

6. Amendments to Constitution

Proposed changes to The Society constitution were circulated by email to all members on 21st October 2022. Members could complete the ballot during the AGM, or beforehand electronically. Ballot results are as follows

Q. Please confirm that you approve the proposed changes to the Genetics Society constitution.

Yes: 93% (68)

No: 0% (0)

Abstain: 7% (5)

7. Confirmation of new membership

A list of new members was circulated by email to all members of the Genetics Society on 21st October 2022. Members could complete the ballot during the AGM, or beforehand electronically if they were not able to be in attendance. Results of the ballot are as follows:

Q. Please confirm that you accept the new members to the Genetics Society.

Yes: 97% (73)

No: 0% (0)

Abstain: 3% (2)

8. Any Other Business

There was no other business raised.

The meeting concluded at 18:30

Appendix

Grade	Jan 2022	Apr 2022	Aug 2022	Nov 2022	Change on year
Undergraduate	363	520	492	378	-114
Postgraduate	475	505	499	499	0
Full member	1,269	1,361	1,371	1,338	-33
Total	2,107	2,386	2,362	2,215	-147

Fig 1. 2022 Genetic Society Membership Numbers.