



**Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 18 November 2020
Videoconference**

1. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the previous AGM held on Thursday 14 November 2019 were circulated to members electronically on Wednesday 11 November 2020. No objections were raised and the minutes were accepted as a correct record.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the last AGM.

3. President's Report

Professor Laurence Hurst, President of the Genetics Society remarked that it had been a challenging year but the society had coped remarkably well.

In person meetings have been cancelled and switched to virtual meetings in the short-term future.

The society was able to run its Summer Studentship programme, including a well-received virtual workshop, held in September. Professor Hurst thanked all those involved.

Despite the ongoing uncertainty surrounding the COVID pandemic, the society remains in excellent financial health. A slight drop in membership numbers has been recorded, though there is optimism this will reverse as the impact of the pandemic subsides.

During no other year has it been more important to provide the wider public with clear authoritative sources of scientific information. The society has met this challenge through its podcast Genetics Unzipped, which has seen listenership almost double this year. Additionally, for 2020 the Genetics Society sponsored Genetics Shambles, presented by Robin Ince, a series of 12 episodes featuring in-depth discussion with experts on a variety of themes in genetics, including COVID.

Professor Hurst, who steps down as president in May 2021, thanked the committee for their contribution and support through his term as president. He commented that it had been a great pleasure to lead the Genetics Society through this period, and looks forward to seeing how the society progresses under the leadership of incoming president, Professor Anne Ferguson-Smith.

4. Honorary Treasurer's Report

Professor Martin Taylor, Honorary Treasurer, reported to those in attendance that this would be his final year as treasurer, from May 2021 the role will pass to Dr Alexander Lorenz.

Reports to both the Charities Commission and OSCR were submitted ahead of the 2020 deadline. The societies finances passed the annual audit, with no problems being raised.

The Genetics Society is in a healthy position financially. Total unrestricted reserves at the end of 2019 stood at £2.1m. As in previous years the majority of this income is generated from the society's two publication profit-shares (Heredity and Genes & Development). Other income sources, such as membership subscriptions and events, also rose in 2019, due largely to the increase in exposure resulting from the society's centenary celebrations.

In 2020 the Genetics Society's income is sustaining, again with the majority of income being generated by the publications, which have not yet seen their profits damaged by the COVID pandemic.

Expenditure was increased as planned leading up to the centenary year, and peaking in 2019. Major sources of expenditure were: conferences and centenary celebrations (£322k), grants (£219k), and support costs (£137k).

Expenditure in 2020 is greatly reduced, as the COVID pandemic has restricted the society's activities. Some financial liabilities were accrued due to the cancellation of events, but these will amount to far less than the reduction in spending. A drop in expenditure of this magnitude would in normal circumstances raise alarms with the Charities Commission, but given the exceptional circumstances, this is not seen as a cause for concern.

It is impossible to produce meaningful projections for the coming years, as there is no way of telling how long the COVID crisis will continue. Professor Taylor expects income to remain stable in the next two years.

Plan-S comes into effect in 2021. It's uncertain what impact this will have, but it does have implications for the society's journals and their ability to generate income. Over the next 3-5 years Plan-S poses the risk of a precipitous decline in the society's funding. With substantial reserves the society is in a good place to weather this storm, but there are currently no immediate plans in place for replacing this income.

5. **Honorary Secretary's Report**

2020 saw a number of changes on the Genetics Society committee. Dr Kay Boulton, Honorary Secretary, thanked the outgoing committee members for their contribution:

Dr Jonathan Pettitt

Honorary Secretary

Professor Malcolm Logan

Vice-President, Corporate Affairs

Professor Colum Walsh

Vice-President, External Relations

Helena Wells

Postgraduate Representative

Dr Frank Hailer

Ordinary Committee Member (Evolutionary, ecological and population genetics)

Dr Jim Huggett

Ordinary Committee Member (Corporate genetics and biotechnology)

Dr Sudhakaran Prabakaran

Ordinary Committee Member (Genomics)

Dr Boulton also thanked those who would be stepping down in 2021:

Professor Laurence Hurst

President

Professor Martin Taylor

Honorary Treasurer

Professor Alison Woollard

Vice-President, Public Understanding of Genetics

Professor Alastair Wilson

Ordinary Committee Member (Applied and quantitative genetics)

The following committee members have moved on to different roles within the committee:

Professor Aziz Aboobaker

Vice President, Corporate Affairs

Professor Stefan Hoppler

Scientific Meetings Secretary (Shadowing)

Dr Kay Boulton

Honorary Secretary

Dr Boulton welcomed the following new members to the committee:

Professor Anne Ferguson-Smith

President (Shadowing)

Dr Alexander Lorenz

Treasurer (Shadowing)

Professor Anne Donaldson

Vice President for External Relations

Margherita Colucci

Newsletter Editor

Emily Baker

Postgraduate Representative

Professor Ros John

Ordinary Committee Member (Cell and Developmental Genetics)

Dr Marcus Guest

Ordinary Committee Member (Corporate Genetics and Biotechnology)

Dr Maxim Kapralov

Ordinary Committee Member (Evolutionary, Ecological and Population Genetics)

Dr Cristina Tufarelli

Ordinary Committee Member (Gene Structure, Function and Regulation)

Dr Colin Semple

Ordinary Committee Member (Genomics)

The Genetics Society is seeking nominations for the following committee posts which become vacant in 2021:

Vice President, Public Understanding of Genetics

Website Editor

Ordinary Committee Member (Applied and quantitative genetics)

Nominations and any questions regarding these vacancies may be sent directly to the Honorary Secretary.

Dr Boulton announced the winners of the Genetics Society prizes for 2021:

Genetics Society Medal

Professor David Sherratt (University of Oxford)

Balfour Lecture

Dr Alison Wright (University of Sheffield)

Mary Lyon Medal

Professor Julian Knight (University of Oxford)

JBS Haldane Lecture

Professor Matthew Cobb (University of Manchester)

Mendel Medal

Professor Dame Linda Partridge (Institute of Healthy Ageing, and Max Planck Institute for the Biology of Ageing)

After these final announcements, Dr Boulton thanked the members in attendance for their support and the meeting was drawn to a close.

Appendix A

Results of the ballot approving new members who have joined the Society since 1st November 2019. A list of new members was circulated by email to all members of the Genetics Society on 11th November 2020. Members could complete the ballot during the AGM, or beforehand electronically if they were not able to be in attendance.

Q. Please confirm that you wish to admit the new members listed here into the Genetics Society.

Yes: 94.85% (92)

No: 0% (0)

Abstain: 5.15% (5)