

**UKEMS: MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF BRADFORD**

4 AUGUST 2005

1. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 6 JULY, 2004 AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUGHBOROUGH

The minutes were reviewed and no corrections or changes were required so they were agreed by the membership and signed by the President.

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ian Mitchell said that it had been a good year for the society, both in terms of the meetings that we have organised and the robust health of the financial situation. Ian outlined the circumstances of an 'anti-smoking' issue that had been dealt with by the committee. He described the committee's views on the tobacco industry, its employees and their membership of our society.

He reported that the GSN had held an excellent meeting last January that had attracted 180 delegates, most of whom were not UKEMS members, thus there is an opportunity to increase the membership of the society. The website is now up and running and apart from a few minor glitches at the outset it has proved to be a very useful resource to the membership. The journal, Mutagenesis, continues to be a great success story and provides a steady income stream to the society that is unusual for such a relatively small society as ours. Information about the new UKEMS diploma had been presented at the EEMS meeting in Kos and funding for the diploma was now in place ready for it to begin in November. Ian thanked the committee for their help in the previous 12 months and also thanked the membership for their support of the society.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer presented the audited accounts for 2005 and the main points were as follows:

The UKEMS Membership 2003 stands at 10 Fellows, 221 Full Members and 86 Student Members making a total of 323.

The Financial status (as of June, 2005) is that the current balance is Lloyds £40,743 and CAF £43,596. The detailed figures are given at the end of these minutes.

The society now has 9 Sustaining Members, namely:

AstraZeneca, Covance, GlaxoSmithKline, Huntingdon Life Sciences, Perspective Instruments, Pfizer, SafePharm Laboratories, Syngenta CTL and Unilever.

Anthony indicated that the society must consider a risk assessment for the money held in its bank accounts and that this is something he will arrange in the future. He also proposed that we increase the money held in the CAF account to £50K and to hold this as a reserve. Anthony suggested that we support 2 applications for student members to attend the TCEM meeting in San Francisco. This suggestion was then proposed by Ian Mitchell, seconded by David Phillips and agreed by the membership. There followed some discussion about where to invest the £50K reserve and Michael Green suggested that some other forms of investment may yield a higher rate of interest. Anthony had reservations about changing the site of the reserve from the CAF account, he indicated that the rate of interest was relatively good and that it was secure; other forms of investment carry more risk. Peter Jenkinson suggested that

the website discussion boards would be the ideal place for members to propose and discuss other investment ideas. The motion to transfer money to the CAF account was accepted.

4. MUTAGENESIS EDITOR'S REPORT

The past year has seen a number of significant developments for the journal. Firstly, the introduction of online manuscript submission and peer review was introduced and this has led to an increased number of manuscript submissions and reduced time to first decision on manuscript acceptance. The implementation of the online system, Manuscript Central, developed by ScholarOne, went very smoothly. Secondly, once accepted manuscripts have been typeset and proofread (by the authors) they are now made available immediately in electronic form (epub ahead of print) making them available significantly sooner to online subscribers. Authors also now have the option of publishing supplementary data on their studies online only. The new online system also means that information can be fed back to reviewers on the outcomes of their reviews.

The impact factor of the journal for 2004 (reflecting citations in 2004 of Mutagenesis papers published in 2002 and 2003) rose to 2.132, which is an encouraging development and keeps the journal highly competitive with its main rival publications. The ranking of Mutagenesis has also improved and is now up 7 places in the genetics section and is 22nd in the toxicology journal ranking.

From 2006, authors will have the option of having their papers made open access, i.e. freely available to all. This involves the authors paying a fee. This is in line with a wider policy towards more accessibility of publicly funded research being currently explored on a trial basis by a number of OUP-published journals.

In the past year OUP has negotiated several major consortium agreements whereby groups of institutions can collectively subscribe to a package of journals. This has led to greatly increased accessibility and potential readership of the journal as well as increased income for the society. An initiative is also being developed to make permanently accessible the back archive of the journal.

Michael Green asked whether we can encourage the submission of more DNA repair papers from GSN members? David replied that the GSN committee is preparing review papers on DNA repair mechanisms, which is in line with the editorial policy of favouring mechanistic papers.

David thanked all the reviewers for their hard work and in particular thanks to Cathy Kennedy of OUP and Rosemary Wilkinson the editorial secretary.

5. IGG CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

After Bradford, the next IGG meeting will be another parallel session at the joint BTS/UKEMS meeting in Warwick in March 2006. This will be run jointly with the BTS Risk Assessment Speciality group – more information in the next newsletter. A standard IGG meeting is planned for the end of 2006 and this may be on the use of automated systems.

The accounts now stand at £2667 and £3807 and this may be used as a 'cushion' or it may be used to initiate a new collaborative trial. Alison Wolfreys is to stand down after this meeting and a new chair is to be selected and a new committee member elected later in the year.

6. MEG CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Chris Wild was not present at the meeting but his report was provided by email.

Current Committee Members: John Hesketh, Frank Martin, David Phillips (Secretary), Lesley Rushton (Treasurer), Paolo Vineis, Chris Wild (Chair).

Election: Chris Wild will stand down at the AGM in December 2005 after 7 years on the Committee, four as Chair, and therefore an election for a new Committee member will be held in the autumn. Candidates are welcome.

General Comments: MEG has been exceptionally active over the last year with one 3-day meeting in the Lake District, a large joint meeting with the Society for Social Medicine and plans for two further meetings/symposia ongoing. The three new Committee members have also brought fresh ideas to the group and the multidisciplinary meetings are drawing a new generation of people interested in MEG, notably from the broader UK epidemiology community. The group sees contributions of symposia to UKEMS meetings as well as joint meetings with other interest groups within UKEMS and from other societies with overlapping interests as the most appropriate way to serve members interests.

Meetings:

The meeting on **“Molecular Epidemiology and the Assessment of Chronic Disease Risk”** was held at the Low Wood Hotel, Windermere, Cumbria from the 15th to the 17th September and was attended by an international audience of 45 people from USA, Finland, Iran, France, Italy, Denmark and Spain. Sponsorship was received from the Association for International Cancer Research, the British Association for Cancer Research and Cancer Research UK.

A joint one day meeting with the Society for Social Medicine (SSM) was organised on the 17th May 2005 at the University of Leeds on the topic of **“Genes, Populations and Disease: Genomic, Proteomic and Metabonomic Approaches in Epidemiology”**. The meeting was exceptionally well attended with just over 100 registrants representing a multidisciplinary audience. Future links with epidemiology/biostatistics/public health through joint meetings with SSM should be fruitful. Sponsorship was from the European Epidemiology Federation, Agilent Technologies, Affymetrix and Illumina.

The next one day meeting will be held on the 8th December 2005 at Imperial College, London on the theme **“The Role of Molecular Epidemiology in Occupational Health – Help or Hindrance?”** This meeting is being organised by Lesley Rushton and Paolo Vineis. For informal enquiries please contact Lesley: lr24@leicester.ac.uk

Note: the MEG AGM will also be held during the above meeting.

MEG will jointly organise a session with the Human Toxicology Interest Group at the forthcoming BTS/UKEMS meeting in Warwick in March 2006 entitled: **“Extrapolation from animals to humans: can biomarkers help bridge the gap?”** Speakers are being contacted. Dr Frank Martin will co-Chair the session on behalf of MEG and can be contacted for further details.

Finance: The income/expenditure of the meetings listed above has left MEG with a healthy balance of around £7,000 with the meeting in Leeds in May showing a particularly healthy positive balance to share with SSM.

Thanks! The Committee would like to thank Jenny Duckmanton for continued administrative support.

Chris Wild, MEG Chair

7. GSN CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT - Chris Jones was not present at the meeting but his report was provided by email.

The Genome Stability Network was formally affiliated to UKEMS at Loughborough in July 2004. The suggestion was made that the change of name should be put to a vote (see below). The Network was officially launched on October 26th with an email to the mailing list of the former DNA Repair Network. This contained the URL of the new website and an announcement of the Annual Scientific Meeting on January 7th at the LMB in Cambridge.

Members were invited to submit abstracts and 25 were received for the 20 available slots. The final number of registrants was 181 of which 13 were UKEMS members. The night before the meeting a reception was held for those delegates who were staying over. This was held at the University Centre and sponsored by Abcam and approximately 60 delegates attended. The meeting went well with all the speakers running to time, presenting high quality science much of which has since appeared in high impact journals. The Network held its AGM at lunchtime with an attendance of about 50 people. At the AGM the constitution was formally adopted along with the name of the Network.

Financially, the Network has received £2k from UKEMS, £800 from Abcam and £250 from KuDos Pharma. The meeting and reception cost about £3.5k to run and the current balance is £4530.74.

As a result of the meeting the mailing list currently has about 400 contacts. The website is providing a useful resource for announcing other meetings. The Network is grateful for the continued support of UKEMS and is organising a session on Genome Stability and Ageing for the BTS/UKEMS joint meeting next year. In addition Errol Friedberg has agreed to give a keynote presentation.

Due to relocation to the USA Chris Jones is standing down as Chair and from the Committee. Therefore there will be a vacancy on the GSN Committee that will be filled at around the time of the next scientific meeting early in 2006.

Chris Jones, GSN Chair

8. RE-ELECTION OF THE SECRETARY

Peter Jenkinson was re-elected unopposed as the secretary for a further 3-year term.

9. PROPOSAL FOR THE ELECTION OF A FELLOW OF THE SOCIETY

Ian Mitchell informed the society that the committee had unanimously voted to propose Robin Fielder to be elected as a Fellow of the society. Robin has been a bridge between scientists and regulators since becoming the secretary of COM 16 years ago. He has been a major part of the interface between the society and the DoH. The motion was put to a vote and all were in favour

except for 1 abstention. Jim Parry pointed out as a point of fact that COM is an advisory body not a regulatory body.

10. UKEMS QUALIFICATIONS: current status and future plans

Jim Parry indicated that there was a flyer in the delegates pack and that all information is now on the website in the non-members section.

11. WARWICK 2006

Anthony Lynch informed that there was to a short presentation about next years meeting at the end of this meeting.

12. AOB

Martin Brinkworth made some closing comments about the value of the meeting at Bradford.

UKEMS Accounts – 2004

Lloyds-TSB Bank **balance £**
Balance Dec 2004 42,526.27

CafCash Account **balance £**
Balance Dec 2004 42,712.73

United Kingdom Environmental Mutagen Society

Charity recognised in Scotland SC 029239

Committee members in the Year to 31 December 2004

President

Prof A. Collins/ Dr I. de G Mitchell

Vice president

Dr I. de G Mitchell/Dr S. Dean

Treasurer

Dr A. Lynch

Secretary

Dr P. Jenkinson

Management Committee Members

Prof. D. Phillips (Mutagenesis)

Prof C. Wild (MEG Chair)

Dr A. Wolfreys (IGG Chair)

Dr C Jones (GIN Chair)

Dr E Waters (Web)

Officers: Drs E. Martin (to Jul 04), Dr M. Brinkworth, Dr K. Brown, Mr Mel Lloyd (from Jul 04), Dr Paul Carmichael (from Jul 04)

Bankers

Lloyds TSB
Oxford Street
Swansea

CafCash Ltd
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent ME19 4TA

Independent Examiners

DN Vaughan & Co Ltd
10 Gloucester Place
Edinburgh, EH3 6EF

Membership: Fellows 10, Full Members 218, Students 74

Income

Aberdeen	791.25
CAF Interest	1530.33
Sustaining Members (6 x 500)	3000
Mutagenesis	15412
Members Subscriptions	2485
	23218.58

Outgoings

Lloyds BC	16
MEG	7000
GIN	2000
Loughborough	1439.56
IOB/BSF	400
EEMS	1445.92
Trvl.Bur Int/Nat	
Mtg	5786.85
Mutagenesis Ed.	
Exp.	3000
UKEMS Com Mtg	2682.4
Subs Refund	0
Accountant	998.75
Other	170
Web	1769
MSc GeneTox	136.65
Total	26845.13

Outstanding: profits of Loughborough meeting

UNITED KINGDOM ENVIRONMENTAL MUTAGEN SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCORPORATING
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

for the year ended 31 December 2004

		Unrestricted	2004	2003
	Notes	funds	Total	Total
INCOMING RESOURCES		£	£	£
Members subscriptions				
Individual members		2,485	2,485	2,815
Sustaining members		3,500	3,500	4,500
From activities in furtherance of the charity's objects				
Surplus on publication of Mutagenesis		15,412	15,412	15,295
Surplus on UKEMS conference		4,970	4,970	-
Investment income - bank interest		1,530	1,530	1,352
Total incoming resources		27,897	27,897	23,962
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Costs of activities in furtherance of the charity's objects				
Student bursaries		5,050	5,050	3,500
Young Scientist Award		250	250	-
Young Scientist Medal		160	160	-
Young Scientist Travel Award		697	697	500
Poster prizes		200	200	100
Mutagenesis editorial expenses	3	3,000	3,000	3,000
Deficit on UKEMS conference	2	-	-	9,411
Sponsorship of MEG Cumbria Meeting		5,690	5,690	-
EEMS subscription		1,446	1,446	1,498
IOB affiliation		130	130	125
Biosciences Federation membership		270	270	270
		16,893	16,893	18,404
Administration expenses				
Secretarial fees		-	-	1,057
Committee and other travel expenses	3	2,700	2,700	2,622
Independent examiner's fee		823	823	823
Management support for affiliated societies		4,000	4,000	500
Website costs		1,769	1,769	1,336

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Bank charges and sundry costs	16	16	44
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	9,307	9,307	6,382
Total resources expended	26,200	26,200	24,786
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	1,696	1,696	(824)
Balance brought forward at 1 January 2004	56,852	56,852	57,676
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Balances carried forward at 31 December 2004	58,548	58,548	56,852
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