

UKEMS: MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

14TH JULY 2009

1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 16TH JUNE 2008, AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHUMBRIA, NEWCASTLE.

The Minutes were reviewed; no corrections or changes were required so they were agreed by the membership.

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Peter Farmer began his report by informing the audience that UKEMS is financially and scientifically thriving. The excellent financial position of the society is largely down to the income from Mutagenesis and Peter thanked David Phillips for all his efforts with the journal. He then thanked Caroline Austin and Christine Mason for organising the previous year's meeting, which had been a big success and mentioned that planning for the 2010 meeting in Buxton had begun. A joint meeting with the Association for Radiation Research was also scheduled for the following year, but the venue had yet to be decided; Loughborough and Nottingham University campuses were currently under consideration. Peter reported that he had indicated to the ICEM that UKEMS were interested in putting in a bid to host the 2017 meeting.

Peter described how the committee were considering extra ways to spend the increasing money in the UKEMS accounts, with an emphasis on various bursary schemes and making the society more environmentally friendly. He commented that the committee would welcome any ideas on this subject. Ewan Booth asked if we were planning a one-off or continuing expenditure and what was the budget. Peter explained how the income was dependent on the performance of Mutagenesis so we can't commit ourselves to very long-term schemes, but are perhaps thinking of the next 3 years; Christine Mason would elaborate on this later.

Peter then congratulated Shareen Doak, who was a joint winner of the 2009 EEMS Young Scientist of the Year Award and thanked Marcus Cooke, who had completed his 3 year term on the committee, for his contribution. Peter concluded by stating that Andy Scott had been co-opted onto the committee to assist in organising the 2010 annual meeting along with Mick Fellows, then he thanked Christine Mason, Karen Brown and the whole committee for their help over the past year and Mike Routledge and Volker Arlt for organising the Leeds conference.

3. TREASURERS REPORT

Christine Mason presented statistics up to July 2009 and the audited accounts for 2008 (see page 8 and 9). She is updating the membership list and acknowledged that this is a work in progress. There are currently 13 UKEMS Fellows, 260 Full Members and 139 Student Members, making a total of 412. At the moment 6 Sustaining Members have paid up for this year (AstraZeneca, Covance, Perceptive Instruments, Harlan, GlaxoSmithKline and Pfizer) and Christine admitted that we may lose some in the present financial climate. The Treasurer thanked all Sustaining Members for their continued support.

The accounts showed increased income figures, due to the revenue from Mutagenesis and Christine explained that we are waiting for a 5 year projection from OUP; this is needed to help judge how much money can be spent each year. The total balance in the bank accounts stands at £150,779.79 (~£57k in the Lloyds TSB account and ~£94k in the CAF bank) but the accountant has said that this is not a problem at the moment regarding our charitable status. It was recognised though that some of the money needed to be spent and Christine reported that the committee are hoping to make some decisions shortly on the most appropriate ways to use it, such as funding a senior scientist award, or places on the UKEMS MSc course. She continued that it might be difficult to set a fixed budget but since three committee meetings are held each year *ad hoc* decisions could be made when applications are received.

Christine stated that a loss of >£10k is expected for the Leeds meeting and that increasing the registration fee to £250 does not seem to have had a negative impact on the number of registrants. Phil Clay proposed that the accounts be accepted and Anthony Lynch seconded the motion; the accounts were accepted unanimously. Ian Mitchell commented that the committee should think carefully about giving money away on an *ad hoc* basis to make sure the income is used in the best way possible. Anthony Lynch suggested that a certain percentage could be set aside each year, after identifying a comfortable level of reserve funds and deciding how much can be spent. Christine reiterated that the forecast from OUP would help with this and said the committee would take on board everyone's thoughts. David Phillips said we should anticipate the Mutagenesis income is stabilising now and will probably only increase in line with inflation. Those present were told to send any ideas on potential funding schemes to Peter Farmer.

4. MUTAGENESIS EDITOR'S REPORT

David Phillips presented the 2008 submission statistics for Mutagenesis (see page 10) and said that as an ethical publisher, OUP operate a scheme in third world countries where not-for-profit institutions can get free online access to journals. There also offer reduced subscription fees for middle income countries. David reported that the impact factor for 2008 had increased significantly to 3.160, from 2.382 in 2007. This large jump has meant the journal has moved up the rankings considerably. He informed the audience that the 25th volume of Mutagenesis will be published next year and he is looking for ways to make a big deal of it, with special articles and promotions. David then acknowledged the contribution of Phil Bishop, the managing editor at OUP and said OUP are working hard to promote Mutagenesis, including having a presence at the ICEM meeting in Florence and hosting a dinner for the editorial board there. David finished by expressing special thanks to the Editorial Administrator Rosemary Wilkinson, plus the senior editors, members of the editorial board and reviewers.

5. IGG CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Mick Fellows presented a written report, which is reproduced below. The key points are that three people will be coming off the IGG committee at the end of the year, the accounts are in a good state and they had a very good attendance at the autumn meeting. IGG continue to support the OECD *in vitro* micronucleus test guidelines and would like to thank David Kirkland for all his efforts with this. Mick said they were confident that the measures will be acceptable and the guidelines should be published

soon. He finished by advertising the 2010 UKEMS conference in Buxton, showing the venue and preliminary details of the scientific programme.

IGG Report

Committee

Mick Fellows, chairman, AstraZeneca

Andrew Scott, secretary, Unilever

Jon Howe, treasurer, GSK

Carol Beevers, ordinary member, Covance

Ewan Booth, ordinary member, Syngenta

Phil Clay, ordinary member, SSL International

Fiona Spence, ordinary member, Pfizer

Accounts

Accounts following Autumn Meeting:

IGG Public liability insurance = £184.00

RSM room hire + food/drink = £7181.58 (£8331.58 - £1150.00 deposit)

Speaker expenses = £801.85

IGG balance following receipt of registration fees = £11735.92 (not including 3 European bounced cheques!)

Current IGG balance = £3568.49

Future activities

IGG session at UKEMS 2009, Tuesday PM, 14 July.

'New Technologies and New Challenges in Genotoxicity Assessment'

Cross-Species Mutation Assay Based on the Pig-a Gene - Steve Dertinger (Litron)

Application of mid-IR spectroscopy to identify markers of morphological change associated with SHE cell transformation - Frank Martin (Lancaster)

gammaH2AX: Applications in Genetic Toxicology - Daniel Smart (GSK)

Kinases as therapeutic agents; a new potential Genetic Toxicology liability - Catriona McComb (GSK)

Safety Assessment for Biopharmaceuticals - Catherine Priestley (AstraZeneca)

IGG Autumn Meeting 2009.

'Trials and Tribulations' Tuesday 24 November 2009, The Royal Society of Medicine, London

Proposed agenda

10-00 Coffee

10-30 JACVAM Comet trial update (Brian Burlinson)

11-00 EFPIA/PhARMA initiative for integration of repeat dose studies (Andreas Rothfuss)

11-30 COMICS Comet update (Catherine Priestley)

12-00 ECVAM SHE validation update (Raffaella Corvi)

12-30 Lunch / IGG AGM

14-00 The OECD in vitro micronucleus test guideline update (David Kirkland)

14-30 COLIPA – overview of relevant validation activities (Stefan Pfuhler)

15-00 COLIPA funded activities to reduce false positive – update from IGG Nov 2008 talk (Paul Fowler)

16-00 Close of Meeting

UKEMS Annual Meeting 2010

6. MEG CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Frank Martin gave an oral report, and began by saying it had been a good couple of years for MEG. The committee is currently comprised of Frank (chairperson), Mike Routledge (treasurer), Alison Dunning (secretary) plus John Hesketh (Newcastle), Paolo Vineis (London) and Tony Fletcher (London). Paolo Vineis will rotate off the committee this year and a request for nominations for a new member will be sent out in due course.

Frank outlined the recent activities of MEG, describing the symposium held at last year's UKEMS/NordEMS/MEG/IGG Joint Congress, entitled "Molecular Epidemiology of Oxidative Stress", which was chaired by John Hesketh and Alison Dunning. There was also a MEG winter meeting in Barcelona that was well attended but had very few UK participants. CREAL donated £5000 in sponsorship so there was no expense to MEG. A symposium has been organised for the 15th July at the Leeds conference and a meeting was scheduled for later in the year in London, at which Peter Farmer will be awarded the "MEG-UK Molecular Epidemiology Award" for 2009 and give a presentation. Frank then congratulated Peter on this achievement. Frank ended by reporting that MEG planned to arrange a symposium for next year's annual meeting in Buxton and that the finances were in an excellent state, largely due to the CREAL sponsorship.

7. GSN REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Ruth Morse presented the GSN report as outlined below:

Committee

Chair: Simon Reed

Secretary: Kevin Hiom

Treasurer: Fiona Benson/Sarah Allinson

Ordinary Members: Peter McHugh

Simon Boulton

Jessica Downs

Nigel Savery

Geoff Baldwin

Ruth Morse

Finances

The GSN is currently in a healthy financial position with a bank balance at around £12,500 as of our meeting in June 2009. This balance includes the funding provided by UKEMS which was gratefully received, and at a particularly early date this year! The GSN wishes to acknowledge and thank UKEMS for this further support. Since the balance is so healthy, and in order to safeguard the money in a transparent manner, it has been proposed that the finances should be overseen by Trustees and we are currently exploring the implications of this with two individuals (Prof Ray Waters and Prof Alan Lehmann) being approached to act as Trustees to the money, ensuring that there is no personal liability to either individuals.

Meetings

The Annual GSN meeting in Cambridge in January was well attended and was deemed to be another success. The meeting was well supported financially by various sponsors and we were able to maintain a good deal with the Wellcome Trust Conference Centre which kept the registration low and enabled many young researchers to attend (~230 delegates). The attendance was slightly lower than usual, with less abstracts submitted and consequently some minor criticism on the scientific quality of the presentations, thus the committee is reviewing the procedures for call of abstracts and timing of registration. It was noted that the Biochemical Society meeting, one month previous to GSN may have had an impact on attendee numbers. The GSN medal was awarded this year to Tomas Lindahl, who spoke at the meeting on his early years in the field of DNA repair research. Twenty further medals have been cast for future years and the next recipient is currently under discussion.

Future Meetings

The committee have now started planning the 2010 Annual meeting – also to be held at Cambridge Wellcome Trust Conference Centre. It is envisaged that registration will be maintained at a low price to attract students and new researchers. The date has been decided as 8th January 2010, with registration and abstract submission opening in September 2009.

The GSN in principle have agreed to organise a session at next year's UKEMS annual meeting at the University of Derby, Buxton and further discussions are currently underway to make this happen.

Membership

There are new members to the GSN committee: Sarah Allinson, who will take over from Fiona Benson in the role of treasurer for the forthcoming year, with Fiona remaining on the committee until the 2010 Annual meeting. The committee thanks Fiona for her hard work and contribution to the GSN committee. Also Ruth Morse has been admitted to the committee to take over the role of GSN representative at the UKEMS meeting in place of Simon Reed. Additional ordinary members are Nigel Savery and Geoff Baldwin. It was noted that changes to the membership did not always follow the constitution and so these procedures are being reviewed, as is the constitution due to occasional difficulties in recruiting to the committee. Changes to the constitution will be reviewed and voted on at the next AGM.

Website

The GSN website is no longer served by Cardiff University but maintains the same URL. This has been reviewed and improved with the intention to promote the UKEMS toxicology course as well as job/training opportunities and any other relevant information. We are envisaging a role for an individual prepared to maintain the site, but all comments or suggestions in the first instance should be made to Simon Reed (reedsh1@cf.ac.uk).

8. UKEMS QUALIFICATIONS, CURRENT STATUS AND FUTURE PLANS

Peter Farmer described the validation exercise that he was recently involved in for the course and pointed out that the process was not quite yet completed (a form was outstanding) but it was very likely to be successful, which is excellent news.

The key points from a written report provided by Jim and Liz Parry (reproduced below) were read out.

Liz and I attended the university on the 22nd June for the validation process. We are pleased to inform you that the programme successfully completed its validation exercise on 10th July, considerably helped by Peter Farmer's membership of the Validation Board.

The University of Surrey is now undertaking a major Europe-wide advertising campaign for the programme and are supplying brochures to these years' major conferences in our field. We would be grateful for volunteers who are willing to drop-off brochures at smaller meetings. I hope to produce a note for Mutagenesis shortly. We have now completed 2 cycles of the programme and have groups of students who have completed the Diploma stage, either in Swansea or Guildford. Currently 10 of these students are commencing their projects. Next June we should see our first group of students graduating from Surrey. Student numbers for the next academic year are still rather low and we hope you will all encourage your colleagues to attend some modules and start the Masters programme.

I was invited to give a presentation on the programme at the Florence ICEM; however my chemotherapy cycles prevent me travelling far at the moment. However, I am delighted to inform you that David Tweats has agreed to give the talk in my place and we met recently to discuss its content.

Eugenia Doggliotti (the retiring EEMS president) has invited us to deliver one of our Modules in Italy in the spring of 2010, sponsored by the EEMS. It is our hope that this will generate some new students for the programme.

As a support to the Masters programme I have put together a text book which covers the basic structure of our GenTox testing Method modules I and II. The textbook provides detailed protocols of our standard methods such as Ames and mouse lymphoma mutation assays, and a number of more general reviews such as DNA damage analysis and structure /activity analysis.

9. ELECTION RESULTS FOR NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER

Karen Brown reported that there had been 5 nominations for the vacancy advertised. A ballot was held in which a total of 51 votes were cast with Mike Routledge receiving the most votes. There were no objections to the result, therefore Mike was welcomed to the committee.

10. PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS FROM 3 TO 4

Peter Farmer explained the background behind this item. The current number of ordinary officers on the committee is three and it was felt that the present committee needed more industrial representation; increasing the numbers to 4 might make it more likely to achieve a better balance between people with industrial and academic interests. Karen Brown proposed the motion and Frank Martin seconded it, which was then passed with a majority vote.

11. PROPOSAL TO ELECT A NEW UKEMS FELLOW

Colin Arlett had nominated and Jim Parry seconded Michael Green for consideration as a UKEMS Fellow. The UKEMS committee strongly supported this proposal and Peter Farmer read out the justification presented by Colin and Jim for this recommendation. The nomination was approved by the AGM with all voting in favour. Michael Green was not present to receive his certificate but it was hoped that a presentation might be possible at a later date.

12. AOB

Nothing raised.

Peter Farmer
13 July 2010

United Kingdom Environmental Mutagen Society

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2008

	Notes	2008		2007	
		£	£	£	£
Current assets					
Debtors	11	360		623	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>113,359</u>		<u>97,877</u>	
		113,719		98,500	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year					
	12	<u>(2,090)</u>		<u>(2,987)</u>	
Net current assets			111,629		95,513
Net assets			<u>111,629</u>		<u>95,513</u>
Funds					
Unrestricted funds	14		<u>111,629</u>		<u>95,513</u>
			<u>111,629</u>		<u>95,513</u>

United Kingdom Environmental Mutagen Society

**Schedule of expenditure
for the year ended 31 December 2008**

Expenditure	2008		2007	
	£	£	£	£
Charitable activities				
Student bursaries to attend UKEMS meetings	3,172		6,479	
Travel bursaries to attend international meetings	2,586		2,284	
Young scientist award and medal	250		1,224	
Poster prizes	700		200	
Mutagenesis editorial expense	4,800		4,500	
Website costs	54		601	
GSN Sponsorship	2,000		2,000	
GRC sponsorship	5,000		-	
General expenses	237		122	
Sponsorship of M.Sc. course -	5,000		5,000	
MEG Sponsorship	2,000		3,758	
EEMS Subscriptions	-		3,105	
Biosciences federation membership	375		375	
Cardiff meeting expenses	-		54,830	
Newcastle meeting expenses	39,117		-	
		65,291		84,478
Governance Costs				
Independent examiner's fee	1,302		1,045	
Bank charges	168		146	
Committee expenses	1,179		908	
		2,649		2,099
Total expenditure		67,940		86,577

Updated 06 July 2009

Mutagenesis Submission Statistics 2005-2008

Country	2008				2007			2006			2005		
	T	A	R	AR	T	A	R	T	A	R	T	A	R
Argentina	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	2	0	0	0
Australia	3	3	0	0	2	2	0	3	2	1	1	1	0
Austria	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Belgium	3	1	1	1	1	1	0	3	2	1	0	0	0
Brazil	21	4	17	0	13	4	9	5	0	5	11	2	9
Bulgaria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	1	0	0	0
Canada	2	1	1	0	4	3	1	1	1	0	1	1	0
Chile	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
China	8	2	6	0	7	4	3	9	0	9	9	4	5
Croatia	2	0	2	0	1	0	1	2	0	2	0	0	0
Czech Republic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Denmark	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Egypt	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0
Finland	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
France	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	2	0	2	2	0
Germany	5	4	1	0	2	1	1	4	4	0	4	4	0
Greece	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Hungary	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
India	12	3	9	0	11	4	7	13	2	11	13	2	11
Iran	5	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Israel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Italy	2	0	1	0	9	6	3	6	5	1	7	5	2
Japan	6	4	2	0	4	2	2	9	4	5	9	6	3
Jordan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Korea	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malaysia	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mexico	4	0	4	0	1	1	0	4	3	1	9	2	7
Nigeria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Norway	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Pakistan	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
Poland	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	5	3	2	3	1	2
Portugal	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	3	2	1	3	3	0
Saudi Arabia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	2	0	2
Serbia	2	0	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
Slovakia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
South Africa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Spain	5	2	3	0	1	1	0	2	1	1	4	1	3
Sweden	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	2	1	1	1	0	1
Switzerland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Taiwan	2	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Thailand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
The Netherlands	3	2	1	0	2	2	0	3	2	1	0	0	0
Turkey	9	0	9	0	12	0	12	7	1	6	7	2	5
UK	23	13	7	3	17	16	1	15	13	2	11	10	1
USA	11	6	4	1	9	7	2	9	6	3	15	12	3
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	7	0	7
Totals	135	49	75	11	112	62	50	129	62	67	127	61	66

T = Total

A = Accepted

R = Rejected

A R = Awaiting Revision