

## **UKEMS: MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD AT BUXTON**

**13<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2010**

**1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 14<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2009, AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS.**  
The Minutes were reviewed; no corrections or changes were required so they were agreed by the membership.

### **2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Peter Farmer announced that it had been another good year for UKEMS and thanked David Phillips and Karen Brown for their roles as vice-president and secretary respectively, along with all the other members of the committee. He also expressed his gratitude to Christine Mason and wished her well in her recovery from surgery. He then thanked Alison Wolfreys, Mick Fellows and Volker Arlt, all of whom had finished their terms on the committee, for their input over the last three years. Peter acknowledged that this was also his final year as president.

The audience was informed that the membership numbers looked good and that the list was undergoing a re-vamp; although this exercise had reduced the number of active members, new people were still joining. Peter commented that the three sub-groups were thriving and that Mutagenesis had experienced an excellent year. He congratulated David Phillips for all his achievements as editor of the journal. Financially the society is in a very good situation and the committee has been working on developing a number of new schemes to utilize the money in a way that benefits the membership (see item 8). Peter reported that David Phillips would take over the UKEMS sponsored MSc course, at least temporarily (see item 9).

Peter reflected that UKEMS had lost one of its staunchest supporters and colleagues in Jim Parry. He said that Jim would be greatly missed and sent his best wishes to Jim's family. Peter also recognised the sad loss of Brian Dean, who had passed away during the previous year.

Peter finished by thanking Mick Fellows and Andy Scott for all their hard work in organising the Buxton conference. He stated that the number of attendees was excellent and the meeting was going extremely well so far. He then highlighted a number of future conferences; the 2011 meeting, which would be held jointly with the Association of Radiation Research in Nottingham and the 2012 conference in Swansea, which will be organised by Gareth Jenkins and his colleagues.

### **3. TREASURERS REPORT**

Karen Brown began by wishing Christine Mason a speedy recovery from everyone on the committee and then went on to present a series of slides prepared by Christine.

Karen acknowledged the work done by Christine in updating the membership list. There are currently 13 UKEMS Fellows, 145 Full Members and 84 Student Members, making a total of 242. At the moment 6 Sustaining Members have paid up for this

year (AstraZeneca, Covance, Perceptive Instruments, Unilever, Pfizer and GlaxoSmithKline) and these were thanked for their support.

The income from Mutagenesis has increased again slightly in 2010, with ~£51k received from OUP compared to £49k in 2009 and £47k in 2008. As a result of this money, the total amount in the UKEMS accounts presently lies at £179k, a figure which has also increased steadily year on year. The committee is trying to utilise this money as reflected by increased spending; in 2010 the amount given as bursaries to date has almost doubled from the preceding year (£8,200 compared to £4,987). Additionally, a new initiative was launched to fund summer student placements. Seven applications were approved totalling £9,250 and other schemes are in development.

The audited accounts for 2009 were presented and were accepted unanimously.

#### **4. MUTAGENESIS EDITOR'S REPORT**

David Phillips began by announcing that the 25<sup>th</sup> volume of Mutagenesis is now being published. He followed on by saying that Jim Parry was the founding editor and he had the foresight to link with the Society, so all the good fortune is down to Jim. David added that he was extremely grateful that Jim had passed the editorship to him.

The submission statistics for 2009 were then presented and showed a big increase in manuscript numbers, up to 184 from 135 the previous year. In line with recent trends, the impact factor had significantly increased again, up to 3.541; the 2008 value was 3.160. He reminded the audience of the Special Issue that is in preparation on Micronuclei, with Michael Fenech as guest editor. The anticipated publication date is late 2010/early 2011 and David suggested that it will contain an obituary to Jim Parry. It would also be dedicated to Jim's memory; this was recognised as being very appropriate, given the topic. David also acknowledged that Brian Dean had passed away last year and said that an obituary had also been published in the journal.

David finished by recognising the valuable contribution of Phil Bishop (OUP) and thanked Rosemary Wilkinson, the Editorial Administrator, plus the senior editors, members of the editorial board and reviewers.

#### **5. IGG CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Andy Scott presented the current IGG committee (see below) and remarked that he had taken over as chairman from Mick Fellows, who was now secretary. He thanked the committee and team from AstraZeneca, especially Mick for all their efforts in putting the Buxton meeting together.

##### ***IGG Committee***

*Andrew Scott, chairman, Unilever*

*Mick Fellows, secretary, AstraZeneca*

*Jon Howe, treasurer, GSK*

*Carol Beevers, ordinary member, Covance*

*Ewan Booth, ordinary member, Syngenta*

*Ann Doherty, ordinary member, AstraZeneca*

*Paul Fowler, ordinary member, Covance*

The balance in the IGG accounts stands at £2023. Andy acknowledged the support of UKEMS and thanked the Society for providing funds (£2000) to cover the losses associated with their winter meeting.

Andy summarised recent activities of the IGG, describing a successful meeting in November '09 entitled "Trials and Tribulations". The theme of the meeting was to provide an update on ongoing consortia activities of relevance to industrial genotoxicologists. Although attendance was lower than expected based on previous years, all the talks were extremely well received, with excellent feedback from delegates. With reference to the current Buxton meeting, Andy said that 4 IGG bursaries had been given and then congratulated David Kirkland on receiving the first IGG "Distinguished Toxicologist" medal the previous day.

Andy explained that the IGG have connections with the NC3R and they are planning to run back-to-back meetings in November, which it is hoped will increase attendance on both days. He finished by encouraging the audience to attend the meeting and stated that UKEMS had agreed to provide some financial support.

## **6. MEG CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Frank Martin presented a written report, which is reproduced below.

### **Committee members**

Chair: Francis Martin (Lancaster University)

Treasurer: Michael Routledge (University of Leeds)

Secretary: Alison Dunning

Committee members: John Hesketh (University of Newcastle); Volker Arlt (Institute of Cancer Research); Tony Flether (LSHTM); Andrew Povey (University of Manchester)

We welcome Volker as a new committee member; as FM and JH rotate off the committee this autumn, there will be a call for a new member.

### **2009 events**

- Air pollution Workshop in December 2009. Speakers included Ross Anderson, Frank Kelly, Michael Routledge, Annette Peters, Ira B Tager. A well attended meeting which took place at LSHTM with > 70 participants.
- MEG UK award. Congratulations to Prof Peter Farmer (University of Leicester) who was awarded the second MEG UK award. Peter delivered an open lecture at LSHTM at the end of the Air pollution Workshop. This award is given every three years and recognises an individual who has made a significant contribution to the development of molecular epidemiology in the UK.

### **2010 events**

- Novel Technologies in Molecular Epidemiology symposium at UKEMS Annual conference (Buxton). Invited speakers include Tim Gant (University of Leicester), Siegfried Knasmueller (Medical University of Vienna), Hector

Keun (Imperial College), Christopher Bell (UCL), and Martyn Smith (Berkeley, California).

- Joint meeting with the Nutrition Society. Two-day meeting that will take place in November at Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA). Four speakers including Tim Key will be sponsored by MEG UK.

### **Finance**

The budgets for meetings have been kept reasonable. Thanks especially to UKEMS, MEG UK retains a balance of approximately £3k. Thanks also to Mike Routledge for an excellent job as Treasurer.

### **7. GSN REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT**

Ruth Morse announced that the GSN had run an extremely successful 2010 Annual Meeting in Cambridge with ~210 attendees. They didn't present a medal this year as it's not considered an annual event, the GSN will only present the award if someone appropriate comes along. Ruth said that planning was underway for the 2011 annual meeting, which will be held in Robinson College, Cambridge (January 14<sup>th</sup>). The finances are healthy with a current balance of £16k in the bank. Ruth ended by describing a couple of changes to the committee; Fiona Benson has stood down as treasurer and is replaced by Sarah Allinson, whilst new members Cath Green and Julian Sale have joined.

### **8. NEW UKEMS FUNDING SCHEMES**

Peter Farmer described the various ideas that had been proposed at previous committee meetings for new funding schemes and ran through the list (reproduced below). All are at different stages of development: some have been launched already whilst for others, guidelines detailing eligibility criteria along with the application forms are presently being drawn up. It is anticipated that the cost of these schemes will be in the region of £55k per year, with most events being annual. Peter then requested more ideas from the membership for appropriate ways to utilise the UKEMS income. No one in the audience had any questions on the proposed plans.

- Contribution towards funding attendance of MSc students (potentially 3 per year) on the UKEMS course (£5K in total)
- Consumables costs for a pilot study that addressed important questions of relevance to UKEMS and could be used as preliminary data (£5K in total)
- Contribution towards running a relevant workshop (maximum £10K)
- Donation to IGG, under the UKEMS label, for young scientists to attend the annual meeting (1 award per major lab per year) (£3K in total)
- Awards for older scientists (£5K)
- Conference bags for life
- Cost of redesigning the website (£5K)
- Funding summer student project placements (£10K in total)
- Industrial experience year out for undergraduate students (£10K)

### **9. UKEMS QUALIFICATIONS, CURRENT STATUS AND FUTURE PLANS**

David Phillips paid tribute to Jim Parry who originally set up the course in Swansea and then moved it to Surrey. He stated that a steering group meeting was scheduled for immediately after the AGM. David said he was hoping that Shirley Price (University of Surrey) would turn up for the meeting to provide an update and that he might be able to give some feedback at a later stage during the conference.

#### **10. ELECTION RESULTS FOR VICE PRESIDENT, TREASURER AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Karen Brown reported that only a single nomination, for Anthony Lynch, was received in response to the call for a new Vice-President. No nominations were submitted for the Treasurers position, and Karen said she was very pleased to report that Christine Mason was willing to continue for a second term. The request for two new committee members had been met with three nominations. A ballot was held with Awadhesh Jha and Rob Durward receiving the most votes. There were no objections to the results described, therefore, Anthony, Rob and Awadhesh were welcomed on to the committee.

#### **11. CHANGE TO THE CONSTITUTION**

Peter Farmer explained the background behind this item. The UKEMS accountant had sent an e-mail to Christine Mason suggesting a change to the wording of Section 22 of the constitution.

Since UKEMS is a Scottish charity we come under the aegis of the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator, which is the equivalent of the Charity Commission in Scotland. All constitutional changes have to be notified to them and those affecting the charity's objectives have to be approved by them before being adopted. It was suggested that the wording be altered to the following:

“If the Executive Committee accepts the amendment, it shall be submitted for approval to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator if this is required. Approved amendments to the charitable objectives and other administrative amendments shall be submitted to the membership either at the business meeting of the AGM or in writing. A two-thirds majority of those present at the meeting or of those voting if polled by correspondence shall be required for the adoption of the proposed amendment.”

Caroline Austin proposed the motion and Alison Wolfreys seconded it, which was then passed with a majority vote.

#### **12. COM GUIDELINE PUBLICATIONS**

Peter Farmer explained that he had hoped to be able to present the new guidelines that COM are putting together. These are produced every ten years and the intention this time is to be even more transparent than before and send them out for consultation to many relevant people. They are now due out in October and he said he would appreciate the views of UKEMS members when they are eventually made available.

**13. AOB**

David Phillips closed the AGM by thanking Peter Farmer for being President and doing a wonderful job. David said he was honoured to be taking over a society in such a good state.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Phillips', written in a cursive style.

30/6/17

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**United Kingdom Environmental Mutagen Society**

**Balance Sheet  
as at 31 December 2009**

		2009		2008	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	11	460		360	
Cash at bank and in hand		141,487		113,359	
		<u>141,947</u>		<u>113,719</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	12	<u>(1,293)</u>		<u>(2,090)</u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>140,654</u>		<u>111,629</u>
<b>Net assets</b>			<u>140,654</u>		<u>111,629</u>
<b>Funds</b>					
Unrestricted funds	14		<u>140,654</u>		<u>111,629</u>
			<u>140,654</u>		<u>111,629</u>



**United Kingdom Environmental Mutagen Society**

**Schedule of Expenditure  
for the year ended 31 December 2009**

	2009		2008	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Expenditure</b>				
<b>Charitable activities</b>				
Student bursaries to attend UKEMS meetings	2,315		3,172	
Travel bursaries to attend international meetings	4,987		2,586	
Young scientist award and medal	-		250	
Poster prizes	250		700	
Mutagenesis editorial expense	5,000		4,800	
Website costs	-		54	
GSN Sponsorship	2,000		2,000	
GRC sponsorship	-		5,000	
General expenses	149		237	
Sponsorship of M.Sc. course -	5,000		5,000	
MEG Sponsorship	2,000		2,000	
BEMS Subscriptions	3,950		-	
Biosciences federation membership	338		375	
Institute of Biology - CPD fees	110		-	
Newcastle meeting expenses	-		39,117	
Leeds meeting expenses	5,440		-	
		31,539		65,291
<b>Governance Costs</b>				
Independent examiner's fee	1,448		1,302	
Bank charges	452		168	
Committee expenses	1,116		1,179	
		3,016		2,649
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>34,555</b>		<b>67,940</b>