

# **UKEMS: MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM**

**30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2011**

## **1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 13<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2010, AT BUXTON.**

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

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

David Phillips began his report by recalling how he started his term at the Buxton conference the previous year and thanked Mick Fellows and Andy Scott for a very successful meeting. He thought the current conference was going very well and said it was gratifying that the delegate numbers were good, then thanked Karen Brown and Don Jones as organisers.

David expressed his gratitude to Christine Mason and Karen Brown for their work as Treasurer and Secretary respectively and reported that the membership figures were holding constant. He explained that the membership list has been tidied up with the aim of making it up to date but it still needs finalising. The various sub-groups are all thriving and have made good use of the financial support provided by UKEMS. The audience was informed that UKEMS had sponsored other meetings over the past 12 months, including a very successful NC3Rs one day meeting and an excellent two day workshop in Münster, which was organised by Volker Arlt and Tanja Schwerdtle. UKEMS has also contributed to a Gordon Research Conference taking place next month. David commented that UKEMS are currently sponsoring the EEMS at the platinum level and other funding schemes aimed at fulfilling the objectives of the society and assisting members are still in development.

David stated that the first student to complete the UKEMS course had recently done so and thanked all the contributors for their hard work. He highlighted the next annual conference, which will be hosted by Swansea University in 2012 and said he would be stepping down as president then, so members should start thinking of suitable candidates for vice-president. He finished by reporting that plans were in development regarding a potential joint UKEMS/EEMS conference for 2013.

## **3. TREASURERS REPORT**

Christine Mason gave a presentation summarising the financial and membership state of the society and began by saying the accounts are very healthy, with the balance up on last year. There are currently 13 UKEMS Fellows, 176 Full Members and 72 Student Members, making a total of 251. This represents an increase on 2010 figures but Christine acknowledged that the information was taken from the UKEMS website rather than the Oxford University Press (OUP) database, and there may be some discrepancies. Christine explained that OUP are responsible for all issues relating to membership, including maintaining the website membership list and she warned members that they are likely to be stricter about removing people that haven't paid their annual fees. Christine hoped that things would eventually run a lot smoother but

there might be some issues initially as people that haven't responded to efforts to make contact will be removed. Christine urged everyone present to keep their contact details up to date on the website.

At the moment there are 7 Sustaining Members (AstraZeneca, Covance, Perceptive Instruments, Unilever, Pfizer, GlaxoSmithKline, and Gentronix) and these were thanked for their support.

Christine announced that the bank accounts are brimming with money (totalling £186,124) and described how she opened a new one to spread the funds, due to the limit on the government compensation scheme, which has been increased to £85k.

The revenue from Mutagenesis has increased again, to £57,544 for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010. Christine said UKEMS were very grateful for the income from Mutagenesis, describing it as the backbone of the Society and recognised that we would be in trouble without it. She then presented the audited accounts for 2010 (see pages 7 & 8) and pointed out that the Buxton conference had made a profit of £10k; for this she thanked Mick Fellows. Peter Jenkinson then asked why there was a big increase in EEMS subscriptions paid out and Christine explained that this was due to an increase in the level of sponsorship. Anthony Lynch acknowledged this contribution on behalf of the EEMS, adding that it was gratefully received. The accounts were then accepted unanimously.

Christine finished by revealing that she would be standing down as Treasurer at the end of the year for personal reasons and thanked all those she had worked with over the last 4 years for their patience and help. She announced that a new Treasurer, Mike Routledge, has agreed to take over and that she would continue to assist him as much as possible.

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

David Phillips told the audience that submissions to Mutagenesis had increased substantially over the past year, and that this was largely due to the Special Issue on Micronuclei. He added that he still has some spare copies available and if anyone would like one then they just need to email him. The journal's impact factor has been steadily increasing over recent years and David announced that the trend is continuing, and then broke the news that the new impact factor is 3.983, which represents a big jump on the 2009 value. He said he was very pleased with this news and that it was a reflection of a lot of very hard work from all the editors, colleagues at OUP, Rosemary Wilkinson (editorial manager), and the authors. He then acknowledged the efforts of all the reviewers.

Steve Dean commented that several years ago we were concerned that the income to the Society from Mutagenesis would drop with the journal going on-line. David replied that the number of individuals or institutions that subscribe and receive a hard copy is miniscule. Instead, people pay to see it on-line via libraries/consortia so journal usage is actually going up. He added that there may come a time when the journal isn't printed at all but this won't happen just yet.

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

Andy Scott gave a presentation, which is summarised below.

There have been several changes to the IGG committee, with Mick Fellows and Carol Beevers having completed their extended terms of office (6 years + 1). They were replaced by Leigh Hynes and Tricia Ellis at the IGG AGM in November 2010. Ann Doherty also takes over from Mick as Secretary.

### ***IGG Committee (as of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011)***

*Andrew Scott, chairman, Unilever*

*Ann Doherty, secretary, AstraZeneca*

*Jon Howe, treasurer, GSK*

*Ewan Booth, ordinary member, Syngenta*

*Trish Ellis, ordinary member, Pfizer*

*Paul Fowler, ordinary member, Covance*

*Leigh Hynes, ordinary member, Huntingdon*

The balance in the IGG accounts currently stands at £2104.

Andy described some of the recent activities of the IGG, including the 2010 autumn meeting in London entitled "Genotoxicology: The Next Generation". The theme of this meeting was to provide a showcase for industry sponsored MSc, PhD students and Post-docs to present their current research findings. Andy recalled that all the talks were extremely well received and there was excellent feedback from delegates. Anna Seager and Karolina Chocian each received a £25 prize for their outstanding presentations. Andy said there was a slight increase in attendance compared to 2009, with 75 registered delegates (Speakers = 11, Bursaries = 1, Payees = 63). The higher attendance coupled with VAT exemption for the booking contributed to the meeting breaking even.

During 2011, the IGG Committee provided input and comment on the COM (Committee on Mutagenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment) draft paper for consultation, the subject of which was "a strategy for genotoxicity testing and mutagenic hazard assessment of chemical substances". IGG are also organising a scientific session at the current conference that aims to provide update on Recent Guidance in Regulatory Genotoxicology (Session 11, Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July). Looking forward, the IGG will host their traditional autumn meeting in November, which will tackle the question of 'Where will Genetic Toxicology testing be in 30 years time?'

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

Mike Routledge reported that MEGUK held a joint meeting with the Nutrition Society in December 2010. The meeting attendance was affected by bad weather but was scientifically successful. Frank Martin completed his term on the committee as Chair, and the committee would like to record their thanks for his excellent contribution to MEGUK over the last six years. Susan Duthie from the Rowett Institute, Aberdeen and Andrew Povey from the University of Manchester were welcomed onto the committee. Mike Routledge took over as Chair for his final year on the committee. Andrew Povey agreed to take over from Mike as Treasurer.

The 2011 MEGUK winter meeting “Epigenetics and the Environment” will be held on 14<sup>th</sup> December at the Medical School, University of Leeds. Speakers include Zdenko Herceg, Karl Kasey, Jos Kleinjans and Susan Duthie. There will also be a call for proffered papers.

## **7. GSN REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT**

Ruth Morse announced that the GSN had organised a very successful annual meeting in Cambridge during January, with an extremely high turn-out. The GSN medal was awarded to Alan Lehmann (Sussex University) for his contribution to genome stability research. Ruth described a couple of upcoming changes to the GSN committee, which included her taking over as Secretary when Kevin Hiom stands down. Jessica Downs is also being replaced by Helfrid Hochegger as a representative of Sussex. At the moment the GSN finances are looking very healthy at £17k, plus a further £2k contribution from UKEMS. Ruth said the GSN wish to extend their thanks and gratitude to UKEMS for the continued support.

### **Current GSN 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  
Julian Sale  
Cath Green

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

David Phillips provided an update on the new funding schemes that have been launched by UKEMS over the last few years. This initiative was developed to enable reinvestment of the profits gained by the society, largely through Mutagenesis, back into the membership and to promote the scientific goals of UKEMS. The following lists the new schemes that are active or in progress:

- *Contribution towards running a relevant workshop – active*
- *Donation to IGG, under the UKEMS label, for young scientists to attend the annual meeting (1 award per major lab per year) – active*
- *Travel award for more senior scientists – launch summer 2011*
- *Conference bags for life – active*
- *Cost of redesigning the website – in progress*
- *Funding summer student project placements – active*
- *Funding undergraduate placement students to attend the UKEMS conference – active*

In addition, the following schemes are at various stages of development:

- *Industrial experience year out for undergraduate students – in preparation*
- *Contribution towards funding attendance of MSc students on the UKEMS course – in preparation*
- *Consumables costs for a pilot study that addressed important questions of relevance to UKEMS and could be used as preliminary data – in preparation*
- *Promotion of the society – sponsorship of senior scientists to give guest lectures at UK universities and institutions – in discussion*

It is anticipated that the total cost of these schemes will be in the region of £55k per year, with most events being annual.

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

David Phillips reported that the UKEMS course now has its first graduate, which is a great achievement. However, we have problems as the numbers registered are too low at present to sustain the course in its current form. He explained that it is likely the modules we designed will become incorporated into the Applied Toxicology Course at Surrey University but we can wait and see how things progress over the next 12 months as we don't need to make any immediate decisions. Another strategy to retain aspects of the course/training is to try and promote more the CPD element, as this is a common feature of the Applied Toxicology Course. David also said we could organise more spin off-lectures with specific remits, along the lines of the one day ECHA course run in Helsinki by David Tweats, Liz Parry and George Johnson. The event was extremely successful and David thanked the three UKEMS members for their efforts. David also relayed his plans to hold a half day taster session at the annual conference in Swansea to give people, particularly potential students an appreciation of what the course can offer.

Mick Fellows asked whether we'd have to reduce the number of modules if the UKEMS course was incorporated into Applied Toxicology, otherwise we might have the same problems with attendance. David recognised there may have to be some redesign.

### **10. ELECTION RESULTS FOR TREASURER**

Karen Brown reported that only a single nomination, for Mike Routledge, was received in response to the call for a Shadow Treasurer to ultimately take over from Christine Mason as UKEMS Treasurer. There were no objections to the result; therefore, Mike was congratulated on his new position within the committee.

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

There were no changes suggested.

### **12. PROPOSAL FOR TWO NEW UKEMS FELLOWS**

Two members had been proposed for consideration as UKEMS Fellows by the UKEMS committee, these were Liz Parry and Peter Farmer. David Phillips gave a brief justification as to why they were both such worthy candidates and strongly supported by the committee. The nominations were approved by the AGM with all voting in favour, and Liz and Peter were congratulated. Presentations will be made at the conference dinner this evening.

### **13. COM GUIDELINE PUBLICATIONS**

David Phillips explained that any responses received from individuals to the recent request for consultation on the COM Guidelines publication had been forwarded, and he thanked UKEMS members and the IGG for their input.

### **14. AOB**

Nothing raised.

**United Kingdom Environmental Mutagen Society**

**Detailed Income and Expenditure Account  
for the year ended 31 December 2010**

	2010		2009	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>				
<b>Voluntary Income</b>				
UKEMS subscriptions	3,736		3,995	
Sustaining members	3,500		3,500	
		<u>7,236</u>		<u>7,495</u>
<b>Investment income</b>				
Interest received	158		582	
		<u>158</u>		<u>582</u>
<b>Income from charitable activities</b>				
Surplus on publishing Mutagenesis	50,986		49,382	
Conference sponsorship	6,100		-	
UKEMS Conference Buxton	15,484		-	
UKEMS Conference Leeds	-		6,121	
		<u>72,570</u>		<u>55,503</u>
<b>Total income</b>		<u>79,964</u>		<u>63,580</u>
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>(59,378)</u>		<u>(34,555)</u>
<b>Net surplus for the year</b>		<u><u>20,586</u></u>		<u><u>29,025</u></u>

**United Kingdom Environmental Mutagen Society**

**Schedule of Expenditure  
for the year ended 31 December 2010**

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>2010</b>		<b>2009</b>	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Charitable activities</b>				
Student bursaries to attend UKEMS meetings	7,400		2,315	
Travel bursaries to attend international meetings	3,006		4,987	
Summer grants	9,250		-	
Young scientist award and medal	250		-	
Poster prizes	950		250	
Mutagenesis editorial expense	5,250		5,000	
Website costs	239		-	
GSN Sponsorship	2,000		2,000	
IGG Sponsorship	2,000		-	
Cell transformation workshop	1,000		-	
General expenses	1,226		149	
Sponsorship of M.Sc. course -	5,000		5,000	
MEG Sponsorship	2,000		2,000	
EEMS Subscriptions	5,575		3,950	
Biosciences federation membership	362		338	
Institute of Biology - CPD fees	-		110	
Buxton meeting expenses	10,493		-	
Leeds meeting expenses	-		5,440	
		56,001		31,539
<b>Governance Costs</b>				
Independent examiner's fee	1,831		1,448	
Bank charges	187		452	
Committee expenses	1,359		1,116	
		3,377		3,016
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>59,378</u>		<u>34,555</u>