

**The 170<sup>th</sup> Committee Meeting of the British Biophysical Society, held from  
12.30 pm – 4.00 pm on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017 in room 259, Chemistry Building, at  
Imperial College London**

## **Edited Minutes**

**Date:** 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017

**Present:** Anthony Watts (Chair), Tharin Blumenschein (Secretary), Guy Grant (Meetings Secretary), Jeremy Craven (Treasurer), David Scott, John Seddon, Peter Crowley, Ehmke Pohl, Syma Khalid, Olwyn Byron, and Mark Leake.

**1 Apologies:** Robin Leatherbarrow, John Sanderson, Tuomas Knowles and Mark Wallace.

**2 Approval of Minutes of the 169<sup>th</sup> meeting**

The Minutes were accepted with minor corrections.

**3 Matters Arising**

Mark Wallace sent his apologies, so will report on his actions at a later meeting.

The letter to the IoP was not written, as the core curriculum is minimum, and other areas in addition to Biophysics are not represented.

Biophysics Week was considered not to be the right time for an event at the Crick Institute.

#### 4 **Chairman's Report** (Anthony Watts)

- Sept – Jan, continued with organization of the IUPAB/EBSA/BBS/loP Congress (timetabling, inviting speakers, canvas for sponsorship, advertise congress at various meetings, etc);
- Interacted with TK and GG about the December meeting, web site design and registration page for collection of funds. Managed PayPal account for meeting;
- October, approached and secured Jim Naismith (St Andrew's) to be the Irish Tour lecturer, Spring 2017
- December, organized dinner for BBS committee and Honorary members on the opening day (Sunday 16th July) of the congress in Edinburgh – invitations sent to all;
- December 7th; Presented the "Oxford Christmas Lecture" and advertised "biophysics" a research topic to 400 14 – 18 year olds;
- December 7th, Represented BBS at the Royal Soc. Biology, House of Commons "Meet the ministers" event;
- December 31st; compiled and submitted the nomination of P. Kukura, Oxford, for the EBSA Young Investigator's Award and Medal;
- Jan, organized and registered two Biophysics Week (March 6 – 10th) events in Oxford;

#### 5 **EBSA/IUPAB Activities** (John Seddon/Gordon Roberts)

**EBSA** – No EBSA committee meeting has taken place since September.

For the benefit of new committee members, it was explained that EBSA is composed of Biophysical societies from 33 countries, who pay €2 per member. Publishing, via Springer, provides 95% of EBSA funds. The EBSA committee has strong representation from the UK.

The EBSA Young Investigator Award received 9 nominations, and the Avanti Award received 4 nominations, none of which from the UK.

**IUPAB** – Gordon Roberts was not able to attend this meeting, but it was reported that the IUPAB committee has approved the list of speakers for the IUPAB / EBSA / BBS / loP Congress.

IUPAB is looking for a new Secretary General.

Marcelo Morales has stood down from organising the 20<sup>th</sup> IUPAB Congress, in 2020, as he takes his place in the Brazilian National Academy of Medicine. The Congress will be organised by Rosangela Itri.

#### 6 **IOP Activities** (Mark Wallace)

Mark Wallace sent his apologies for the meeting.

## 7 **Physics of Life Network**

A number of meetings are being co-badged by the network; nothing else was reported by Mark Leake and Olwyn.

## 8 **Secretary's Report** (Tharin Blumenschein)

- 1) *Athena Forum update* – was circulated by the RSB. The Athena Forum is an independent expert committee which aims to inform the debate on diversity in STEMM. It has a number of ongoing projects. The RSB is also having a meeting for member organisations, on **Equality and Diversity**, on 31<sup>st</sup> January, to share best practice and network. The committee decided that we should have an explicit statement about diversity (not only gender, but also other characteristics) on our webpage, and analyse our membership composition and conference participation. Medal winners are very balanced in terms of gender.

**Action:** Ehmke to look at the British Crystallographic Association statement for comparison

- 2) *Royal Society of Biology consultations* – A number of invitations to take part in consultations were circulated, but it's understandable that with our small numbers, we will not be able to respond to everything. Ongoing/recent consultations include **Bioeconomy** (deadline 29<sup>th</sup> January – a draft response by the RSB has been circulated to this committee for comment) and **REF** (17<sup>th</sup> March), **Closing the STEM skills gap** (13<sup>th</sup> January), **Genomics and genome editing** (6<sup>th</sup> January), **My science enquiry** (4<sup>th</sup> January).

The committee decided that the BBS should submit its own response to the REF consultation.

**Action:** Ehmke to comment on the Bioeconomy RSB draft

**Action:** Tony to find someone to write a response to the REF consultation

- 3) *Emeritus member* – Geoff Kneale has contacted me to say he has retired and is now emeritus, and asks about becoming an emeritus member (possible according to website). The committee agreed that he should become officially an Emeritus member.

**Action:** Ehmke to update records

- 4) *RSC General Assembly* – Attended the RSC General Assembly in November representing the RSC local section (East Anglia), and had some very interesting and potentially useful conversations with Steven Lee (Chair of the Biophysical Chemistry Group) and Stephen Byard (Chair of the NMRDG). Steven Lee was interested in strong interactions, and thinks the parallel session in the Faraday Joint Interest Group Conference would be very much of interest of BBS members. Stephen Byard lamented that our Christmas meetings clashed, and said when that happened in the past it had a big effect on their attendance, while having them back to back in the future might boost attendance in both. He would also be very happy to develop meetings together.

The committee was very interested in closer interactions with both groups, and would like cross-representation in the BCG if possible.

**Action:** Tharin to contact Steven Lee

**9 Treasurer's Report (Jeremy Craven)**

- The main batch of membership payments has been received. The payment data is now accessible in a more detailed way than last year, allowing for better analysis. Our membership income is growing.

**10 Meetings Secretary's Report (Guy Grant)**

**2016**

*15<sup>th</sup> December: Protein-protein interactions, self-assembly and aggregation, Wellcome Trust, London. One-day meeting.*

A report was received by email from Tuomas. 68 participants attended, from Cambridge (Chemistry, Physics, LMB), Oxford (Chemistry, Biochemistry, School of Pathology), UCL, KCL, Imperial, Birkbeck, Leeds, University of Essex, and industry (Medimune, Fluidic Analytics, UCB). The venue was functional and arranged in a way to stimulate interactive discussions.

Based on informal feedback that from the participants, the meeting was a success. It had a reasonable spread of areas while maintaining a coherent theme and there was plenty of discussion, both during the sessions and during the breaks.

The committee would like to minute thanks to Guy for his support and experience which were key to ensuring that the meeting run so well, and to Tony and his personal assistant for administrative support.

**2017**

*16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> July: Joint IUPAB / EBSA / BBS / IoP Congress, Edinburgh.*

To be discussed as a separate point in the agenda.

*21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> July: Satellite meeting - The Interplay Between Membrane Physics and Cell Biology, Durham.*

**Action:** John Sanderson

*December: a one-day meeting to be organised, volunteer required. We could try to hold it at the Crick, otherwise should try to book SOAS early to ensure that we can have the dates we wish.*

**Action:** Tony to ask contacts at the Crick, all to think of a topic

**2018**

*April: Joint meeting with the Belgian Biophysical Society, Brussels or Liège. Andre Matagne is the contact. The topic will relate to protein-protein*

interactions.

*The Artificial Cell* (Royal Society, Milton Keynes – Barbara Ciani) – the BBS will provide a poster prize.

*July: BBS Biennial Meeting.* Looking for a volunteer and location to organise it.

**Action:** Syma to investigate having the meeting in Southampton

*December:* a one-day meeting to be organised, possibly outside of London. Volunteer required.

## 11 IUPAB/EBSA/loP/BBS Congress (Tony Watts)

A number of sponsors are in place: Marketing Edinburgh, Visit Scotland, Avanti, NanoTemper, Biophysical Society (for poster prizes), Springer (poster prizes and a stand), Portland Press (poster prizes), Elements, Asylum Research. Many sponsorship opportunities are still available.

**Action:** Tony to circulate list of potential sponsors already approached

**Action:** all to send possible sponsors to Tony

34 session chairs (1 non-UK) have confirmed their attendance. 101 out of 102 speakers are confirmed. Plenaries will be given by Helmut Grubmüller, Terry Hwa, Robert J. Lefkowitz, Sheena Radford, Venki Ramakrishnan, Petra Schwille, Sunney Xie. Short talks will be selected from abstracts.

Satellite meetings include:

- EBSA Young Scientists
- Biophysical approaches to protein folding and disease
- The interplay between membrane physics and cell biology
- Quantitative approaches to antimicrobial resistance

One or two more satellite meetings would be welcome. Proposals for funding need to include number of participants, title, organiser, location and dates.

There will also be a 3-hour lunchtime workshop on medical research without animals, and a workshop on HSFP support for biophysicists.

We also need to schedule the BBS AGM for some point during the meeting.

The outline programme was presented. It starts on Sunday late afternoon and finishes on Thursday at 1 pm.

EBSA Assembly will be on Tuesday evening, and we need one delegate: **Syma** has volunteered.

IUPAB General Assembly will be on Tuesday afternoon, and elect the location of the 2023 IUPAB meeting. We need two delegates, **Guy** and **Tharin** volunteered.

- 12      **Newsletter/Publicity Officer** (Syma Khalid/John Sanderson)
- Facebook page does not get much movement, but Twitter is OK, with high profile followers.  
**Action:** all to send news items to Syma, for social media
- 13      **Website** (Mark Wallace)
- Mark sent his apologies to the meeting.
- 14      **Membership** (Ehmke Pohl)
- Membership numbers are moving in the right direction.
- 15      **Irish Sub-section** (Peter Crowley)
- Jim Naismith will be visiting for the lecture tour on the week of 24<sup>th</sup> April.
- 16      **Honorary members**
- Possible names need to be submitted for the May meeting.  
**Action:** all to send suggestions to Tony
- 17      **AOB**
- Tony will step down from his role as Chair at/after the September committee meeting.
- 18      **Date of Next Meeting**
- The next committee meeting will be on 16<sup>th</sup> May, in London.