



Minutes of the 2019 AGM of the Outreach and Education Committee of the Royal Microscopical Society which took place on Wednesday 3 July 2019 during mmc2019 at Manchester Central

Present: Dr Kerry Thompson (Chair), Professor Michelle Peckham, Professor Rik Drummond-Brydson, Professor Maddy Parsons, Dr Debbie Stokes, Dr Lynne Joyce, Dr Alex Ball, Dr Jacquelyn Bond, Professor Susan Brooks, Dr Adrian Burden, Dr Lucy Collinson, Mr Derek Davies, Ms Kim Findlay, Professor Paul French, Dr Chris Hammond, Dr Pippa Hawes, Dr John Hutchinson Hon FRMS, Professor Beverley Inkson, Dr Marie Kokolski, Professor Mark Leake, Professor Paul Midgley, Dr Richard Paden, Professor Klaus Qvortrup, Mr Jeremy Sanderson, Ms Jenny Simpson, Mr Alex Sossick, Mr Leslie Stump, Dr Theresa Ward, Dr Claire Wells, Ms Allison Winton (RMS Chief Executive), Mr Adam Clay (RMS Finance Director) and Mrs Amanda Jarman (PA to the RMS Chief Executive).

1. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Minutes of the Meeting of the 2018 Annual General Meeting

The Minutes were approved and signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Report from Section Chair

“Education and Outreach Report for AGM 2019

Period of Report September 2018 – June 2019

As I'm sure most you now know, I took over from Susan last year as Honorary Secretary for Education and Outreach and Chair of the committee. Firstly, I would like to thank the committees I now serve on and ALL the RMS staff, for making me feel so welcome and for their tremendous support during the transition. Secondly, I would like to thank Susan for being such a wonderful mentor and having the confidence that I could continue to develop the committee and role.

The Education and Outreach committee has quite a varied brief and I will report on the activities of the three main areas we cover (Primary School Outreach and the Microscope Activity Kits (MAKs), the RMS Diploma or CPD, and the Public Engagement), along with some other items the committee has contributed to and participated in over the past year.

I. The MAKs

We recently celebrated officially having 100,000 primary school children gain access to the MAKs since the inception of the programme in 2011. I am certain that in fact, the reach of the programme far exceeds this number. We continue to work with County Print Finishers who do a wonderful job carrying out the restocking between visits to schools, and maintain the essential quality and assurance checks to the highest level. This year we rolled out the new Partnership Agreement for the fellow academic societies who partner with us in this programme. The Microscopy Society of Ireland (led by Dr Alanna Stanley – Outreach Officer), the Primary Science Teaching Trust (Mr Peter Sainsbury) and the Scottish Microscopy Group (Dr Paul Appleton), soon to be the Scottish Microscopy Society. In Ireland alone, with just 2 kits, the Under the Microscope team, which are co-supported by the RMS and MSI, have given access to this equipment to over 4000 children and adults since 2015. The programme also runs successfully internationally in Malaysia. All are wonderful examples of the true collegiately and generosity of time and skills this programme inspires in our community.

We are continuing to work with the sections to create new activities and resources, which will be collated onto the website, as a source of material for outreach and public engagement events for both members and the general public alike. We hope to review the current activities within the kit and this will be carried out by Susan Anderson.

2. The RMS Diploma

The RMS Diploma now has 8 candidates. This year alone we have received 3 new applications. Susan Brookes and the Education subgroup continues to promote and review our registrants. Yesterday Susan delivered a Learning Zone talk on “How to Study for an RMS Diploma”, and we hope to meet with as many of the candidates as possible before the end of the conference to continue to offer support and guidance where necessary. Again, this would not be possible with the support of the many mentors and external staff which contribute to its continued success.

In April this year Michelle, Allison and I attended a meeting with representatives of the Science Council to reawaken discussions on accreditation of the Diploma with a Registered or Chartered Scientist Status. A brief survey of the membership was conducted, and it appears there is still interest in our community for the RMS, along with the Science council, to facilitate this professional accreditation. We will continue to work to develop this.

The Training FIG, led by Alex Ball, also reports into this committee. These meetings help identify training fields and topics of priority, from our community, to help best inform the Society on what new courses should come on stream. Amongst the areas identified were the continual need for upskilling of microscopists in Image analysis techniques and the growing importance of how to manage the vast data we accrue with modern microscopy. This year the Image Analysis Training FIG, led by Dominic Waithe, successfully ran an “Image J/Fiji Train the Trainer” course, which was a great success. It is hoped that more events like this can take place in the future again.

3. Outreach Events

Each year the committee reviews the events which it will attend. In the past 12 months many RMS committee members had a presence at the following events:

- o Science Live in the Natural History Museum
- o Galway Science and Technology Festival and the Midlands Science Festival, Ireland
- o Big Bang, NEC
- o Big Bang Weston
- o Primary Science Education Conference in Edinburgh
- o Nottingham Festival of Science and Curiosity

Again, a huge thank you to everyone who was giving of their time and enthusiasm.

Finally, the last items I would like to note:

- We received 11 Summer Studentship applications again this year and after review by the Education Subgroup and the Hon Sec, 4 were awarded to very interesting high-quality projects in both life and physical sciences.
- This year we have begun to construct a safeguarding statement and child protection policy, to highlight best practise for our members involved with public engagement and outreach events. As with our recently published RMS code of conduct, the Society recognises the importance of having this information readily available to its members and on the website.
- We have also successfully launched a £100 Public Engagement and Outreach Bursary to go towards the cost of running an event. Already, one application has come in and more information can be found on the RMS website. Please apply if you are interested.

I would like to once again thank all the members of this vibrant committee and all the RMS staff, who have been such wonderful support in my first year as Honorary Secretary for Education and Outreach.

Thank you”

5. Election of Members

There being no other nominations, the following Officers were duly elected:

Chair: Dr Kerry Thompson, NUI Galway, Ireland

Secretary: Mr Owen Green, University of Oxford

6. Election of Ordinary Members

There being no other nominations, the following Ordinary Members were duly elected:

Professor Susan Anderson, University of Nottingham

Dr Alex Ball, Natural History Museum

Dr Jacqueline Bond, University of Leeds

Professor Susan Brooks, Oxford Brookes University

Dr Ian Dobbie, University of Oxford

Mr Oliver Clarke, Carl Zeiss

Dr Nuria Gavara, Queen Mary University of London

Professor Rob Kessler,

Assistant Professor Marie Kokolski, University of Nottingham

Ms Niga Nawroly, ACEA Biosciences

Dr James Perkins, St Elizabeth’s Grammar School

Mr Peter Sainsbury, Primary Science Teaching Trust

Dr Andrew Scott, University of Leeds

Honorary Members:

Dr Peter Evennett, University of Leeds

Dr Chris Hammond, University of Leeds

7. Any Other Business

There was no further business.