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## Minutes of the 111<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Biochemical Society

4:30pm, Thursday 21 July 2022

*Held in person at the offices of the Royal Society of Biology, 1 Naroji Street, London WC1X 0GB, and online via Zoom.*

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<b>Members Present:</b>	Pete Downes (Chair)	President, Chair of Council of Trustees
	Julia Goodfellow (JG)	President Elect and Member
	Augustin Amour (AA)	Industry Representative
	Lisa Chakrabati (LC)	Chair, Basic Bioscience Theme Panel
	Sheila Graham (SG)	Chair, Biochemical Society
	Dominika Gruszka (DG)	Chair, Early Careers Advisory Panel
	Martin Lindley (ML)	Chair, Clinical and Translational Research Theme Panel
	Luciane Mello (LM)	Chair, Training Theme Panel
	Derry Mercer (DM)	Honorary Policy Officer
	Frank Sargent (FS)	Honorary Treasurer
	Helen Watson (HW)	Chair, Education Committee
	Michelle West (MW)	Honorary Meetings Secretary
	Richard Reece (RR)	Chair, PPL Board
	Ayodeji Adegoke	Member
	Colin Bingle (CB)	Member
	Steve Busby	Member
	Elizabete Carmo-Silva	Member
	Terri Grassby	Member
	Tara Hurst	Member
	Sanj Kumar	Member
	Ikeh Patrick Leonard	Member
	Gavin McStay	Member
	Talat Nasim	Member
	Nectarios Nicolaou	Member
	Solange Serrano	Member
	Sharon Williams	Member
	Jan Witkowski	Member
<b>In Attendance:</b>	Richard Cryer	Chair, Audit Committee
	Doug Armin (DFG)	Associate Director, Finance and Governance
	Kate Baillie (CEO)	CEO Biochemical Society, MD Portland Press
	Kofo Balogun (DHR)	Associate Director, HR, EDI and Technology
	Clare Curtis (DCE)	Associate Director, Content and Engagement
	Sarah Jenner (minutes)	Governance and EDI Manager
	Orla Lappin	Content and Communities Coordinator
	Gaynor Redvers-Mutton	Incoming Associate Director, Business Development and Sales

## **22/01 Welcome and apologies**

The Chair welcomed attendees to the Biochemical Society's 111<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting, both those attending in person and those attending online. Apologies were noted from Professor Sir Tom Blundell, Professor Nigel Hooper and Professor Dame Jean Thomas.

SJ outlined the Ground Rules for the meeting:

- The meeting was being held as a hybrid meeting and automatic captioning would run throughout. A full transcript of the meeting would be made available by 29<sup>th</sup> July 2022 and could be requested via email;
- No questions were submitted prior to the meeting and due to limited time there would not be the opportunity to ask questions today, instead these could be submitted either by email or in the Zoom chat and would be answered following the meeting;
- Throughout the meeting the Chair would be asking for proposers and seconders for certain actions. Those online could indicate their willingness to act as either of those by using the raise hand function on zoom. Those in the room could indicate their willingness to act as either by raising their hand;
- When asked to vote, online attendees would see a poll appear on the screen in front of them which could be completed by selecting one of the two available answers. Those in the room could indicate their agreement with the question posed by raising their hand;
- Attendees were asked to act with respect for each other throughout the entirety of the meeting.

## **22/02 Deceased members**

The Chair noted the names of those members who had died since the previous General Meeting provided in Annex 1 and confirmed the recent death of Professor Stephen Halford.

The Chair led a one minute's silence to remember these individuals.

## **22/03 Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting**

The Chair noted the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 22 July 2021 provided as Annex 2. The Chair tabled a motion to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record of that meeting, which was proposed by RR and seconded by SG.

Attendees were asked to vote by using the poll on their screen or raising their hand in the room. SJ confirmed a majority vote had been received and the minutes were accepted into the Society's record.

## **22/04 Update on Society activities and achievements**

The CEO presented an update on the Society's activities and achievements since the 2021 Annual General Meeting.

### **Education**

#### Summer Vacation Studentships:

- Opened two schemes for 2022: a lab-based scheme and the computational-based scheme (following the success of the interim scheme held in 2021);

- Received 46 applications for the lab-based scheme and 58 applications for the computational-based scheme;

#### Scientific Outreach Grants:

- 16 applications were received with £8,600 awarded across 10 successful applications;
- Included topics on Henrietta Lacks, global goals, connecting scientists and pupils in Angola and Guinea-Bissau, and a microbiology/genomics outreach activity;
- 2022 scheme was currently open for applications;

#### Science Communication Prize:

- 2021 competition received 66 eligible entries across two categories – all winners were video entries;
- 2022 competition opened on 6 June with two categories for entry: written pieces and other media (e.g., video, audio);

#### Biology Champions:

- The Society took part in the Royal Veterinary College's Biology Champions event (October 2021);
- Over 600 A-level students attended the Society's session, which was a careers-related presentation and also had a science-focussed presentation (on cellular dynamics);

#### RSB Connect 2021:

- Society supported the RSB Connect 2021 event – a bioscience outreach and engagement symposium, aimed at STEM undergraduates, postgraduates, public engagement professionals, teachers and anyone interested in developing their understanding of outreach and engagement;
- Biochemical Society members were able to attend the event at a reduced rate;

### **Public Engagement (PE)**

#### Train the trainers:

- New Education, Public Engagement and Training manager started in post March 2022;
- Trialing a new approach to public engagement and careers fairs/events – using our existing community to represent the Society and deliver activities through a 'train the trainers' approach;
- Using this approach, should be able to reach wider audiences without the requirement for staff to be present (which would be a limiting factor when deciding where our presence should be);

#### Engaging the community in PE:

- University of Wolverhampton's SciFest, 8-9 July 2022 was attended by Mike Dodd (Education Committee) and volunteers from Coventry University;
- Medicine Makers activity developed with British Pharmacological Society interactively demonstrated how painkillers work in the body;
- 120 copies of "Biochemistry: a career guide" distributed;

### **Training**

#### Past training events:

- Key aspects of modern drug discovery (12-13 October 2021) 40 registrations (sold out);
- Proteomics: from fundamentals to applications (11-12 Nov 2021) 40 registrations (sold out);
- Protein modelling and its applications in current science (29-30 Nov 2021) 20 registrations (sold out);
- 3<sup>rd</sup> UK workshop on membrane proteins (4-6 April 2022) 50 registrations (sold out);
- Protein purification and biophysical characterisation (21-22 April 2022) 13 registrations;

### Training – online events:

- R for Biochemists 201 ran in January 2022 with 44 learners – next run is November 2022;
- R for Biochemists 101 ran in March 2022 with 92 learners – next run is September 2022;
- Practical Python for beginners ran in May 2022 with 106 learners – next run is November 2022;
- R101 and Python courses are being used in Summer Vacation Studentship scheme in 2022;
- New course on 'introduction to statistics for the life sciences' will be piloted in 2022;

### April 2022 issue of *Essays in Biochemistry*:

- Collection of articles written by bioscience educators working in higher education across the world;
- Content/authors based on the 'Evolving Molecular Bioscience Education' training event, run as a collaboration between the Biochemical Society and the Federation of European Biochemical Societies (FEBS) in May 2021;
- Guest edited by Society Trustees Helen Watson and Lu Mello;
- Made up of perspectives and case studies aimed at a range of audiences including educators, students and those from outside higher education with a general interest;

### **Events**

#### Since the last AGM in July 2021, the following had been run:

- 9 scientific meetings;
- 2 Harden Conferences;
- 5 training events;
- 3 online training courses;
- 22 webinars;

#### Forthcoming 2022 events included:

- 6 scientific meetings;
- 1 Harden Conference;
- 2 training events;
- 2 online training courses;
- 12 webinars;
- £127k sponsorship had been confirmed for 2022 events so far, compared to a total of £41,669 in 2021;

### **Grants:**

The following grants had been awarded so far in 2022:

- 94 General Travel Grants (£45,643);
- 12 Eric Reid Fund for Methodology (£46,422.18);
- 6 Sponsored Event Grants (£2,000);
- 2 Travel Award for International Skills and Knowledge Exchange (£3,965);
- 23 Early Career Bursaries (£2,766);
- 29 Student Bursaries (£5,474);
- 7 Full member Bursaries (£1,200);
- 11 Harden Bursaries (£4,000);
- 2 Carer Support Grants (£1,004.42);
- 15 Undergraduate Recognition Awards (£1,117);

- 38 Summer Vacation Studentships (lab-based) (£67,146);
- 46 Summer Vacation Studentships (computer-based);
- 2 LA Recruitment Grants (£400);
- Total: £181,138 (to 12 July 2022) compared to a total of £4,650 by end of July 2021;

### Awards

- 12 Awards would be presented in 2023 with 33% female winners;
- 75% UK winners, with 25% from Ireland, Germany & USA;
- The Awards portfolio was currently being reviewed and revised.

### Policy

- Continuing input into consultations, including on the UKRI draft strategy for EDI and the Research Excellence Framework;
- Participation in cross-society meetings, including LeSPAR, and working with external partners/organisations (e.g., Understanding Animal Research and Sense About Science);
- Close collaboration with the Royal Society of Biology, including support of the Policy Lates series;
- STEM for Britain awards presented in March 2022. The Society sponsored the Bronze Award, which was won by Claire Laxton (University of Nottingham) for her work on an artificial simulated wound infection model;
- Parliamentary LINKS Day took place on 28 June with the theme being Science and International Collaboration, invited guests for the Society included early career scientists and those from industry;

### Activities around COP26 (31 October – 12 November 2021):

- Articles in the *Emerging Topics in Life Sciences* issue on adapting to climate change were made freely available for the duration of the event and promoted by the Biochemical Society and the Royal Society of Biology;
- Promotion of an article in *The Biochemist* on a project taking place in Manchester to reduce the amount of single-use plastics in laboratory practicals;
- Promotion of an upcoming Biochemistry Focus webinar on environmental sustainability in biomedical laboratories;

### Community

#### Early Careers:

- Consolidation of the Early Career Advisory Panel (ECAP) with the ECR Taskforce (publishing specific): will have ECAP and a wider ECR Network to support discussions and activities related to early career bioscientists;
- Consideration of the Society's partnerships/relationships with external organisations and how early career bioscientists can be involved/benefit from these – ensure that the community are aware that we have these and what opportunities this affords the community;
- ECR Editorial Board Mentorship scheme has continued – the current cohort ends September 2022 (currently assessing success of pilot to consider opening applications for a new cohort in 2023);
- Following the success of the early-career led issue of *Essays in Biochemistry*, early-career led special issues/collections of content in *Emerging Topics in Life Sciences* and *Bioscience Reports* will be published in 2022;

### Industry:

- Ensure that all relevant aspects of industry are represented across the Industry Advisory Panel and other Society committees/panels;
- Plan for the Industry Advisory Panel to meet for the first time to discuss key priorities and links with the Society strategy and activities;

### Ambassadors:

- Exercise had taken place to review the list of current ambassadors to ensure that they would still like to be in the role – overwhelming positive response to this review;
- Ambassadors being engaged in delivering and representing the Society at local careers fairs and public engagement events;

## **Publishing**

### Copyflow:

- Research submissions and publications were seeing a downward trend compared with previous years (as was the case across the sector); however, significant commissioning efforts were being used to drive more submissions from key subject areas and institutions;

### Metrics:

- Citations are increased in 2022 compared with 2021 (cumulative to end May 12596 vs 10439 citations);
- Usage is increased in 2022 compared with 2021 (total usage in May 440k vs 336k; institutional usage in May 220k vs 128k);
- Click-throughs to electronic table of content alerts have more than doubled (cumulative to end May 8037 vs 4923);
- Production timelines – acceptance to publication - remained significantly below the 28-day target;

### Key topics in 2021:

- Tackling SARS-CoV-2 biochemistry (*Biochemical Journal*);
- Celebrating 100 years of insulin research (Cross-portfolio);
- ACE2, a multifunctional protein – from cardiovascular regulation to COVID-19 (*Clinical Science*);
- Towards systems biochemistry (*Biochemical Journal*);
- Molecular mechanisms of neurodegeneration (*Essays in Biochemistry*);
- Perspectives from life sciences industry (*Emerging Topics in Life Sciences*);
- Microbial cell factories (*Essays in Biochemistry*);

### Journal themed collections open for submission:

- Cell signaling in the 21<sup>st</sup> century (*Biochemical Journal*);
- Plants and climate change (*Biochemical Journal*);
- Cell death and survival (*Biochemical Journal* and *Biochemical Society Transactions*);
- Cardiovascular oncology (*Clinical Science*);
- Meta-research (*Clinical Science*);
- 125 years of the synapse (*Neuronal Signaling*);
- Bio-nanotechnology and synthetic biology (*Bioscience Reports*);
- Reproductive physiology and disease (*Clinical Science*);
- Biology of ageing (*Clinical Science*);
- Emerging technologies for research models of human neuronal disorders in vivo and in vitro (*Neuronal Signaling*);
- Human DNA repair (*Bioscience Reports*);

### New services:

- A tool for automatic image duplication and manipulation detection had initially been rolled out on *Bioscience Reports* and was being used in conjunction with an open-source image forensic toolset;
- Similarity Check, a tool to detect plagiarism had been implemented across the portfolio with papers at all stages being run through the tool;

### Transition to open:

- Growth continued in open access content within our hybrid (transitioning) journals;
- By the end of 2021 41% of all content was published open access in hybrid journals; to end May 2022 50% has been published open access;
- Continue to grow our unlimited *Read & Publish* offering with two new agreements of note; University of California (across 10 campuses) and Yale University Library;

### **Collaboration**

- Cross-society collection of content between the Biochemical Society, The Physiological Society and the British Pharmacological Society coincided with the Experimental Biology 2022 meeting, and content was free to read throughout April;
- Biochemical Society-sponsored symposium at the British Pharmacological Society's annual meeting (September 2022) on the topic of targeting cell death (chaired by Professor James Murphy, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, Australia);
- Joint scientific meetings included:
  - Metabolism of ageing (Sept '21), with the British Society for Research on Ageing;
  - The Adipocyte across biological scales (Dec '21), with the Society for Endocrinology;
  - 86<sup>th</sup> Harden Conference – Machines on Genes (May '22), with FEBS, NVBMB & SEBBM;

### Packages:

- Two packages of content now live: Synthetic Biology and Virology and Vaccinology;
- Promotional email campaigns have achieved an average 'unique open rate' of 31.75% (compared with the platform average of 30.66%);
- The synthetic biology package Twitter posts have achieved over 42,741 impressions;
- Most visitors arrive at the package webpages from portlandpress.com, which is also the most popular destination for those clicking out of the same webpages;

### **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

- Our second EDI data survey ran from 25 May to 15 June 2022;
- The feedback and comments received will allow us to understand better who are members of our community and how we can make changes to provide as inclusive an environment as possible;
- EDI representatives now sit on 50% of our boards and committees and we continue to work with Chairs across the Group to appoint EDI representatives, including on *The Biochemist* Editorial Board and the Publications Committee;
- The in-house diversity of our boards, committees and panels remains an area of concern for us and the EDI Advisory Panel is working together with the governance team to review our nominations process so this can be addressed;
- Our EDI webpage content has been refreshed to allow us to share our activities and actions more effectively and be held accountable by our community for ensuring progress;

## **Projects**

### Infrastructure review:

- To review Group infrastructure and make recommendations to simplify, automate and integrate systems;
- Draft report received, with recommendations;
- EMC reviewed recommendations and agreed next steps at June 2022 meeting;

### New website project:

- To implement a new Biochemical Society website;
- Phase 1: discovery – complete;
- Phase 2: design (complete), build (ongoing) and implementation;
- Staff conducting content audit of current site;
- Anticipated end of phase 2: September/October 2022;

## **Office/Remote Working**

- The remote working model for staff that the Group adopted in response to coronavirus has continued as proved to be an effective and productive way of operating. The new strategy commits to the continuation of remote/hybrid working for the duration of that strategy;

### In March 2022:

- A full staff consultation was undertaken to review the current remote working and Hub arrangements in effect since October 2021;
- 40 staff consultations were conducted with each member of staff given the opportunity to detail their future working preferences;
- 75% (30) opted for the option of being fully remote 5 days a week;
- 25% (10) opted for the choice to utilise the hub up to 2 days a week.

### In April 2022:

- The contract with RSB was extended until December 2022, with the number of desks reduced to 6 based on demand. Further review is scheduled for November 2022;
- The postponed Christmas lunch from December 2021 was held on 28 March 2022;
- A face-to-face all-staff retreat took place on 14-15 June 2022;

## **Resourcing**

- Diverse workforce, with a 100% increase in staff from ethnically diverse backgrounds between 2014 and 2021;
- Reduction in staff sickness since the introduction of remote working (aside from those affected by COVID side effects/long COVID);
- Employee Assistance Programme in place;
- Highly skilled workforce with a model reliant on intellectual capital;

## **New Strategy document (2022-2025)**

EDI placed at the heart of the new strategy with four pillars:

- Bring together molecular bioscientists and encourage wider dialogue
- Support career development and lifelong engagement
- Promote and share knowledge
- Develop and transform our working practices and business model



## 22/05 Trustees Annual Report and Statutory Accounts for the period ending 31 December 2021

The Chair noted the Trustees Annual Report and Accounts which had been sent separately by email.

FS presented an overview to attendees:

- Overall, the charity had a deficit of £42k for 2021;
- Society revenue increased by £136k in 2021 compared to the previous year;
- PPL Ltd continued to generate the greatest percentage of Society income totalling £3.8m, a decrease of £640k from the previous year;
- The Group was worth the same value (~£12.3m) as it was in 2020;
- When considering income from charitable activities 92% was generated by PPL Ltd. The decrease in this income stream when compared to 2020 was due in part to a ~£350k reduction from Article Processing Charge (APC) income and continuing problems with papermills affecting *Bioscience Reports* in particular;
- Membership fees generated 5% of income, this was down by ~£42k in 2021 which highlighted the problems with the current membership system Fonteva, which was due to be replaced;
- 57% of expenditure was on the running of PPL Ltd, with extra staff costs incurred in 2021 due to the USS pension scheme liability;
- Scientific conferences accounted for 15% of expenditure. This outweighed conference income significantly, but conferences continued to be an important part of the Society's charitable activities and a demonstration of the fulfilment of its charitable purpose;
- It was confirmed that in the opinion of the Trustees the Society has adequate resources to continue its activities for the foreseeable future;
- The Society considered free reserves to be the unrestricted funds not designated for other purposes and readily available in the short to medium term;
- The Trustees considered it appropriate to maintain a level of reserves representing 12 months of committed Society expenditure, including pension scheme deficit funding, with lower and upper limits of 6 and 18 months;
- As at 31 December 2021 the Society had free reserves sufficient to cover 31 months of charitable expenditure. This exceeded the range of free reserves as outlined by the policy and was considered as part of the Society's review into investment opportunities. It was noted that the reserves policy had been written when the charity had responsibilities for three buildings and now needed to be reconsidered;
- Over the last year a partnership had been put in place with investment managers Epoch Consulting which allowed for £2.5m to be held in cash to cover the running costs of the Society, £4m to be held as a 'Future Development Fund', and £6.7m to be held in longer term investments;
- The objective for investments was to preserve and grow real value with a total return of CPI plus 2.5%.

The Chair noted that the report and accounts circulated to the members had been approved by the Trustees in the Council meeting held immediately before the AGM. The Chair tabled a motion to accept the Trustees Annual Report and Statutory Accounts as presented which was proposed by CB and seconded by RR.

Attendees were asked to vote by using the poll on their screen or raising their hand in the room. SJ confirmed a majority vote had been received and the Trustees Annual Report and Statutory Accounts for the period ending 31 December 2021 were accepted into the Society's record.

## **22/06 Appointment of Auditors**

The Chair tabled a motion to reappoint BDO as the Society's auditors. This was proposed by SG and seconded by DG.

Attendees were asked to vote by using the poll on their screen or raising their hand in the room. SJ confirmed a majority vote had been received and BDO were therefore re-appointed as the Society's auditors for the next financial period ending 31 December 2022.

## **22/07 Current Trustees**

The Chair noted the list of current Trustees as provided in Annex 4:

- Pete Downes (President - outgoing)
- Julia Goodfellow (President – incoming)
- Richard Reece (Chair, Portland Press Board - outgoing)
- Nigel Hooper (Chair, Portland Press Board – incoming)
- Augustin Amour (Industry Representative)
- Lisa Chakrabarti (Chair, Basic Bioscience Theme Panel)
- Sheila Graham (Chair, Biochemical Society)
- Dominika Gruszka (Early Career Member Representative)
- Martin Lindley (Chair, Clinical and Translational Research Theme Panel)
- Luciane Vieira de Mello (Chair, Training Theme Panel)
- Derry Mercer (Honorary Policy Officer)
- Martin Pool (Local Ambassador Representative)
- Frank Sargent (Honorary Treasurer)
- Helen Watson (Chair, Education, Training and Public Engagement Committee)
- Michelle West (Honorary Meetings Secretary)

## **22/08 Election and vacancies**

The Chair noted that following the Society's nominations process Dr Augustin Amour had been nominated to the position of Industry Representative Trustee, as detailed in Annex 5.

The Chair tabled a motion for the membership to ratify this appointment accordingly. This was proposed by FS and seconded by HW.

Attendees were asked to vote by using the poll on their screen or raising their hand in the room. SJ confirmed a majority vote had been received and the appointment of Dr Augustin Amour as the Industry Representative Trustee was ratified.

The Chair noted the upcoming vacancies as listed in Annex 5 and confirmed these would be advertised on the Society's website in the autumn.

## **22/09 Editorial Board appointments and retirements.**

The Chair asked all members to note the information provided in Annex 6 concerning members of Editorial Boards who had retired or started in the last year.

## **22/09 Committee appointments and retirements**

The Chair asked all members to note the information provided in Annex 7 concerning members of Society committees who had retired or started in the last year.

## **22/10 President's Remarks**

The Chair thanked everyone for their contributions and participation in today's Annual General Meeting, the last official engagement of his time in office. There had been significant challenges during this Presidential term, not least those presented by the Covid-19 pandemic, Brexit and most recently record levels of inflation, but the Group had met each of these challenges head on and achieved great things. There had been innovation and change, often at pace, showing resilience and dedication in the face of truly extraordinary circumstances.

The response of the Events and Conferences team and members of the community to the challenges presented by the pandemic demonstrated agility and innovative thinking, delivering a hugely successful online events programme that grew the Group's online audience and allowed support for the bioscience community to continue in new and exciting ways. The governance calendar continued as planned with the shift to online meetings, and staff also adjusted well to remote working, with the Society now operating a fully remote working model which allowed access to a greater pool of talent, no longer restricted to staff living within commuting distance of London for advertised roles.

The President had overseen a move to synchronise PPL business planning with Society strategy, allowing for the optimisation of the opportunities of being a self-publisher. It had also set the tone for a more collaborative approach to working across the Group, reflected in the recent launch of Society 'packages', which had seen cross working across all staff teams to deliver tailored resources for the community.

The Group's commitment to open access publishing had seen it at the forefront of change across the sector over the last five years, successfully piloting transformative Read & Publish offerings which started the transition to open practices, the uptake of which had grown year on year since launch. Open Access aimed to reduce both the cost of publication and the cost of access to scientific information across the globe, matching the Group's wider values. At the same time PPL remained the main source of Society income, but shared objectives between both PPL and the Society had allowed this approach to be rationalised. Last year the number of papers published open access increased by 30% on 2020 and accounted for 23% of all published content within the year, with the Group firmly committed to the principles of open scholarship.

The pandemic caused significant declines in global trade and disruption to supply chains, with inflation soaring since the economy re-opened, and now at its highest for thirty years. However, the Society remained in a strong and stable financial position, having sold office premises just prior to the pandemic. The experiment that was Charles Darwin House, and the co-habiting of various Societies with the objective of creating collaboration and synergies from those relationships had not led to the anticipated benefits, so the premises were sold. Collaboration

with sister societies continues in a variety of ways including shared staff for HR services, joint scientific meetings and shared office space at the RSB offices. The recent investment review had allowed the Society to consider its options and place itself in a strong position, despite the uncertainties which remained in the external environment.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) had been an area in which the Group had focussed in recent years, with the establishment of the EDI Advisory Panel in October 2020 and a commitment from the Council of Trustees to place EDI at the heart of all strategic and operational decisions.

The community continued to drive areas of focus, with a commitment to bring together those within the biosciences to collaborate and share knowledge, with the Group working to support career development and lifelong learning for all. Opportunities to optimise digital transformation and develop the business model accordingly would be investigated as ways of working continued to evolve and technology developed at pace. EDI considerations underpinned all such commitments, as the Group strived to create a more diverse and representative space where everyone felt welcome.

The President thanked all colleagues on the Council of Trustees for the work they do. Special thanks were given to the Society CEO Kate Baillie, under whose leadership the Society had been transformed into a successful, values driven organisation. Thanks were also given to Sheila Graham, Society Chair, who had worked together with Kate in an effective partnership, setting the tone across the organisation for such working relationships.

The President introduced his successor, Professor Dame Julia Goodfellow. Julia was Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of Kent from 2007 until 2017, the first female President of Universities UK and a member of the Prime Minister's Council for Science and Technology. Her scientific studies pioneered the use of computational methods to study the structures of large biologically important molecules, with her appointment to Professor of Biomolecular Sciences at Birkbeck, University of London in 1995 where she was subsequently appointed Vice-Master from 1998 to 2002. Before joining the University of Kent, Julia was Chief Executive of the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council and she is currently a fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences, Royal Society of Biology and the Institute of Physics.

The role of President was handed over formally with immediate effect.

JG thanked the Chair for his introduction and all the work undertaken during his term as President. It was noted that this was an interesting and challenging time to take over such a role alongside the Council, the CEO, staff and all those who contributed to the various panels and committees across the organisation.

## **22/11 Any other business**

The Chair confirmed there were no other items of business raised and declared the meeting closed.

Sarah Jenner  
Governance and EDI Manager