

Protein and Peptide Science Group of the Royal Society of Chemistry

Minutes of a Committee meeting held at 1 pm on Tuesday 14 September 2010, Burlington House, London

Present

Robin Leatherbarrow (Chair), Kevin Howland (Secretary), Parvez Haris (Treasurer), Brian Austen, John Offer, Johanna Scheinost, Ram Sharma, Alethea Tabor, Peter White

1. Apologies

Maria Bednarek, Weng Chan, Roger Epton, Ellen Friel, Corinne Kay, Steven Ratcliffe, Paul Sheppard, Chris Southan, Ed Tate, John Wade

2. Minutes of the last Committee meeting (29 April 2010)

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted without amendment.

3. Matters arising not on the agenda

Updated rules for student bursaries were discussed. It was decided that initially student bursaries would be available for meetings organised, or co-organised, by the PPSG. The meeting organiser would be given £200 to help towards any of the costs for students to attend the meeting. Successful students would be expected to provide either an abstract, for oral presentations, or a copy of their poster for the PPSG website.

Brain Austen would forward updated rules that reflected these changes to Fiona McMillan for inclusion on the website.

Action BA

The PPSG web presence was discussed again; currently the www.ppsg.org.uk web address appears to be a dead link. We should contact Roger Epton to enquire what action we need to take to get this to redirect to the RSC web page.

Action KH

Professor John Howl, recently elected as the UK representative on the council of the European Peptide Society has agreed to join the committee.

4. Chairman's Business

a) Correspondence

Robin Leatherbarrow informed the meeting that Roger Epton had written to formally resign from the committee.

In recognition of many years service to the RSC and the PPSG RL proposed a formal vote of thanks which was unanimously endorsed by the committee.

5. Finances

Parvez Haris reported that the group has a balance of £2,986.86, but there is still a payment of £230.59 to the RSC to clear and £330 expenses for the mini symposium still to pay. There was £1000 income in sponsorship for the Chemistry and Biology of Peptides mini symposium; £300 was used to cover expenses at Mill Hill, £530 was used to cover speaker travelling expenses; the remaining £170 will be put towards next year's event. Allowing for outstanding payments and the MedImmune Award money the available balance is £1,426.27.

6. Past Meetings

a) 5th Mini-Symposium on the 'Chemistry & Biology of Peptides', 15 July 2010, Mill Hill

Another successful meeting in this series with about 90 delegates in attendance. The barbecue at the close of the meeting was particularly well received.

b) The 31st European Peptide Symposium, 5-9 September 2010, Copenhagen

There were about 700 delegates at this year's EPS. There was an emphasis on big peptides, proteins and ligation strategies. Venues for future EPS meetings are decided on a bid basis and are booked through until 2020 (Athens 2012, Sophia 2014, Leipzig 2016 and Dublin 2018).

7. Forthcoming Meetings

a) PPSG Early Stage Researcher Meeting, 19 November 2010, Burlington House

Burlington House has been booked and on line registration is now available. The registration fee has been set at £10, but with lunch costs of £10 and an upfront administrative fee of £100 for on-line registrations the meeting is expected to make a slight loss. Posters have been produced with further details and committee members were asked to display them at their host institutions and an RSC e-alert will be sent to PPSG members. In order to provide a more memorable URL a PPSG Facebook group will be set-up that will provide a link to the registration page.

Actions All, AT, KH

The costs of the plenary speaker have been largely offset by sponsorship (Enzo Life Sciences) and sponsorship has been obtained for oral and poster prizes (Merck). The plenary lecturer is Prof Annette Beck-Sickinger who will help judge the best oral presentation; Peter White will assist in judging the best poster.

b) Peptide Arrays as Tools for Study of Protein Interactions, 15-16 March 2011, London

Stephen Hoare has progressed his plans for this meeting which will now be a two day meeting to be held at Charles Darwin House. Speakers have been confirmed with Dr Ronald Frank as keynote speaker. As the PPSG are co-organising the meeting it was decided we would provide £300 for student bursaries. Robin Leatherbarrow will inform SH that he should contact Parvez Haris to get the funding.

Action RL

c) 6th Mini-Symposium on the 'Chemistry & Biology of Peptides', July 2011, Oxford

Plans for the 6th in this series of meetings are underway. The meeting will be held at a yet to be decided venue in Oxford next July.

Action JO, PW

d) International Symposium on Solid Phase Synthesis, Summer 2011, London

Robin Leatherbarrow will discuss this with Ram Sharma in advance of the December meeting.

Action RL, RS

e) Joint Meeting with Bio-Organic Group

Neither Weng Chan nor Ed Tate were present, this item will be re-visited at the next meeting, but is now anticipated to be in 2012 to avoid clashing with a Stephen Benkovic visit next year (John Offer to provide more details at the next meeting).

Action WC, ET & JO

8. Suggestions for Future Meetings

The meeting felt that it would be good to always have a number of meetings being organised and/or meeting ideas for the coming 12 to 24 months. In addition to the meetings above, the group hopes to run another early stage researchers meeting in autumn 2011 and another joint meeting with Groupe Français des Peptides et Protéines (GFPP) in spring 2012.

9. Any Other Business

a) AGM

Roger Epton had kindly reminded the secretary that we hadn't held an AGM since August 2007. A date for an AGM next year will be discussed at our next committee meeting in December.

b) Report from Interest Groups Meeting

A one day meeting for secretaries and treasurers of Interest Groups was held at Burlington House on 24th May 2010.

Two key points: firstly, we must risk assess any scientific meetings we organise, guidelines are available on the RSC; and secondly, we only have delegated responsibility to enter into contracts, if the total cost of a meeting will exceed £5000 we must have this approved by council by submitting a one page outline/justification of the event plus an idea of the level of risk.

c) MyRSC

Only seven members of the committee had joined MyRSC. The committee were reminded to join and join the PPSG group on the site.

Action All

d) Peptides and Proteins Award

Information hasn't yet been forwarded to the RSC, Kevin Howland will take responsibility for contacting Fiona McMillan and ensuring the award is advertised as soon as possible. Brian Austen will send the award criteria to KH for forwarding to the RSC

Action BA, KH

10. Date of Next Meeting

A Tuesday or Thursday in early December, at Burlington House, London, was suggested.

Action KH