

## **Protein and Peptide Science Group of the Royal Society of Chemistry**

Minutes of a Committee meeting held at 1 pm on Thursday 29 April 2010, Burlington House, London

### **Present**

Robin Leatherbarrow (Chair), Kevin Howland (Secretary), Parvez Haris (Treasurer), Brian Austen, Weng Chan, John Offer, Steven Ratcliffe, Johanna Scheinost, Ram Sharma, Paul Sheppard, Alethea Tabor, Peter White, Ellen Friel, Fiona McMillan, Ed Tate (Bioorganic Group Representative)

### **1. Apologies**

Maria Bednarek, Roger Epton, Corinne Kay, Lindsay Sawyer, John Wade

Johanna Scheinost (Post-Doctoral Representative), Ellen Friel (Chemistry Biology Interface Division Secretary) and Fiona McMillan (RSC Member Networks Specialist - Interest Groups) were all welcomed to their first meeting.

### **2. Minutes of the last Committee meeting (26 November 2009)**

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted with one amendment, item 10. b) the dates of the meeting were 8-9 April 2010.

### **3. Matters arising not on the agenda**

Bookmarks are currently at the printers, when delivered they will be stored by Paul Sheppard and supplied as needed (ie those attending/organising meetings should request bookmarks for PS for distribution).

Update rules for the Student Bursary.

#### **Action BA**

The PPSG web presence was discussed again in light of an E-mail from Roger Epton stating that he was unable to continue in his co-opted role as Web Administrator. The meeting felt the [www.ppsg.org.uk](http://www.ppsg.org.uk) web address was a valuable asset that should redirect to the RSC web page(s) and that the group should seek to make better use of the RSC web site.

#### **Action ALL**

Fiona McMillan suggested the group might like to use the RSC's networking website MyRSC to help raise the profile of the group among other RSC members. Individuals are able to register on-line and link with other members and groups in a similar way to Facebook and LinkedIn. It is possible to make groups with the following hierarchy:

Fully open/public – anyone can join and add events or files

Open – anyone can join but permission required to upload to the group

Closed – invited membership, the group is visible but content is hidden

Hidden – invited membership, a “committee” group visible only to members

After some discussion on the value of MyRSC it was agreed that the group would trial using MyRSC as a forum for discussing PPSG matters between meetings. Everyone agreed to create a personal profile and Peter White and Paul Sheppard agreed to administer/create a hidden PPSG group.

#### **Action ALL, PW, PS**

Peptides and Proteins Award, Call for Nominations can be advertised by the RSC, as an E-alert (information needs to be forwarded two to three days before the required date); it can be included in Grapevine and a reminder near the deadline can be included in RSC news. A page detailing nomination criteria, etc. can be created on [www.rsc.org](http://www.rsc.org) with a link from the Awards page. Information needs to be forwarded to Fiona McMillan.

#### **Action BA**

Reminder for meetings reports to be submitted for the website to show the group is active.

### **4. Chairman's Business**

Re-iterated the need for a positive web presence to raise the profile of the group.

We need to increase the size of our meetings portfolio and work towards producing an online future meetings calendar.

### **5. Finances**

Parvez Haris reported that the group had a balance of £2,264.42 on 31 December 2009. Subventions from the RSC totalled £1,215 for 2009. The group has spent £1,231 sponsoring meetings, £518.46 on travel for committee meetings, £457.12 on committee meeting lunches and £139.22 on website maintenance.

The £1 Million Challenge Fund: a source of funding, administered by Neville Reed, for any group, section, region, etc of the RSC to organise an exceptional event (cannot be for something that a group already organises). The group felt it should consider whether there was an event it could organise that falls within this remit, either ourselves or jointly with

others. CBiF also have access to funds for sponsoring collaborative meetings and/or workshops with interest groups. Innovative use of modern technologies eg webcasts was encouraged.

#### **Action All**

### **6. Past Meetings**

#### a) Probes for peptide science, 8 – 9 April, Paris

The meeting was organised jointly with Groupe Français des Peptides et Protéines (GFPP) and attracted 140 delegates, 25 of whom were from the UK. There were 8 keynote speakers and 18 other oral presentations, with approximately a third of presentations from UK scientists. The meeting was well received and there are plans to repeat the meeting every two years, possibly in Italy in 2012.

### **7. Forthcoming Meetings**

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

There are nine speakers in place and currently about 70 delegates registered, with a target of 100 attendees. The meeting is on the events database but can be further publicised via an E-alert to PPSG members and in Grapevine if the details, in plain text, are forwarded to Fiona McMillan.

#### **Action JO**

#### b) PPSG Early Stage Researcher Meeting: Autumn 2010

Alethea Tabor presented outline details of the plans to date. The meeting felt that 19 November was the most appropriate of the suggested dates. Katja Arndt was suggested as a possible Plenary speaker, she is currently at University of Freiburg investigating photo-switchable peptides.

#### **Action AT**

#### c) Peptide Arrays, London

Stephen Hoare has progressed his plans for this meeting with a provisional date for 16 November. This may now shift to the 2011 and possibly be a two day meeting. Robin Leatherbarrow will contact SH to get up to date details.

#### **Action RL**

#### d) International Symposium on Solid Phase Synthesis

Roger Epton is unable to be involved in organising this meeting. Robin Leatherbarrow is hoping to continue with organising this meeting for summer 2011 in London, Ram Sharma offered to help RL organising this.

#### **Action RL, RS**

#### e) Australian Peptide Society joint meetings

##### i. AMP 2010: Australia-Croatia Workshop on Antimicrobial Peptides (Split, 9-13 August)

(<http://split4.pmfst.hr/konferencija/>)

##### ii. 1st Italian-Australian Peptide Symposium on Biomolecules for Diagnostics & Therapeutics (Prato, 10-12 September)

(<http://www.itozpep.org/>)

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

### **8. Suggestions for Future Meetings**

#### a) Joint Meeting with Bio-Organic Group

Suggestions for a joint 1 day meeting were sought, Bio-Organic had suggested Protein-Protein Interactions. The meeting came up with the idea of Modern Methods for Protein Modification; after some discussion, the group agreed, along with Ed Tate (Bio-Organic rep), to develop a meeting around this theme.

#### **Action WC, ET**

During the discussion it was felt that a calendar/spreadsheet of meetings of interest to the group would be useful and could be hosted at MyRSC where it would be accessible to all committee members.

#### **Action KH**

### **9. Any Other Business**

Additional sponsorship for meetings, in the form of book prizes or subscriptions, may be available from the publishing arm of RSC. Contacts are Harp Minhas (Bioscience Portfolio) and Richard Kelly (Organic Portfolio).

Professor John Howl has recently been elected, as the UK representative, to the council of the European Peptide Society; Peter White suggested that we invite him to sit on the PPSG. PW will approach him informally to gauge his interest.

#### **Action PW**

### **10. Date of Next Meeting**

A Tuesday or Thursday around the middle of September, at Burlington House, London was suggested.

#### **Action KH**