

Protein and Peptide Science Group of the Royal Society of Chemistry

Minutes of a Committee meeting held at 1 pm on Thursday 26 November 2009, Burlington House, London

Present

Robin Leatherbarrow (Chair), Kevin Howland (Secretary), Parvez Haris (Treasurer), Brian Austen, Weng Chan, Roger Epton, John Offer, Steven Ratcliffe, Paul Sheppard, Alethea Tabor, John Wade, Peter White, Ed Tate (Bioorganic Group Representative)

1. Apologies

Maria Bednarek, Corinne Kay, Lindsay Sawyer, Ram Sharma, Chris Southan

2. Minutes of the last Committee meeting (2 June 2009)

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted without amendment.

3. Matters arising not on the agenda

The new chair thanked the outgoing chair, Brian Austen and hoped that Brian would continue to contribute to the group as a co-opted member.

Bookmark copies of the banner will be printed once Paul Sheppard has received the MedImmune logo.

Action PS

Draft rules for the Student Bursary were suggested as follows:

- The student must be a member of the RSC
- They should write a letter detailing how attending the meeting was vital to their work
- They should be presenting their work in the form of at least a poster

It was agreed the student bursary needs to be publicised on the website. Brian Austen agreed to draw up rules based on the discussion.

Action BA

PPSG Web Presence. The PPSG currently has three websites, one hosted by the RSC, one hosted by the Biochemical Society and the third, the PPSG Web Gateway. All three websites are currently in need of updating. As the previous secretary (Brent Irvine) had been updating the RSC website it was decided that as current secretary, Kevin Howland would assume responsibility for this. It was felt up to date minutes were of particular importance.

Action KH

The status of the Biochemical Society's PPSG website was unclear but it hadn't been updated for some time, Roger Epton would contact them for clarification.

Action RE

The meeting felt the PPSG Web Gateway was a valuable site, particularly the upcoming meetings calendar. The member contacts were another useful feature, but along with the past meeting reports, these were now out of date. It was agreed members should forward updated profiles, along with a weblink, to Roger Epton.

Action ALL

4. Peptides and Proteins Award

Brian Austen presented a draft set of Rules and Criteria for consideration (see Appendix). Due to the lateness in the year of this committee meeting it was decided to make the first award in 2011, therefore, nominations will be in line with the RSC for other awards, opening 1 September 2010 and closing 31 January 2011. Nominations will be sought through the RSC brochure and website. The recipient would be expected to give a lecture at a PPSG meeting in the 12 months following the award.

Action BA

5. Web Presence

Covered above under Matters Arising.

6. Chairman's

Enhancing PPSG Activities. Topic taken at the end of the Agenda.

7. Finances

Parvez Haris reported that the group had a balance of £2,444.60. £1000 of this is the MedImmune sponsorship for the PPS Award. GSK had provided £400 sponsorship for the Oxford meeting (see Past Meetings below). The meeting felt it was important for the treasurer to send written acknowledgment of any sponsorship the group receives. **Action PH**

PH reported that in future we would have to pay for the use of Burlington House for committee meetings, but this additional cost would be offset by the changes in interest group funding under the new membership arrangements. It was also reported that RSC has finances available for 'exciting' projects or programmes though the process for accessing this money needs clarification.

Action PH

8. Post-doctoral Representation

John Offer proposed that having a post-doctoral representative would give a different perspective on protein and peptide science. The meeting supported the idea and agreed to co-opt a representative, whom John Offer would identify and invite, onto the committee. It was envisaged the representative would serve for a 2 year period.

Action JO

The idea of a post-graduate symposium was raised as this is run successfully by at least one other group (Bioorganic). The model is a member of the committee and their research group organise the meeting with a target of ca. 50 people. A nominal registration of £5 or £10 can be collected via the RSC's Conference office at Cambridge. Hosting the meeting at Burlington House was suggested but we need more information on the cost of a meeting room for 60 plus additional space for posters, Parvez Haris would seek to clarify this, along with any costs involved with collecting the registration fee and organising lunch. November was felt to be a good time in the PhD students' work cycle and also, not clashing with other meetings. Aleathea Turner agreed to organise the academic agenda for the first meeting in November 2010. A registration fee of £10 was agreed. Biomol and Novabiochem would be approached for speaker and poster prize sponsorship.

Actions PH, AT, PS, PW

9. Past Meetings

a) Peptides as Contrast Imaging Agents for MRI and PET, IUPAC Congress, 3-7 August 2009, Glasgow
Was well attended, with about 200 people mostly from UK groups but with some European and US representation.

b) 4th Mini-Symposium on the 'Chemistry & Biology of Peptides', 9 July 2009, Oxford
Meeting went well with about 120 delegates, including several PPSG committee members and about 20% from mainland Europe.

It was felt a brief synopsis (75 – 100 words) of PPSG meetings should be posted on the website.

Actions WC, BA

10. Forthcoming Meetings

a) 5th Mini-Symposium on the 'Chemistry & Biology of Peptides', 15 July 2010, Mill Hill
The 5th in this series is being organised by John Offer and there are already 6 speakers in place, all international.

b) Probes for peptide science, 7 – 8 July, Paris
Being organised jointly with Groupe Français des Peptides et Protéines (GFPP)

11. Suggestions for Future Meetings

a) Peptide Arrays

Brian Austen had emailed Stephen Hoare outlining why a one day meeting in Glasgow might not be well supported but had not received a reply. It was agreed BA would write back inviting him to our next meeting in order that Stephen could discuss his idea more fully with the committee.

Action BA

b) Academic Drug Discovery & Systems Biology
Chris Southan is preparing a proposal.

Action CS

c) 10th International Symposium on Solid Phase Synthesis
Robin Leatherbarrow, having received enquiries about when the 10th meeting in this series (previously organised by Roger Epton/Mayflower) might be, suggested running the Symposium, with Roger Epton's assistance, at Imperial College in September 2011.

Action RL, RE

d) 9th Australian Peptide Conference

Improved links with protein and peptide scientists in the Pacific region were suggested. The next Australian Peptide Conference will be taking place in October 2011 on Hamilton Island and greater participation from the UK was encouraged. John Wade offered to keep the committee up to date with developments.

Action JW

12. Any Other Business

Enhancing PPSG Activities. As a group we need to be seen to be active: updating the websites and organising relevant meetings are key to this. The new post graduate meeting will hopefully engage students early on in their research career. CBiF are keen for interest groups to run educational workshops, the meeting felt these might be difficult given the nature of much of the instrumentation used in protein and peptide science but as a committee we would work with any ideas brought to the group (either from within or externally).

13. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 29 April 2010, if possible, at Burlington House, London was suggested.

Action KH

Appendix

The Peptide and Protein Science Award is to recognise excellence in any area of peptide and protein science.

Rules and Criteria

- Run biennially
- Open to everyone without restrictions
- Candidates should be nominated by at least two members of the RSC
- One page CV for the candidate which should include their date of birth, website URL, summary of education and career, a list of 5 relevant publications, total numbers of publications and patents
- A one page supporting statement from each referee addressing the selection criteria
- Nominations open 1 January 2010
- Nominations close 31 April 2010
- Award winner will be chosen by a subcommittee of the Peptide and Protein Science Special Interest Group of the RSC
- Award winner receives £1000, a medal and a certificate and is invited to give a lecture at a meeting organized by the ppsg.