

**RSC Nucleic Acids Group  
Annual Committee Meeting  
Wed. December 10<sup>th</sup> 2008, 13:30-17:00  
(Fish Room, RSC, Burlington House, Piccadilly)**

**MINUTES**

1 *Attendees & Apologies*

The meeting was attended by the following Committee members: David Lilley (Chair), Mike Gait (Immediate Past Chair), Richard Bowater (Secretary), Steve Halford, Penny Jeggo, Mark Searcey.

The meeting was also attended by Mark Dillingham (University of Bristol) to be available for discussion about the NAG Forum for 2009.

Apologies for absence received from: Rick Cosstick, Duncan Graham, Jane Grasby, Jason Micklefield, Chris Smith.

2 *Minutes of previous NAG committee meeting (5<sup>th</sup> December 2007) & Matters arising*

Minutes had been circulated previously and were deemed to be an accurate record. Any matters arising will be covered elsewhere in these minutes.

3 *Chair's report*

Single most important reason for Committee to exist is to promote studies of nucleic acids, primarily through organisation of meetings. In this respect the NAG is performing pretty well, with a good impetus being maintained through the Nucleic Acids Forum. The Chair recorded particular thanks to Penny Jeggo for bringing forward ideas for meetings e.g. the EACR meeting in 2009 (see below).

4 *Finances*

Details from Rick Cosstick were tabled to report on the current status of the account. Discussion ensued about mechanisms to increase exposure of the NAG.

There was discussion about organisation of meetings and the advantage that the RSC underwrites meetings as long as they are linked to the NAG.

5 *Group administered funds*

Mike Gait reported on developments during 2008.

(i) Nucleic Acids Award Lecture Fund: This Lecture series continues to be a phenomenal success for the NAG and it is important that this is continued.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Awards Lecture will be given by Susan Gasser at the EACR conference in July 2009 in Cambridge. Nominations will be sought for the 12<sup>th</sup> Lecture to be given at NACON 8 in Sheffield in 2010.

(ii) David Hutchinson Memorial Fund: It would be helpful if a sponsor could be found for this Fund.

6 *RSC business*

RSC Award Lectures: a major review has led to rationalisation of the RSC awards. Further details should be sought and circulated to Committee members.

7 *Reports on meetings held in 2008*

- Nucleic Acids Forum, University of Southampton, 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2008: all agreed this

was a successful meeting. Thanks were recorded to Prof Keith Fox, Prof Tom Brown and other staff at Southampton for their support in organisation of the Forum, and to Link Technologies and ATDBio for sponsorship.

- Cellular Delivery of Therapeutic Macromolecules, Cardiff, July 2008: a verbal report was provided by Mike Gait. Thanks were recorded to the organizers, Mark Gumbleton & Arwyn Jones
- TOPO 2008, July 2008, Norwich. Organised by Andy Bates & Tony Maxwell, this was an independent meeting went but it hosted the 10<sup>th</sup> Nucleic Acids Award Lecture, given by Marty Gellert. Verbal reports recorded that the meeting had been well attended with a high quality list of speakers.

## 8 *Future Meetings Organised (or Supported) by NAG/RSC*

### (i) Meetings in 2009

- Nucleic Acids Forum, 2009: will be hosted at the Department of Chemistry at University of Bristol on 3<sup>rd</sup> July. Mark Dillingham is the local contact and he circulated details about the current plans. The format and arrangements will be similar to 2008.
- Chromatin & Cancer, Cambridge, 8-10 July 2009. Organisers are Jessica Downs, & Penny Jeggo. Funding has been secured from BACR/EACR. This meeting will host the 11<sup>th</sup> Nucleic Acids Award Lecture, to be given by Susan Gasser.
- IUPAC Congress & General Assembly, Glasgow, 3-7 August 2009 – plans for this are well advanced. Details about the topics of the symposia were circulated. Some members of the NAG would attend the Congress, so it was agreed that an informal meeting should be organised for the evening of Wed 5<sup>th</sup> Aug with Duncan Graham acting as the local contact.
- Nucleic Acids at the Chemistry-Biology Interface, Manchester, 7-8 September 2009. for this are well advanced and were circulated.

### (ii) Meetings beyond 2009

- NACON 8, Sheffield, 13-16 September 2010: Details about the current arrangements were provided by Jane Grasby. The format will be similar to recent previous NACON meetings.

## 9 *Membership of Committee*

With clear and important roles developing within the NAG, it was agreed that Mark Dillingham should be elected to the Committee with immediate effect.

## 10 *AOB*

The newsletter will be prepared for circulation in March 2009. Richard Bowater will coordinate its preparation and circulation, with assistance offered by Mark Dillingham and Penny Jeggo. Ideas suggested to cover included recent meetings (such as the Forum and TOPO 2008) and photos from the Nucleic Acids Award Lectures.

Mark Dillingham agreed to look into the opportunities to develop a web site to advertise the activities of the NAG.

## 11 *Date of next meeting*

Next NAG Committee meeting will be in Burlington House on Wed 16/12/2008 at 13:30-17:00. (This was later confirmed to all Committee members.)