

57th meeting of the GARNet Advisory Board

8th September 2016 9.45am-Noon

Room E3.30, Bioscience department, Sir Martin Evans Building, Cardiff University, CF10 3AX. Lunch will be provided following the meeting.

Papers:

- > Minutes of 56th AB Meeting,
- > CyVerseUK meeting proposal
- > UKPSF mini-roadmap example
- > NatVar16 Budget

URLs for information:

- > <http://garnetnatvar2016.weebly.com/>
- > <http://www.signalink.org/>

Attendees: Jim Murray (JM), David Salt (DS), Ruth Bastow (RB), Geraint Parry (GP), Ian Henderson (IH), Christine Raines (CR), Sean May (SM), Zoe Wilson (ZW), Sabina Leonelli (SL), Steven Spoel (SS), Saskia Hogenhout (SH), Michael Ball (MB, BBSRC)

1. Welcome

- Meeting hosted by JM, chaired by DS.

2. Apologies

- Anthony Dodd (AD), Nick Harberd (NH), Katherine Denby (KD)

3. Matters arising from minutes of last meeting

- *Update on results following the alteration to the NASC website frontend.*

SM: NASC haven't yet performed any analytics on user interactions. They have received a couple of comments suggesting that the new interface is 'shouty' but it was praised by ABRC. NASC continues to receive an increased level of interaction with Latin American and Chinese researchers, thought to be due to the ease of receiving samples from Europe rather than from the USA. NASC needs to renew their grant(s) in 2017 so SM to discuss with MB the best strategy for these applications.

- *Update on outputs from GARNet/Egenis Meeting write up (SL, RB, GP).*

SL: An exciting time for producing a document on this topic after an announcement from NPG about their new policy on Open Data (doi:10.1038/537138a). SL/GP/RB will work on a commentary piece for Nature Plants. A longer manuscript is also planned, the details of which will be worked out over the coming weeks.

ACTION: GP will contact Chris Surridge at Nature Plants with a view to producing a manuscript within a few weeks.

JM initiated a wider discussion about the role of GARNet in future attempts to encourage improved data management and sharing, as this is within the GARNet remit.

The following strategies were discussed:

1. Collation of current available resources that facilitate data sharing. In discussions following the meeting JM suggested that a document/manuscript might be produced that outlines a proposed 'Best practice for Data Sharing in the Plant Sciences'.
2. Curate success stories in data sharing pipelines (including Miriam Gifford's lab pipelines (from RB) on the blog or in GARNish).
3. Highlight the role that COPO will play in this future data sharing.
4. Provide case studies of successful usages of Araport.

5. Incorporate discussions of data management practices into upcoming workshops.

ACTION: Include an agenda item in the next meeting for continued discussions of GARNet involvement in this topic.

4. Update from GARNet organised events

- *Review from GARNet2016: Sept 6th-7th 2016.*

- A successful event that will break even. Anecdotal evidence suggests satisfaction from delegates, which was repeated by the committee. The plenaries were all excellent. GP and SS thought the CRISPR-Cas workshop could have included more structured discussion but otherwise was very good. ZW and SL reported that the Araport sessions had good content with no technical issues. However the delivery style was not as effective and that it was too challenging to fit the content into the allotted time.

ACTION: GP to produce a survey to gain feedback for the meeting. In future ensure that workshop sessions are appropriately planned for maximum impact.

- *'GARNet Natural Variation 2016: From Genes to Discovery':*

- *Update on meeting arrangements*

- About 20 delegates have registered with very little advertising. GP is confident that the 75 delegate limit will be reached. GP and IH will liaise with Gonville and Caius to determine whether there might be alternative venues if demand requires. DS is keen to retain a smaller conference limited to around 100 attendees.

ACTION: If maximum delegate level is achieved early then we might reconsider the venue. GP to increase level of advertising and link up with JXB, SEB and Genetics Society. CR suggested a banner on the JXB website. The committee suggested interacting with Chinese researchers to encourage wider attendance.

- *Registration and speaker update*

- Angela Hancock, Maria Mirouze and Matt Loose have had to withdraw but DS/IH have found replacements. The committee suggested asking early career attendees to chair sessions to provide experience and to also improve the gender-balance of participants.

- *Sponsorship update: JXB, PacBio, BioNano*

- DS: 12 participants have agreed to write a JXB review for a special issue so they will kindly provide £7K in sponsorship. CR will attend the meeting for a day and provide a brief introduction to the special issue. PacBio and BioNano have agreed to provide £500 in exchange for a short talk.

- *Future meetings.*

- *CyVerseUK Workshop: March 2017.*

- GP (following conversation with KD): Dates set for March 21st-22nd 2017 at the University of York. SEB will provide £1000 in sponsorship. CyVerseUK PIs and PDRAs will be involved in presenting content. Rob Davey (Earlham Institute) will ensure that York is technically equipped for the session. Following the earlier discussion it was suggested the workshop should include a session on 'Data sharing and Management', a possible talk by Rob Davey and a Case Study session (possibly Miriam Gifford?). RB suggested interacting with Jason Williams at CyVerse for advice about workshop planning. Rob Davey could lead an 'Expert Track' for more experienced users. Ensure that the technology is in place to video each session for future dissemination.

- Workshop on 'From Proteome to Phenotype: role of post-translational modifications'.

- SS has not yet heard from New Phyt about this workshop, which seems to be pushing back the timings of their meetings. Therefore this workshop might be later than 2018 (if successful). If this is unsuccessful then SEB, EMBO or Royal Society might be engaged for their support. SS provided a brief overview about the program that will focus on different aspects of post-translational modifications, including a session focused on technical developments in this area.

- *GARNet session at Monogram meeting in April 2017.*

- GP proposed a GARNet-sponsored session at the next Monogram after brief discussions with Alison Bentley and Cristobel Uauy. ZW is on the Monogram committee so will support this plan at their planning meeting in early Oct. RB wondered what form the session might take? GP suggested that Arabidopsis researchers who have moved their research into wheat could describe this process, including researchers who have benefitted from the NIAB Wheat transformation pipeline. IH is interested in speaking. The committee thought that this is a good idea and worth pursuing. GARNet will provide funding for speaker travel and grants for early researchers who are involved with research that would have clear application in 'Monogram species'.

ACTION: GP to liaise with ZW about potential speakers prior to discussion with Alison Bentley over the coming weeks.

- *Proposed session on Predictive Biology for SEB2018. A joint Plant and Cell session.*

- JM will discuss this at the next SEB committee meeting in November with a view for inclusion into the 2018 annual meeting with co-sponsorship from GARNet. CR thinks it is certain that this proposal will be accepted.

- Looking ahead to the later part of 2017, JM suggested that in the next meeting the committee discusses the training workshops that GARNet could be involved in, such as Software Carpentry (or similar).

ACTION: GP to include an agenda item in December meeting to discuss possible workshop in late 2017.

5. UKPSF Update:

- *Update on progress toward production of UK Plant Science Roadmap.*

- GP and RB provided an update on the process. Alessandro Allegra has sent out mini roadmap sections to experts in the fields asking for contributions. It is unclear how these will fit into the whole document and there remain reservations about the process.

ACTION: JM to contact Patrick Hussey, who sits on RSB council, to raise GARNet concerns and to ensure that the community has full input into anything that is proposed to be released to the public.

6. Funding News

- *Potential SynBio BBR grant application, deadline November 2nd.*

- GP has been in conversation with Nicola Patron at the Earlham Institute. She reported that the BBSRC want the four SynBio Foundries to replicate their efforts to develop software and infrastructure. Therefore it is unclear whether the Earlham Institute will be in a position to interact with GARNet to submit a BBR that focuses on engagement with the plant science community to assess the tools that they require. It would be unwise for GARNet to submit a grant without institutional support. MB confirmed that providing evidence of 'user need' will be important for any BRR.

ACTION: GP to remain in contact with Nicola Patron and report back to the committee with the future strategy.

- *Global Challenges Research Fund*

- MB provided an update on the recent round of EoI proposals for the GCRF. The main downfall in unsuccessful grants was that there wasn't enough explicit demonstration of impact in the ODA country. This was an important component of any grant selected to move to the next stage yet the committee thought that this wasn't so clearly defined in the grant instructions.

DS asked if it is appropriate to propose to help the ODA country develop their own scientific infrastructure? MB: Yes but only if the ODA country has provided the initial impetus and the grant-holder will then support the implementation of this plan. The Committee were disappointed by the disparity in the type of feedback provided by different Research Councils.

DS: The number of applications showed that there is a lot of translational research underway in the UK and MB agreed that it was excellent to see there was so much international collaboration already in place

7. AOB

- *MASC*

- GP has taken on the role of MASC coordinator

- *Query from Signalink Group (<http://www.signalink.org/>)*

- A research group at the Earlham Institute aim to develop a new bioinformatics resource and would like to interact with a Co-PI involved in Arabidopsis research.

ACTION: GP will send this correspondence out to the committee and will interact with the Signalink group to provide input about the tools already available for the Arabidopsis community.

- *GARNet Advisory committee elections*

DS, NH and AD are leaving the committee at the end of 2016 so the Committee also requires a new Chairperson. GP to engage with the community to find new committee members for the 2017-2019 session. Current committee members to consider whether they want to take on the position of Chair for the coming year(s).

8. Dates of Upcoming Committee Meetings:

- *Tuesday December 6th. York, hosted by KD.*

- Start with lunch at Noon, finish meeting by 4pm.

ACTION: GP to send out a poll about 2017 meetings.