

60th meeting of the GARNet Advisory Board

Date: Tuesday 13th June 2017. Lunch from midday, meeting starts at 1pm.

Location: Room Gees 125, Biosciences building (R56), University of Birmingham

Host: Dr Daniel Gibbs

Papers:

- > Minutes of 59th AB Meeting
- > Schedule for SEB Plant Satellite meeting
- > SEB/GARNet PTM Meeting Schedule
- > Draft schedule GARNet-BCAI CRISPRCas9 Workshop
- > BBSRC responsive mode update
- > Latest version of UKPSF Roadmap document
- > RSB proposal for Roadmap Launch event.

Attendees: Ruth Bastow (RB by skype), Daniel Gibbs (DG), Murray Grant (MG), Jill Harrison (JH), Jim Murray (JM), Geraint Parry (GP), Steven Spoel (SS), Zoe Wilson (ZW by skype),

1. Welcome

- Meeting chaired by SS

2. Apologies

- Michael Ball (MB, BBSRC), Katherine Denby (KD), Ian Henderson (IH), Saskia Hogenhout (SH), Sabina Leonelli (SL), Sean May (SM), Christine Raines (CR).

3. Matters arising from minutes of previous meetings

- Nature Plants manuscript from 2016 GARNet/Egenis Meeting (RB, GP).
- > GP introduced the publication that resulted from the GARNet/Egenis Meeting from April 2016. Open Access is not possible with Nature Plants but the link to the free PDF has been distributed widely (<http://rdcu.be/tgs6>). RB reported that a wiki-type resource is being set up by SL at the University of Exeter. This will allow related resources to be associated with the manuscript in order to build a more complete list that is useful for the community.

- BBSRC STARS funding possibility (GP)

> GP contacted the BBSRC who confirmed this program is currently postponed.

ACTION: GP will keep track of this program with the view of submitting a future proposal that focuses on improving access and usage of software tools developed through the CyVerseUK grant.

- Update from GARNet-sponsored session at Monogram meeting (GP)

> GP and ZW report that the session was well received by the Monogram community. GARNet provided 8 £200 travel grants for early career attendees. ZW reported that the Monogram committee had asked whether GARNet would be interested in providing future support for this meeting. The committee was in agreement that this would be a good idea.

ACTION: GP to contact the Monogram committee about continuing this relationship.

- Update on GARNet submission for BEIS Consultation on Building our Industrial Strategy (GP)

> Given the higher-level considerations of this report GP felt there wasn't much to add to

the previously submitted advice from RSB and different University departments. Therefore no specific advice was submitted from GARNet.

4. Update from upcoming GARNet organised events

- SEB/GPC Satellite Meeting on 'New Breeding Technologies in the Plant Sciences: Applications and Implications'

- Update from GP and RB on final delegate numbers and finances.

> GP and RB report that 70 delegates have registered for the meeting. As a consequence the meeting finances are healthy. GP reported that the 55 paying delegates include an even mix from academia and industry. GP has contacted Physiologia Plantarum (<http://www.spps.fi/journal/>) and together with Sarah Jose of the GPC hopes to submit a meeting report/opinion manuscript. JM requested the role of GARNet to be specifically highlighted during the meeting.

ACTION: GP or RB to provide an oral introduction to GARNet at some time during the meeting. GP to lead the writing of a future manuscript for PP.

- SEB/GARNet Workshop on '*From Proteome to Phenotype: role of post-translational modifications*': December 2017

- Update from SS and GP on advertising materials, registration details, finances and workshop.

> SS provides details of this meeting and that the schedule is set and the finances are healthy. Eight speakers are providing reviews for JXBot that will yield additional sponsorship. The meeting advertising is being currently finalised by SEB and registration will open soon. Registered delegates will be able to indicate their interest in attending the Day 3 hands-on workshop at the University of Edinburgh. Dr Alex Jones (University of Warwick) is leading and currently working on the details of this workshop.

ACTION: SS and GP to continue to liaise with SEB to support the organisation of this meeting.

- GARNet-BCAI CRISPR-Cas9 Workshop: March/April 2018

- GP provides draft schedule and budget for discussion.

> GP and JH report that this meeting will take place at the University of Bristol. The favoured dates are either during Easter term or in May after UoB teaching has needed. JH will lead an application to the Bristol Centre for Agricultural Innovation to obtain additional funding (<http://www.bris.ac.uk/biology/bcai/funding.html>). In addition we will approach New Phytologist, SEB, Company of Biologists and BSPP for additional sponsorship.

GP provided a draft schedule. Additional suggestions included a talk on application CRISPR – deactivated Cas9 for functional studies (MG), policy issues surrounding the use of gene editing technology (JH), recent work in tomato from the Lippman lab (RB) or a recent report on off-target effects in mice (RB). JM suggested that the workshop title should include 'GARNet' so that it is clear that we are leading on its organisation.

ACTION: GP to tweak the proposed schedule and other committee members will suggest potential speakers following summer conferences. Final schedule will be produced by the end of the summer at which time we will approach speakers. GP to work with JH to apply for BCAI funding by July 1st.

- GARNet2018: September 2018

- GP to discuss potential dates.

- Committee to discuss focus on the meeting (suggestion from last

minutes: '*how emerging technologies are being using in plant biology across multiple scales*').

> Committee discussed the possible focus of this meeting. The consensus was to keep it similar to GARNet2016 (<http://garnet2016.weebly.com/>) that was focused on the novel use of technology in the plant sciences across multiple scales under the working title “Plant Science across the scales”. DG warned that a meeting that is too broad will turn off potential attendees and JM reminded the committee that the topics need to remain within the BBSRC remit. Proposed sessions include advanced imaging techniques (MG) and Data reuse (SS).

The committee thought the best dates would be either Sept 10th-11th or Sept 17th-18th 2018. KD offered that the University of York could host the meeting, which was accepted by the committee.

ACTION: GP to prepare a draft schedule before the next meeting with input from other committee members. GP to contact KD about dates and venue at the University of York.

Future Proposed Meetings

- CyverseUK RNAseq Workshop: December 2018? (GP)

> Committee felt this would be good timing for this workshop, possibly linked to future STARS submission. MG expressed frustration that there is no follow-on funding available for the investment made for the CyVerseUK grant. MG suggests that this type of workshop could be linked with BBSRC DTPs. JM noted that the focus of the GARNet grant should be primarily linked to resources provided for PIs and postdocs.

ACTION: GP to plan a meeting of this type in collaboration with the previous CyVerseUK PIs.

- Software Carpentry Meeting (GP)

> GP has contacted Rob Davey about a recent SC meeting at the Earlham Institute to ascertain the research area of attendees. This will allow a decision to be made about whether GARNet might lead a 2018 meeting on this topic.

ACTION: GP to keep the committee informed about these developments

- GARNet2019

> GP proposed the option of moving to an annual GARNet Plant Science meeting. This decision will be taken following organisation of GARNet2018 and the future directions of UKPSF.

- Update on Glasgow MPMI meeting (KD)

> No update on this meeting at this time

5. Funding Update.

- BBSRC Responsive mode update

> GP provided information that suggested that Arabidopsis research has been under-represented in recent successful BBSRC Committee B responsive mode grants. A significant caveat to this is that the number of submitted but unsuccessful grants that contain Arabidopsis research is unknown.

ZW stated it is difficult to characterise grants as working purely on ‘Arabidopsis’ and that the focus of the committee remains on the support of excellent science. Strategic considerations only become relevant at the late stage of the decision-making process. ZW advised that more grants need to be submitted from the community, but how this can be accomplished remains unclear. SS indicated that more information is needed to characterise accepted grants into the following categories: 1. Fundamental Research 2. Applied Research 3. Translational Research. MG suggested that comparing Arabidopsis grants with Wheat grants might be informative in terms of relative investment. The committee had general concerns on how future industrial strategy, the movement to UKRI and the focus on GCRF will impact the funding of fundamental ‘Arabidopsis-focused’ and other basic-research grants.

ACTION: In order to understand if Arabidopsis research is underrepresented in recent funding rounds and what the reasons may be, the committee will take the following steps:

1. GP to look in more detail at the information supplied by BBSRC regarding topics of funded research
2. ZW to ask BBSRC/Committee B colleagues their opinion on this topic
3. GP to compare the number and size of funded Arabidopsis grants to funded Wheat grants
4. SS and DG to assess the funding levels for Arabidopsis grants by the ERC

6. UKPSF Update:

- Update on Roadmap process and Launch event (MG, RB and GP).

> The committee broadly discussed the latest version of the Roadmap and expressed concerns on a number of levels: 1. Lack of sufficient community consultation throughout the roadmapping process 2. Lack of focus on the importance of basic research 3. Lack of focus on education 4. Repetitive and redundant text that results in less coherent document than desirable.

ACTION: RB and JM submitted a response to RSB with these concerns.

RSB have responded with an agreement to push the roadmap launch back to early 2018 but that they require the full commitment from the wider community to support production of the final document.

GARNet will continue to work with RSB to produce the best possible document that has full buy-in from the entire plant science community.

7. MASC Update (GP)

- ICAR 2021?

> GP has taken on the role of MASC coordinator and has helped produce the annual report (<http://arabidopsisresearch.org/index.php/en/publications>). GP asked the committee whether they would support the UK proposing to host the ICAR meeting in 2021. DG thought this would be beneficial for a future GARNet grant renewal. There was broad agreement with these caveats: 1. The current GARNet grant will have ended. 2. Hosting a large 1000+ delegate conference is not trivial so JM suggested contacting SEB to gain advice on possible UK venues. 3. Conversations are needed in order to secure the financial risk for this conference, which might be challenging without the certainty of a future GARNet grant.

ACTION: Prior to the MASC annual meeting on June 20th in St Louis GP and RB to discuss the details of hosting an ICAR meeting and whether it is appropriate to propose for the UK to host the meeting in 2021

8. AOB

> Due to a change of employer RB will no longer be able to continue as GARNet coordinator. JM proposed that she remains associated with the GARNet committee in a seconded role in view of her longstanding expertise. This was agreed by the committee who will welcome RBs continued input.

9. Dates of Upcoming Committee Meetings: <http://doodle.com/poll/zwf4yskpsza993tc>

- Monday September 11th: Jubilee Campus, University of Nottingham hosted by SM.
- Thursday December 14th: University of Edinburgh.