

61st meeting of the GARNet Advisory Board

Date: Monday 11th September 2017. Lunch from 12.30pm, meeting starts at 1pm.

Location: B35a Flexible Learning Room, Exchange Building, Jubilee Campus, University of Nottingham, Nottingham NG8 1BB

Host: Sean May

Papers:

- > Minutes of 60th AB Meeting
- > SEB/GARNet PTM Meeting Schedule
- > Final schedule GARNet-BCAI CRISPRCas9 Workshop
- > Proposed schedule for GARNet2018 meeting
- > Proposed schedule for Monogram 2018
- > BBSRC Panel B Grant information
- > GARNet response for HoL consultation on Life Science Strategy
- > Latest version of UKPSF Roadmap document

Attendees: Ruth Bastow (RB by skype), Michael Ball (BBSRC, MB by skype), Katherine Denby (KD), Murray Grant (MG), Jill Harrison (JH), Ian Henderson (IH), Saskia Hogenhout (SH by skype), Sean May (SM), Geraint Parry (GP), Christine Raines (CR by skype), Steven Spoel (SS)

1. Welcome

- Meeting chaired by SS

2. Apologies

- Daniel Gibbs (DG), Sabina Leonelli (SL), Jim Murray (JM), Zoe Wilson (ZW)

3. Matters arising from minutes of previous meetings

- Report from SEB/GPC/GARNet meeting on New Breeding Technologies in the Plant Sciences: Applications and Implications'
 - > GP, RB and KD reported that the meeting was a great success with excellent discussion sessions and descriptions of the technical challenges surrounding the use of the technology. GP and RB reported that a special issue of *Physiologia Plantarum* is planned that will feature up to 5 papers from the meeting.

ACTION: GP and Sarah Jose from the GPC to prepare a meeting report for the special issue of PP.

- Update on situation with BBSRC Grants (MB to skype at 1.15pm)
 - > GP reported that ZW was advised by her BBSRC committee chair to talk to Adam Staines (BBSRC Head of Strategy for Agriculture and Food Security) about this issue. No reply has been reported yet.
 - > GP and SS reported on the amount of funding that is given to fundamental versus applied plant science in BBSRC and ERC grants since 2014. From their research it appears that a higher proportion of ERC grants compared to BBSRC Responsive mode grants support fundamental plant science. CR suggested that this might reflect that earlier research in Arabidopsis has now progressed into more applied areas. IH maintained that good science will be funded regardless of topic and without information about the relative submission rate it is difficult to draw strong conclusions.

> MB reported there is no specific steer away from supporting fundamental research by the BBSRC and that changing proportions of supported grants might be due to the composition of Panel B or an alteration in the number of grants submitted on a particular topic.

> Following extended discussions the committee came up with the following questions that they would like to put to the BBSRC:

- Is it possible to obtain data on the submission rates?

- What is BBSRC strategy on the support for emerging technologies in the plant sciences?

- If ERC funding is lost post Brexit does the BBSRC have a strategy to make up for the potential overall reduction in support for fundamental plant science?

> MB agree to find out who at BBSRC might be best at answering these questions. He thought that information on the unfunded portfolio can be difficult to access and that there needs strong justification to release this type of information. Additionally it can be challenging to separate what is fundamental research and what is not.

ACTION: MB to communicate with the committee the best person to approach at BBSRC with GARNet's questions on this topic.

4. Update from upcoming GARNet organised events

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

> SS and GP provided an update on this meeting. So far there have been 15 paying delegates registered, a mixture of ECRs and faculty members. The meeting finances are healthy and will break if 80 delegates register.

> SS and GP have discussed the 3rd day workshop with Alex Jones and confirmed that it will be focused on ECRs with little experience with proteomics. Importantly the workshop will provide advice on how to interact with proteomic facilities to gain maximum benefit for your experiments. This information is now included on the SEB website:

<http://www.sebiology.org/events/event/from-proteome-to-phenotype>

ACTION: GP and SEB to continue to advertise the meeting. GARNet advisory board members to encourage colleagues to attend.

- GARNet-BCAI CRISPR-Cas9 Workshop: March 26-27th 2018

- <https://garnet-ge-workshop.weebly.com/>

> GP and JH provided update on finances that are healthy following generous support from the BCAI and New Phytologist.

> GP discussed schedule and although there are a lack of female speakers this can be addressed through the 12 available slots for abstract talks. MG suggested that it would be useful to include an opening speaker to provide an overview to the currently available technology. GP needs to confirm 3 places on the schedule.

> GP confirmed there have been 3 registrations already. GARNet committee members are encouraged to send their group members to the workshop.

> GP mentioned a few speakers have agreed to prepare an article for New Phytologist.

GP and JH will provide a commentary type article.

ACTION: GP to advertise the meeting and finalise the schedule before liaising with speakers.

- GARNet2018: September 18th-19th 2018

> GP confirms that the meeting to be held at the University of York. Sponsorship of approximately £3000 is required for the meeting, a similar amount to the GARNet2016 meeting.

> GP talked through the draft schedule. The M:F ratio is excellent. MG/KD/SS encouraged a continued focus on new technology as this is a clear focus of the GARNet grant. MG and SH suggested speakers for the imaging session.

> RB suggested that there might be a space for short company talks that will provide additional financing. KD suggested that lunchtime short talks might be a good option for this.

> MG indicates that the BSPP should be able to provide financial support in exchange for a named session.

ACTION: GP to prepare meeting website, confirm schedule and invite speakers. GP to prepare an application to BSPP for funding and to engage with potential sponsors.

- Monogram 2018: April 2018

> GP proposed that GARNet again provides support for the Monogram meeting in the form of sponsorship of individual talks and to provide travel grants (8x£200)

> RB asked whether GARNet's sponsorship of the 2017 meeting had been successful? IH and GP confirmed that they thought it had added a different type of talk to the meeting and raised GARNet's profile amongst a different set of researchers.

> JH suggested Jane Langdale might be a good candidate for the Vegetative growth session. KD and SS suggested that SH would be an excellent candidate to speak in the Pest and Pathogens session.

ACTION: GP to liaise with the Monogram committee to suggest potential speakers and then liaise with those speakers.

Future Proposed Meetings

- Cyverse RNAseq Workshop: December 2018 (GP)

ACTION: GP to liaise with CyVerseUK PIs about this workshop. Possible venue is the Earlham Institute. RB will help with any required planning.

- Update on Glasgow MPMI meeting (KD/SH)

> SH confirmed that it is possible to have a satellite meeting before the main meeting. The organisation for this is still ongoing but once more details have emerged then GARNet would be interested in contributing toward the organisation of this a satellite meeting. This would allow GARNet to engage with a new set of researchers.

ACTION: SH to keep the Advisory board up to date with progress on this meeting.

- Possible interaction with SIRN network (<http://sirn.org.uk/>)

> GP mentioned that he had a conversation with Adélia de Paula, the coordinator of the SIRN network to provide advice about their engagement strategy. The GARNet advisory board committee discussed whether there was scope to interact with SIRN for a workshop or meeting but it was felt at this time the focus of the organisations was too far apart.

ACTION: GP to maintain contact with SIRN to co-advertise events and to offer advice where needed.

- ICAR2021

> GP reported that in his role as MASC coordinator he has contacted other European MASC representatives to ascertain whether there is any interest in hosting the ICAR2021 meeting. GARNet are interested in hosting the event in the UK but the final decision will not be made until ICAR2018 in Finland. SM suggested Belfast or Dublin might be a good potential site.

> The GARNet committee agreed to support the potential hosting of the meeting. RB will provide organisational advice gained from the 2009 ICAR meeting in Edinburgh.

ACTION: GP to investigate possible conference venues in the UK that can host up to 1000 delegates and prepare a proposal for both the GARNet and MASC committees.

6. UKPSF Update:

- MG/GP to update on RSB UK Roadmap for Plant Science

> MG provided an update on UKPSF committee meeting on Sept 4th. Version 9 of the roadmap has not yet been prepared following comments on V8 provided by GARNet and other organisations. MG mentioned the plan is to prepare a shortened 32 printed document together with an extended online PDF contained more detail. How the current report would be edited down from the current 70+ pages was unclear. MG thinks V9 will be the final opportunity to influence the format and content of the document as RSB as set on a course to produce the document having engaged with designers.

> MG confirms the document launch date is not confirmed.

> MG encourage committee members to both individually interact with V9 of the roadmap and to distribute it to colleagues who might not have been involved in the process to gain their feedback. This will be critical to ascertain whether there is support for the document.

> RB/CR/KKD stated that there remains a lack of evidence that there is community support for the Roadmap.

> CR/MG have concerns that the Roadmapping process differs significantly from experiences with similar processes undertaken by Nuffield or the Royal Society.

ACTION: GARNet Advisory Board to await Roadmap V9 and send out to a wide cross section of colleagues. A final GARNet decision to support the roadmap will be taken at that time.

7. Policy update:

- HoL consultation on Life Sciences Strategy

> GP presented response to HoL call for evidence on Life Science Strategy. KD and MG have provided comments and will make alterations to the document before submission on Sept 15th.

8. AOB

- IH, ZW and KD are leaving the GARNet Committee

> Advisory Board discussed changes to GARNet elections. Most important is have full transparency during the process. The final election process will remain the same but the process of nomination will be altered. These changes will be outlined in the nomination invitation email. UK faculty members will be invited to nominate UK PIs for election. The final 8 people who will proceed to the election will be decided by the current GARNet advisory board, based on the following categories: Gender, location and area of expertise. We will retain the policy of only including one faculty member from a UK academic institution.

ACTION: GP to send out email inviting nominations in October.

9. Dates of Upcoming Committee Meetings:

- Thursday December 14th: University of Edinburgh

> Advisory board will meet for Christmas dinner on the evening on December 13th before a morning meeting on December 14th.

- Discuss format and timing of further meetings.

> The GARNet advisory board will again meet 4 times in 2018.

ACTION: GP to send out an email with potential dates for 2018 meetings.