

63rd meeting of the GARNet Advisory Board

Date: Wednesday 28th March 2018. Meeting 1pm-4pm, lunch at 12.30pm.

Location: Garden Room, Royal Fort House, University of Bristol, BS8 1UH

Host: Jill Harrison (University of Bristol)

Papers and URLs:

- > 1. Minutes of 62nd AB Meeting
- > 2. BBSRC_piece v4 Report arising from 62nd GARNet meeting
- > 3. Successful 2015 GARNet Responsive Mode Grant Application
- > 4. GARNet Gene Editing Workshop Abstract Book
- > 5. CyVerse RNAseq workshop draft schedule
- > 6. SEB Plant/Cell Symposium application 2019
- > 7. UKPSF Future of UK Plant Science Questionnaire
- > 8. VDB Schedule
- > GARNet2018 meeting: <http://garnet2018.weebly.com/>
- > COST_INDEPTH website: <https://www.brookes.ac.uk/indepth/>

Attendees: Daniel Gibbs (DG), Andrea Harper (AH), Jill Harrison (JH), Saskia Hogenhout (SH), Sean May (SM), Sarah McKim (SMc), Jim Murray (JM), Geraint Parry (GP), Steven Spoel (SS), Colin Turnbull (CT)

1. Welcome

- Meeting chaired by Steven Spoel

SS welcomes new members of the GARNet committee, AH, SMc and CT.

2. Apologies

- Ruth Bastow (RB), Murray Grant (MG), Sabina Leonelli (SL), Christine Raines (CR)

3. Matters arising from minutes of last meeting

- Discuss BBSRC_piece_v4 meeting and publication
- GP reports that piece had been sent to the BBSRC for comment and is awaiting response.

Committee had some brief suggestions for corrections to be made to the document. SH initiated a discussion on the anecdotal evidence that current UK ERC grant holders struggle to obtain responsive mode funding. CT commented that research panel committee membership is an important consideration with regard the differences between the type of proposals that plant scientists and microbiologists might support.

- Committee thought publication on GARNet outlets would be sufficient but it is also important to circulate to UK academic departments and organisations that include RSB or BSPP.

- JM suggested that a shorter document could be created that supplies the main points of the piece.

ACTION: GP to circulate the document as soon as possible as well as generating a shorter form version.

4. GARNet post-2020

- Is another responsive mode application required

- The committee thought a new submission was necessary as GARNet plays an important role for the UK academic plant science community. CT states that the research landscape has changed but that the need for this type of activity has not.
- JM agreed to submit a new submission from Cardiff University. The committee thought it was appropriate to retain the grant at Cardiff as the location of the grant holder has no influence on GARNet activities.
- In order to guarantee continuity in GARNet activities after the end of the current grant period (January 2020) JM thought the best time for a responsive mode submission is September 2018. The committee thought that BBSRC Panel B was again the best place for a submission.
 - What to propose in next grant?
- Committee have a general discussion about possible focus of new submission.
- Can the brand be slightly altered so that GARNet does not appear exclusively Arabidopsis but rather support fundamental plant science research across all experimental systems? This is important as this research underpins most applied and translational research. The GARNet name is important to maintain but can additions be made that reflects it will focus on fundamental research and not just Arabidopsis?
- The core principles of GARNet in technology development and community building must be maintained and expanded.
- JH suggests that new focus should be aligned to soon-to-be published new BBSRC strategic aims whilst JM suggests it might reflect that biology is switching from an observational to a predictive science.
- SH suggests GARNet might look into strategies to reduce plant blindness in the wider research community and in public. This could include supporting a combined workshop on science communication with other research communities. SMC commented that GARNet could play an important role as a training hub for ECRs who are engaging with science communication and as a repository and facilitator for public dissemination tools.
- SS suggests a focus on the interaction with industry, providing opportunities for establishing new linkages. Specifically engaging with industry so they can see the strength and capabilities of UK fundamental plant science research. DG suggests a type of post-award workshop so that other non-funded researchers can learn strategies that work for developing interactions with industry.
- SMC asked whether GARNet can circulate a list of industrial partners that have been involved with LINK/IPA grants?

ACTION: GP to put together a list of companies involved in IPA/LINK awards. GP to provide a skeleton grant proposal for June meeting. Grant will be prepared over the summer for September submission.

5. Feedback on GARNet meetings

- GARNet-BCAI CRISPR-Cas9 Workshop: March 26-27th 2018
- JH though meeting was a success with a great selection of speakers and many interesting topics for discussion. JH/GP will prepare a Viewpoint article for New Phytologist and will liaise with other speakers who might wish to submit an article to the same journal.
- The meeting broke even with £5K contributions from GARNet, Bristol Centre for Industrial Innovation and the New Phytologist Trust. 80 total attendees including approximately 60 paying delegates. This was a little less than hoped but didn't detract from the meeting. Only 13 poster abstracts were submitted which reflected that many delegates were using this workshop as a teaching experience.

https://www.garnetcommunity.org.uk/sites/default/files/GARNetGE_Abstract_ONLINE.pdf

ACTION: JH and GP to prepare a Viewpoint article for rapid publication.

6. Update from upcoming GARNet organised events

- GARNet2018: September 18th-19th 2018

- GP to provide update on budget and meeting arrangements.

- All arrangements are in hand with generous support from SEB, BSPP, HVCfP network, Newmarket Scientific, BMG Labtech, Regent instruments. Siobhan Brady is unable to attend so JH suggested Miriam Gifford would be a good replacement.

ACTION: GP to contact Miriam about this and to continue to finalise meeting details. Committee members are encouraged to send their lab members. GP will prepare a poster for circulation to the committee.

- Cyverse RNAseq Workshop: December 2018

- GP to provide update on budget and meeting arrangements.

- Jason Williams (CyVerseUS) is confirmed for this event at The Earlham Institute. The dates for the meeting are December 11-12th for a maximum of 40 delegates due to space constraints.

- Workshop will be run by members of Earlham faculty and include a session on Open Data and Data Reuse.

ACTION: GP to continue to organize the meeting with members of staff at the Earlham Institute.

- Proposed one-day workshop on Next Generation Reporters

- MG suggested this one-day workshop that had broad support from the committee. SH suggested talks on calcium reporters and cellular markers, JM suggested something on fluorescence correlation microscopy, temporary and trackable markers. SM suggested a possible session on using microNMR to analyse cell components. JM suggested a one-day meeting with a plenary talk and social event the evening before the meeting.

- MG proposed a timing for December but this clashes with the CyVerse workshop so committee thought March 2019 might be good timing. Warwick University would be a good venue.

ACTION: GP to liase with MG to plan and organise the workshop for early 2019.

- Update on Glasgow MPMI meeting (SH)

<https://www.ismpmi.org/Congress/2019/Pages/default.aspx>

- SH presented the current plenary and workshop session. There remains the possibility for to GARNet organise an associated workshop but the topic is currently unknown.

ACTION: SH to possibly plan a workshop proposal in time for the next GARNet committee meeting.

- Joint application with SEB/COST-INDEPTH

- IMPACT OF CHROMATIN DOMAINS ON PLANT PHENOTYPES

- GP has secured funding from SEB Plant symposium for Madrid 2019. SEB to support travel for non-COST members, GARNet to provide travel grants for UK-based ECRs.

ACTION: GP to work with SEB and COST Action members to organise this meeting. JM, SS and DG are possible invited speakers.

7. Hosting ICAR2021

- Location and Finance

- GP visited Liverpool, Manchester and Belfast as possible venues for ICAR2021. The location for this meeting will be decided at ICAR2018. Belfast is currently the best option with regard finance, organisation and delegate attractiveness.

- Organisation

- Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)

- GARNet committee members are happy to play a role on SAC.
 - Registration and abstract management
- GP is liaising with SEB to discuss the possibility for using their abstract submission and registration system. Discussion will continue with organisational group at SEB.

ACTION: GP to prepare a proposal to be presented at the MASC meeting in ICAR2018.

8. UKPSF Update:

- Committee to suggest answers to UKPSF Questionnaire on the Vision for UK plant science
- GP provides an update on the road-mapping process and the latest request for input from the community. The committee was unimpressed with the composition of potential reviewers as there were no Scottish, Welsh or Northern Irish contributors.
- The committee provided answers to the questionnaire..

ACTION: GP collated the answers, circulated to the committee and submitted to RSB in early April.

9. AOB

- Request for support for Vector-Borne Diseases in the UK meeting to be held at the John Innes Centre in December (SH)
- SH introduces the meeting and the increased number of attendees involved in plant science research. GP suggested that GARNet could provide a set of £150 travel grants for UK plant scientists to attend the meeting.

ACTION: GP to liaise with SH regarding arrangements for the meeting.

10. Dates of Upcoming Committee Meetings:

- Wednesday June 20th Cardiff University hosted by JM
- Thursday September 20th University of York hosted by AH
- Monday December 17th Imperial College hosted by CT