

64th meeting of the GARNet Advisory Board

Date: Wednesday 20th June 2018. Meeting 1pm-4pm, lunch at 12.30pm.

Location: School of Bioscience, Sir Martin Evans Building, Cardiff University, CF10 3AX

Host: Jim Murray

Papers and URLs:

- > 1. Minutes of 63rd AB Meeting
- > 2. The Future of Arabidopsis Informatics Overview
- > 3. Successful 2015 GARNet Responsive Mode Grant Application
- > 4. Next GARNet grant plan
- > 5. CyVerse RNAseq workshop draft schedule
- > 6. Draft UKPSF Plant Science Vision document
- > 7. ICAR2021 draft budget
- > 8. GARNet submission to STC on Immigration
- > GARNet2018 meeting: <http://garnet2018.weebly.com/>
- > UK Vector Borne Disease: <http://www.hpruezi.nihr.ac.uk/about-us/news-and-events/vbd-uk-2018/>
- > ICAR Intro video: <https://app.frame.io/f/7517edbc-22e2-43e4-a313-c6dba01c8df6>

Attendees: Andrea Harper (AH), Murray Grant (MG), Saskia Hogenhout (SH by skype), Sean May (SM), Sarah McKim (SM), Jim Murray (JM), Geraint Parry (GP), Steven Spoel (SS)

1. Welcome

- Meeting chaired by Steven Spoel

2. Apologies

- Ruth Bastow (RB), Jill Harrison (JH), Daniel Gibbs (DG), Sabina Leonelli (SL), Christine Raines (CR), Colin Turnbull (CT)

3. Matters arising from minutes of last meeting

- The minutes of the 63rd meeting were accepted.
- Feedback from BBSRC piece

GP- this article has been circulated via the usual GARNet channels including ArabUK mailing list, with targeted emails and on twitter. Committee members have received positive feedback from faculty members at Nottingham, Warwick, Southampton and Oxford. SH reported that members of TSL thought that amount of ECR grants with Arabidopsis funding had been over-represented. SH also commented that it was important not to mix up fundamental and Arabidopsis research. SM suggested copies of the report are taken to the upcoming MASC meeting. JM suggested that report is sent to members of BBSRC responsive mode panels for information.

ACTION: GP to circulate article to BBSRC panel members and to selected members of MASC.

- Progress on New Phytologist special issue from GARNet-GE meeting

GP reports that New Phytologist will not host a special issue but will curate a collection of articles resulting from the GARNet-GE meeting in Bristol. GP is currently preparing a Viewpoint article with JH that is in progress and hopes to be submitted by the end of July.

GP shared information that meeting attendee Dennis Eriksson had reported that the European Court of Justice (ECJ) decision on gene-edited crops will be announced by the end of July.

ACTION: GP/JH to finish Viewpoint article and could include information from ECJ ruling and its implications.

4- Update from Arabidopsis bioinformatics meeting, St Louis, May 2nd-4th (SM)

SM provided a report from this meeting in St Louis that discussed the future of Arabidopsis informatics. A report from this meeting is upcoming and will be circulated by GARNet and others. Challenges that emerged from the meeting include the fragmentation of new resources and the lack of an integrated approach. How can new users be encouraged to supply data and resources to central resources and not just take them for granted as if they have always been there. One solution is a set of 'Arabidopsis Super-Portals' that would inform the community about available resources.

ACTION: GP to circulate this meeting report. SM and GP will contribute to future discussions at the ICAR2018 meeting, which will include discussions with a global set of participants.

5. GARNet post-2020: Discussion on grant plan

GP outlined ideas for new GARNet grant as discussed in previous meeting. JM reminded that the key aim of GARNet is to incentivise frontier plant science and to add value to the support that BBSRC gives to plant scientists from PhD students to PIs. JM impressed that focus topics are needed in order to offer more specifics within the grant and suggested that engaging with the community might be an excellent method to gain ideas about future activities.

The committee discussed areas where future activity might be needed:

- Easing the transition from single cell observations to multiscale models.
- Discussion of strategies to integrate different types of datasets
- How can machine learning be integrated into analysis of plant science-focus datasets
- Provide discussions of how to reduce barriers for fundamental plant scientists to interact with grants offered through GCRF funding
- Interact with BBSRC-DTP coordinators so that GARNet activities are considered for study credits. This would add value to GARNet by supporting training opportunities for PhD students.
- GARNet could broaden its remit to support international efforts for the promotion of plant science and in establishing new collaborative opportunities.

ACTION: GP to design a short questionnaire to consult the UK community about what they would like to see in the next GARNet grant and will send this out over the summer. <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Q2HD6WW>

The findings from this survey will be discussed at the GARNet2018 meeting. The aim is to formulate a detailed GARNet plan before the next committee meeting that can then be circulated to potential reviewers. The GARNet renewal will be submitted in the January responsive mode round.

6. Update from upcoming GARNet organised events

- GARNet2018: September 18th-19th 2018
 - GP provided an update on meeting arrangements. Currently we have received approximately 10 registrations. The schedule is set with Andrew Millar being a late addition. The participants in the pre-meeting workshop have not yet been finalised. The meeting has been well supported financially by SEB, BSPP, HVCfP and others <https://garnet2018.weebly.com/sponsors.html>

ACTION: GP to continue to advertise the meeting and encourage GARNet committee members to ask their lab members to attend the meeting.

- Cyverse RNAseq Workshop: December 2018

- GP provided updates on meeting arrangements at the Earlham Institute.

The schedule is almost complete and full advertising will be started in September when new PhD cohort starts. This would provide a possible link with incoming DTP students. Rob Davey has provided additional support for the meeting through the COPO grant. The conference room at the Earlham Institute is restricted to 40 participants.

ACTION: GP to interact with co-organisers at the Earlham institute to finalise arrangements and start advertising throughout the summer.

- Vector-Borne Diseases in the UK meeting

SH provides details about this meeting for which GARNet is providing £1000 in travel grants. As a meeting sponsor GARNet has two free registrations. These will be provided to the community on receipt of an appropriate application.

ACTION: GP to advertise GARNet travel grants and available registrations

- One-day workshop on Frontiers in Plant Imaging

This meeting is proposed for March 2019 and will be advertised to all plant scientists who might use these imaging techniques in their research

Committee discussed this meeting proposed by MG and suggested sessions on the following:

- CryoEM

- Genetically encoded reporters

- Label-free reporters

- microNMR analysis techniques

- ATP and calcium reporters

ACTION: GP to formulate a draft schedule to circulate to the committee for comments before the next meeting in September

- Update on Glasgow MPMI meeting (SH, SS)

- SH outlined plans for a satellite meeting on vector-borne diseases. MG suggested this would be a great candidate for BSPP funding. As this was a pre-defined half-day meeting it was thought it wasn't appropriate for GARNet funding.

7. UKPSF Update:

- MG and GP introduced the latest document on Vision for Plant Science. The document is a great improvement but the committee had some recommendations:

- Add an Executive Summary

- Include targeted examples as part of the general recommendations

- Change the ordering of sections:

- Improving Ag

- IB

- Plant Health

- Biodiversity

- Nurturing plant science

GP and JM suggested the new Leaf System facility in Norwich

(<https://www.leafexpressionsystems.co.uk/>) could be a good example of successful IB.

Committee thought a Biofuels example would also be appropriate for the section on IB.

ACTION: GP to submit recommendations to RSB on this latest version

8. Hosting ICAR2021

- GP provides update on Belfast location and potential budget. JM suggested that more detail was needed to determine the break-even point so that financial risk is reduced.

ACTION: GP to verify finances prior to MASC meeting in Turku.

9. AOB

- GP introduced the late submission to STC call for evidence on '*An immigration system that works for science and innovation*'. This has now been published on the STC website:

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/science-and-technology-committee/an-immigration-system-that-works-for-science-and-innovation/written/85474.html>

- SS reminded the committee that he is leaving the committee at the end of 2018 so a new GARNet chairperson is needed.

- MG wondered if GARNet could analyse the number of BBSRC grants obtained by New Investigators that focus on Arabidopsis. **ACTION: GP will look into these numbers**

- MG alerted the committee to an EPSRC call for evidence on national capabilities. The suggestion is that GARNet could submit a piece that focused on improved capacity for metabolomic and proteomic analysis. The call opens on June 29th. **ACTION: GP will investigate this and response with guidance from the committee.**

10. Dates of Upcoming Committee Meetings:

- Thursday September 20th University of York hosted by AH
- Monday December 17th Imperial College hosted by CT
- March 2019- Warwick hosted by MG
- June 2019- Dundee hosted by SMc