

## **66<sup>th</sup> meeting of the GARNet Advisory Board**

**Date:** Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018. Meeting 1.00m-4.00pm, lunch at 12.30pm.

**Location:** Level 6 Meeting Area, Sir Alexander Fleming (SAF) Building (#33 on campus map), Imperial College London, South Kensington, London SW7 2AZ.

**Host:** Colin Turnbull

### **Papers and URLs:**

- > 1. Minutes of 65<sup>th</sup> AB Meeting
- > 2. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/stories/SM-BBNNXG28/>
- > 3. GARNet 2018 Election results
- > 4. Successful 2015 GARNet Responsive Mode Grant Application
- > 5. Draft GARNet2025 grant
- > 6. GARNet2015 interim report
- > 7. <https://www.rms.org.uk/discover-engage/event-calendar/botanical-microscopy-2019.html>
- > 8. Final UKPSF 'Growing the Future' document
- > 9. <http://icar2019.arabidopsisresearch.org/index.html>
- > 10. ICAR2021 draft budget
- > 11. <https://www.frontiersin.org/research-topics/9315/leeway-to-operate-with-plant-genetic-resources>
- > 12. GARNish\_30 draft

**Attendees:** Yoselin Bentinez-Alfonso (YBA), Rocio Gaudioso-Pedraza (RGP, UKRI-BBSRC), Daniel Gibbs (DG), Murray Grant (MG), Andrea Harper (AH), Jill Harrison (JH), Saskia Hogenhout (SH), Eirini Kaiserli (EK), Smita Kurup (SK), Sabina Leonelli (SL), Sean May (SM), Jim Murray (JM), Geraint Parry (GP), Christine Raines (CR), Steven Spoel (SS), Colin Turnbull (CT).

### **1. Welcome**

- Meeting chaired by Steven Spoel
- Welcome to new members of the committee

### **2. Apologies**

- Ruth Bastow, Sarah McKim, Renier Van Der Hoorn

### **3. Matters arising from minutes of last meetings**

- Minutes of the 65<sup>th</sup> meeting
  - > Minutes accepted with no additional comments.

- Progress on New Phytologist special issue from GARNet-GE meeting
  - > GP reports that the Meeting report to be published on

December 20<sup>th</sup>. Dennis Eriksson from SLU also had a paper published from the meeting (<https://nph.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/nph.15627>). There are unlikely to be enough papers for a 'collection' but there might be the opportunity for a Commentary article associated with these few articles.

**Action: GP to stay in contact with New Phyt about this opportunity**

- Survey feedback from GARNet2018 meeting. Max final cost to GARNet: ~£2000

> As discussed in 65<sup>th</sup> meeting the main issue was with the second poster session, which clashed with lunch on the second day. GP will learn from this and always separate main poster sessions from lunch.

- Report from recent GARNet election.

> GP reported there were 20 nominees from 12 people. In the election there were 144 votes from approx. 590 on electoral role. ~25%. The committee thought the number of votes was good but that it would be good to receive more nominations from people outside of the advisory committee. Next year GP will alter the process as follows:

- Contact academic departments individually instead of in a bulk email. This will also allow for the collection of new members to the electoral roll.

- Restrict nominations to one or two people per person. This might encourage a more focused approach to nominations.

- Report from CyVerseUK RNAseq Workshop: Dec 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>

> 35 delegates paid £80 for three days. Feedback was that the content was well received but that the final portion of the workshop was a little fast. SH reported her student thought it very useful, particularly the first day on 'R'. YBA thought the advertising did not make it clear that this workshop was different to the CyVerse workshop at York in March 2017. Very good value to GARNet at £1400, the majority of which funded Jason Williams' travel. [http://www.earlham.ac.uk/cyverse-uk-rnaseq-workshop-2018 - Programme-2](http://www.earlham.ac.uk/cyverse-uk-rnaseq-workshop-2018-Programme-2)

#### **4. Future GARNet proposal: GARNet2025: Supporting frontier research that underpins innovations in plant science**

- Discussion of latest draft. Items to consider:

- Is case for Co-Is made strongly enough?

- Is objective 2 sufficiently detailed with regard bilateral relationships with overseas collaborators?

- Is objective 3 distinct from other available opportunities for industrial collaboration?

> The entire Advisory Committee held a long and fruitful conversation about the future of the grant.

Key points raised were as follows:

- Although the committee were positive about multiple Co-Is, their explicit roles need to be better defined. Highlight the importance of providing continuity outside of the 3-year term of Advisory Committee members in order to support the activities of the new proposal.

- Include short portions about GARNet's role to raise awareness of these important issues: Social responsibility during innovation in plant science, the current multidisciplinary nature of the funding landscape, provide options to support multiscale analysis.

- YBA/SH suggested an event on entrepreneurship for plant scientists, aimed at ECRs. This would fit nicely into Objective 3.

- SL suggested GARNet could be involved in a 2020 event at Exeter organised as part of her activities funded by the Alan Turing Institute. The committee agreed with this suggestion.

- Whereas the objective 3 of the proposal focused on academic-industry interactions, the committee thought that the proposal could also mention the discovery pipeline toward GCRF funding.

- JM suggested the GARNet2020 interim report should be tidied up and possibly include a figure that is put together from information gained in post-meeting surveys.
- EK highlighted the need to mention GARNet's support for postdocs as well as for DTP-funded PhD students.
- The committee suggested that a letter from industry could improve the proposal.
- GP to contact ASPB about the possibility of obtaining a letter to confirm shared promotion of community-building activities.
- DG suggested that post-Brexit uncertainty could be more strongly highlighted as a reason for proposed bilateral workshops with French and German collaborators.
- GP reported FeC cost for this grant is ~£950K compared to ~£750K for GARNet2020 grant. As long as the extra charges are justified then RGP confirmed this is not an unreasonably high amount, especially for a 5-year grant.

**ACTION: SS to look into the possibility of obtaining a letter from industry.**

**ACTION: GP to make changes to the document and return to the committee by the end of the first week in January.**

## 5. Update from upcoming GARNet organised events

- Collaboration with Royal Microscopical Society on Botanical Microscopy April 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> 2019. .

> GARNet will provide sponsorship of New Technologies Session (£500) as well as supporting the expenses of an invited speaker. Committee Members suggested Sarah Robinson as a good candidate. GARNet will also support attendance of ECRs to the meeting by providing 10x £150 grants. These would be advertised through the RMS website. The New Technologies Session includes a tribute to Ian Moore, which would be fitting due to his previous membership of the GARNet Advisory committee. GP will provide a brief introduction to GARNet activities at the start of the New Technologies session.

**ACTION: GP to approach Sarah Robinson about providing a talk in this session. GP to liaise with Kate Jerney at RMS about meeting arrangements.**

- Suggestions for training workshop in September-October 2019?

> MG remains interested in a short meeting on genetically-encoded reporters. There is a clear space on the schedule for this in September and could be amalgamated with a proposed workshop with George Bassel on Quantitative Imaging.

**ACTION: MG and GP to discuss this meeting.**

- Rob Davey at Earlham is keen to collaborate with GARNet to host another bioinformatics or Carpentry workshop.

> The committee are in favour of GARNet supporting a workshop of this type in the future.

**ACTION: GP will liaise with Rob Davey and others about these possible workshops.**

- GP reported on current GARNet finances. After taking account salaries and other fixed costs there is approximately £40K remaining for the last 14 months of the current grant. This will be sufficient to support a standard year of GARNet activities.

## 6. UKPSF Update:

- 'Growing the Future' document has been approved by RSB trustees

- MG and GP report that the launch event has been arranged for Jan 29<sup>th</sup> 2019 at the House of Parliament. Rick Mumford, Dale Sanders and Belinda Clarke will provide keynote talks. **ACTION: MG and GP to continue to work with RSB after the**

**publication of the document to promote discovery-led plant science during RSB activities.**

**7. ICAR Update**

- ICAR2019 open for registration
  - Gatsby Travel Studentships (4x£500)
    - > GP has arranged that GARNet will administer these studentships.

Successful students will prepare a piece for the GARNet blog about their experiences in Wuhan.

- Recruitment of Scientific Advisory Committee for ICAR2021
  - GARNet committee members and International participants
    - > GP confirms that the first deposit has been paid to the Waterfront

Centre in Belfast. GP will be recruiting the Science Advisory Board over the coming months and will include members of the GARNet Advisory Committee. All members are happy to be involved in this meeting.

**8. AOB**

- RGP reported from BBSRC on the recent '*Physics for Life*' initiative. These grants are equivalent in size to sLOLA grants. Expressions of interest are due on January 15<sup>th</sup> and the final grant submission date is on February 12<sup>th</sup>. RGP reported that if this turnaround is too tight there will be another call in a 2 or 3 years.

<https://bbsrc.ukri.org/funding/filter/2018-physics-of-life/>

- Proposed article for Frontiers in Plant Science on regulation of NBTs in the UK
  - > GP has been invited by Denis Eriksson to provide an article for this issue.

GP proposed that it would be interesting to prepare a piece on the situation in the UK following Brexit. YBA agreed this would be an interesting and important article. However the committee thinks this would be a challenging assignment.

**ACTION: GP will plan how this submission might work and correspond with Denis Eriksson.**

- Support proposal for European Plant Science PhD Retreat: Networking session (up to £1K). 2018 event: <https://epsr2018.sites.uu.nl/>

> GP received a proposal for this event from Jordan Brown at University of Nottingham. Committee agreed to support his meeting providing that GP can give a talk to introduce GARNet activities.

**Action: GP will liaise with the EPSP committee about this.**

- Draft GARNish edition 30.
  - > GP thanked DG and SS for their contributions to this issue of GARNish.

**9. Dates of Upcoming Committee Meetings:**

- March 21<sup>st</sup> 2019: Warwick hosted by MG
- June 13<sup>th</sup>: Birmingham, hosted by DG
- September 19<sup>th</sup> 2019: Dundee, hosted by SMC
- December 17<sup>th</sup> 2019, Leeds hosted by YBA