

## **Minutes of the 68<sup>th</sup> meeting of the GARNet Advisory Board**

**Date:** Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2019. Meeting 12.30pm-3.30pm, lunch at 12.00pm.

**Location:** School of Life Sciences, University of Birmingham.

**Host:** Daniel Gibbs

### **Papers and URLs:**

- > 1. Minutes of 67<sup>th</sup> AB Meeting
- > 2. <https://garnetimaging19.weebly.com/>
- > 3. GARNet Imaging Poster.
- > 4. <https://www.sebiology.org/events/event/impact-of-chromatin-domains-on-plant-phenotypes>
- > 5. <https://ics.hutton.ac.uk/3drnaseq/>
- > 6. ICAR2019\_Workshop\_Proposal.pdf
- > 7. ICAR2019\_Workshop\_Draft.pdf
- > 8. ICAR2021\_Intro.pptx
- > 9. <https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA18111>
- > 10. <http://icar2021.arabidopsisresearch.org/>
- > 11. RSB\_Careers\_Day.docx
- > 12. data-intensive-bioscience-questionnaire\_GARNet.docx
- > 13. 2018-19 MASC Annual Report

**Attendees:** Yoselin Bentinez-Alfonso (YBA), Rocio Gaudioso-Pedraza (RGP, UKRI-BBSRC), Daniel Gibbs (DG), Murray Grant (MG), Jill Harrison (JH), Sabina Leonelli (SL), Sarah McKim (SMc), Jim Murray (JM), Geraint Parry (GP), Renier Van Der Hoorn (RVDH).

### **1. Welcome**

- Meeting chaired by Daniel Gibbs

### **2. Apologies**

- Andrea Harper, Eirini Kaiserli, Steven Spoel, Sean May, Colin Turnbull.

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

- Minutes of the 67<sup>th</sup> meeting

> Minutes were accepted. These are published on the GARNet website here:

[https://www.garnetcommunity.org.uk/sites/default/files/67\\_GARNet\\_Committee\\_Minutes.pdf](https://www.garnetcommunity.org.uk/sites/default/files/67_GARNet_Committee_Minutes.pdf)

- Awaiting decision from BBSRC about GARNet2025 proposal

> At time of writing (26/6/19) this decision is still pending

- RGP to provide an update from UKRI-BBSRC on the movement of grants between responsive mode committees. RGP to provide an update on recruitment to responsive mode panels.

> RGP provided a very interesting analysis of UKRI-BBSRC responsive mode grants that had been moved between panels. RGP confirmed that grants are only moved when the

composite of a different panel is more favourable for the particular application. In theory this could change between different calls as panel composition changes. Therefore a grant submitted in 20xx Rd1 could be moved but maybe not moved if submitted to 20xx Rd2. RGP makes the point that the BBSRC encourages applicants to discuss the panel that is most appropriate for their submission.

> RGP mentioned that in future the BBSRC will ensure that 'the decision to transfer an application to another committee will follow a discussion with the applicant and BBSRC staff, rather than a notification'. The advisory committee welcomed this change in policy.

> RGP searched 1361 grant applications over the past 5 application rounds and found that 99 grants had been moved. RGP found that when compared to all other panels, panel B had the lowest number of applications either 'Transferred from' (17) or 'Received by' (12). In contrast both panels A and D had 29 grants 'Transferred from' whilst panel D had 39 grants 'Received by'. Of the moved grants involving panel B only 6 were related to plant science. Therefore the conclusion is that this is not a challenge specific to the plant science community. Applicants are advised to prepare their applications carefully so as they fit with the panel to which they are submitted.

**ACTION: The Advisory committee thanked RGP for the work she put into preparing this report. The advisory committee thought that an excellent outcome from this process is for UKRI-BBSRC to ensure that the transfer of grants is a decision made in consultation with the applicant; giving the opportunity, if needed, to remove their application from consideration. Advisory committee members will report these findings to their own departments and to the wider community.**

> RGP highlighted the following initiatives from UKRI-BBSRC:

- The Big Ideas Pipeline:

<https://bbsrc.ukri.org/news/policy/2019/190611-n-bioscience-big-ideas-pipeline/>

- Review of Data Intensive Bioscience:

<https://bbsrc.ukri.org/about/reviews/scientific-areas/review-data-intensive-bioscience/>

- Pool of Experts Recruitment Exercise:

<https://bbsrc.ukri.org/about/governance-structure/committees/committee-pool-membership/join-our-pool-of-experts-follow-on-fund-committee/> - plantscience

**ACTION: Members of the Advisory committee will apply to join the Pool of Experts. GP will promote this initiative to the GARNet community.**

- Update from GARNet administered Travel grants

> GP provided an update on the travel grants provided to ECRs to attend upcoming meetings:

- *RMS Botanical Microscopy: Oxford May 2019*. Four £150 awards.

Successful applicants: Nicholas Redman, Haoyu Lou, Richard Fusi each University of Nottingham. Chiara Perico, University of Bristol

- *Monogram Annual meeting: Nottingham May 2019*: Seven £200 awards.

Successful applicants: Laure Fourquet, NIAB. Sophie Harrington, JIC. Emily Marr and Laura Taylor, University of Cambridge. Megan Rafter, Rothamsted Research. Adeline Sourdille, James Hutton Institute. Cara Wheeldon, University of Leeds.

- *Cell Walls 2109: University of Cambridge July 2019*. Four £200 awards.

Successful applicants: Holly Allen, University of Manchester. Sam Amsbury, University of Leeds. Haoyu Lou, University of Nottingham. Christian Donohoe, University of Edinburgh.

- *FASEB meeting, New York State (co-organised by JM) August 2019*. Two £500 awards: Victoria Spencer, University of Bristol. Yen-Ting Lu, University of Edinburgh.

- Review of GARNet2020 grant finance.

> GP outlined current grant situation that finishes at the end of January 2020. The average monthly spend in first four months of 2019 was £9200. At end of April there is £91K remaining on the grant.

Therefore £9200x9months remaining = £82872. This leaves £10K remaining at present spending rate. Major travel costs for GP to ICAR2019 have been already paid out so there is no anticipated significant spending other than that already planned.

**ACTION: GP to keep track of GARNet finances to prevent overspending, particularly in light of increasing pension contributions later in 2019.**

#### 4. Update from upcoming GARNet organised events

- *Advances in Plant Imaging Workshop. University of Warwick, September 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> 2019*

> Schedule is now finalised. GARNet contribution will be approx. £5000. GP confirmed there have currently been 8 applications. GP encouraged Advisory committee members to advertise this meeting at their home institutions. Early bird deadline is July 24<sup>th</sup>.

**ACTION: GP and committee members continue to advertise the meeting.**

- SEB Plant Cell Symposium with INDEPTH COST Action on '*Impact of Chromatin Domains on Plant Phenotypes*'.

> Schedule finalised. The cost of attendance will be £200/£140. GP has arranged a JXBot special issue w 14 accepted review titles (to supply £7000 to meeting funds). There is separate financing for INDEPTH and SEB portions of the meeting.

**ACTION: GP to liaise with SEB Events manager to finalise meeting details.**

- Proposal from Wenbin Guo, Runxuan Guan and John Brown at James Hutton Institute to arrange a workshop to introduce 3D RNAseq visualization tool

(<https://ics.hutton.ac.uk/3drnaseq/>).

> GP introduced this proposal for a workshop on a new tool for analysis of RNAseq data. Initial suggested timing for Nottingham in September or York in December. Neither of these is ideal due to the early date in September and GARNet involvement in the SEB-COST meeting on available dates in December. This will be a 1.5-day meeting including workshop sessions with a selected speaker who has used this software. GP suggested inclusion of a session on data management with an invited speaker. GARNet could contribute up to £3000 to this meeting. The organisers think they could host 40 people. Both JM and YBA think they could find a venue to host the workshop in Bristol or Leeds in October or November. JM highlighted the opportunities to '*train the trainers*' in the use of this exciting new tool.

**ACTION: GP to confirm requirements from organisers for Wifi or ethernet. GP to liaise with GARNet advisory committee members to find a venue for the meeting and to further communicate with the organisers at the JHI.**

- GARNet activities at ICAR2019

<http://icar2019.arabidopsisresearch.org/schedule.htmlh>

- Workshop on China-UK collaborations

> GP is leading a workshop including Robert Sablowski, Xiaofeng Cao and Yuling Jiao. Presentation that includes contributions from UK institutions is available online at:

[https://www.garnetcommunity.org.uk/sites/default/files/Links\\_between\\_UK\\_China\\_Small\\_0.pdf](https://www.garnetcommunity.org.uk/sites/default/files/Links_between_UK_China_Small_0.pdf)

**ACTION: Writing after ICAR2019, at least 50 people attended the meeting, which was pleasing. GP to continue to advertise these opportunities across the usual channels.**

- Contribution to Global Plant Council Science Communication workshop.
- Introduction of ICAR2021 in Belfast
- > Meeting website is now live: <http://icar2021.arabidopsisresearch.org/>
  - Attending GPC annual meeting.
  - Organise and lead MASC annual meeting.
  
- GP to attend opening meeting of new Cost Action on Gene Editing in Plants.  
<https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA18111>
- > GP reported from his attendance of a recent meeting at RAGT seeds site in Cambridgeshire organized by Penny Maplestone from the British Society of Plant Breeders. Of greatest interest is that the European Seed Association (ESA) will push the EU for a directed amendment of the recent ECJ ruling on the use of gene edited plants. This is thought to be the best strategy to change this legislation, which is vital to maintain EU competitiveness in the agricultural sector. The ESA are aware that the ECJ decision provides the opportunity for member nations to act unilaterally to ban use of all forms of mutagenesis in the development of new varieties. This would be devastating for the ESA and the future of EU agricultural development.  
**ACTION: GP to publish a report from the meeting in the latest edition of GARNish in late June 2019.**

- Launch of ICAR2021 website  
<http://icar2021.arabidopsisresearch.org/>

## 5. UKPSF Update:

> GP and MG report from more recent UKPSF committee meeting that began to set agenda for future activities of UKPSF. In the short term these are:

1. Plant Science Panel at part of RSB careers day in October  
<https://www.rsb.org.uk/careers-and-cpd/careers/bioscience-careers-day>
2. Look into possibility of interacting with organisations that have UG summer studentships to take advantage of the excellent number of applicants who apply to RSB for Plant Health awards.  
<https://www.rsb.org.uk/get-involved/grants/plant-health-ug-studentships>
3. Provide input into RSB education committee consultation on curriculum review.
4. Advice on development of new UKSPF microsite within RSB. This could be developed as a central location for educational and policy resources.

The primary challenge is for UKPSF to understand what can be supported through involvement of different RSB committees.

> JM suggested that RSB could contact UK Universities in order to take advantage of the funding each institution has for summer studentships.

> Advisory committee suggested that RSB could provide a centralised location for resources involved with IP.

> MG encouraged Advisory committee members to sign up for the UKPSF newsletter:  
<https://www.rsb.org.uk/policy/groups-and-committees/ukpsf>

**ACTION: GP and MG to continue to work with UKPSF to ensure that plant science content is represented across all of RSB activities.**

## 6. AOB

- Verify protocol for travel reimbursements
- > GP confirmed that for auditing purposes, where possible original receipts need to be submitted to the Cardiff University School of Biosciences finance department.
  - Recruit committee member to write GARNish editorial.
- > GARNish31 will be published at the end of June. RvdH agreed to write a brief editorial.
  - Data Intensive Big Data Submission  
<https://bbsrc.ukri.org/about/reviews/scientific-areas/review-data-intensive-bioscience/>
- > GP and RGP encourage individual submissions to this call for evidence.
  - MASC Annual Report  
[https://www.garnetcommunity.org.uk/sites/default/files/2019\\_MASC\\_Report\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.garnetcommunity.org.uk/sites/default/files/2019_MASC_Report_FINAL.pdf)
- > GP described contents of MASC Annual report. Of particular interest was the analysis of Arabidopsis publication rates. These will be published in the upcoming GARNish and on the GARNet blog. GP provided an update on possible funding options for Araport (<https://www.araport.org/>) that will no longer be supported by NSF. In the short term the Thalemine App will be hosted by TAIR whilst the JBrowse was hosted by the University of Toronto, supported by a grant gained by Nick Provat.
- > GP introduced Coursera course on Plant Bioinformatics:  
<https://www.coursera.org/learn/plant-bioinformatics>
- > JM advertised upcoming lectureship positions at Cardiff University
- > SMc advertised position as Curator of Dundee Botanical Garden:  
[https://www.jobs.dundee.ac.uk/fe/tpl\\_uod01.asp?s=4A515F4E5A565B1A&jobid=103358,9848652148&key=141375177&c=65624798836035&pagestamp=sexclfxufmtonayyoe](https://www.jobs.dundee.ac.uk/fe/tpl_uod01.asp?s=4A515F4E5A565B1A&jobid=103358,9848652148&key=141375177&c=65624798836035&pagestamp=sexclfxufmtonayyoe)
- > GP advertised Community Resource at NIAB that provides opportunities for transformation of a gene of interest into wheat or rice. Deadline was June 24<sup>th</sup>.  
<https://www.niab.com/transgenic>

## 7. Dates of Upcoming Committee Meetings:

- September 19<sup>th</sup> 2019: Dundee, hosted by SMc
- > Proposed morning meeting to allow for previous evening arrival and lunchtime departure.
  - December 17<sup>th</sup> 2019, Leeds hosted by YBA
  - GP to circulate 2020 dates in September (if appropriate)