

## **Minutes from the 69<sup>th</sup> meeting of the GARNet Advisory Committee**

**Date:** Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

**Location:** James Hutton Institute, University of Dundee, Errol Road, Dundee DD2 5DA

**Host:** Sarah McKim

09.00am: Tour of facilities at James Hutton Institute led by Sarah McKim

10.00am: GARNet Meeting

12.00pm: Lunch.

### **Papers and URLs:**

- > 1. Minutes of 68<sup>th</sup> AB Meeting
- > 2. [https://www.garnetcommunity.org.uk/sites/default/files/GARNet\\_Warwick\\_Final\\_Online.pdf](https://www.garnetcommunity.org.uk/sites/default/files/GARNet_Warwick_Final_Online.pdf)
- > 3. GARNet Imaging Workshop Survey
- > 4. UKRI-BBSRC document on Bioimaging and AI
- > 5. Draft of GARNet2025 grant submission
- > 6. GARNet2025 GANTT Chart
- > 7. <https://garnet3drnaseqworkshop.weebly.com/>
- > 8. <https://www.sebiology.org/events/event/impact-of-chromatin-domains-on-plant-phenotypes>
- > 9. GARNet SEB-INDEPTH Application Form
- > 10. <http://icar2021.arabidopsisresearch.org/>
- > 11. ICAR2021\_Master Excel file
- > 11. [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1UoccpYAELgU9\\_DvS9ZdDicvsWfIAOo9jszwOeccAQ/edit-gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1UoccpYAELgU9_DvS9ZdDicvsWfIAOo9jszwOeccAQ/edit-gid=0)
- > 12. <http://www.sebiology.org/grants-and-funding/funding-for-events-and-meetings/seb-symposia-funding>
- > 13. Recent BBSRC\_Grants Excel file

**Attendees:** Yoselin Benitez-Alfonso (YBA), Murray Grant (MG), Jill Harrison (JH), , Sabina Leonelli (SL by skype), Sean May (SM), Sarah McKim (SMc), Jim Murray (JM), Geraint Parry (GP), Renier Van Der Hoorn (RVDH), Steven Spoel (SS).

### **1. Welcome**

- Meeting chaired by SS.

### **2. Apologies**

- Daniel Gibbs (DG), Andrea Harper (AH), Eirini Kaiserli (EK), Rocio Gaudioso-Pedraza (RGP, UKRI-BBSRC), Colin Turnbull (CT),

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

- Minutes of the 68<sup>th</sup> meeting

> Meeting accepted as published online

[https://www.garnetcommunity.org.uk/sites/default/files/68\\_GARNet\\_Committee\\_Minutes.pdf](https://www.garnetcommunity.org.uk/sites/default/files/68_GARNet_Committee_Minutes.pdf)

- Report from ICAR2019, Wuhan, China

- Update from UK-China and SciComm Workshops

> GP reported that around 500 people attended both workshops and that they appeared to be well received. The ICAR2019 meeting had around 800 paying delegates with 1100+ total attendees. The gender ratio for the Plenary speakers was not good. This was thought to be a local issue and not with the general ICAR meeting. This will improve in ICAR2020 and ICAR2021.

- GARNet workshop on 'Advanced in Plant Imaging'

- 49 paying delegates, 62 attendees, estimated GARNet cost is £3K

> MG reported the meeting was well received (21/23 attendees giving the highest rating in the follow-up survey). The catering had a mixed response and this is being followed up by local organisers at Warwick. For this event Warwick proved a challenging location to organise a meeting due to the location of the Gibbet Hill campus, the lack of available on-campus accommodation, access to meeting venues and some issues with the catering.

> During a final discussion session the meeting attendees confirmed that to aid their research they want 1) Training in Quantitative imaging 2) Community Integration.

The AC discussed that the community would benefit from a hands-on workshop on quantitative imaging. This will be included as part of the GARNet2025 submission but should also be considered in the first part of 2020.

> RGP supplied a document from the BBSRC regarding their future Bioimaging strategy and an ongoing consultation on AI.

**ACTION: GP to look at the options for the organisation of a workshop on Quantitative imaging in the first part of 2020.**

- Update on GARNet applications to join UKRI-BBSRC Pool of Experts

> As hoped a number of the Advisory Committee (AC) had applied to join the pool of experts. Hopefully this will lift the representation of discovery-led plant scientists on Panel B.

- Update on January 2019 GARNet2025 grant submission

> JM, SS, GP reported on the very useful discussion they had with the BBSRC. The proposal was ranked bottom of the list despite being discussed at length in the panel meeting. The panel agreed that they *could* support this type of network through responsive mode but that they thought this submission was not well presented and therefore unfundable. As with any other research grant, the BBSRC agreed to consider a resubmission if the grant was clearly different. GARNet thanks the BBSRC for the very useful discussions we had about the resubmission process.

#### **4. Discussion of GARNet2025: Promoting Technological Innovations in Plant Science**

- Submission date October 2<sup>nd</sup>

> The AC provided useful inputs into the direction of this submission.

The main changes to the proposal are:

- JM will continue as PI, SS is included as Co-I. We thought that a better case could be made for a single Co-I, instead of the three Co-Is included in the previous submission.

- Primary focus on supporting uptake of new technologies by the entire discovery-led plant science community

- Selection of three focus areas; Integrated Multiomics, Bioimaging, Network analysis and modeling

- The proposal will include a significant portion of community integration to bring together people from different networks in order to more widely promote new technologies

The AC suggested that there should be a focus on training in data literacy, management and analysis. This is the thread that is woven throughout the proposal.

Special thanks to Dan Gibbs and Smita Kurup for their important contributions to the planning of the first and this GARNet submission.

**ACTION: GP, JM and SS took on the advice of the AC to prepare the proposal that was submitted on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

## 5. Update from upcoming GARNet organised events

- GARNet Workshop on 3D RNAseq Analysis Tool
  - University of Leeds, Oct 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>.
  - 20 delegates can be accommodated
  - Maximum GARNet contribution: £3K

> GP reported on the organisation of this workshop. JM suggested that it should be recorded and placed on the YouTube/GARNet website. A limit on the number of attendees is due to the server capacity at the James Hutton. The workshop this will be temporarily boosted. Runxuan Zhang and Wenbin Guo from the JHI are the academic leads of this event, YBA is the local lead.

**ACTION: GP to work with YBA to arrange the recording the meeting. By the closing date there had been over 30 applications for the workshop. This number of users should be able to be accommodated by the JHI servers.**

- SEB Plant Cell Symposium with INDEPTH COST Action on '*Impact of Chromatin Domains on Plant Phenotypes*'. December 8th-11<sup>th</sup> 2019, El Escorial, Madrid. (GP)
  - Schedule finalised
  - 20+ opportunities for speakers selected from abstracts + short poster talks.
  - GARNet travel grants (4 x £250).
  - Costs reduced to £100/£150

> GP provided an update on this meeting co-organised by GARNet, SEB and the INDEPTH COST Action (<https://www.brookes.ac.uk/indepth/>). Due to the multiple-stakeholders of this meeting, the finances are challenging to finalise but are ongoing. GARNet is providing £1K of travel grants to help UK-based researchers attend this meeting.

**ACTION: GP to continue with the organisation of this meeting.**

- Alan Turing Institute (ATI): AI between Plant and Agricultural Science: Green Paths towards Environmental Intelligence

> SL is a Turing fellow and introduced her work with the ATI, who are looking to increase their work with the plant science community (<https://www.turing.ac.uk/research/research-projects/field-data-global-indicators>). They are organising an event on December 16<sup>th</sup> to introduce the members of the ATI to the UK plant science community. GP will attend this meeting and report back to the AC and the wider community about the opportunities that might arise.

**ACTION: The AC thought that this is an area in which GARNet should be involved with and therefore suggested that an appropriate section is added to the latest GARNet2025 submission. SL will provide a letter of support for the proposal.**

- Update on ICAR2021

> GP reported that he will soon contact the SAB about the planning of the Keynote and Plenaries sessions for ICAR2021. ICAR2020 had an excellent response of 88 applications to organize concurrent sessions. ICAR2021 will repeat this method of selecting concurrent sessions as it clearly encourages community engagement.

**ACTION: GP to continue with the organisation of the meeting, including securing the necessary financial support.**

## 5. Future GARNet Advisory Board Activities

> There is finance remaining on the GARNet2020 grant. This results from a late start to the grant and the loss of Ruth Bastow (employed at 10% of her time on the grant) for the final two years of funding. JM will request a six-month No Cost extension from the UKRI-BBSRC until July 31<sup>st</sup> 2020. The uncertainty around future funding means that there will not be a March 2020 advisory committee meeting. If the grant is successful then the Advisory Committee will return for a meeting in June 2020 to plan future activities. There will be no GARNet elections in November 2019.

## 6. AOB

### - UK Plant Science Federation (UKPSF) Update

> MG and GP provided an update from the recent UKPSF advisory committee meeting (held on 5<sup>th</sup> September at Linnean Institute). This confirmed that UKPSF should be developed as a centralised hub for the resources that are available through its member organisations. This will have a focus on early career researchers, education and careers. The development of a new RSB/UKPSF website will be critical to support this emphasis. This will be rolled out in early 2020.

### - SEB Cell/Plant Symposium Application: March 1<sup>st</sup> 2020.

> GP would be happy to work with any members of the Advisory Committee to apply to organise a 2021 SEB Plant Symposium.

### - Recent BBSRC responsive mode awards

> GP introduced the latest successful BBSRC responsive mode applications  
<https://bbsrc.ukri.org/funding/post-application/awarded-grants/>

### - BBSRC Partnering Awards: <https://bbsrc.ukri.org/funding/filter/>

> GP highlighted these awards. Unfortunately the current timing isn't great for GARNet to be involved with this process but in future GARNet will be happy to work with UK researchers to develop these type of international interactions.

### - Consultation on SEB activities

> As incoming SEB Vice-President JM is leading a consultation on future SEB activities, in particular how the SEB Main Meeting is organised. This event uniquely mixes plant, cell and animal sessions so the SEB want to learn whether this model is the best option for its future.

**ACTION: If anyone has input to this process then please contact JM at [MurrayJA1@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:MurrayJA1@cardiff.ac.uk).**

## 7. Date of Upcoming Committee Meeting:

- December 17<sup>th</sup> 2019, Leeds hosted by YBA: 1pm-4pm