



HEADS OF UNIVERSITY CENTRES OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES (HUCBMS)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

6 September 2022

University of West of England

The 2022 Annual General Meeting of HUCBMS held on Tuesday 6th September at the University of West of England.

Present: Dr Linda Walsh (Glasgow Caledonian), Professor Valerie Randall (Bradford), Dr Esther Bell (KCL), Dr Sue Jones (York St John), Professor Janey Henderson (HUBS), Professor Claire Pike (Anglia Ruskin), Dr Lynne Lawrance (UWE), Professor Victor Gault (Ulster), Dr Selwa Alsam (Essex), Dr Simon Fox (Plymouth), Dr Ashok Patel (Birmingham City), Dr Ian Locke (Honorary Treasurer, Westminster), Professor P Gerry McKenna (Hon Executive Secretary), Professor Yvonne Barnett (Anglia Ruskin), Dr Lowri Mainwaring (Cardiff Metropolitan), and Dr Selwa Alsam (Minutes Secretary; Essex) plus over 40 HUCBMS institutional representatives.

In Attendance: Mr Alan Wainwright (IBMS).

- 1. Apologies:** Professor Jacqueline McCormack (Atlantic Technological University).
- 2.** The minutes of 2021 AGM (previously published) were noted.

3. President's Introductory Comments:

Professor Yvonne Barnett (President of HUCBMS) highlighted the excellent work of HUCBMS for the Biomedical Sciences academic community. She also commended the activities of the Executive Committee during the past two years, noting the close relationship with IBMS, HUBS and Royal Society of Biology.

4. Reports from Executive Committee members:

- EDI – Dr Ashok Patel spoke about the main joint HCPC and EDI meeting. There were conversations about biomedical cohorts and the route to medicine and that biomedical sciences course provide a good background for many other fields of study.
- TEF – Dr Simon Fox spoke about the UFS and the released consultation with the role of students' input. HUCBMS also had their input and participation in the agenda. He also spoke about the proposed time frame. Institutions have until mid-January to send their reports.
- RSB Education and Policy Advisory Committee – a verbal report was received from Professor Claire Pike on the curriculum framework. Any detail will have been included in previous minutes.
- IBMS Education and Professional Standards Committee – Professor Valerie Randall spoke about the IBMS and the accreditation of many BSc and MSc degrees, including overseas. She also talked about the strength of subject area and the good professional practice and communication with pathology departments. She referred the 5-year review process. Mr Alan Wainwright had retired in March and been replaced by Dr Sue Jones.
- Brexit – Professor Gerry McKenna reported that unfortunately there had been no recent progress in negotiating UK participation in EU Horizon Europe and related programmes.
- HCPC – Dr Selwa Alsam informed the meeting that the HCPC has recently published their revised standards of proficiency for biomedical scientists. The revised standards were approved by HCPC's Council in March 2022 and will take effect on 1 September 2023.

Changes include an increased emphasis on:

- the promotion of public health and prevention of service users' ill-health
- the role of equality, diversity, and inclusion, with specific importance placed on ensuring practice is inclusive for all service-users

- the central role of the service-user, including the importance of valid consent and effective communication in providing good care
- the importance of registrants maintaining their fitness to practise by looking after their mental health and seeking help where necessary
- the importance of leadership at all levels of practice
- the need to be able to use information, communication and digital technologies appropriate to practice.

From 1st September 2023, the IBMS will be updating Registration Training Portfolios and BSc degree accreditation documents to reflect these HCPC revisions.

- Knowledge Exchange Framework – a verbal report was received from Professor Yvonne Barnett on KEF. From 2023 further consultation will be undertaken by Research England. Details have been included in previous Executive Committee minutes.
- Joint HUBS/HUCBMS Workshops – Dr Linda Walsh informed the AGM regarding the HUBS workshop including remote exams and EDI. Joint workshops and collaboration sharing best practice between HUCBMS and HUBS is a positive development.
- Stormont STEM All-Party Group – Professor P Gerry McKenna spoke about All-Party Group on STEM to bring together members interested in STEM to raise awareness of MLAs. There will be a one-day meeting on 17th October to discuss a range of relevant issues and to receive presentations.
- Foundation for Science and Technology - Professor P Gerry McKenna outlined the range of events that have taken place at FST.

5. REF Outcomes: Professor Victor Gault talked about REF submissions and the amount of funds. There was improved performance by HUCBMS institutions in terms of outputs and impact. Thanks were expressed to HUCBMS and IBMS for nominating assessors for the exercise.

6. Review of QAA Biomedical Sciences benchmarking statement: Dr Linda Walsh and Dr Ian Locke spoke about the review process. The next steps will be outlined in Dr Sue Jones talk within the HUCBMS conference programme entitled "IBMS education priorities".

7. Brief comments on Scotland, Wales, Ireland and Northern Ireland

matters: Dr Linda Walsh, Dr Lowri Mainwaring and Professor Gault reported on Scottish, Welsh and Northern Ireland issues, respectively.

- 8. HUBS:** Professor Janey Henderson reported that HUBS had held their annual conference face-to-face at the Francis Crick Institute in London 28 – 29th March 2022. There was good attendance over both days with an interesting programme of speakers. HUBS offered the opportunity to attend virtually but this was taken up by a only handful of delegates – illustrating a wish by members to return to face-to face meetings.

As part of the meeting, the finalists for the Higher Education Bioscience Teacher of the Year (HEBTOY) presented their submissions and the winner of this prestigious award was announced. Professor Jo Rushworth (Lincoln University) was presented with the award. A new round of HEBTOY 2023 applications is currently open.

Professor Janey Henderson has taken up the role as Chair, Professor Simon Guild has taken up another term of office as Treasurer and HUBS has opened nominations for Executive Secretary.

HUBS supports three Advisory groups:

- Early Career Lecturers in Biosciences forum
- Bioscience Educators network
- Bioscience Awarding Gap network

Each of these also host workshops. Information and resources are also published on the RSB website and Advance HE Connect Platform.

Finally, HUBS is pleased to announce its annual conference will be held at the Wellcome Collection, London, 20-21 March 2023.

- 9. Social Media Strategy and External Examiners' Database:** No reports in the unavoidable absence of Professor McCormack.

- 10. IBMS developments and accreditation update:** Dr Sue Jones spoke about education development, accreditation and that the IBMS conducts 25-30 accreditations a year including, BSc, MSc and apprenticeship programmes. She also talked about the new benchmark statement which will be included in her presentation on the 2nd day of the conference.

11. Report by Hon. Treasurer: Dr Ian Locke reported that the HUCBMS budget is mainly from the annual subscription. The financial position remains healthy. Institutions that have failed to meet their payment obligations were noted and will be followed up.

12. Elections to Executive Committee: Professor P Gerry McKenna reported that the number of nominations for election to the HUCBMS Executive Committee did not exceed the number of vacancies. Dr Simon Fox and Dr Claire Wynne have been elected for the 3-year period, 2022/23 to 2024/25.

13. HUCBMS 2023 and subsequent conferences:

It was noted that HUCBMS 2023 will take place at Atlantic Technological University. Dr Jeremy Bird gave a short presentation on the facilities and nearby scenic attractions for delegates.

Professor McKenna encouraged HUCBMS member institutions to submit expressions of interest to host future HUCBMS conferences.

14. Any other business: Professor Barnett welcomed Professor Victor Gault as incoming President and wished him well in his new role.