

91st Annual General Meeting (AGM) Society for Applied Microbiology

Company number: 6462427 **Charity number: 1123044**

Meeting held online at 16:00 on 12 July 2022 via Zoom

1. Apologies for absence

None

2. Approval of Minutes of the previous meeting

90th Annual General Meeting and matters arising from previous meeting were approved by audience poll.

Proposer – Professor Ian Feavers

Seconder – Dr Samantha Law

All accepted. There were no matters arising.

3. Reports and Accounts

The Chief Executive Dr Lucy Harper presented The Trustees Report from 2021, stating that the Society has achieved a lot during 2021 and that all details can be found in the annual report which is available on SfAM website under Governance.

Dr Harper discussed the Strategic Priorities for 2021 which come under 3 Strategic Pillars (Voice, Impact and Sustainability).

Dr Harper thanked the team for their resilience and hard work throughout the year despite the difficulties of the pandemic. There had been £174,000 provided in Grants and £1.2 million spent on wide variety of charitable activity.

Dr Harper noted that the relevance of applied microbiology was highlighted by the reaction to the winner of the W H Pierce Prize during 2021. Freya Harrison's work using medieval texts as inspiration for natural product drug discovery generated 65,000 Twitter views which was a record for the Society. The Society has a voice on 15 committees and working groups across the learned society and microbiology sectors. And held 9 digital events including the first International Applied Microbiology Conference which attracted 1467 attendees from 65 countries. Dr Harper stated that the global reach attained from this conference was one of the drivers for the new strategic direction.

Dr Harper noted that the most significant task undertaken during 2021 was developing the new strategic vision for The Society. This new vision highlights how applied

microbiology provides solutions to global challenges and noted that this new vision would be transformational for the Society.

Dr Harper informed attendees that the Society is being restructured around 7 of their own goals which are all aligned with 8 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The new vision is that Microbiology can solve the world's greatest challenges. Dr Harper noted that there is a new mission to nurture and engage a global interdisciplinary community. And that the new values are: Pushing Forwards, Inclusivity, Meaningful Collaboration and Scientific Rigor.

Dr Harper went on to say that in order to authentically articulate the new strategy there is a need to ensure that our name truly represents our new strategic direction – and that name is Applied Microbiology International.

Dr Harper highlighted the documents all attendees had received prior to the meeting which clearly describe the rationale behind this name change. Dr Harper stated that this is a significant change, and not one that anyone at SfAM has taken lightly. Views regarding this change of name were shown on a slide from established members and trustees.

Dr Harper also noted how the new brand for the organisation is being developed.

Dr Harper informed everyone that there are exciting plans of activities and events coming up for the foreseeable future, for the end of 2022 and beginning of 2023. These plans will be revealed in the coming months. Dr Harper thanked all attendees. Professor Gilmore thanked Dr Harper for all the progress that has been made over the past, very challenging year.

4. Proposal to change The Society of Microbiology's name to Applied Microbiology International

Professor Gilmore stated that the results of 2021s strategic review was to focus on impact-orientated initiatives within the discipline of applied microbiology.

Professor Gilmore informed everyone that a wide range of Stakeholders within and outwith Accademia had been consulted to ensure we ended up with a helpful strategic direction.

The rationale for the name change was to reposition and make the organization ready for the future in a rapidly-changing and developing sector.

Professor Gilmore invited everyone to vote on the change of name, stating that this is a special resolution which requires 75% of the votes to be in favor.

93% of meeting attendees and proxy-voters voted in support of the Special Resolution to change the name of The Society for Applied Microbiology's to Applied Microbiology International.

Proposer – Professor Sally Cutler

Secunder – Dr James Williamson

Professor Gilmore thanked everyone for their endorsement of the change.

5. Auditors

The re-appointment of Peters Elworthy & Moore as the Society's auditors were accepted by those present with the majority voting in favor.

Proposer – Dr Suzy Moody

Secunder – Professor Ian Feavers

6 Auditors' remuneration

The majority voted in favor of the auditors' remuneration to be set by the Trustees of the Society.

Professor Gilmore thanked everyone for their votes.

Proposed – Dr Suzy Moody

Secundered – Professor Ian Feavers

7 Scientific Programmes Secretary

Professor Gilmore thanked Professor Ian Feavers on behalf of the Society for his extensive and valuable contributions to the Society generally, and more recently in his role as Scientific Programmes Secretary, from which he is stepping down.

8 Appointment of Vice President

Professor Gilmore asked all attendees to vote to approve the appointment of a Vice President – Professor Jack Gilbert as elected by the Executive Committee of trustees on 23 March 2022.

The majority voted in favour and Jack Gilbert is duly elected and confirmed as Society for Applied Microbiology's Vice President.

Proposed – Dr Samantha Law

Secundered – Dr Emmanuel Adukwu

9 Election and appointment of trustees

Professor Gilmore explained that several trustees are due to step down. Thanks were extended to those who have served their terms as trustees on the Executive Committee, including Professor Steve Forsythe, Dr Elaine Cloutman–Green, Dr Catherine Ludden and Dr Marcela Hernandez–Garcia.

This motion is to agree the following resolution that the appointment of the candidates selected for trustee positions by the members through an online ballot held between 17 June 2022 and 8 July 2022, be approved.

The members who were who were nominated and were successfully selected in that election process are:

Professor Cath Reece
Dr Arpita Bose
Dr James Timmis
Dr Tajudeen Bamidele Akanji

The majority voted in favour.

Professor Gilmore welcomed the new members to the Executive Committee and thanked other members who put their names forward for nominations but were not successful.

Proposed – Dr James Williamson
Seconded – Dr Sally Cutler

10. Any other business

No further business items were received.

Professor Gilmore thanked everyone for attending The Annual General Meeting for The Society for Applied Microbiology

