

Minutes for 92nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Applied Microbiology
International

11 July 2023, 16:00 BST

Online via Zoom

Present:

45 members attended the meeting, including the following trustees and members of AMI staff.

Brendan Gilmore, President (BG)
Jack Gilbert, Vice President / President (JG)
Diane Purchase, Trustee (DP)
James Timmis, Trustee (JT)
Samantha Law, Trustee (SL)
Emmanuel Adukwu, Trustee (EA)
Sally Cutler, Trustee (SC)
James Williamson, Trustee (JW)

In attendance:

Lucy Harper, Chief Executive (LH)
Paul Sainsbury, Director of Communications and Business Development (PS)
Katherine Roberts, Governance Manager (KR)
Robert Millar, Marketing Manager (RM)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Prof Gilmore welcomed members to the meeting. A quorum of members was present at the meeting. He noted apologies for absence had been received from John Threlfall (trustee) and Ron Bishop (member).

2. Approval of minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the 91st Annual General Meeting held online on 12 July 2022 were considered and approved by audience poll.

Proposer: Samantha Law
Secunder: Ian Feavers

Prof Brendan Gilmore confirmed there were no matters arising from the minutes.

3. Annual Report and Accounts

The Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022 were accepted by those present with a majority voting in favour.

Proposer: Jeff McGarvey

Secunder: Marcela Hernandez

4. Auditors

Prof Brendan Gilmore explained that AMI had completed a tender process to select a new firm of auditors. Haysmacintyre would replace PEM for the audit of AMI's 2023 annual report and accounts.

The proposal that Haysmacintyre should be appointed as Applied Microbiology International's Auditors was accepted by those present with a majority voting in favour.

Proposer: James Williamson

Secunder: Atanu Banerjee

5. Auditors Remuneration

Prof Brendan Gilmore invited members to authorise the Trustees to set the level of the Auditors' fees. This proposal was accepted by those present with a majority voting in favour.

Proposer Diane Purchase

Secunder Mike Dempsey

6. Presentation of the Trustees Annual Report and Accounts 2022

AMI's Chief Executive, Dr Lucy Harper, presented the Trustees Annual Report and Accounts from 2022.

Dr Harper outlined some of AMI's objectives and achievements during 2022. She noted that 2022 had been a year of significant change for the organisation. In July 2022 the Society for Applied Microbiology (SfAM) had changed its name and became Applied Microbiology International (AMI). The resulting rebrand exercise had been a significant success. She thanked the AMI team for all their hard work to move to the new name and branding and said how proud she was of the new look and feel. She noted that AMI's members had approved the change by 93% at the AGM in July 2022. Dr Harper invited members to share any feedback they may have on the new name and branding.

Members were reminded that AMI's strategy was focused on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs). Dr Harper said that AMI believed microbiology could change the world by solving the world's greatest challenges. The seven goals adopted by AMI were:

- 1) Food Security – aligned with UNSDG 2.
- 2) One Health – aligned with UNSDG 3.
- 3) Climate Action – aligned with UNSDG 13.

- 4) Healthy Land – aligned with UNSDG 15.
- 5) Clean Water – aligned with UNSDG 6.
- 6) Ocean Sustainability – aligned with UNSDG 14.
- 7) Economic Equality – aligned with UNSDG 1.

In 2022 AMI had moved to establish a series of Advisory Groups which would support AMI to prioritise specific targets and achieve the most impact. The advisory groups provided AMI with access to member expertise and networks. Anticipated outputs from the Advisory Groups included scientific meetings, conferences, roundtable meetings, content for *The Microbiologist*, and articles for AMI's journals.

Strategic projects completed during 2022 were the development of a new website and online publication of *The Microbiologist*, AMI's industry leading online magazine.

Another ongoing project was an ambition to further grow AMI's membership. Between July and November 2023 326 new members joined AMI. The organisation also aimed to make the most of the opportunities presented by having a diverse global membership. To support this a network of Global Ambassadors had been established. These were microbiologists located across the world with a range of expertise and knowledge. It was expected that the Global Ambassadors would help to ensure AMI's output was relevant to communities around the world.

The first Early Careers research symposium since the Covid 19 pandemic was held in June 2022, this annual event was an important opportunity for early career scientists and provided a valuable safe space to share their research findings.

The Environmental Microbiology Lecture in October 2022 marked the stepping down of Prof Ken Timmis, Founding and Chief Editor. The lecture was given by Professor Kristala Jones Prather.

The inaugural AMI awards event had been held in London in November 2022. The event celebrated the brightest minds in the field of microbiology. The guest of honour was Sir Jonathan Van-Tam who was made an honorary fellow of AMI. Four awards were awarded with nominations from more than 30 countries:

- W.H. Pierce Prize was awarded to Joshua Quick of the University of Birmingham.
- Basil Jarvis Prize was presented to Tanushree Gupta based at the Hopkirk Research Institute in New Zealand.
- Dorothy Jones Prize was awarded to Davide Bulgarelli, a Senior Lecturer and a Principal Investigator at the University of Dundee.
- Product of the Year Award was presented to Hygiena, for the Innovate Autosampler III.

In November 2022 AMI's policy team held a roundtable discussion with policy experts about the next steps for the UK on antimicrobial resistance. A range of stakeholders were brought together to review the national action plan and provide a roadmap to compliment the addendum to this plan.

AMI's pitch to the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee was selected by as winner of the My Science Inquiry. The project explored regulatory barriers and opportunities for bacteriophage therapy in the UK, it was presented to the Committee by Professor James Ebdon, on behalf of AMI.

During 2022 AMI continued to ensure diversity and inclusion within staff, trustees and committees. This included drawing from the widest pool talent for its staff, trustees and contributors to its scientific meetings. In addition, AMI worked with the Royal Society of Biology and partners in the learned society sector to support and promote schemes for diversity and inclusion.

There had been significant progress to develop AMI's journals. During the year the Journal of Applied Microbiology and Letters in Applied Microbiology had been moved from Wiley to Oxford University Press. A new journal, Sustainable Microbiology, had been launched and was open for submissions. The journal was unique because it would publish both scientific and policy papers.

Dr Harper emphasised that publishing within AMI's journals was the best way members could give something back to the AMI community. Without people publishing in the journals AMI would not be able to deliver its important work.

AMI continued to work with many long-term strategic partners, these collaborations were important to help AMI to achieve common goals across the scientific community.

Dr Harper shared a summary of AMI's headline achievements, she noted that during 2022 84 members had registered for the AGM and she celebrated the fact this had grown to 130 registrants in 2023.

Dr Harper explained AMI's plans for the future centred on raising awareness and promotion of the pivotal role microbes must play in addressing global challenges. The events strategy, publishing strategy and diversity strategy would continue to be developed. The newly established Advisory Groups would mature as they grew and formed action plans to deliver activities which would support achievement of the UNSDGs. She emphasised the Advisory Groups included 13 Global Ambassadors and 6 journal editors, this joined up approach, which brought together AMI's membership and

authorship communities would provide impact and help to further grow AMI's membership.

During 2022 AMI made the decision to move all investments to Cazenove's Responsible Multi Asset Fund. This fund was designed for charities and monitored against the UNSDGs.

During the year ownership thinking had been embedded within the AMI staff team. This included involvement in development of AMI's strategy and the use of organisation wide KPIs. Dr Harper expressed her thanks to all members of the team, for their commitment and can-do attitude. She also expressed thanks to the trustees for their work with AMI and giving their time and expertise in helping to push AMI forward.

Prof Brendan Gilmore invited members to accept the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022. They were accepted by those present with a majority voting in favour.

Proposer: Ian Fevers

Seconder: Atanu Banerjee

7. Resignation of General Secretary

Prof Brendan Gilmore noted an additional item of business which was not listed on the agenda for the meeting. The previous day AMI had received news that Dr Suzy Moody would be resigning from her role as General Secretary, with immediate effect.

Prof Gilmore expressed his sincere thanks for Dr Moody for her years of service to and support for AMI. Dr Moody had been a strong ambassador and representative for AMI. She had been a strong, courageous, and principled voice during her time as General Secretary. Prof Gilmore said her insights had been valued and appreciated greatly.

The process to recruit a new General Secretary would be discussed by the Executive Committee at their meeting the follow day, and full details about the vacancy would be shared with the members during August 2023.

8. Appointment of a new President

Prof Brendan Gilmore expressed his thanks for those who provided support to him during his time as a trustee, vice president and as president.

He noted thanks to several people including Prof Mark Fielder (preceding President), Prof Mark Adams, and Prof Christine Dodd. Prof Gilmore thanked other members of the Executive Committee, past and current. He had been honoured to work alongside them and thanked them all for giving their time generously and willingly to shape the strategic

direction of AMI. On behalf of all at AMI he thanked the trustees, current and past. He mentioned all current members of the Executive Committee, plus Sally Cutler, Ian Fevers, John Threlfall, Andy Sails, Sam Law, Louise Hill King, Mike Demsey, Phil White, Claire Taylor, Steve Davies and Steve Forsyth.

Prof Gilmore expressed his thanks to the current and past journal editors-in-chief of AMI's journals. He said they were all inspirational leaders and valued friends. His thanks were also expressed to the journal editorial boards and the Director of Publishing for their ongoing efforts to grow and enhance AMI's journals.

Prof Gilmore expressed his thanks to the marvellous team at AMI, led by Dr Harper.

Finally, thanks were expressed to AMI's members for continuing to enrich the society.

He said it was a great pleasure to hand over to Prof Jack Gilbert. He wished him luck and said he knew he would do a good job.

The members noted the Vice President Prof Jack Gilbert would assume the role of President. And noted the retirement of Prof Brendan Gilmore as a trustee and expressed their thanks for his years of service as AMI's President.

Proposer James Timmis
Seconder James Williamson

9. Appointment of International / Industry Officer

Prof Jack Gilbert expressed his thanks to Prof Brendan Gilmore for everything he had done for AMI.

The members were invited to agree the following resolution: that Prof Emmanuel Adukwu be appointed as International / Industry Officer (an Honorary Officer) as approved by the Executive Committee. This proposal was accepted by those present with a majority voting in favour.

Proposer Brendan Gilmore
Seconder Sam Law

10. Election and appointment of Trustee

The members were invited to agree the following resolution: that Prof Diane Purchase be appointed as a trustee, following her selection in the online ballot of members held between 31st May 2023 and 21st June 2023. This proposal was accepted by those present with a majority voting in favour.

Proposer Marcella Hernandez
Seconder James Timmis

11. Any Other Business

No further business items were received.

Professor Gilbert thanked everyone for attending The Annual General Meeting for Applied Microbiology International.

The meeting closed at 16:32.

FOR APPROVAL