

Imaging Advisory Group (IAG)

23.01.23

Minutes

Present:

Alice Eseola	AE	Imaging Manger – IRF
Ana Araujo	AAR	Innovation and IP Commercialisation Manager - JRES
Anna Dulic-Sills	ADS	Director of Research Operations
Atticus Hainsworth	AH	Reader in Cerebrovascular Disease - MCS
Aurora Campagna	AC	PhD Student Forum Representative
Angela Asimaki	AA	Senior Lecture in Cardiac Morphology and
Carly Lightfoot	CL	Library and Learning Technology Services
Daniel Meijles	DM	Senior Lecturer in Cardiovascular Biology - MCS
Daniel Osborn	DO	Senior Lecturer in Genetics - MCS
Deborah Chong	DC	Lecturer in Infection and Immunity - I&I
Ferran Valderrama	FV	Reader in Cancer Cell Biology – IMBE
Florencia Cavodeassi	FC	Senior Lecturer in Developmental Biology
Jennifer Smith	JS	Research Publications Librarian
Jose Saldana Fabregat	JSF	Senior Lecturer in Biomedical Sciences - IMBE
Megan Moody	MM	Finance Business Partner for Research
Paris Ataliotis	PA	Reader in Developmental Genetics - IMBE
Sandra Ashton	SA	Head of Facility - IRF (Chair)
Tom Carter	TC	Professor of Endothelial Cell Biology
Kazim Ogmen	KO	Postdoctoral Scientist Representative
Jenay Thomas	JT	Clerk

Apologies received from:

Item 1a: Minutes

To receive and approve: The minutes of the meeting held on 26.09.2022 were approved with following amendments:

Item 2, Page 1 – “This will mainly be confocal, NIE and **Livecyte** as IC and SA are still available to support with other equipment”

Item 2, page 2, PhD section – “Noted that **Livecyte** is difficult to book as some people book for 3 or 4 days in a row, more likely weekdays”

This should read: LiveCyte

Item 2, page 2: “Informed group about **Elsevier** read and publish deal”

This should read: Elsevier

Item 2, page 3 – “**Finance – BZ**”

This should include: BZ absent - not discussed

1b: Introductions & Apologies

The group welcomed Alice Eseola, the new microscopic/imaging manager, to the group. AE gave a brief introduction and encouraged group to forward any IRF requested to her. Megan Moody, the new Research Finance Manager, was also introduced to the group.

Danielle Russo, Head of Outreach and Widening participation, will no longer be apart of the group as she is leaving SGUL. SA highlighted that her Collaborative vision previously helped IRF reach various objectives and wish her all the best. Ferran Valderrama will also step down as academic director for IRF.

FV briefly commented on his time within the IRF and the progress that has been made since he became involved (2014). The majority of things he had envisioned for the facility has happened and is very

confident the facility will continue to flourish due to having the right equipment and personnel. He also thanked the group for their support and collaboration throughout the years.

SA gave personal thanks to FV for always generating good ideas and positive energy and introducing a business model which has helped the income of facility to grow.

SA informed the group Dr Dan Osborn will be the new academic lead and will work with SA and ADS to push forward some new ideas.

Item 2: Updates on research, teaching /student support, strategic or commercial activities

Institutes

IMBE:

FC – Other than the SRP's, there is no potential request for support. FC had discussions with AE regarding **pitchin** make use better use of resources at the facility. Plan to meet again to use this facility for students. SA encouraged FC to work with DO along with AE as this fits in with aspirations DO has mentioned. JSF will have an upcoming practical with research students that DO and Nikita Demchenko can support him with.

Action Point 1 – FC to connect with DO to structure what support is required for teachers

Action Point 2 – JSF to connect with Nikita also to discuss teaching support

I&I: DC – No updates currently

MCS: DM – Not current updates

JRES

AA- The enterprise and innovation team are supporting a new funding opportunity – transfer partnerships (between a graduate/academic and company or a not for profit organisation). Presentations and introductions to the program will be held in the next two months as well as one to one meetings with the academics and industry [partners; AA encouraged the group to approach her with any questions. SA queried whether there would be enterprise funding available. AA to discuss with team.

Actions

Action Point 3 – SA to discuss with AA and Howard re enterprise funding

Post Doc's

KO – informed he will be appearing in the group more regularly now. Everything is going well. Discussed a few post-docs who wanted to use Flo Cytometry but did not know what devices were available. He then thought of introductory technical meeting to explain the Flo Cytometry to new researchers and post-doc's. SA agreed and suggested KO meet with the IRF group to discuss further. A similar idea was proposed previously by DC.

SA also highlighted the IRF team look at developing techno bytes to explain the equipment available and the potential uses of it, later on in the year.

Actions

Action Point 4 – KO meet with the IRF group for around 30 minutes to discuss further a potential meeting to promote IRF services and showcase the devices that are available.

PhDs

AC- AC had an opportunity to work with new equipment with AE and the group including herself are happy with everything currently.

The issue with access to LiveCyte machine has been resolved with FV and AA working to rectify this since last meeting.

Library

CL – CL informed group that the Georges Research Data management policy was approved this month and will be online soon.

The research data support manager Michelle Harricharan has left SGUL with CL providing cover until replacement is recruited. JS has been updating the Open Access fee webpages in response to latest information from read and publish deals. There are a few negotiations with publishers. CL to share in the chat what this will mean researchers intending to publish in their journals.

JS – CL and herself met with SA to follow up on the presentation given during previous meeting to develop a possible poster. This is to provide guidance of what IRF SLA states re acknowledging publications and equipment to put up around institutes.

DC highlighted that AE attended a previous meeting for lecturers in December and thanked her for this as it was very helpful to have a face to face discussion with her. DC also thanked the group for the support offered for her application for a high Freeport microscope that can potentially be placed in the IRF. DC will update the group once the outcome is received in February.

ADS also added that the capital equipment bid application was also one of the best applications seen. The effort that has been invested is appreciated beyond this group.

Finance - BZ: Not in attendance

OWP – No updates currently

Item 3: Report from IRF staff

To receive and consider:

- a) **Equipment Failures/ misuse** – Nothing to report
- b) **Active/ ongoing projects that require update** – Nothing to report
- c) **Spending requirements**

AE – the group was able to win a bid during the annual capital bid for auto-scratch wound maker tool. Previously, some users had an issue with attached cells (some cells floating around attempting to reattach to surface) so this equipment will be very useful. The team are also trying to gather information on what additional equipment would be the best fit, if and when any money becomes available.

In regards to teaching, AE noted that the IRF can be integrated in to any teaching curriculum, regardless of the type of study and encouraged all within the group to pass this on and reach out if interested.

Item 4 Discussion

- a. **Terms of Reference - Annual review - approval** – SA asked if there were any comments or queries regarding to the new Terms of Reference. No objections were made and ToR was accepted. SA also invited the group to send an email with feedback in relation to the IAG and anything that could be improved upon.

- b. **Seminar Series - Discussion**

The group discussed potential for a seminar series based around IRF. This is something the group are interested in introducing. SA asked for comments regarding the format that could be used with the focus being around the IRF users and proposed having potentially 30 minutes seminars, with 10 minutes devoted to research, 10 minutes for methodologies for equipment and 10 for next steps. As most users are PhD students, post-docs and occasionally PI's, it could be an opportunity for these groups to suggest what they would like to present. KO was in agreement with this idea but suggested the frequency could be reduced to. Also workshops involving industry

DM contributed another idea to prevent 'seminar fatigue' – an IRF afternoon (annually or bi-annually) where everyone comes together putting a poster together with results through last year so everyone can get idea of type of research everyone is involved in, to foster collaboration and conversation. Once in Oct to allow project students to see the type of research taking place.

FV also agreed with the idea and mentioned the potential for imaging companies to participate/present new technology and potentially sponsor the event. The new academic lead can support with this. Also, noted PhD and postdoc students would also welcome the opportunity to gain more experience presenting but in a friendly environment. FV agreed on having a prize as well. DM added perhaps prizes can alienate people from participating but suggested having an IRF Research prize. However, this was attempted before but ADS suggested that SA feed this back to Cheryl Watson to include on the agenda for the Research Day committee group.

AC commented that the Degree committee held a meeting and also discussed introducing something similar. Would like to have seminar or symposium to understand what others are working on. Also, this would tie in with the funding available for improving research culture. AC recommended merging these ideas together.

Nikon workshops – Discussion

SA's initially idea involved facilitating IRF workshops with technology companies, with each showcasing their technology, alternating companies at each event. However, as mentioned by FV, the workshops could be also be included in the symposium.

Actions:

Action Point 5- AC, DM, DO, KO & SA to meet together to discuss putting together a potential seminar or symposium afternoon or day. AC to extend invite Carwyn or Mark - Head of Research degree committee.

Item 5: Any other business

In relation to equipment wish list, SA emphasised that generating ideas with the IRF and IAG prior to funding being available helps to fast track the application and selection process for equipment when the time arrives.

ADS had capital equipment bid meeting and considered how to plan for larger items that don't fit in cost bracket. It was recommended to put effort via the IAG to plan and put in more bids to external funding bodies as DC previously did. Potentially could attain equipment with up to £140,000 in value with a 50% match. . JRES can support with planning, deadlines etc. however, who will lead, be involved and support in other ways will need to be decided within the group. The emphasis will be on forward planning in terms of what is most needed in facility, what is at the end of life etc.

Actions

Action Point 6 – SA to discuss with DO to how to approach the IAG regarding planning for future equipment bids/funding. SA encouraged all to consider this and approach her with any ideas.

Meeting Closed

Item 6 Dates of Meetings in 2023

Monday 27th March

Monday 26th June

Monday 25th September

All meetings commence at 11:00 am in Microsoft Teams unless otherwise specified.