

## Imaging Advisory Group (IAG)

23.04.24  
Minutes

Present:

|                      |    |  |
|----------------------|----|--|
| Ariel Poliandri      | AP | Director of Research Operations                    |
| Aurora Campagna      | AC | PhD Student Forum Representative                   |
| 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           |
| Emily Woodcock       | EW | Light Microscopy Manager – IRF (Chair)             |
| Florencia Cavodeassi | FC | Senior Lecturer in Development Biology             |
| Jennifer Smith       | JS | Research Publications Librarian                    |
| Kazim Ogmen          | KO | Postdoctoral Research assistant                    |
| Khalid Shukri        | KS | Senior Innovation and IP commercialisation manager |
| Nikita Demchenko     | ND | Cell Biology Manager – IRF                         |
| Tom Carter           | TC | Professor of endothelial cell biology              |

Apologies received from:

|                      |     |                                   |
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| Ambalika Batra-Penny | ABP | Head of enterprise and innovation |
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## Item 1

### a). Previous Minutes and Action Points

To receive and approve: The minutes of the meeting held on 25.09.2024 were approved. JS let EW know that her apologies for the last meeting were not included in the previous minutes. Minutes have been updated accordingly.

#### **Actions from Previous IAG Meeting (26.06.23):**

**Action Point 1 from 26.06.23 meeting:** *“KO to send SA a brief email with details surrounding the work he will be speaking about in October (evidence of the effectiveness of the IRF)”*

Status: Closed

EW and KO were not sure of what this was for. As SA has now left, action point has been closed.

**Action Point 2 from 26.06.23 meeting:** *“AC to send details of postgraduate symposium to JT and SA to circulate to encourage IRF members and other members of staff to attend”.*

Status: Complete

EW and ND could not attend the postgraduate symposium. EW send AC a slide about the IRF research excellence fund to encourage postgrad students to engage and submit an application.

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

### a. Lecturers

**I&I:** DC did not have any updates. DC attended the IRF symposium and received feedback from others who attended. DC expressed that the symposium was well run and was a really good opportunity. Everyone had excellent data and showed good use of the IRF facility.

**MCS:**

EW noted that MCS has now been split into cardiovascular and genetic research centre and neurosciences and cell biology research institutes. EW checked that we have representation from both new institutes. DO, DM, FC and TC represent the two institutes.

No new updates.

**New action point 1 – EW to update terms of reference to show two new institutes.**

**IMBE:**

No new updates from FC.

**Population Health:**

No representatives present. AP suggested we do not need representatives from this institute as they are not typically users of the IRF.

**b. Post-Doctoral Scientists**

KO said that there are a few new post-doctoral students that have joined SGUL and have showed an interest in using IRF equipment.

**c. PhD students**

AC has no new updates from PhD students but expressed it would have been good to see more PhD students at the IRF symposium. AC said that the symposium was a very nice event and it was good to have the opportunity to speak to external specialists.

**d. i. Professional Services –Library**

CL gave an update on the library's open access publishing agreements. The library has renewed agreements with the European Respiratory Society and the Society for Neuroscience. There are also deals with bigger publishers like OUP Taylor and Francis and Wiley. All information can be found on the library's web pages. Flah to Sarah Stewart or a Research Data Support manager for any help with data management or writing data management plans.

**ii. Professional Services – Finance**

No representative attended

**iii. Professional Services – OWP (ERCM)**

No update as Kirsty Allen (KA) was not able to attend.

**iii. Professional Services – JRES**

KS explained that JRES held a SME networking event and that the IRF attended. There were more than 60 people present on the day with interactions between the university and the SMEs. There is potential for the IRF to harbour collaborations.

DO asked if there was any interest from the SME's at the event in using the IRF. EW explained that many of the companies there had already got a product and were looking for patient access.

DO and KS commented about the need to pair the IRF with relevant companies who have a need for microscopy equipment. DO said that the IRF needs to have a presence at events going forward to create new relationships with companies.

**e. Academic Lead**

DO explained that a high priority for the IRF should be to acquire a high throughput slide scanner. This was mentioned at the IRF symposium and a few research groups such as Mary Sheppard and Elijah Behr have expressed interest.

DM suggested including the slide scanner on the capital equipment management bid. DM also suggested the need for perhaps looking into a high throughput slide scanner that can do fluorescence.

**Action point 2 – EW to look into potential slide scanners with fluorescence**

AP mentioned that another option is to apply for an external grant where SGUL will fund 50% of the money. The deadline for the internal capital equipment bid is 31<sup>st</sup> January.

**Action Point 2 – EW to send AP capital equipment bid for high throughput slide scanner**

DC suggested that perhaps Hamamatsu would do a trade in deal with the current nanozoomer we have. DO said that the IRF needs to speak to London light microscopy managers to see which grants they are applying for.

**Item 3: Report from IRF staff**

To receive and consider:

**a). Equipment Failures/ misuse**

**b) Active/ ongoing projects that require update**

Histology & flow cytometry – ND suggested that the IRF could consider getting an imaging cytometer.

Light microscopy – EW liveCyte training session to try to get more people to use the microscope. We had 14 signups which was higher than anticipated.

EW mentioned that SA had updated the logo just before leaving and the logo had “Imaging Research Facility” on it which did not align with other logos/website. EW asked what the group thought of changing the name to Imaging Research Facility to align better with the BRF.

DM suggested that using “Imaging” implies it is just imaging whereas FACS, histology and flow are not necessarily imaging. So if the IRF are going to do a rebranding, we should think about incorporating everything.

DO asked what other facilities are called. ND said that there are not any other facilities that have flow cytometry and imaging under one umbrella.

EW suggested that this could be further discussed at the next meeting.

**c). Spending requirements**

**Item 4 Discussion**

**a). IRF Inaugural Symposium 2024**

EW explained that the IRF symposium took place and thanked those who attended and gave talks. We had 117 people register and some people registered on the day so numbers may have been higher than this. EW is still waiting on the breakdown of the different groups that attended (public/NHS/researchers). AP said that the IRF symposium needs to be included in this years funding round so that it can be an annual occurrence.

DO suggested that we look into sponsorships too as a way to supplement the costs.

EW suggested that the IFR symposium could include small 5 minute talks about different microscopy techniques.

KO said that the time keeping was a bit of an issue on the day and that we should keep to a strict 5pm ending. Towards the end people were starting to leave and it is a little bit disrespectful to the speakers.

EW said that one of the guest speakers suggested a visual cue for keeping to time such as a wind up clock.

**Action point 4 – EW to create a Symposium 2025 action plan so that these suggestions are not overlooked.**

**b). Use of equipment at other facilities**

EW explained that the IRF is trying to put together a formal agreement with other institutions to allow our researchers to go and use their equipment such as a slide scanner. This would give us a better case when asking for grants as we would have evidence of sending X researchers over to another institution at the cost of X per year.

FC asked what this would mean when applying for grants.

EW suggested that all grants and booking of equipment at other institutions would be through the IRF rather than the researcher going directly to other facilities.

#### **c) Internal seminars**

EW and DO have been discussing an internal seminar series which includes the IRF and some of its equipment. An example of the layout could be the first half of the talk being done by IRF staff or engineers and then the second half from a researcher who has used that equipment.

#### **Item 5: Any other business**

**Meeting Closed**

**Dates of Meetings for 2024**

**To be confirmed**