

Imaging Advisory Group (IAG)

26.06.23

Minutes

Present:

Alice Eseola	AE	Imaging Manger – IRF
Anna Dulic-Sills	ADS	Director of Research Operations
Ariel Poliandri	AP	Interim Director of Research Operations
Aurora Campagna	AC	PhD Student Forum Representative
Angeliki Asimaki	AA	Senior Lecture in Cardiac Morphology
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
Florenca Cavodeassi	FC	Seinor Lecturer in Development Biology
Jenay Thomas	JT	Minute Taker
Jose Saldana Fabregat	JSF	Seinor Lecturer in Biomedical Science - IMBE
Nikita Demchenko	ND	Cell Biology Manager – IRF
Paris Ataliotis	PA	Reader in Developmental Genetics - IMBE
Sandra Ashton	SA	Head of Facility - IRF (Chair)

Apologies received from:

Jennifer Smith	JS	Research Publications Librarian
Atticus Hainsworth	AH	Reader in Cerebrovascular Disease - MCS
Cerys Ledger	C Le	Finance Rep for RO
Jennifer Smith	JS	Research Publications Librarian
Mark Bodan Smith	MBS	Seinor Lecturer in Immunology – I&I

Item 1: Previous Minutes

To receive and approve: The minutes of the meeting held on 27.03.2023 were approved with following amendments:

Page 2, Item 2:

DC informed the group that she did not receive the **Royal** society grant but will look into grant applications to provide the other 50% of the funding for the microscope.

This should read:

DC informed the group that she did not receive the **Royal** society grant but will look into grant applications to provide the other 50% of the funding for the microscope.

Previous Actions:

Action Point 1: SA, CL & JS to bring something back to July meeting to finalise the question around publications.

Status: Ongoing

Action Point 2: DO, FC/PA & SA to discuss how to operationalise this idea and communicate via the RIM's and IAG. To also consider how IRF can link in with the pre-established process for SRP's, to ensure there is a fair selection system within the IRF.

Status: Ongoing

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

a. Lecturers

IMBE:

FC informed the group that they are in the process of requesting emails for undergrad and postgrad projects for the next academic year and reminded all to sign up. SA and FC agreed that it is a good idea for people planning projects involving heavy use of the facility to be directed to the IRF who can provide support. This is also in line with *Action Point 2* from the previous minutes.

DO and FC clarified that there are no current changes research projects or to the way SRP's will be delivered. A validation for the biomedical science program is being but will not be implemented until at least 2024. FC/DO will provide updates as necessary.

DM proposed an idea in regard to how the IRF could support projects – getting a data bank of images (e.g. histology of different organs) and having this as a central repository to allow people to 'dip in' to a project. It is an easy way of generating projects and creating some overlap. In response AE informed the group that she and FC have agreed that staff can send samples/ organ tissues that will be used annually, and a data bank will be available on an online database for projects, allowing teaching materials and images to be stored on a permanent basis and more readily accessible i.e., on a recurring yearly basis.

DM also suggested circulating an email stating what is available in the IRF as academics still are unaware of this. SA agreed and proposed a working group be put together.

FC highlighted idea AE mentioned regarding a potential tour of the IRF for year 1 biomedical science students, with a format similar to the Research Awareness Day (a few days of short tours for students on a sign-up basis). JSF also suggested including the flo cytometry technology.

Action Point 1 – SA to identify members for a potential working group to continue this discussion re histology data tissue -bank.

Action Point 2 – JSF, DO and FO to discuss a tour/ Research Awareness Day for Year 1 biomedical science students.

I&I:

DC noted that I&I have expressed an interest in a potential open day to showcase the new piece of equipment available in the IRF for the students and staff.

MCS:

DM mentioned that we are likely to get a different type of student (due to the loss of the transfer for students going over to medicine) who would appreciate knowing more about the IRF.

Population Health:

No representation currently.

b. Post-Doctoral Scientists

No representation at this meeting – please find another post doc or remind Kazim of his obligations which ever will be the most effective.

c. PhD students

AC- No updates or complaints from the PhD student community as the ones using the facility are quite happy with it. They are excited about the new tools available in the IRF.

d. i. Professional Services –Library

Agreements have been reached nationally with SAGE and Springer Nature for access to read and publishing in their journals at no direct cost to author. The Library will add updates to license

terms once reviewed. Additionally, CL informed the group of the new research data support manager – Sarah Stewart. Her email address is researchdata@sgul.ac.uk

ii. Professional Services – Finance

CL not in attendance

iii. Professional Services – OWP (ERCM)

Currently no one in post to represent.

iiii. Professional Services – JRES

Representative to replace AA TBC.

e. Academic Lead

Not discussed

Item 3: Report from IRF staff

To receive and consider:

NK has numerous requests for immunity chemistry and H&E Straining. In addition, has been gradually working with JSF to getting the accuri donated by DM which NK thanked him for. Also working on acquiring a new piece of equipment with DO.

a). Equipment Failures/ misuse

No complaints regarding this. The booking system for LiveCyte analysis PC has been effective and helpful for users.

b) Active/ ongoing projects that require update

c). Spending requirements

In addition to the ‘good news’ email sent previously (23.06.23), AE thanked ADS for generous financial support for the light microscope facility & additional aid for new equipment including a LiveCyte slideholder. Other items including software for the 2D deconvolution team of images, AI for image processing & AI software for image clarity to provide the best quality images for publication & funding to expand the storage for the microscope Nikon A1R and Nikon NIE. Additionally, the new imaging system – Pico Image Express- will be installed in a few weeks, with training be available soon after.

DM raised a point there may be a need to think about potential any ethical risks with the use of more AI technology in the facility. SA agreed research integrity is a prime concern and group should consider how to educate users on operating AI wisely. AE also pointed out that PI’s should be asking questions regarding any manipulation students have done with images.

Item 4 Discussion

a). Researcher Survey: IRF outcomes Paper A – Research Survey results v1.0

ADS explained that this survey analysed whether what has been put in place is functioning and effective. The responses have now been circulated to Heads of Sections & cascaded down to all PI’s & researchers.

In summary of the survey, SA highlighted that 1/3 of users were not aware of IAG and asked how she can encourage representatives to get this messaging out (see paper A for further details). IRF plan to combat this by giving a seminar to Institutes and Graduate School. NK suggested to have a regular drop -in sessions in the afternoon located in exhibition area in 2nd floor for all communications with the IRF, costings etc. SA then opened the floor for further ideas.

DM suggested the IRF produce a standard slide as an advertisement on every internal presentation given. FC recommended sharing this with all the institutes to include in their own

newsletters (front or last page). DO also highlighted that currently IAG has no logo. SA in agreement & will present this to the IAG once finalised with digital design team. ADS confirmed the rename has been approved by Jon Friedland.

b). Facility Access Policy

Paper B – Facility Access Policy (1st Draft)

DM commented on two missing areas – PPE regarding expectations and who will provide it and in case of emergency section. AP suggested having a different name such as “IRF usage” as the policy includes much more than access. Other ideas for titles included “IRF user information” or “handbook” to encompass all that the policy consists of.

SA brought attention Point 1.2 which states students are allowed in facility unsupervised however PI’s are expected to take ultimate responsibility for them.

Staff and students should be respectful of the facility by not over-booking to allow access to everyone but DM pointed out that this wording is slightly contradictory and suggested a clear statement regarding the PI’s responsibility.

SA clarified the “first come first serve” policy is a statement to the Research community and Commercial users. AE also confirmed there will still be room for flexibility.

FC queried whether the cancellation policy would be reasonable in all cases e.g. failed live experiments that cannot be anticipated beforehand. DO expressed similar concerns.

SA proposed adding “at the discretion of facility management” to allow flexibility. AE added that in most cases, users know when an experiment will fail but can potentially implement the suggestion of charging 50% depending on the time of cancellation. JSF suggested a policy of postponement of experiments for in vivo work to ensure the money is committed.

Lastly, ADS recommended having 2 (or 3) stand-alone documents - a policy and extracting & including the other information into a guideline (advice). A staff handbook can also be produced. To be discussed next IRF Lab Meeting.

AC queried whether the time slot stated in the document for discounts for overnight imaging (2am – 8am) could be extended. AC also mentioned current charge for overnight imaging is quite costly (around £190). SA clarified this should be around £50.00 - £60.00 as an off-peak rate.

DO informed the group that researchers are keen for him to organise the microscopy hub scenario as there is interest in electron microscopes and whether SGUL can sign up to a service that other Universities offer to provide us with access. To develop a solid written plan to feedback to Researchers.

AE confirmed via the Royal Microscope society that there are not many Electron Microscopy suites in London but are available at: Oxford-Brooks, **Howell**, Liverpool, and York. AE will provide information on access policies, charging, training once received from the institutions.

Action Point 3 - To discuss the review of the IRF staff and students handbook the next IRF Lab Meeting.

Action Point 4 – SA to review the draft, decide the format and bring back to the next IAG meeting.

Action Point 5- To meet with AA and DO to discuss charges for overnight imaging.

Action Point 6 –AP, SA and DO to devise a formal agreement with other Universities/ Institutes allowing our Researchers access to their microscopy equipment.

Item 5: Any other business

JSF informed group that the flo cymetry machines now have fluidic bottles (sourced free of charge from UCL) and will circulate email with costings.

Meeting Closed

Item 6 Dates of Meetings in 2023

Monday 25th September

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