

## **Sydney Protein Group**

### **Minutes of Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting of the Sydney Protein Group – special interest group of the Australian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Inc was held from 16:50 – 17:15 (AEST) on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at the University of Western Sydney Paramatta South Campus, Building EHa, Room PS-Eha.1.23 (CLS).

A quorum of over 20 people were reached and the meeting was chaired by Kate Michie (President).

1. **Apologies:** Apologies were received from Mark Larance, Taylor Szyszka and Paul Curmi.
2. **Confirmation of last AGM minutes.** The details of last AGM minutes were approved.
3. **President's Report.** Kate Michie provided a run-down of the 2022 events which was the Thompson Prize and the ECPM. She outlines the current plans for at least two events in the 2023. It was approved by members that the Thompson Prize and a Post-doc symposium will be held in 2023, with the latter, providing a space for ECR to present their work.
4. **Treasurer's Report.** Ben Crossett (Treasurer) provided a report to members on finance for the end of financial year of 2022.
  - Revenue was up by 91.98 AUD from deposit.
  - Expenditure for the period was 3399.50 AUD.The finance report was approved by members.
5. **Amendment to SPG Constitution.** It was proposed that the SPG constitution to rename one of the executive roles from “Webmaster” to “Communication Officer”. All members have approved of this amendment. The constitution on the Google Drive will need to be updated and the new constitution will need to be uploaded to the SPG website.
6. **Thanking Outgoing Executives.** Jason Low (Secretary), Ben Crossett (Treasurer) and Alastair Stewart (Webmaster) have stepped down from their role and thanked for their service with SPG.
7. **Voting In New Executives**
  - Voting of Derrick Lau to the role of SPG Secretary was approved.

- Voting of Mark Larance to the role of SPG Treasurer was approved
- Voting of Taylor Szyszka to the role of SPG Communications Officer was approved

It was noted by Jason that executives need to be voted in every 3 years; but can be the same individual.

#### **8. Discussion on SPG Funding**

Funding from the SPG term deposit is insufficient to run all the SPG events and awards. This shortfall is typically made up for by ad hoc commercial sponsorship. The proposal was to offer companies sponsorship at the beginning of the year to lock in the funding for the year rather than doing this on ad-hoc basis. This form of sponsorship was approved only if those conditions were met:

- Companies affiliated are not allowed to speak or give oral presentations at any SPG events.
- Companies are not to access the SPG email list. All emails to SPG members can only be send out by the SPG Secretary or by other SPG executives when deemed appropriate.
- Advertising of jobs and competitions from private sectors that benefit SPG members are permissible.

#### **9. Call for Volunteer to Host the 2023 SPG Events**

Alastair Stewart, Joel Mackay, and Kate Michie/Derrick Lau volunteered to host the 2023 Thompson Award and 2023 SPG Post-doc Symposium. Further details will be discussed amongst Executives and relevant parties.

#### **10. Other Business Matters for Discussion**

- Alastair Stewart and Derrick Lau commented on expanding the reach and presence of SPG to other communities and institutions around Sydney. It was agreed that a more aggressive advertising of the SPG is needed. It would be beneficial to remind that the SPG membership is completely free while additional ASBMB memberships is needed to give talks and similar opportunities for SPG prizes and to win awards.
- There is discussion on refreshing and reconnecting the SPG institutional representatives as those connections have atrophied over the past few years due to Covid-19 lockdown.

The meeting was adjourned at 17:15.