

International Society for Biocuration Minutes Annual General Meeting

Virtual AGM

4th October 2022

Recording available: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6m2vtK8lxM8>

Present:

Executive committee: Nicole Vasilevsky (Chair) (NC), Robin Haw (Treasurer), Ruth Lovering (Secretary), Randi Vita, Rama Balakrishnan, Mary Ann Tuli

Total of 74 subscribers

This is based on the [slides](#) and transcript from the [recording](#) of the AGM

1. Welcome

NC welcomed all to the AGM and reminded the attendees that they were expected to adhere to ISB's code of conduct

2. Matters arising from the 2021 AGM

There were no matters arising

3. Matters to report (ISB members were invited to ask questions during the presentation)

- a. NC gave a [presentation](#) summarizing the activities undertaken by ISB during the past year and the current and new composition of the Executive Committee (EC).
- b. NC thanked Randi Vita, for her work for the ISB as a member of the EC, and noted that from November 2022 the ISB EC will be composed of 11 members rather than 9.
- c. NC thanked the organisers of the EC election (Sabrina Toro (Election Officer), Cristina Casals, Caio Carvalho, Pratibha Gour, Pankaj Jaiswal and also thanked the ISB members who are standing for election to the ISB EC (Ruth Lovering, Stephen Piccolo, Marc Gillespie, Raul Rodriguez-Esteban, Tarcisio Mendes de Farias and Sue Bello).
- d. NC announced the Excellence in Biocuration career award winners:
 - i. Excellence in Biocuration early career award, Shirin Saverimuttu, SciBite Limited, Cambridge, UK
 - ii. Excellence in Biocuration advanced career award, Antonia Lock European Bioinformatics Institute, Cambridge, UK
- e. NC listed the 4 main aims of the ISB to: Promote the work of biocurators, Foster connections, promote communications and Encourage best practice
- f. NC confirmed that there are currently 197 ISB members
- g. NC presented the Financial summary for 2021-2022





Income: Membership fees CHF 1,828

Expenditure:

ISB Sponsorship	CHF 4,806
Administration	CHF 2,812
Taxes	CHF 306
Total Expenditure	CHF 7,925
Balance at end of 2021	CHF 115,776
Balance at end of 2020	CHF 121,874

- h. NC described the current funding opportunities available through ISB Awards: Travel fellowships, Microgrants, Exchange Fellowships in addition to the benefit to members of a 20% Discount when publishing in Database.

- i. NC described the achievements by specific EC members:
 - i. Parul Gupta as the membership officer has removed all member details if the membership has expired more than 3 years ago and has reminded ISB members to sign up for the ISB distribution list. Also, with help from the IT subcommittee she has set up for ISB membership reminders to be sent 1 week before it expires and after expiry
 - ii. Federica Quaglia has updated the ISB website with a more modern look.
 - iii. Robin Haw was instrumental in drafting the new ISB Articles of Association which were agreed and accepted at a recent EGM.
 - iv. Mary Ann Tuli produces and circulates a quarterly newsletter
- j. NC described the various ISB subcommittees:

<div style="background-color: #c8e6c9; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">Outreach and Training</div>  <p>Federica Quaglia, Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sushma Naithani (Outreach officer) • Randi Vita • Mary Ann Tuli • Robin Haw 	<div style="background-color: #c8e6c9; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">IT infrastructure</div>  <p>Ruth Lovering, Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rama Balakrishnan • Federica Quaglia • Robin Haw 	<div style="background-color: #c8e6c9; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">Awards</div>  <p>Parul Gupta, Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rama Balakrishnan • Ruth Lovering
<div style="background-color: #c8e6c9; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">Fellowships and Grants</div>  <p>Randi Vita, Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parul Gupta • Sushma Naithani 		

- k. NC provided more detail about the achievements instigated by the Outreach and Training subcommittee:
 - i. The ISB website now has a [biocuration training materials webpage](#) which includes training materials for: Biocuration, Databases, Data management, FAIR, Ontology development, Programming, and Bibliometrics.
 - ii. In collaboration with [ELIXIR](#) the ISB has created an E-learning course with 4 core modules:
 - Introduction to Biocuration
 - Manually curated resources - use cases
 - Ontologies
 - Careers in biocuration in academia and industry
 - iii. Listing on the website and via email of Training and job opportunities
 - iv. Updates via: the Newsletter, LinkedIn, Twitter and a recent publication, ISB2021 conference report.
- l. NC provided more detail about the achievements instigated by the EDI subcommittee:

EDI Subcommittee

- Sushma Naithani
- Mary Ann Tuli
- Yvonne Bradford
- Rachael Huntley
- Tiago Lubiana
- Nicole Vasilevsky
- Roxanne Yamashita

All are welcome to join the monthly virtual meetings

- i. Mary Ann Tuli hosted an EDI workshop at the UK local Biocuration conference in May

- ii. To ensure that the society meets the EDI policies we support, we collect (optional) demographic information from our members and conference attendees, and have been actively recruiting members from under-represented groups
 - iii. To ensure EDI policies are easily accessible, we are working on creating a single document which will include the existing Code of Ethics and the Professional Conduct & Disciplinary Procedure pages
 - iv. We have invited an external HR expert to advise on policy
- m. NC thanked all the conference organisers for past conferences:

2022
UK-local
Conference

EMBL-EBI, UK



Organising Committee

Co-chair: Yasmin Alam-Faruque
Co-chair: Rachael Huntley
Ruth Lovering Pablo Porras Millan
Sandra Orchard Mary-Ann Tuli
Arzu Ozturk Colak

2022
Virtual
conference



Organizing Committee

Chair: Federica Quaglia
Charles Tapley Hoyt
Nicholas Miliaras
Sushma Naithani
Rama Balakrishnan
Philippe Le Mercier

- n. NC described the Biocuration careers workshop aimed at determining ways the ISB can assist Biocurators in our community with career progression. Topics discussed included:
- i. Heterogenous job titles, should these be standardized?
 - ii. How can we get better credit and attribution for our work?
 - iii. Future work/discussions include: Writing a paper or blog on our discussion, workshops on careers in biocuration, Review CV's and/or biosketches, Discuss careers in industry or transitions there to.

4. NC thanked and promoted the 2023 and 2024 conference organising committees

2023 Conference

Organizing committee

- Caio Carvalho
- Philippe Le Mercier
- Tiago Lubiana
- Monica Munoz-Torres
- Paola Roncaglia
- Deepak Unni

Scientific program committee

- Frederique Lisacek (Chair)
- Luana Licata (Co-chair)
- Michael Baudis
- Marc Gillespie
- Jennifer Harrow
- Varsha Khodiyar
- Deepthi Kundu
- Nicholas Miliaras
- Livia Perfetto
- Sabrina Toro
- Peter Uetz

Padova, Italy



Chair: Federica Quaglia
Co-chair: Charlie Tapley Hoyt
Co-chair: Ruth Lovering

<https://www.biocuration.org/16th-annual-biocuration-conference/>
<https://biocuration.github.io/isb2023/>

2024 Conference

New Delhi, India



Chair: Saurabh Raghuvanshi

5. NC opened up the meeting for comments from the attendees and invited suggestions for the future aims of the ISB EC
 - a. The following points were raised:
 - the ISB EC did discuss whether to fund resources that needed long-term funding and decided that that wasn't appropriate
 - ISB should look at covering publication costs, for example announce the best paper or best three papers and support the publication cost of that or those.
 - ISB should look at supporting a small Workshop biocuration along with 'any' major conference
6. NC thanked all attendees and closed the AGM