



## **HEADS OF UNIVERSITY CENTRES OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES**

Minutes of meeting of the Executive Committee held on 21 April 2021 via Microsoft Teams.

**Present:** Professor P Gerry McKenna (Hon Executive Secretary, and chair), Professor Yvonne Barnett (President, Anglia Ruskin), Professor Valerie Randall (Bradford), Professor Jacqueline McCormack (Sligo IT), Dr Sue Jones (York St John), Professor Hilary MacQueen (HUBS; Open), Dr Claire Pike (Anglia Ruskin), Dr Lynne Lawrance (UWE), Professor Victor Gault (Ulster), Dr Selwa Alsam (Essex), Dr Ian Locke (Honorary Treasurer, Westminster), Dr Esther Bell (KCL), Dr Simon Fox (Plymouth), Dr Lowri Mainwaring (Cardiff Metropolitan).

**In Attendance:** Mr Alan Wainwright (IBMS).

**Apologies:** Mr Andrew Usher (IBMS), Dr Linda Walsh (Glasgow Caledonian), Professor Julie McLeod (Birmingham City).

Due to the initial absence of the President, as a result of another pre-arranged engagement, the Hon Executive Secretary, Professor Gerry McKenna chaired the meeting which was held specifically to discuss the annual HUCBMS conference in September.

Due to the pandemic and the difficulties in keeping social distance, it was agreed to hold an afternoon conference on 1<sup>st</sup> September focussing on innovation in biomedical sciences T&L and research followed by the annual AGM. Talks could cover good practice, especially during the pandemic, lessons learnt from the pandemic, problems of online learning, research and collaboration, mental health problems etc. The conference will be free of charge.

Two keynote speakers will be invited, Dr Nigel Francis, HE Bioscience Lecturer of the Year, and also a speaker on the development of vaccines. They will deliver

longer talks, 30 minutes each supported by shorter talks, 10-15 minutes each, from members.

The above was agreed by the Committee, and a small group of members will be formed to take this forward as detailed below:

- Dr Claire Pike to oversee this, and to form a group with Dr Esther Bell, Dr Simon Fox and Dr Lowri Mainwaring.
- Dr Sue Jones to contact Nigel Francis, and Professor Victor Gault to contact a potential keynote speaker on vaccines.
- Dr Pike to draft a note to send to members detailing the call for potential short contributions.
- Dr Sue Jones and Professor Jacqueline McCormack to advertise the conference on social media, to consider booking arrangements and potential use of agreed contact details of delegates.
- Dr Lynne Lawrance to organise a quiz

The next meeting of the Executive Committee in May will finalise the conference programme and arrangements.