

## The President and General Secretary's Report to the 2019 AGM

### Introduction

Welcome to the 2019 Annual General Meeting of the Aerosol Society. This is our sixth successive Annual Conference and General Meeting at the University of Birmingham. We made the short move last year to our new conference venue, which we hope will provide us with a platform upon which to improve the delegate and sponsor experience at the Conference, learning from valuable feedback to allow us to grow the meeting and extend the range and reach of the aerosol science we discuss.

### Drug Delivery to the Lungs, Combustion Aerosol and Focus Meetings

The *Drug Delivery to the Lungs* conference in Edinburgh continues to go from strength to strength, the 29<sup>th</sup> DDL Conference held in December attracting a record number of delegates, sponsors and exhibitors with almost 850 attendees and more than 100 sponsors. This continued success underpins much of the work of the Society, enabling us to provide support and investment for students and scientists starting out in their careers in aerosol science. Preparations are well underway for the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary edition of DDL in December, which we are certain will be a great success.

The Society also held its first *Combustion Aerosol Conference* at the University of Cambridge in June, a three-day meeting co-held with the well-established Cambridge Particle Meeting and co-sponsored by the UK Combustion Institute. Approximately 60 attended the first two days from the UK, North America and Europe, swelling to over 100 on the final day.

The Society co-sponsored the three-day *Droplets 2019* conference (our Focus Meeting 13) held at Durham University in September covering many elements of free-droplet processes (e.g. drying) and droplet impacts on surfaces. Going into 2020 we will continue to host and co-sponsor meetings with other groups and societies, exploring in more detail particular topics of interest to our members. In January, we will support the Third Atmospheric Ice Nucleation Conference which will be held in Boston, US. In early April we will host Focus Meeting 15 in Bristol on the subject of Bioaerosols, a follow-up to a meeting the Society organised in 2017.

As always, we warmly welcome proposals or ideas for future Focus Meetings from our membership. Work is also beginning to ramp up in preparation for the European Aerosol Conference 2021 in Birmingham which will be hosted at the International Convention Centre.

### 2018 Annual Aerosol Science Conference

Our Annual Aerosol Science Conference in 2018 was again held at the University of Birmingham on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2018, albeit at the new Edgbaston Park Hotel and Conference Centre, a short walk up the road from our location for the previous four meetings. 83 delegates were present, almost reaching last year's record-breaking attendance of 86. The plenary speakers were Prof. Andreas Schmidt-Ott (TU Delft, Netherlands) *Reflections on a career in Aerosol Science and future challenges*, Prof. Catherine Noakes (University of Leeds) *Modelling Bioaerosols in Indoor Environments* and Prof. Roy Harrison (University of Birmingham) *Diesel Exhaust Aerosol: Atmospheric Processing from Tailpipe to Lungs*. Delegates also saw a range of proffered presentations and posters across a wide range of aerosol science topics, covering aerosol technology, combustion, synthesis, bioaerosols, indoor air, atmospheric aerosol and health. As always we are very grateful to our exhibitors and sponsors, and we thank Enviro Technology, Air Monitors, Scielutions, TSI, NPL, Eurochamp 2020, Filter Integrity and Biral for supporting this event. As this was the first edition at the new venue, and we were among the earliest groups to use the space, we were especially interested in feedback as to the delegate and sponsor experience, and we hope we have taken as much of that feedback as possible on board in preparing for this year's conference. We encourage attendees at this year's event to let us know what you liked about this year's meeting, and what isn't working so well – anonymous feedback forms will be provided, but if you

prefer you can also speak directly to any of the conference organisers or committee members, or send us an email with your comments.

### **Fundamentals of Aerosol Science**

The Fundamentals of Aerosol Science day was run prior to AASC 2018 at the University of Birmingham on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2018. Attendance at this event was down on last year, with 43 attendees compared with 60 in 2017. However, largely positive feedback was once again received, and we thank the 25 delegates who took the time to give us their thoughts on the day. We maintain that this event is very valuable in providing a short but thorough introduction to the field for students and researchers from academia, industry and government bodies. The long-term viability should be aided through increased attendance from CDT students, who will be encouraged to attend in their first year. The final lecture, which links the fundamental aerosol science introduced during the day to the following day's Annual Conference, was given by Dr Steve Lever (DSTL) on *Aerobiology and Pathogens*.

### **Grants and Awards**

During 2019 we continued our review of the Society's awards and grants, in order to enhance our support for students and early career researchers in aerosol science. We awarded our first *Doctoral Thesis Prize* and *Photography Competition* prize, continue to offer *Early Career Scientist Travel Awards* and *Undergraduate Research Bursary*, and have updated some of our other awards. The CN Davies Award has been renamed the *Aerosol Society Doctoral Student Award*, and the Small Research Grant has become the *Career Development Grant*, both with slightly different eligibility criteria, reflecting the career stages and development outcomes we are focusing on for each award. We have also updated the deadlines for some of these awards, so please visit the website for details of when and how to apply: <https://aerosol-soc.com/grants-and-awards/>

### **Committee News**

We have welcomed new co-opted members to the committee since the last AGM, bringing expertise and knowledge from a variety of areas which we hope will benefit the work of the Society going forward. At the last AGM Darragh Murnane stepped down from the Deputy President role, after long service as Deputy or President of the Society, although he remains an active member of the committee. Ben Murray vacated his post as Education Officer to become the new Deputy President, and in turn Janine Jordan was elected as Education Officer. Jacqui Hamilton and Matthew Wright were elected as Treasurer and General Secretary respectively, after a period co-opted into these roles prior to the 2018 AGM. We also welcomed Marc Stettler as a full member, elected at the AGM after being co-opted in 2018. During the year, Dan McCluskey and Rachael Miles were co-opted to the committee. We also gave a fond farewell to the Society's Administrator, Sonia Mills, who has moved on to pastures new, and we warmly welcome Diane Foster as our new Administrator, who can be contacted at the same email address [admin@aersol-soc.com](mailto:admin@aersol-soc.com). We are always looking for new committee members, so if you have an interest in shaping how the Society is run and would like to contribute to the work of the committee, or just want to find out more, please contact Diane or any of the current committee members.

### **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

We are also in the process of formulating an *Equality, Diversity and Inclusion* policy and code of conduct, seeking advice from colleagues and organisations with an outstanding track record in this important area. Our ED&I policy should ensure we perform our work in a way that enables individuals, the Society and the aerosol science community to flourish regardless of our individual backgrounds and experiences. Amanda Lea-Langton and James McGrath have agreed to take on responsibility for developing a Society policy. As a first step, our website now states our Society values as:

*The Aerosol Society recognises the importance of our diverse community and believe that to produce the best quality science we must encourage a proactive and inclusive approach to equality. This can be achieved by developing and*

*retaining a diverse range of talented people to achieve their full potential free from discrimination. We acknowledge our role in engaging with the wider aerosol science community to develop a fair and friendly environment by promoting equality, diversity and inclusion for all, recognising that we come from varying backgrounds and experiences.*

### **The EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in Aerosol Science**

We are delighted to report the success of the consortium bid to the Engineering and Physical Science Research Council (EPSRC) for a *Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT) in Aerosol Science*, hosted at the University of Bristol. The first cohort of 14 students have recently enrolled and begun their study. Several Aerosol Society committee members were involved in the bid and they and others have put a huge effort not only into securing the £6.4 million funding from EPSRC and matched £7.7 million from academic, industrial and public sector partners, but also in creating a bespoke, comprehensive training package for future aerosol scientists across a wide range of disciplines. The Society will benefit from the CDT in numerous ways. Not only do we hope that the CDT will contribute to a growing and vibrant aerosol science community in the UK and Ireland, but the Society will host the training portal as a legacy at the end of the CDT, making it available for student training and continuing professional development. Members will also be able to register to attend training events over the coming years, listen to research webinars and collaborate on PhD projects hosted by the 7 partner universities. We wish everyone involved in this endeavour, including the students themselves, every success.

### **Society membership update**

Our year-on-year membership has continued to grow, with our current membership standing at 853 members, compared with 605 in October 2018 and almost double the number we had two years ago. For ordinary membership, very pleasingly, we are seeing this increase across the board, although our student membership is growing particularly strongly, now at 469 members (up from 311 last year). The number of academic members has also increased significantly, to 136 (up from 95 last year) and this year we have also attracted more industry members (222, up from 180 last year). Our retired membership has again increased, to 16 (up from 9 last year and 3 in October 2016) and we hope these members are able to take advantage of reduced rates for our events. We are also grateful for the continued support of our 10 Corporate members, many of whom also provide valued support for our events through sponsorship. As ever, we are very grateful for the support of our members, without whom we would not be able to do the work that we do. As we continue to grow as a Society, we would be very grateful for feedback on what we are doing well, and where we can improve. If you have any comments or suggestions, we would be delighted to hear them. Please get in touch with Diane at [admin@aersol-soc.com](mailto:admin@aersol-soc.com) or speak to a committee member.

### **Website and communications**

We continue to send out monthly Newsletters via email. This remains an important vehicle for communicating our activities, reaching a growing audience of Society members. Although we maintain regular content and features curated by the Committee and our Administrator, we would be delighted to include contributions, large or small, from members and strongly encourage you to consider submitting an article. If you have any comments on items in the Newsletter or on the Website, or would like to contribute a topical news article, showcase your group's research, or advertise a job, PhD vacancy or upcoming event, please submit these contributions to Diane Foster ([admin@aersol-soc.com](mailto:admin@aersol-soc.com)).

### **European Aerosol Assembly News**

The *European Aerosol Conference 2019* took place at the Swedish Congress and Exhibition Centre in Gothenburg, 25<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> August 2019. The conference was very well attended with over 1,000 delegates and around 50 exhibitors, and as well as a packed schedule of presentations (10 slots of 6-8 talks in up to 6 parallel sessions, totalling around 420 talks), three poster sessions (over 600 posters in total) and of course the 5 plenary lectures. There were side events (including visits to AstraZeneca and Volvo) and

social activities to keep delegates busy! In addition, as usual, EAA Working Group Meetings were held. The five Working Groups (WG1 Aerosol Technology, WG2 Atmospheric Aerosol, WG3 Aerosol Measurement Techniques, WG4 Aerosols and Health, and WG5 Basic Aerosol Processes) perform the vital role of organising the various sessions within each EAC programme. Until 2020, GAeF (Association for Aerosol Research) lead the EAA, provide the President (Helmuth Horvath, University of Vienna) and Secretary General (Birgit Wehner, Leibniz Institute for Tropospheric Research) and will also be the hosts of the European Aerosol Conference 2020 in Aachen, Germany. After EAC 2020, the 'baton' will pass to the Aerosol Society as the hosts of the European Aerosol Conference 2021 in Manchester.

### **European Aerosol Conference 2021**

As we reported to the 2017 AGM and again last year, the UK will host the European Aerosol Conference from 29<sup>th</sup> August to 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021 at the International Convention Centre in Birmingham. Progress is being made on securing suitable venues for the conference dinner, welcome reception and other social events. Several innovative events debuted at EAC 2019 in Gothenburg, and we aim to keep in contact with the organisers of this and the EAC 2020 (Aachen) meeting to provide delegates not only with a world-class scientific conference but also some interesting social activities as well!

### **New initiatives for 2019-20**

During the next year, we intend to review how the Society engages with industry and public sector partners, with a view to building stronger and more substantive links across the UK aerosol science community. We also intend to focus our attention on developing our policy on ED&I, establishing the connections between the CDT delivery and the operation of the Society, and continuing preparations for EAC 2021.

**Jonathan Reid (President)**

**Matthew Wright (General Secretary)**