



## **Minutes of the Aerosol Society Annual General Meeting**

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

The Meeting was held on-line via Hopin during AASC2021

Ben Murray (Society President) welcomed everyone to the 2021 Aerosol Society AGM. He informed members our AGM Reports and Agenda are available on our website and that there would be a series of votes throughout the meeting. See <https://aerosol-soc.com/about/agm-reports-annual-accounts/>

As we come to the end of another challenging year, Aerosol Science and our scientists have been thrust into the limelight, with many of our scientists advising the government throughout the pandemic, which stresses the importance of our Society.

### **The President and General Secretary's Report to the 2021 AGM**

#### **Introduction**

Welcome to the 2021 Annual General Meeting of the Aerosol Society. Aerosol science has continued to be at the forefront of national and international science with members of the Society using their expertise to inform decisions at the highest levels of government. This only reinforces the need for a strong skills, expertise and knowledge base in the UK and Ireland in our multidisciplinary field. Given the uncertainty surrounding the ongoing pandemic we decided the AGM should take place online this year in order to reach a quorate number of our members. In fact, all our activities have been conducted online over the past year, including training events, conferences and committee meetings. While we cannot recreate the social interactions characteristic of our in-person events, there are advantages to online meetings and we have worked hard to deliver exciting and useful events.

#### **Drug Delivery to the Lungs 2019 and Focus Meetings**

The annual drug delivery to the lungs conference was held online in 2020 in a form of a series of Christmas Lectures. The meeting was over the course of three days, 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> December using the iVent platform. There were 60 abstracts submitted, which led to 48 on-demand presentations and 12 live flash presentations. 1500 people registered and there were 50 sponsors. The DDL committee have done an excellent job in switching to an online meeting and making a success of it.

Given the focus on delivering the European Aerosol Conference 2021, we did not run any Focus Meetings this year.

As always, we warmly welcome proposals or ideas for future Focus Meetings from our membership, and can provide facilities for online conferences to members interested in hosting.

### **The European Aerosol Conference 2021**

The European Aerosol Conference was due to take place in Birmingham in 2021, but we decided to run it as an online conference. It ran from 30 August - 3 September 2021 with a full programme of talks and posters, including five plenary speakers covering the full breadth of aerosol science as represented by the European Aerosol Assembly Working Groups. We had 765 people register for the conference, 602 submissions, 271 contributed talks and 14 sponsors (1 gold, 4 silver and 9 bronze). Attendees came from 47 countries. We used the Hopin platform that allowed for, formal plenary style talks, parallel talk sessions and inform video discussion around posters. Overall the platform performed well, but there were some problems with the technology. The organising committee were drawn both from the Aerosol Society Committee as well as the broader community. I would like to stress that the organising committee and the team of helpers we employed did an outstanding job and feedback from the European aerosol community has been excellent. The EAC2021 had the potential to have a significant negative impact on the society's finances, but through the hard work of the committee we turned this into a significant surplus.

### **2020 Annual Aerosol Science Conference**

The Annual Aerosol Science Conference was run as a virtual event in 2020. The conference had two sponsors, 2 Keynote speakers, 2 prize talks, 8 contributed talks and 19 posters. Our Keynote presenters focused on issues around Covid aerosol transmission with Allan Bennett presenting on 'Looking for SARS-CoV-2 and other pathogens in the air' and Prashant Kumar presenting 'Aerosols, Indoor Air Quality and COVID-19'. We also had talks from our Society prize and award winners Kirsty Pringle and Sarah Barr. TSI and Swisens exhibited. The conference was delivered on Remo which allowed us to host talks as well as have more informal discussions around tables. We did not charge a registration fee for this event.

### **2020 Fundamentals of Aerosol Science**

The Fundamentals of Aerosol Science in 2020 was held online. 199 people registered and around 65 people attended on average through the day, which was up on previous years 41 attendees in 2019 and 43 in 2018. Feedback on the event was generally positive. Clearly the online format was not seen as an impediment and is perhaps an advantage for some. Like the AASC, we did not charge a registration fee.

### **Grants and awards**

During 2020 we continued to review how the Society's awards and grants can best support students and researchers in aerosol science. Our Education Officer, Rachel Miles, managed the awards and independent review process and we awarded the *Doctoral Thesis Prize*, *Doctoral Student Award* (formerly called the CN Davies Award) and the *Career Development Grant* (formerly called the Small Research Grant) after receiving a good number of applications to each. In 2021 we will be introducing the *Carer's Award* which will provide funding to support members of the Society that might not otherwise be able to attend a research event or conference due to personal caring responsibilities. We hope that this award gives our members with caring duties the opportunity to network with the research community and advance their careers, and we encourage eligible members to apply. Please visit the website for details of criteria and deadlines for our different awards: <https://aerosol-soc.com/grants-and-awards/>

## **Committee news**

At the 2020 AGM a number of existing and/or co-opted committee members were elected for 2-year terms (Jacqui Hamilton, Rachael Miles, Darragh Murnane, Ben Murray, Marc Stettler, Matthew Wright), while Dave Worton stood down from the committee at the beginning of 2021. In February 2021, Jonathan Symonds was co-opted onto the committee to represent corporate members. Then in Summer 2021, Mohsen Kazemimanesh and Katherine Manfred were also co-opted onto the committee. Jonathan, Mohsen and Katherine were all part of the EAC 2021 organising committee, where they made significant contributions to organisation of sponsorship, oral sessions and poster sessions, respectively. 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 the Society Administrator Lindsey Stoner at [admin@aerosol-soc.com](mailto:admin@aerosol-soc.com) or get in touch any of the current committee.

## **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

We continue to inform our policy on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, 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 are responsible for developing a Society policy and they, along with our Education Officer, have initiated a support fund for carers to enable them to attend research events and conferences (*Carers' Award*). We continued to monitor gender balance across our keynote speakers for all of the Society's activities including EAC 2021, and the COVID webinars and the Society's [Code of Conduct](#) was used as the basis for the code of conduct for EAC 2021. We are working closely with the CDT to develop a common policy that could benefit both the CDT and Society membership and we are also exploring ways in which the Society could support students from groups that are underrepresented in higher education.

## **Society membership**

Our current membership, as of October 2021, stands at 1085. This represents a 29% increase compared to the same time last year and continues the trend of growing membership. For comparison, membership in October 2017 was 440. In the last year, we have seen growth in every category of membership and we now have 574 student members, 207 academic members, 263 industry members, 27 retired members and 14 corporate members. The increase in membership this year is likely due in part to our organisation of EAC 2021 but we hope to continue to represent such a vibrant and growing community. Notably, the large number of corporate members this year is because membership of the Society was included as part of the sponsorship package for EAC 2021, and we hope to retain these members in coming years and the committee is working to rationalise the corporate membership package and to give greater visibility to corporate members, on the website and in e-newsletters. 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 Lindsey at [admin@aersol-soc.com](mailto:admin@aersol-soc.com) or speak to a committee member.

## **Website and communications**

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 Lindsey Stoner ([admin@aersol-soc.com](mailto:admin@aersol-soc.com)). We have continued to send newsletters, but have not achieved the frequency we would like in part due to the workload from the EAC and a changeover in support staff. If Katherine Manfred is elected to the committee in this AGM she will take charge of the newsletter. She led the EAC21 newsletter.

### **European Aerosol Assembly News**

The presidency of the EAA passed to the Aerosol Society after the end of the EAC2020. Prof. Murray recently chaired a council meeting of the EAA where discussions included: 1. The International Aerosol Conference, which will be held in Athens in 2022; 2) Future EACs in 2023 (Malaga) and in 2024 (Tampere, Finland). 3) proposals for EACs in 2025 and beyond and 4) a proposal for a new open access journal; 5) a proposal for the Icelandic dust association to join the EAA.

**Benjamin Murray (President)**

**Marc Stettler (General Secretary)**

### **Treasurer's Report to the 2021 AGM**

This annual report covers the financial year from April 2020-March 2021 (denoted '2020/21' in this report). As you will no doubt be aware, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a number of hugely significant changes to our ways of working. As indicated in our last report, we have been forced to move all of our meetings online, ranging from our smaller Focus Meetings right through to our flagship events DDL and EAC. This has of course also had a significant impact on Society finances. As a result, the Aerosol Society has made a net loss of £140,614 for 2020/21, compared with a profit of £111,272 in 2019/20.

This was largely as a result of greatly decreased sales, in particular for DDL 2020 which under normal circumstances comprises a substantial part of the total income of the Society, compared to previous years (£109,369 in 2020/21 compared with £740,263 in 2019/20). This was due in large part to the decisions to make most events free for Society members or (in some cases) all attendees, which the event organisers and Society Committee overall felt was vital in facilitating continued scientific discourse and networking in a safe and accessible manner during this difficult period. There was also reduced opportunity for recouping costs via sponsorship for virtual compared to in-person events, though we note that without the hard work of the event organising committees and administrators and the valued support of commercial partners, even these levels of income would not have been achieved. Costs associated with running these events were also significantly decreased (£132,691 in 2020/21 compared with £449,893 in 2019/20) but only by about half of the amount of decreased sales, resulting in an overall gross trading loss from events of £23,111 in 2020/21 compared with a profit of £290,937 in 2019/20.

General running costs of the Society were decreased in 2020/21 (£116,655) compared to 2019/20 (£174,520). Almost half of this decrease was as a result of moving DDL and Society Committee meetings online, providing a cost saving of £24,423, and there was also a substantial reduction in administration costs (£66,903 in 2020/21 compared with £84,987 in 2019/20). Technical and website costs (excluding event-associated support) also slightly reduced, saving £5,096. Our support for students and early career researchers, a key goal of the Society, has continued with £19,000 awarded through our Grants and Awards schemes in 2020/21. This is a reduction from 2019/20 (£25,651) reflecting both reduced numbers of applications, and difficulties in arranging (in particular, experimental) work for already-agreed awards, during the pandemic.

It should be noted that the financial year 2019/20 was a record year for the Society in terms of both sales and profit from events. This further accentuates the negative impact of the pandemic on our year-to-year finances, but also means that, thanks to the excellent financial performance in this and earlier years, the Society was in a strong position to absorb the losses arising due to this unprecedented situation. Our overall financial position remains solid despite these challenges, with net assets of £383,074 (down from £523,688 in 2019/20) and our long-term cash reserves (£162,364) fully remaining at 2020/21-year end. We are still seeking a solution to the issue of new savings accounts which we reported on last year, with the aim to reduce the balance in any one account to below the £85,000 level of protection offered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. Progress has been hampered by the banks not accepting applications for new accounts.

Looking forward beyond the financial year ending March 2021, we feel it is important in these unusual circumstances to update the Society membership on our ongoing activities and how this is projected to impact on the Society's financial position and long-term sustainability. At the time of our previous report we were unable to predict how long restrictions relating to the pandemic would last, in terms of both legal requirements and health and safety considerations preventing us from holding in-person meetings, and practical financial matters i.e. would there be sufficient domestic and/or international attendance to make an in-person meeting viable. Despite easing of restrictions within the UK and on international travel, both the Society Committee and DDL Sub-Committee took the view that running large in-person events during 2021 was still not feasible. Hence, EAC 2021 (in August/September 2021) was moved online and the upcoming DDL 2021 meeting (December 2021) will again be virtual.

As the opportunity for the Society to host the EAC only occurs approximately every ten years, it was hugely disappointing to be unable to host the European and international aerosol science community in the UK in person. The obligation to run the event during the pandemic also posed a significant financial risk to the Society, as the event (under normal circumstances) would be expected to turn a substantial profit but has large associated expenditures, which legal advice strongly indicated we may still have been liable to pay even in the event of cancellation. However, thanks to the hard work and tenacity of our Society Administrators, Society Committee Members and EAC Organising Committee, we were able to significantly mitigate the financial impact of switching EAC online, largely through recouping costs already paid or reducing our liability to host venues for the conference itself, welcome event and Conference dinner. Combined, this resulted in a reduction in expenditure of around £120,000. There were additional costs incurred associated with the virtual conference platform and conference website, but these were more than offset by the decreased expenditure outlined above. Sales for the conference, both delegate fees and sponsorship income, were above projections and as a result, the event made a significant profit. As part of our agreement with the conference venue, and subject to the conditions around the pandemic prevailing at the time, we will be holding the Annual Aerosol Science Conference in 2022 and 2023 at the Birmingham International Conference Centre, and we are also investigating the possibility of 'hybrid' meetings going forward. This will result in slightly increased costs for the meeting compared to previous in-person events, but this new venue also provides us with the flexibility and opportunity to grow the meeting from its current base, to further the Society's aims and increase our income. Complete financial details will of course be included in the report for the next financial year at the 2022 AGM, and meanwhile do please note that the figures disclosed above are indicative only. However, in view of the significant loss made in this financial year, we considered it important to provide an overview of this information to the Society membership at this earlier stage to demonstrate the work we have been doing to mitigate the longer-term financial impact to the Society.

**Matthew Wright (Treasurer)**

## Education Officer's Report. November 2020 – 2021

### Training

#### The Fundamentals of Aerosol Science (FAS)

##### **FAS 2020**

A single day course, The Fundamentals of Aerosol Science, was hosted by the Society on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020. This course was delivered online via Zoom due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The content of the course was similar to previous years, with five lectures covering a broad range of topics in aerosol science. The programme for the day is given below.

- 10.30 – 10.45 Welcome and Introduction (Dr Janine Jordan – DSTL, Society Education Officer)
- 10.45 – 11.45 Basic Concepts (Professor Ian Colbeck – University of Essex)
- 11.45 – 12.30 Environmental Sampling (Dr Simon Parker – DSTL)
- 12.30 – 13.30 Lunch
- 13.30 – 14.15 Optical Properties (Dr Rachael Miles – University of Bristol)
- 14.15 – 15.00 Physicochemical Characterisation (Dr Jurgita Ovadnevaite – NUI Galway)
- 15.00 – 15.15 Break
- 15.15 – 16.00 Thermodynamics and Kinetics (Professor Ben Murray – University of Leeds)
- 16.00 – 16.15 Closing comments (Dr Janine Jordan - DSTL, Society Education Officer)

There were 116 course attendees with 65 attended during the day coming from a wide range of disciplinary backgrounds, the majority of whom were postgraduate students or postdoctoral researchers/academics.

An online survey was circulated to attendees after the course seeking feedback on their experience of the day. Of 24 respondents:

- 96% answered 'Agree' or 'Strongly agree' to the statement 'The topics covered were appropriate for an introductory course in aerosol science'.
- 100% answered 'Agree' or 'Strongly agree' to the statement 'The lectures were pitched at a level that was accessible and appropriate for me'
- 96% answered 'Agree' or 'Strongly agree' to the statement 'The lectures were of the right length'.
- 79% answered 'Agree' or 'Strongly agree' to the statement 'The overall length of the day was appropriate'.

Free text comments from attendees highlighted that they would like to see more information given on applications of the science presented in the lectures, to help them see how it related to their specific field. They also asked for more interactive elements in the day to aid with audience engagement, and for the lectures to be recorded so that they could watch them back again.

Attendees were also asked whether, given the choice, they would prefer to attend The Fundamentals of Aerosol Science event in person, or whether an online event suited them better.

- 25% of attendees said that they would have preferred to attend in person

- 50% of attendees said an online course suited them better
- 25% of attendees said that they had no strong preference either way

Feedback data collected will be considered in future FAS event planning.

## **FAS 2021**

This course will again be delivered online via Zoom due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there were 67 registrations with 47 attendees on the day. Following attendee feedback after FAS 2020, the proposed length of the day has been shortened, with the course moved to start earlier in the day to make it easier for those with caring responsibilities to attend the full programme. The proposed programme for the day is given below.

9.30 – 9.45	Welcome and Introduction (Dr Rachael Miles – University of Bristol, Society Education Officer)
9.45 – 10.45	Basic Concepts (Professor Ian Colbeck – University of Essex)
10.45 – 10.55	Break
10.55 – 11.40	Environmental Sampling (Dr Simon Parker – DSTL)
11.40 – 12.25	Thermodynamics and Kinetics (Dr Bryan Bzdek – University of Bristol)
12.25 – 13.10	Lunch
13.10 – 13.55	Physicochemical Characterisation (Dr Jurgita Ovadnevaite – NUI Galway)
13.55 – 14.40	Optical Properties (Dr Katherine Manfred – University of York)
14.40 – 14.50	Wrap up (Dr Rachael Miles – University of Bristol, Society Education Officer)
14.50 – 15.30	Facilitated Networking Opportunity

FAS 2021 features two new speakers – Dr Katherine Manfred (University of York) who has taken over the Optical Properties lecture from Dr Rachael Miles, and Dr Bryan Bzdek (University of Bristol) who has taken over the Thermodynamics and Kinetics lecture from Professor Ben Murray. There will be no guest lecture this year in order to keep the online day as compact as possible.

In response to feedback from FAS 2020, we will also be piloting a Facilitated Networking Opportunity session to allow course attendees to meet and chat with each other in a virtual environment. This will be again held on Zoom.

## **Awards**

The Society currently offers six education related awards for its members:

### **Carers' Award**

This is a new award introduced in 2021. It provides funding to support members of The Aerosol Society that might not otherwise be able to attend a research event or conference due to their personal responsibilities.

Up to November 2021, no applications have been received for the Carer's Award.

### **Doctoral Thesis Prize**

The Aerosol Society awards this annual prize for an outstanding body of original aerosol-related research.

The 2020 winner of this award was Dr Anxiong Liu, from Imperial College London.

In 2021, three nominations were received for this award and the winner will be announced at AASC 2021.

### **Early Career Scientist Travel Award**

Awards in the form of bursaries of agreed amounts are available to early career scientists (including postdoctoral researchers) who are members of The Aerosol Society to attend Overseas Conferences and present their work.

No applications for travel awards have been received this year. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all conferences have been delivered virtually.

### **Undergraduate Research Bursary**

This bursary scheme provides an opportunity for undergraduate students enrolled in a range of physical science, engineering or technology-based degree programmes to spend a minimum of six weeks working on an aerosol research project. Through support from the bursary scheme, an undergraduate will be able to gain experience in aerosol science research and encourage them to pursue a career in aerosol science. The bursary provides £1200 in funding, based on £200 per week for 6 weeks and eligible supervisors are encouraged to apply. For further details, please refer to the website.

No applications were received for this award in 2021. This is likely due to reduced University access caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

### **Aerosol Science Career Development Grant**

The Aerosol Society is passionate about supporting aspiring researchers in aerosol science. This flexible grant is intended to support new and emerging aerosol scientists by funding projects which contribute to a scientist's career development. The grant can support scientists from public, private, and university organisations.

In 2020 four applications were received, and two grants awarded:

- Dr Archit Mehra, for development of a low-cost PM sensor system for use indoors.
- Dr Michael Adams, to investigate the impact of aerosolized virus particles on cloud phase.

In 2021, three applications were received and are currently being reviewed.

### **Aerosol Society Doctoral Student Award**

The Aerosol Society Doctoral Student Award is designed to recognise, reward, and encourage doctoral students who are engaged in aerosol science. The award is aimed at graduate students who are within the first two years of studying for a doctorate at a United Kingdom or Irish University (considering part time working).

In 2021, nine applications for the award were received and are currently being reviewed.

If you would like to apply for any grants or awards, please refer to the Society website for the full terms and conditions.

**Dr Rachael Miles**

**Education Officer**

## Proposed elections to the Committee (Marc Stettler)

Since the AGM was conducted as a virtual event via the HOPIN platform, we recorded the votes using the survey tool. This allowed one vote per member registered.

### Committee Members

We have 5 members that require a vote to re-elect. Please see results below from the polls and the nominator and seconder. Dr Stettler asked that we re-elect all five with a single vote, rather than individually.

Column1	Column2	Column3	Column4	Column5	Column6
Nominee		Nominator	Secunder	Yes	No
Adam Boies		Ben Murray	Rachael Miles	35	0
Amanda Lea-Langton		Ben Murray	Rachael Miles	34	0
James McGrath		Ben Murray	Rachael Miles	35	0
Dan McCluskey		Ben Murray	Rachael Miles	36	0
Paul Williams		Ben Murray	Rachael Miles	35	0

Marc – Ian Colbeck and Simon Parker have given a significant 10 years' service to the Society, keeping in lines with the constitution they are to step down. However, they have both agreed to be co-opted members of the Aerosol Society in order that they can continue to pass knowledge and experience onto the rest of the committee. This has been agreed by all members within the committee.

**Ben – Nominate**

**Rachael – Second**

### **New Committee Members**

Ben – Mohsen Kazemimanesh, Katherine Manfred and Jonathan Symonds made excellent contributions to the organisation of the EAC2021 and we put them up for election to the Aerosol Society committee. Marc released the polls below for members to vote. See table below:

Mohsen Kazemimanesh	Rachael Miles	Matt Wright	32	0
Katherine Manfred	Rachael Miles	Matt Wright	31	0

Jonathan Symonds Rachael Miles Matt Wright 31 0

**Rachael - Nominated**

**Matthew – Second**

Marc Stettler announced that anyone wanting to join the committee can do so through Lindsey, our Aerosol Administrator, it is an open door and votes are taken at each AGM.

**Society Membership Fees**

We propose to increase the annual membership fee for standard membership from £30 to £45. Ian Colbeck advised that the fees have not been increased since 2011 where they were £15 and increased to our current rate of £30. The fee increase to £45 will commence from January 2022. Please see table of votes for fee increase:

**Vote for membership fees**

Yes	24	65%
No	13	35%
	37	

**Student Membership – Free**

**Retired Membership – Free**

**Standard Membership – Currently £30 (Increase to £45 From January 2022)**