

The President and General Secretary's Report to the 2022 AGM

Introduction

Welcome to the 2022 Annual General Meeting of the Aerosol Society. The past year has been one of getting back to our 'new normal', and in many cases defining what that is. Many of our members have been busy reengaging with our colleagues and restarting experimental programmes. The Aerosol Society has supported this uptick in activity with health submissions to our various grants and awards and a great turnout at our in-person events. As a sign of the vibrancy of Aerosol Science in the UK and Ireland, the Society's membership now exceeds 1000 people and 15 corporate members.

Events of recent years, not least the recognition of the importance of aerosol infection in disease transmission and the pivotal role aerosols play in climate, reinforces the need for a strong skills, expertise and knowledge base in the UK and Ireland in our multidisciplinary research field. The Aerosol Society continues to support the community through our grants, training, awards and conferences/meetings and we encourage you all to engage with these opportunities.

This year the current President, Prof. Ben Murray, hands over leadership of the Society to the very capable Prof. Jacqui Hamilton from the University of York.

Drug Delivery to the Lungs 2021 and Focus Meetings

The annual DDL conference was successfully delivered as a Hybrid event, with around 500 paying delegates and about 200 in person. The event was supported by the IECC online platform. There were 21 Lectures (52% female presenters), 3 Discussion For and 40 On-Demand Presentations. Feedback indicated that the digital event was much appreciated and excellent quality, but no substitute for the 'real thing'. Plans for DDL2022 are progressing well for an in-person event.

Since we have adopted a new format for the AASC this year, we did not organise any specific Focus Meetings. But, 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

2021 Annual Aerosol Science Conference

The Annual Aerosol Science Conference was run as a virtual event in 2021. It took place using the HOPIN platform where we used the main stage and expo areas to deliver the meeting. The event ran very well with only very few technical issues. We had 135 registered, with a 92 % turnout and 25 % were from outside the UK. In feedback the average attendee score was 8.5 / 10. Our sponsors also rated the event positively, with feedback scores of an average of 9/10. We even had an aerosol-themed quiz at the end, which the President learnt about the baby shark phenomenon.

2021 Fundamentals of Aerosol Science

The Fundamentals of Aerosol Science in 2021 was held online (Zoom) as a one day event. There were 67 registered participants, with 47 distinct attendees. 6 members registering for CDT training materials after event. The feedback indicated that there is a preference for an online event. The lectures were recorded and provided as videos after the event, along with signposting to relevant CAS topics. Analytics indicated that lectures were re-watched between 3 and 11 times.

Committee news

At the 2021 AGM, there were a few changes to the committee. Katherine Manfred, Mohsen Kazemimanesh and Jonathan Symonds, who were all co-opted earlier in 2021, were officially elected to the committee. Adam Boies, Amanda Lea-Langton, James McGrath, Dan McCluskey and Paul Williams were all re-elected to the committee following the end of their prior two-year term. Ian

Colbeck and Simon Parker stood down as voting members of the committee after serving for more than 10 years, but were co-opted onto the committee so that we could continue to benefit from their vast experience.

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 or get in touch any of the current committee.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

For the last year, Amanda Lea-Langton and James McGrath have attended the ED&I Committee meetings of the EPSRC CDT in Aerosol Science, as external representatives. This is to ensure that the CDT's ED&I policies can support the wider Aerosol community and to synchronise EDI policies and mechanisms where it is mutually beneficial. Action on ED&I this year includes an increase in the UG Research Bursary value to reflect the National Living Wage. The bursary has gone up from £1200 to £2079, equating to £9.90 per hour, for a 35-hour week for 6 weeks.

Society membership

Our current membership, as of October 2022, stands at 1183. This represents a 9% 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 strong growth in student members. We now have 689 student members, up from 574 last year. We also have 200 academic members, 251 industry members, 28 retired members and 15 corporate members. We are pleased to be able to report that the increase in membership that was driven by EAC 2021 has continued into this year and that we engagement with corporate members continues to be excellent.

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@aerosol-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@aerosol-soc.com).

Benjamin Murray (President)

Marc Stettler (General Secretary)