

Candidates Nominated for Election at the 135th SCI Annual General Meeting



Below are the details of candidates who have applied for vacant positions on SCI's Board of Trustees and its Standing Committees.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Ordinary Members of the Board of Trustees



Dr David Richard Witty

I've worked as a chemist in pharmaceutical research for some thirty years, leading teams investigating infective, metabolic and neurological diseases, creating graduate training courses and pioneering the introduction of new technologies. In 2010 I helped raise \$35M to co-found Convergence Pharmaceuticals, where I led successful pain discovery research, manufacturing and operation activities, culminating in its acquisition by Biogen in 2015. A member of the SCI since the 1990s, I have served in all elected offices of the FCG, including chair from 2013-2015. I've worked on the MAC finance task group and, with secretariat support, created widely adopted event planning guidelines.

I have extensive experience of planning and leading SCI activities. Within the FCG I've helped organise some thirty therapeutic area and educational symposia on subjects including: Pain, Neurodegeneration, Drug Discovery Outsourcing, Chemoinformatics, Patents, Electronic Notebooks, Organic Chemistry Post-Graduate Symposia, and outreach events for sixth formers and graduates. I've delivered 'Discovering Chemistry' SCI talks and run multi-day events including SCIPHARM, Medicinal Chemistry and Ion Channel Symposia. While an officer, the FCG made a surplus of >£300,000 and increased the number of active members. I want to bring this knowledge of practical group leadership and industry experience to influence board decisions.

The SCI seeks to represent a sector in transition: scientists increasingly work in SMEs, as contractors or in third-sector organisations (both academic and charitable) rather than in multinationals. As an entrepreneur, I believe the SCI needs to re-engage with innovators in industry and academia. Equally, a great opportunity now exists, across regional and relevant interest groups, to provide the training and cross-disciplinary networking no longer provided 'on-the-job', but still needed urgently by the more dispersed next generation. The SCI must become more responsive to member needs and set an example within its leadership by connecting with those directing relevant businesses.

There are three options for voting this year:

1. Voting by post (postal votes must be returned to the Independent Scrutineer)
2. Online voting
3. Vote in person at the Annual General Meeting

5pm, Friday 17 June
Thursday 30 June
Wednesday 6 July