

**SCI Scotland Group
Annual General Meeting, 25th November 2021**

Chair's Report

It is my pleasure to be able to present to the AGM of the Scotland Group a summary of our activities during the period December 2020 – November 2021.

The officers for the group were:-

Chair: Sarah Walker

Hon. Secretary: RuAngelie Edrada-Ebel

Hon. Treasurer: Louise Mason

The Chair served her third year in office, the Hon. Secretary served her sixth year of office and the Hon. Treasurer served her third year of office.

Elected Ordinary members of the committee during 2020-2021 were:

Jenny Mordue

Robyn Plaice-Inglis

Sarah Walker

Navneeta Katyan

Elijah Nazarzadeh

Louise Mason

Priscila Valverde Armas

Paul Ojotule Onoja

Ivalina Minova

Justin Hargreaves

RuAngelie Edrada-Ebel

Tiffany Wood

Stuart Reid

Tom Clarkson

Recommended for election (recommendation at 2020 AGM):

Alan McCue

Matthew Reeves

New committee members joining since 2020 AGM:

Angela Daisley

Jessica Gomez-Banderas

Giulia Core

Cameron Bathgate

Nicola Fairbairn

Changes to the committee this year include the following:

- Angela Daisley, Jessica Gomez-Banderas, Giulia Core, Cameron Bathgate and Nicola Fairbairn have all joined the committee through the essay competition and personal contacts and we have welcomed their enthusiasm, ideas and contributions.
- Hon. Secretary RuAngelie Edrada-Ebel is resigning from her role and Angela Daisley is taking on the position of Hon. Secretary. Hon. Treasurer Louise Mason is also resigning from her role and Jessica Gomez-Banderas is taking on the position. We thank RuAn and Louise for their commitment to the committee during their time as officers and I look forward

to working with Angela and Jessica going forwards. RuAn will be remaining on the committee and Louise is resigning – we thank Louise for all her valuable contributions during her time on the committee and wish her well.

- Resignations from the committee since 2020 AGM: Robyn Plaice-Inglis, Navneeta Katyan, Paul Ojotule Onoja, Alan McCue, Louise Mason. We thank them for their contributions and wish them well for the future, and hope to continue to be able to work with those who remain in Scotland on an ad-hoc basis.

Currently, 182 SCI members have stated Scotland as their preferred Regional Interest Group; a decrease from 260 in November 2020.

Given the continuation of the Covid pandemic over the past year, we have still been operating under a reduced programme of activities, yet continue to work to raise our profile within Scotland.

SCI was again a sponsor of the Scottish Knowledge Exchange Awards, held online this year in April and attended by Sarah Walker. We sponsored the Innovator of the Future and Knowledge Exchange Champion Awards, awarded to Dr Jakub Rycerz (KTP Associate, University of the West of Scotland) and Professor Malcolm Macdonald (University of Strathclyde), respectively.

The annual Day of Science and Careers was postponed from March 2020 and held in May 2021 as a series of 2 afternoon webinars. The event was a success with around 45 participants tuning in to each afternoon session (50% of registrations) and a wide range of speakers from the biotechnology and chemical sciences industries in the central belt giving talks and contributing to panel discussions. Planning of our 2022 Day of Science and Careers event is already in progress.

The Scotland Group also sponsored the Single Cell Technology Meets Microbiomics 2021 symposium held in July 2021 and provided student membership for three students who won a poster prize.

Also in July, we were pleased to promote the 2020 postponed event being run by the Horticulture Group at the James Hutton Institute (online event).

The autumn saw COP26 come to Glasgow which was an ideal opportunity for SCI to raise its profile on a world stage. SCI's proposal for an event in the Green Zone was accepted and on 4th November a panel of young industrial chemists showcased how their work is contributing to a greener future. The event was very successful with a live audience and many joining online. The event was attended by Sarah Walker, Tom Clarkson, Angela Daisley and Tiffany Wood from the Scotland Committee and provided an opportunity to network and link with a number of companies and organisations based in Scotland and also further afield. We hope to follow up with a Scotland focussed COP26 related event in 2022 to continue the momentum gathered from the Green Zone event.

We also now have a Scotland Group Twitter account (@SCIScotGroup) which we hope will increase our reach and ability to promote SCI to younger members, and which we will be working on to increase our profile over the coming months.

A sub committee has been working on launching a research image competition which will be held in spring 2022 to complement a similar competition being held by SCI this autumn. We hope that this, along with the planned essay competition for 2022 will be a good way to engage new members.

Work is ongoing to organise the Lister lecture in 2022 in partnership with the Royal Society of Edinburgh and we hope to have more concrete plans over the next couple of months in terms of speaker, date and format of the event.

The Chair would like to extend her thanks and appreciation to all members of the SCI Scotland Group committee for their involvement and enthusiasm in ensuring that SCI continues to have a strong presence in Scotland.

The Scotland Group also would like to thank SCI HQ for their support (administration, financial and conference support) over the past year, in addition to their commitment to supporting the increase in activities by the Scotland group.

Sarah Walker
Chair, Scotland Committee
22nd November 2021