

2017 MASC annual meeting agenda

Date/time: Tuesday June 20th 2017: 20.30- 22.00

Refreshments provided courtesy of *Saclay Plant Sciences*

Location: Room Mills 3, 4th floor of Hyatt Regency, St Louis (ICAR Conference Venue).

Attendees:

Sally Assman (USA), Ruth Bastow (RB, UK), Siobhan Brady (SB, USA), Marcos Castellanos-Urbe (UK), Karen Cone (NSF Molecular and Cell Biology, USA), Jose Dinneny (USA), Pascal Falter-Braun (Germany), Joanna D. Friesner (JF, USA), David Gifford (Japan), Elizabeth Haswell (EH, USA), Joshua Heazlewood (JH, Australia), Inhwan Hwang (IH, South Korea), Roger Innes (USA), Masatomo Kobayashi (Japan), Vivek Krishnakumar (USA), Blake Meyers (BM, USA), Geraint Parry (GP, UK), Chris Pires (CP, USA), Nick Provart (NP, Canada), Keith Slotkin (KS, USA), Gregory Vert (France), Rick Viestra (RV, USA), Doris Wager (DS, USA), Michael Wrzaczek (MW, Finland)

1. Update on ICAR

- Results post ICAR 2016 survey
 - IH provided an overview to the survey results from ICAR2016 in Korea. The survey results can be downloaded from the MASC website here: (arabidopsisresearch.org/images/ICAR/ICAR2016_survey-results.pdf). IH highlighted that of the 910 attendees, 70% were from 3 local countries (Korea, Japan, China). Prior to the meeting GP had obtained information from the meeting organisers that the attendees were from 29 countries, although a precise breakdown was not available.
- Summary of attendees for current 28th ICAR in St Louis
 - JF provided information on attendees for the current meeting. 470 attendees, 330 posters (70%, higher than previous average of 63%). 76% attendees from North America. 20% attendees were non-North American that weren't invited speakers. The overall attendance compares with 625, 815, 825 who attended the previous three North American meetings. The reasons for this decline were discussed with possible reasons being the recent change in the US administration or the ASPB meeting starting in Hawaii on June 24th, which has reported a significant increase in the number of attendees. Following the meeting KS provided stock ordering data from ABRC that suggests that the amount of Arabidopsis activity in the USA had declined over the past five years, but not by a sufficient amount to explain the reduction in the number of US attendees to this ICAR2017. The consensus opinion was that the decline in numbers was due to a perfect storm of a change in global opinion toward the US and a clash with a competitively located APSB meeting.

- Update on 29th ICAR: 25–29 June, 2018, Turku, Finland
 - MZ provided a comprehensive overview of the ICAR2018 meeting in Turku. A PDF of his presentation can be download from the MASC website here (arabidopsisresearch.org/images/ICAR/ICAR2018_Turku_170627.pdf). Organisation is progressing well and has included a fact-finding and promotional visit from the organizing CAP Partner to the ICAR2017 meeting in STL. The meeting URL is active and the program schedule has already been established <http://icar2018.arabidopsisresearch.org/> **ACTION: MZ will keep the MASC committee updated with the meeting organisation especially if any advice is needed. MZ and GP will liase to provide a meeting room for the 2018 MASC annual meeting.**
 - *Presentation on 30th ICAR 2019 in Wuhan, China postponed with apologies (Xuelu Wang)*
 - **ACTION: GP to ask Chinese members to provide an update to the MASC committee in due course.**
 - 2020 ICAR site selection – The Americas
 - DW confirmed that NAASC would be organizing the 2020 meeting but that no formal discussion has yet taken place with regard venue. NAASC aim to produce a survey over the coming month to gauge community opinion regarding this meeting. Prior to the meeting GP contacted South American MASC representatives (Chile, Brazil and Argentina) to gauge their interest in hosting a future meeting. Rodrigo Gutierrez suggested the Chilean society would be willing to collaborate with Continental peers to host a joint meeting. There is no timeline for this meeting as yet but the possibility exists that they could host the 2023 ICAR meeting. **ACTION: NAASC to circulate the survey over the coming month. Country and Project representatives to circulate amongst their communities to gain maximum exposure.**
 - 2021 ICAR site discussion – Europe/ other
 - GP proposed that after discussion with the GARNet committee that the UK would be willing to host this meeting. Questions were asked about the possibility of a Spanish or Italian host. **ACTION; GP to communicate with European country representatives to gauge interest in hosting the 2021 meeting before a final decision is made by the entire MASC committee.**
 - 2022 ICAR site discussion – Asia/ other
 - BM indicated that Taiwanese colleagues were interested in hosting the 2022 meeting. This was thought of favourably by the committee. **ACTION: BM will liase with colleagues in Taiwan to assess whether they are willing to submit a formal bid to host the meeting.**
2. **MASC webpage/ MASC report/ MASC coordinator** (by Geraint Parry)
- MASC websites www.arabidopsisresearch.org

- GP provided an update on the website and that aside from publication of the MASC report nothing had been altered. This remains hosted until June 2019 funded by the DFG grant. **ACTION: Discussions about future of the website in the 2018 meeting.**
- MASC annual report. Overview provided by GP.
 - The MASC report contains 25 (or 28) country contributions and 7 (of 8) subcommittee reports. Brassibase and EMPHASIS resources were included within the Natural Variation subcommittee report. Prior to publication GP asked Plantae if they were interested in providing a submission but no reply was received. **ACTION: GP to follow up with Plantae and consider expanding the country reports where MASC members identify obvious omissions.**
 - Printing and distribution of 2017 report paid by Saclay Plant Sciences.
 - 75 full copies were printed and will be distributed to those who asked for them. A summary was included to all ICAR2017 attendees with an invitation to download the full report from the MASC website. **ACTION: GP will investigate whether he can obtain information about the number of full reports that are downloaded.**
 - Open comments on the report from attendees.
 - No comments received from the committee. EH questioned whether the name could be changed to reflect the increasing breadth of translational work that Arabidopsis research feeds into. RB confirmed that this title had been chosen in 2010 but there was no reason to remain with it if the committee felt a change was appropriate. **ACTION: GP will ask committee members for alternative titles for consideration. A final decision can be voted on by the MASC members.**
 - Future reports...
 - CP asked about the overall goal of the report? Was it a mission statement (like a recent ASPB document) or something else? RB confirmed that the MASC report is primarily an informational document to keep the community and funders up to date with the breadth of community actions. JH asked whether the report is actually seen by funding bodies? GP confirmed that it is distributed to funding agencies when country representatives make a specific request. GP confirmed that in advertising the report he has highlighted the description of community resources throughout the report. **ACTION: The MASC report to continue in its current form as there were no suggestions to make wholesale changes.**

- MASC coordinator: Geraint Parry happy to continue in the role for 2018.
 - **ACTION: GP is happy to continue in this role.**

3. Update on MASC Inc

- NP introduces the newly established MASC Inc. The structure was outlined in the minutes of 2016 MASC Annual meeting, which can be downloaded here (<http://arabidopsisresearch.org/index.php/en/archive>). First Meeting of MASC Inc. Present: temporary directors Siobhan Brady and Nicholas Provart. Absent: Marília de Campos. Quorum met.
- Resolution 1: Siobhan Brady seconded a motion by Nicholas Provart that temporary directors of MASC Inc. accept Marilia de Campos' resignation as Secretary. Motion carried
- Resolution 2: Siobhan Brady seconded a motion by Nicholas Provart that temporary board of directors of MASC Inc. accept new MASC Inc. members (based on completed applications distributed at MASC 2017 annual meeting) and Geraint Parry as new Secretary of the corporation. Motion carried.
 - Current MASC Inc Members at the time of publication of meeting minutes:

Name		Country
Sally	Assmann	USA
Ruth	Bastow	UK
María-Francisca	Blanco-Herrera	Chile
Siobhan	Brady	USA
Hans-Peter	Braun	Germany
Jelena	Brkljacic	USA
Jose	Dinnyeny	USA
Pascal	Falter-Braun	Germany
Fabio	Fiorani	Germany
Joanna	Friesner	USA
David	Gifford	Japan
Elizabeth	Haswell	USA
Marie-Theres	Hauser	Austria
Josh	Heazlewood	Australia
Eva	Huala	USA
Inhwan	Hwang	Korea
Roger	Innes	USA
Yuling	Jiao	China
Masatono	Kobayashi	JAPAN
Loic	Lepiniec	France
Claire	Lurin	France

Minami	Matsui	Japan
Sean	May	UK
Blake	Meyers	USA
José Luis	Micol	Spain
Nicola	Patron	UK
Chris	Pires	USA
Loïc	Rajjou	France
Leomore	Reiser	USA
Motaki	Seki	Japan
Kentaro	Shimizu	Switzerland
Keith	Slotkin	USA
R	Srinivasan	India
Sabarinath	Subramaniam	USA
Jay	Thelen	USA
Richard	Vierstra	USA
Doris	Wagner	USA
Michael	Wrzaczek	Finland

4. Discussion on appointment of MASC. Inc Directors

- NP stated that 8 directors are needed for MASC Inc. This requires candidates to be nominated by other MASC members. If over 8 members are nominated then an election will be required. Initial terms of membership terms will range from 1 year (2 directors), 2 years (2 directors), 3 years (2 directors) or 4 years (2 directors). Thereafter the director terms will be 4 years. GP confirmed there have been 2 nominations to date. Committee members suggested that MASC directors should be involved with organisation of upcoming ICAR meetings. There will be no elections this year, just nominations. Elections will commence next year. One director should come from country where ICAR is proposed to be hosted, to act as liaison; other directors should provide good regional/scientific representation. Nominations should be received by the end of the summer. **ACTION: GP to request that MASC Inc members provide nominations for Director positions.**

5. Update from MASC Subcommittees (SC) -

- Future of Proteomics SC
 - JH queried the general future of SCs and the role that they currently play. The committee had a general discussion about SC and concluded that they need to individually decide whether they each have a future, both to contribute to future MASC reports and to organise relevant events (at ICAR or elsewhere). **ACTION: SC chairs to discuss the continuation and/or evolution of their SC with their members.**

- The committee agree there is potential scope for additional subcommittees. Ideas include those focused on 'Resources', 'Diversity' or 'Science Communication'. **ACTION: GP to poll MASC Inc members to suggest additional SCs for further consideration.**
- SB announced that the Systems Biology and Synthetic Biology subcommittee had obtained funding for an international meeting to take place between September 11-14th 2018 in Roscoff, France.

6. AOB

- JH wondered whether the Country representatives might ask their national funding bodies for a small contribution to support the activities of MASC. This might support the activity of the MASC coordinator to ensure that the position is maintained even if funding for the post becomes more challenging in the future (currently GP does not receive payment for the role). **ACTION: Committee members to consider potential mechanisms whereby MASC might facilitate these interactions and the possible options to ensure that countries might provide a contribution appropriate for their size and activity.**

Notes: