



The science, technology, engineering and medicine PR association

Stemptra Annual General Meeting 11 March 2008

The Royal Institution of Great Britain, London

Present: Katrina Nevin-Ridley, Judith Moore, Hazel Lambert, Clare Kingston, Robbie Walker, Helen Jamison, Will Greenacre, Nancy Mendoza, Simon Levey, Simon Wilde, Craig Brierley, Lucy Goodchild, Nena Okhandiar, Alex Waddington, Elspeth Bartlet, Teresa Belcher, Jennie Drew, Bob Ward, Tara Womersley, Juliet Upton, Lisa Egan, Anne Stanford, Joe O'Meara, Tammy Boyce, Diane Stilwell

Minutes

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Andrea Ttofa, Sallie Robbins, Veronica Parker, Janet Hurst, Barbara Davies, Peter Cooper and Matt Goode.

2. Minutes of the 2007 AGM.

The minutes of the 2007 AGM were approved as a record.

3. Reports

The chair's report and accounts are in the appendix to this document

4. Approve audited accounts 2007 / Appoint auditors for the 2008 accounts

The 2007 accounts were audited by Peter Cooper who very kindly agreed to audit the 2008 accounts in due course.

5. Elections to the STEMPRA Committee

The following were elected to the stempra committee for a two year period.

Name	Proposer	Seconder
Reelection		
Robbie Walker	Katrina Nevin-Ridley	Simon Wilde
Elspeth Bartlet	Susannah Bolton	Mary-Louise Burnett
Claire Bithell	Ed Sykes	Will Greenacre
Clare Kingston	Laura Dibb	Sue Windebank
New members		
Tara Womersley	Catriona Kelly	Anna Smyth
Lucy Goodchild	Judith Moore	Claire Bithell
Alex Waddington	Claire Bithell	Simon Levey

6. Any other business

7. Date, time and place of next AGM:

To be announced.

STEMPRA – AGM
11 March 2008
Annual report from Stemptra Chair, Katrina Nevin-Ridley

Stemptra has had an incredibly successful year, running an ambitious programme of monthly events.

In the coming year we seek to:

- Increase our membership (by attracting new members and to retain the members we have by making membership renewal as straight forward as we can.)
- Continue to deliver relevant, informative and enjoyable events; building on our achievements and continuing to attract speakers of the highest calibre.
- Ensure our events continue to provide excellent value for money in comparison to other organisations.

Events

The Stemptra Committee works hard to come up with new areas of interest for events that will be of genuine value to members but we are always open to new ideas and suggestions from members.

Some of the highlights of the year include:

Crisis Management

Matt Goode – Head of Media at the BBSRC gave us the inside track on the reality of being thrust into the national media spotlight unexpectedly. He shared his experience of how he managed the media when the Institute of Animal Health at Pirbright (funded by the BBSRC) was identified in the media as a possible source of the Foot and Mouth outbreak.

In conversation with...

Professor Colin Blakemore FRS – no stranger to courting controversy in the media – shared his anecdotes with Stemptra members in conversation with Fiona Fox, Director of the Science Media Centre. Colin has been at the forefront of efforts to encourage and support scientists to communicate their research, so we were delighted he joined us for Christmas drinks to talk frankly about the ways in which the relationship between professional scientists and professional communicators can be improved. We were also delighted he chose to stay behind afterwards to mingle and chat to Stemptra members.

Working with documentary meetings

Many of us worry about lack of control over what is eventually broadcast in any documentary we are working with. A panel including a science documentary producer; a leading scientist who was recently involved in Channel 4's Animal Farm series, and press officers with experience of various TV projects, ranging from 'fluffy' TV series to Horizon discussed their experiences and offered practical tips to help ensure that working with your scientists, the producers and the end broadcast result can all go smoothly.

Podcasting and New Media

A practical insight from a dynamic panel of speakers on how different organisations made the case to introduce new media be it social networking, podcasting or RSS feeds into their communications activities, the audiences they reached and the challenges they faced internally.

Membership

Overall, membership and recruitment of new members to Stempra is going well. Numbers are continuing to hover around 150 but the number of renewals is increasing by almost 20% and we are only three months into this year.

2006 - 105 members (59% renewal)

2007 - 148 members (38% renewal)

2008 – 148 members (55% renewal) (to March only)

We realise that our membership levels do rely on members renewing annually and we are looking at ways to make this more convenient.

Finance

The recruitment drive and excellent attendance of events has put Stempra into a strong position financially with our bank balance currently at £10,367. Our Treasurer will update you on the financial accounts which have also been circulated to members.

Summary

Finally, as Chair of Stempra I'd like to formally thank the Committee for the time they have contributed to Stempra and all the creative ideas they have come up with this year to make Stempra evenings a date in people's calendars.

They work incredibly hard and as well as the events I have outlined they have delivered:

- An updated electronic quarterly newsletter.
- A new and improved Stempra website

We do welcome interest from members who would be keen to take a more active role in Stempra or join the committee..

- Do make the most of Stempra as a way to network and share thoughts, ideas and good practice.
- Do let us know of any items you would like the Committee to address by emailing us or speaking to us afterwards.

END