

Thursday 27th May 2021 - (via Microsoft TEAMS)

Members of Executive Committee (apologies):

Head of Centre: David Wyllie

Deputy HoC: Catherina Becker (Lead for Research Opportunities) and **David Lyons**

Deputy HoC: Tara Spires-Jones (Lead for Career Development)

Finance Lead: Sutherland Maciver

Equality and Diversity Lead: Norah Spears (apologies)

Post-graduate Lead (PI): Paula Brunton

Post-graduate Lead (current student): Constantinos Eleftheriou

Post-doctoral Lead (PI): Emily Osterweil

Post-doctoral Lead (current post-doc): Brianna Vandrey

Professional Support Services Leads: James Griffiths (technical), **Beverly Roberts** (administration)

Seminar Leads: Karen Smillie (Central), **Jian Gan** (BioQuarter)

Remit:

The Centre for Discovery Brain Sciences Executive Committee (EC) will discuss Centre research strategy, career development, best practice in research across the centre, and needed improvements. The EC will meet (approximately) every three months, alternating between Central and BioQuarter campuses. Meeting dates will be announced in advance to allow Agenda items to be submitted for discussion. EC- will consult with Centre members to ensure we are meeting the needs of everyone in the centre as best we can. We will circulate the minutes of our meetings to CDBS members to ensure transparency in the running of the centre. The EC is a resource for all members of the centre and we encourage people to get in touch with any EC members about any CDBS related issues.

Minutes:

1. Minutes from Last Meeting

- EC approved the minutes from the last meeting.

2. EC/CDBS Members Update:

Farewell and thank you to:

- **Catherina Becker and Thomas Becker** for all their hard work and commitment since 2005 working in both CNR and CDBS. And their time and devotion to early career researchers over the years. Best wishes from all in CDBS in their new roles at the Centre for Regenerative Therapies at the TU, Dresden - Germany.

Welcome to new EC members:

- **David Lyons** – New Deputy HoC BioQuarter from 1st July 2021
- **Brianna Vandrey** – New EC Post Doc lead

3. Finance Update:

- Sutherland MacIver shared a spreadsheet of the CDBS FEC trickle fund.
 - An obvious underspend on seminar and theme budgets were noted.
 - Sutherland would seek further clarity from Morag Laidlaw on the FEC trickle fund.
 - It was suggested some underspent funds could be used for a social 'Get Together' post lockdown/restrictions.

4. Seminar Updates:

- New CDBS Seminar Series organisers for Central.
 - Huge thank you to **Karen Smillie** for her contribution in organising the Central CDBS Seminar Series for the past 5 years!

- Also for the smooth transition to hosting ‘virtual’ seminars from last March/April, which expedited the implementation of digital seminars. Although the fully online format is not ideal for allowing the department to come together, it has shown that it is possible to have speakers from all over the world as well as facilitating other speakers who would not be able to travel to Edinburgh for personal reasons, to be able to present their research. Going forward, it would be good to maintain a combination of in-person/duel delivery of seminars and digital seminars to promote inclusivity as well as increase the reach of the series.
 - [Nicola Romano](#) and [Lida Zoupi](#) will be the new Central Seminar Series organisers from next semester (Sept 2021).
 - Proposal: PhD talks for summer 2021 – Constantinos Eleftheriou
 - To reinstate PhD talks (virtually) over summer.
 - It was agreed that Constantinos and Brianna would contact PhD’s and Post Docs and gauge their responses to the idea.
 - Brianna explained the the G2PD ‘online’ monthly seminar series was a success and well recieved.
 - Special Seminars - Save the Dates!

Mary Pickford lecture 2021

- Guest speaker - [Dame Linda Partridge](#)
- Friday 22nd October (15.15 although time tbc)
- Anatomy Lecture Theatre

GL Brown lecture 2021

- Guest speaker – [Prof David Sheppard](#)
- Thursday 25th November (time tbc)
- Venue (tbc)

- Karen Smillie and Jian Gan gave an update on the CDBS seminar series which had run smoothly with good attendance numbers.

5. Mental health support for postgraduate students:

- Raised at recent BMPGS (Biomedical Post Grad Society) meeting:
 - ***The primary point discussed was to have an easy point of contact other than the people involved in academics (supervisor, thesis chair) for those needing mental health support.***
 - ‘Mental Health First Aiders’ were discussed as a first point of contact within buildings/centres for those seeking mental health advice/help.
 - It was noted this ‘point of contact’ system was in place some years ago but has since been disbanded.
 - SCRUM have recently introduced these contacts. DRI are about to - in the near future.
 - For DRI - Beverly Roberts (HRB) and Jane Tulloch (1GS) are both due to attend a training course/workshop. Details/dates to follow.
 - It was felt the University needed to do more to address the issue of waiting times for those who seek help through the Student Counselling Service.

6. Any other business:

- The date of the next Executive Committee Meeting would be in September 2021 tbc (via Teams).
- If you would like anything added to the next agenda, please contact: laura.thomas@ed.ac.uk

