

# Promoting Biology — the science of life



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The next three years  
2015 — 2018 

# Introduction



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**We are pleased to launch the first three-year plan for the newly titled Royal Society of Biology (RSB). The Society of Biology was granted a Royal title by the Sovereign on the advice of her ministers in May 2015. This is a reflection of the growth and influence of the Society since its inception in October 2009 but, more importantly, of the ever-growing importance of the biological sciences in helping to tackle many of the key challenges of the 21st century – from the burden of global disease to the impact of climate change or food security.**

The plan brings out three themes: a unified voice, professional membership, and having a broad reach. All of this is underpinned by a programme of public outreach work to ensure delivery of both the Society's charitable objectives and the requirements of individual and organisational members. Acting as the unified voice for biology when speaking to politicians, civil servants, the media or the public remains critical both to the development of public policy and in ensuring that the value of biological research and

teaching is fully understood. To realise the huge potential of bioscience in UK industry, in universities, and as a subject of enormous interest to society more widely, we need a sector that is professional in every sense – in research and teaching, and also in peer review, provision of expert witness, publishing and specialist services. The Society is seeking to play a valuable role across these areas, bringing bioscientists and organisations together, providing training and continuing professional development, and through balanced, evidence-based policy advice. Wherever possible, the RSB will try to deliver these objectives regionally and locally, reflecting the increasingly devolved nature of the UK, and will help to champion diversity and equality within the biological sciences community.

We are conscious that we cannot deliver these ambitions alone. We are committed to working in partnership across subject areas, leading where appropriate, but also supporting other organisations both within and outside our membership where they are best placed to make the most impact. Our volunteers will remain essential –

whether within our hugely dedicated branch network across the UK, in our special interest groups, on our advisory committees or as part of our public engagement programme.

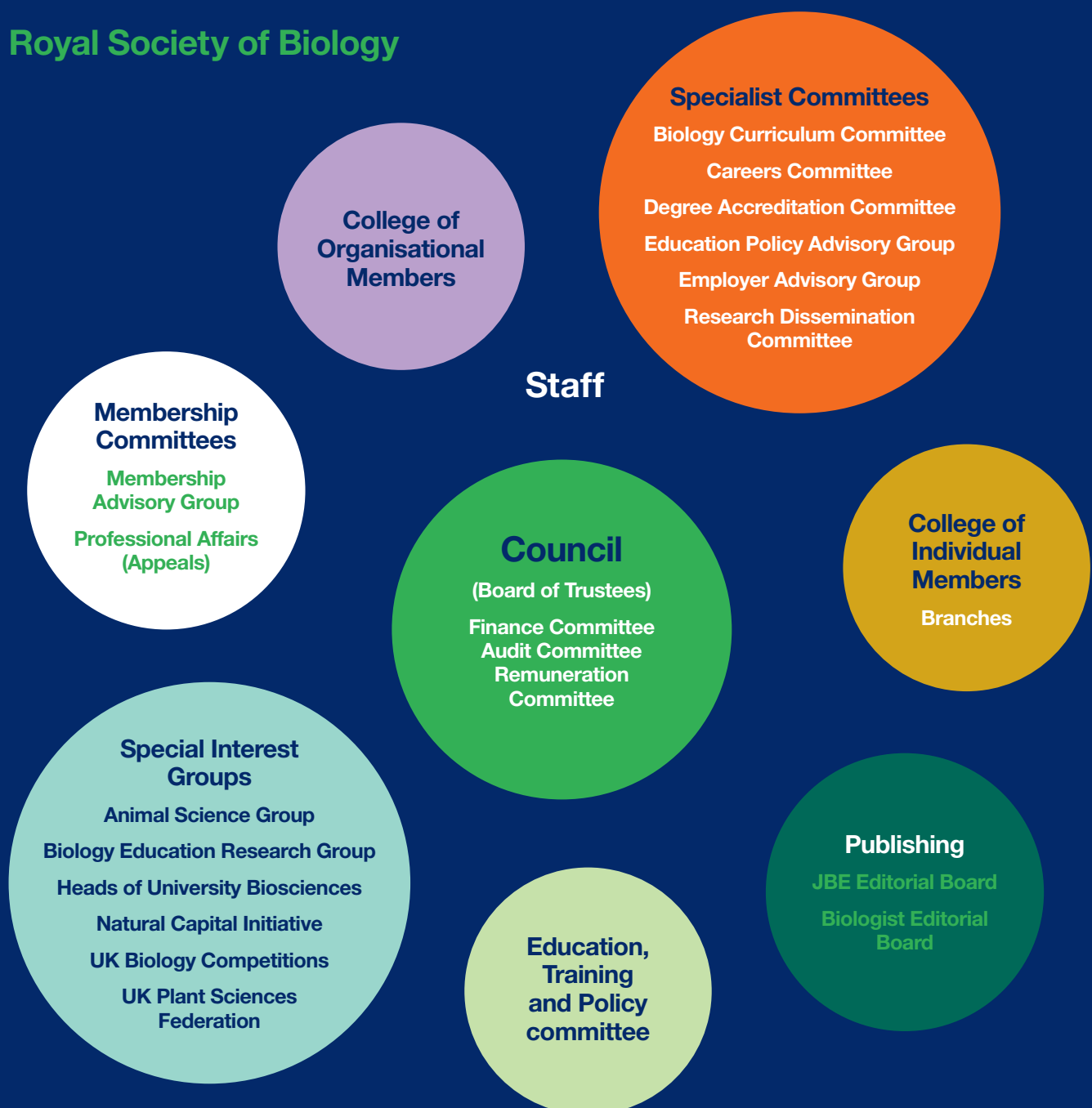
We now have over 15,500 individual members and this plan seeks to grow this cohort to 18,000 by 2018, alongside a 20% growth in Member Organisations to around 120. It is our members who provide our platform for advocacy and impact, and we will be working hard to support them at all levels.

**Professor Dame Jean Thomas**  
**FRS Hon FRSB**  
**President**

**Dr Mark Downs CSci FRSB**  
**Chief Executive**

- **Our vision** is of a society that understands the true value of biology and how it can contribute to improving life for all.
- **Our mission** is to be the unifying voice for biology, to facilitate the promotion of new discoveries in biological science for national and international benefit, and to engage the wider public with our work.

## Royal Society of Biology



# IMPORTANCE OF BIOLOGY

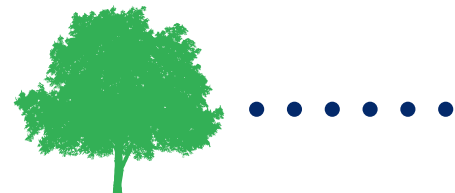
We live in a time when our knowledge of the science of life is rapidly expanding. The speed and scale of discovery is extraordinary, and the potential to develop understanding and technologies is immense.

**Each of us faces the challenge of how to live well, leaving a positive legacy. Understanding biology<sup>1</sup> becomes ever more relevant to these questions as we take societal and personal decisions about food production and distribution systems, medical diagnosis and treatment, the use and management of the environment, and our interactions with each other and with other organisms. Biological knowledge can improve outcomes in cultivation, medicine, and innovation to generate economic wealth, create fulfilling employment and enrich society. It is essential that governments and others have access to the knowledge necessary to guide and promote good use of biology.**

Bioscientists can and should play their part in this, and in ensuring that future generations are educated and equipped to continue to advance the science of life. The Society, through its policy, education and professional development activities, as well as by upholding and promoting its code of conduct among members, will ensure a foundation for this. Biological science improves lives, creates jobs, and drives investment and growth.

By focusing on how to support and translate research, the delay between when research is done and when people experience benefit can be decreased, and the magnitude of the benefit in economic and other terms can also be increased. Estimates vary across sciences, but in medical research it is estimated that it takes

an average of 17 years for a research finding to become a patient benefit.<sup>2</sup> Alongside this, the vast majority of the public agree that even if it brings no immediate benefits, scientific research which advances knowledge should be funded by the government.<sup>3</sup> Some economic benefits of bioscience are direct, in terms of products or services produced, while others are from so-called spillover effects, produced by the wider impact on economic activity of these outcomes. Others are in the form of avoided costs or are social rather than economic gains realised in the UK or abroad; all are important to value, express and promote.



<sup>1</sup> Throughout this document and in our communications generally we use the terms biology, biosciences, life sciences, and biological sciences interchangeably to encompass all areas of the science of life from molecules, through whole organisms to ecosystems and across every specialism.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/About-us/Publications/Reports/Biomedical-science/WTX052113.htm>

<sup>3</sup> Almost 80% agree with this statement. Ipsos MORI, Public attitudes to science 2014: <https://www.ipsos-mori.com/Assets/Docs/Polls/pas-2014-main-report.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> In this case research by the Pirbright Institute and the Meteorological Office

<sup>5</sup> Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (2015) Growth Dashboard <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/growth-dashboard>

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.abpi.org.uk/our-work/library/Documents/delivering\\_values\\_dec2014.pdf](http://www.abpi.org.uk/our-work/library/Documents/delivering_values_dec2014.pdf)

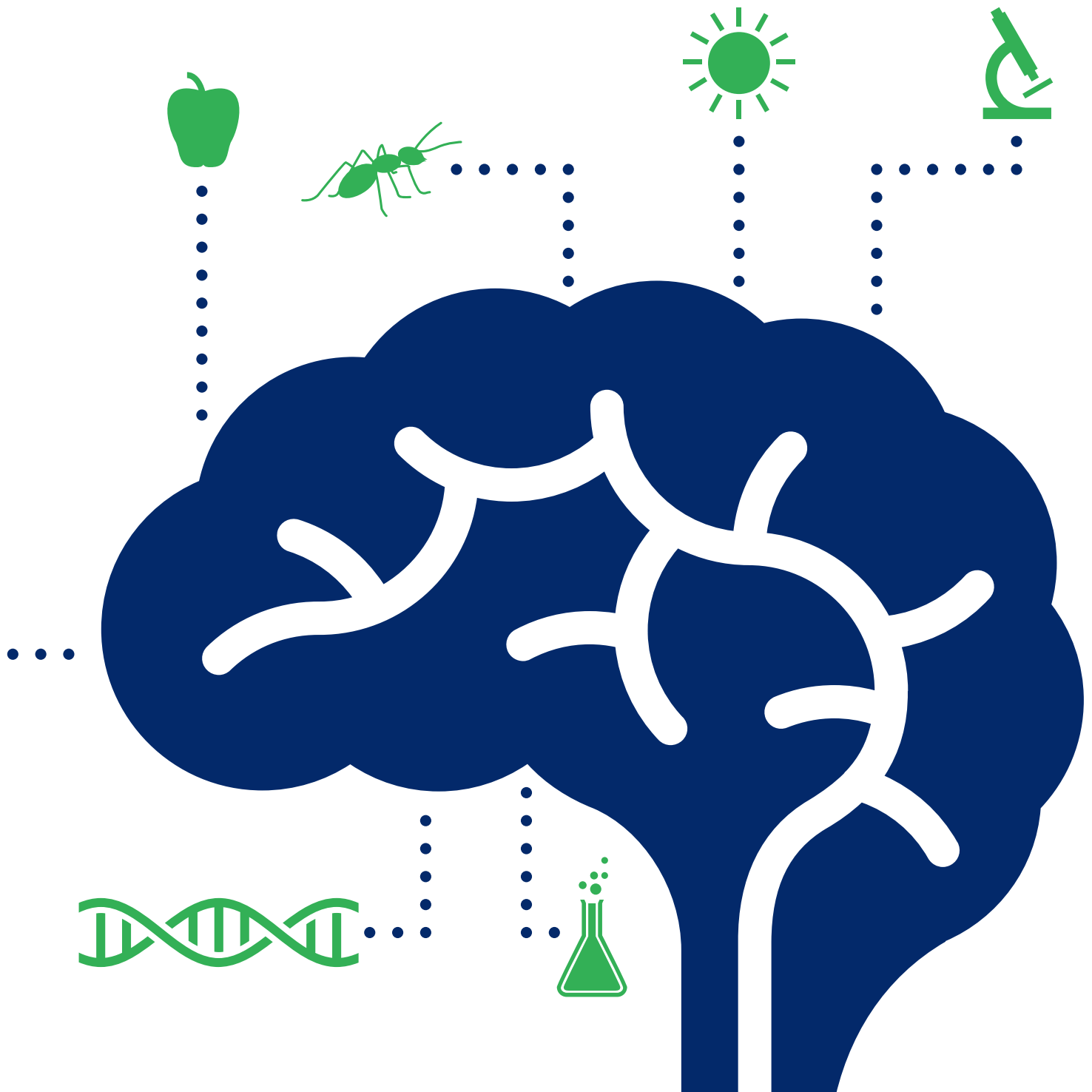
<sup>7</sup> [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/396740/bis-15-4-growth-dashboard.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/396740/bis-15-4-growth-dashboard.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/stellent/groups/corporatesite/@sitestudioobjects/documents/web\\_document/wtx052110.pdf](http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/stellent/groups/corporatesite/@sitestudioobjects/documents/web_document/wtx052110.pdf)

A strong base of biological and meteorological knowledge was available in 2007 to help detect the first occurrence of bluetongue disease in the UK. This allowed a rapid response and the creation of an early warning system estimated to have saved the country £485 million and nearly 10,000 jobs. Along with detection of ash dieback disease, it also shone a much needed spotlight on agricultural technology and ecology, and the need to maintain

investment in the science of animal and plant disease; it also clearly demonstrated the usefulness of research begun as curiosity-driven fundamental investigations.<sup>4</sup> The UK agri-tech sector contributes £10.4bn to the economy in terms of production when taxes and subsidies are taken into consideration, and underpins the UK's £25bn food and drink manufacturing sector.<sup>5</sup>

Over 20% of the world's most popular prescription medicines were developed in the UK.<sup>6</sup> With a health and associated science industry alone employing 176,000 people and having a £51bn turnover,<sup>7</sup> and markets predicted to grow 4–10% every year over the next 8–10 years, these are vital areas of activity for the UK. Every £1 increase in public funding for medical research stimulates up to £5 of investment by the pharmaceutical industry.<sup>8</sup>



# ACHIEVEMENTS 2012/13 TO 2014/15



> 15

Parliamentary  
events



> 50

consultation responses  
championed key  
issues to Government  
and others

Policy fellowships provided networking and training



training courses delivered  
since the launch of the  
training programme

Licence for  
**CSciTeach** achieved

154

DEGREE PROGRAMMES  
ACCREDITED



via advanced accreditation route

Individual membership  
grew from

12,000  
to  
15,800



Pilot and launch  
of accreditation for  
Honours degrees in  
2015 – 54 programmes  
accredited

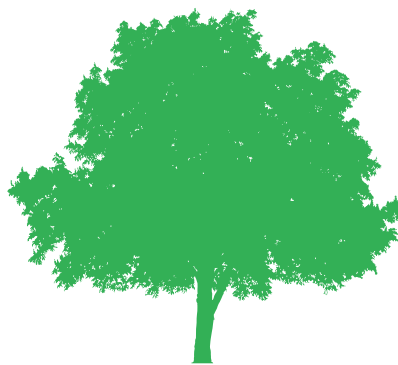
Regional grant  
launched for  
members

# 30,000

people reached through our public engagement programme

Significant input into the national curriculum review in England and curriculum for excellent reforms in Scotland

**3** key newsletters with a collective distribution of >16,000



## > 1,000

discussion event places for science and policy debates

New special interest group for biology education research formed (2014)



## 500

events run across the UK



## 50,000

people downloaded our house spider ID app

## GRANTED A ROYAL TITLE

## 25,000



people responded to our citizen science surveys (flying ants, house spiders and starlings)



Development of a new register for plant health inspectors – launching in 2016

# A UNIFIED VOICE



**We are a unified voice for our Member Organisations and individual members. Because of our breadth of focus across biology as a whole, the Society can articulate views of the entire community, and act to ensure that the power of our members' collective advocacy reaches its full potential. Many issues are common across the biosciences and indeed all the sciences, such as research funding, regulation, publication policies, and the environment for translation, career progression and integrity. We are ideally placed to distil community attitudes and needs in these areas by working with our members and representative groups to identify priorities and actions.**

Our capacity to foster networks – such as bringing together plant scientists' and animal scientists' groups – has proved to be very beneficial, and building interactions across groupings on relevant topics has both current and future value. At a broader level, we act alongside colleagues from the chemical, physical, and mathematical sciences and others to address pan-science and interdisciplinary topics, and to facilitate interactions with policymakers at Westminster, Holyrood, the Senedd and Stormont.

Through our publications, prizes, promotions, grants and other platforms, we highlight the collective value of individual members' contributions to the biosciences. A central resource of briefing notes and policy statements, produced by members, will be developed to assist with information sharing, evidence-based policy making and understanding, and help spread

awareness and influence within the biosciences. An accessible system to link experts and organisations to inquiries that we receive will also be developed.

We are working with organisations seeking to explore greater integration of their administrative and policy activities. At the same time we will continue to support the individual needs of organisations that maintain sole control of their operations.

**Starling murmuration**  
© Laura Thorne





What we will do:

## YEAR 1

(to Sept 2016)

- Develop a portal linking to bioscience policy statements and briefing notes developed by our Member Organisations, to help us to articulate and provide the evidence for unified messages and to make them easy to find
- Using our own expertise, and that of our Member Organisations, present strong evidence and arguments to Government(s) on the critical importance of maintaining, and ultimately growing, public research investment in the UK

## YEAR 2

(to Sept 2017)

- Launch a resource that brings together biology and policy news and outputs from our Member Organisations, generating a forum for exchange and engagement
- Grow our network of employers involved in the Employer Advisory Group by at least five, and ensure their integration with all relevant policy activities

## YEAR 3

(to Sept 2018)

- Publish a report on the policy work of the Society demonstrating its breadth, value and impact
- Develop and roll out a mechanism for confidential and open topical discussions with our membership and wider stakeholder groups within the MySociety portal, to enhance capacity for detailed policy formulation

Sir David Attenborough Hon FRSB  
being interviewed by Professor  
Alice Roberts FRSB for our  
fundraising event  
© Will Amlot



# A PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP



**As the leading professional body in the biological sciences and the only body able to confer Chartered Biologist status, the development of competent, confident and highly regarded bioscience professionals is key to our future success. Our members are represented in all areas – teachers in primary, secondary and tertiary education, researchers in both public and private sector bodies and institutions, consultants working across all areas of life science and individuals working in government and policy. In all of these areas, and many more, professionalism, professional development and career support and guidance are increasingly important, and the Society has a central supporting role to play.**

In the first six years of the Society we have developed a number of ways to help people develop in a professional capacity and record, where appropriate, activities and opportunities that they have undertaken. Over the period of the last two business plans, the number of professional registers the Society offers has increased – this includes registers for technicians, the UK Register of Toxicologists and International Register of Fetal Morphology. The number of registrants has grown steadily over the years, and the development of a bespoke online system for continuing professional development helps our membership maintain and update their professional pathway. This area will continue to grow over the period of this business plan with the launch of a plant health professional register in 2016, focused support for students on access to higher education courses

in collaboration with the Royal Society of Chemistry and Gatsby Charitable Foundation, and development of a sub-licensing process for the registers under licence from the Science Council to our Member Organisations.

In 2014, we developed a programme of training courses to support trainees across the breadth of our membership. To date we have run more than 40 courses and aim to expand this portfolio significantly from 2016 onwards in partnership with our Member Organisations where appropriate.

Building on our reputation as a trusted advisor on education matters in all areas of the UK, the Society set up a curriculum committee in 2014. The initial priority is to develop a biology curriculum that not only engages and encourages a lifelong love of biology, but also ensures that the skills and knowledge required for a career in the life sciences are developed at an early age and built upon throughout formal education.

In conjunction with our Member Organisations and other sister societies, our careers work within schools, colleges and higher education institutions will encourage students to consider the wide range of roles available to those who embark on a bioscience education pathway.

Advanced Accreditation, Accreditation and our work via the Heads of University Biosciences (HUBS) group supports excellence in teaching and learning, and will enable higher education providers to signal to employers those courses that develop the research and innovation leaders of the future. Work in this area remains of central importance to the Society and accreditation in particular will expand significantly over the

period of the business plan, encouraging best practice in teaching and learning, and enhancing the employability of all students undertaking an accredited degree.

We aim to work with institutional leaders, scientists and trainees as well as funders and research councils to identify excellence, skills requirements, and other challenges. We will seek to promote an environment for professional bioscientists that is equitable and well incentivised to support a diverse, creative and productive workforce by informing funding and policy decision makers.

Our Animal Science Group (ASG) will continue to provide advice on national development of guidance for practitioners, and the UK Plant Sciences Federation (UKPSF) will champion the funding and training support for these fundamental sciences. Evidence from environmental, health and ecological science will underpin our advice on natural resource management and our input to the Natural Capital Initiative (NCI) partnership<sup>9</sup>. In all these ways and others, our professional networks will support national and, where appropriate, international policy development. Together we will continuously monitor and promote the highest standards of engagement in professional life among our registered and elected members.

We will continue to expand our commitment to professional recognition and personal development by raising the profile of all our registers – by increasing marketing and publicity, and presenting what we can offer to companies and appropriate professional conferences.

## What we will do:

## YEAR 1

(to Sept 2016)

- Launch a new register for professionals working in the area of plant health, in collaboration with DEFRA by January 2016, and accept 100 applicants on to the register by April 2016
- Work with the employer advisory group and our supporting Member Organisations to increase the numbers enrolled on all our registers
- Work with the Science Council to agree a process for sub-licensing technical professional registration to our Member Organisations
- In collaboration with the Gatsby Charitable Trust and the Royal Society of Chemistry, offer membership to students on 'Access to Higher Education' courses across 20 institutions, and offer registered status on completion of their courses

## YEAR 2

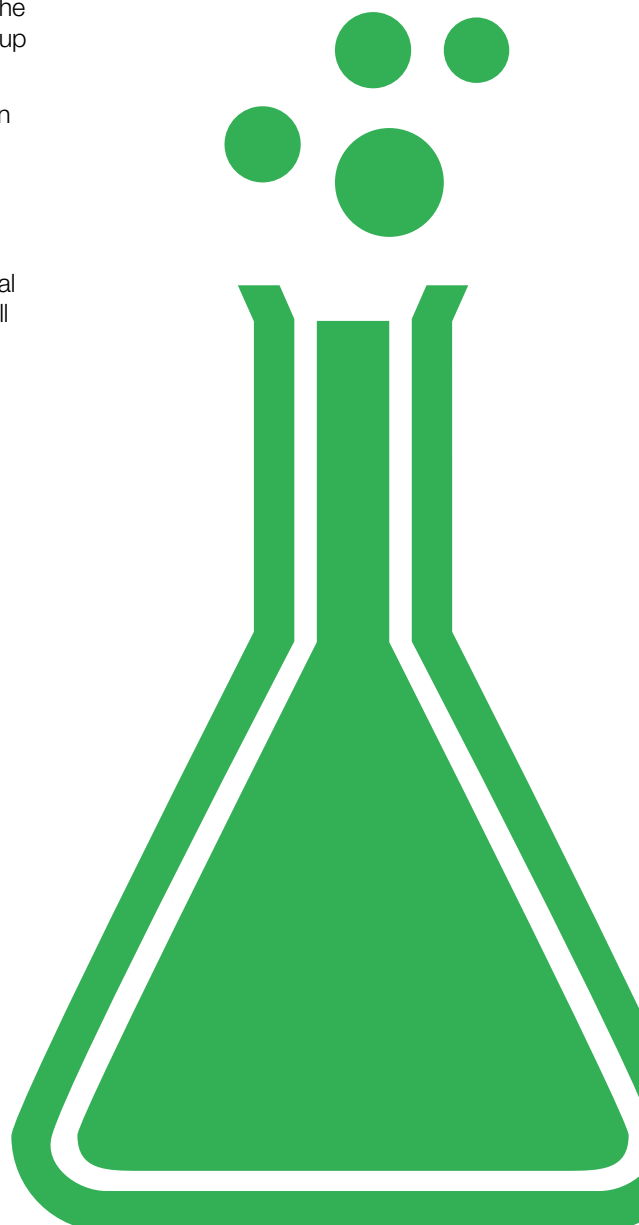
(to Sept 2017)

- Launch a new online portal for training provision
- Working with UK Biology Competitions, host the International Biology Olympiad in the UK to time and budget, in partnership with Warwick University
- Draft a framework biology curriculum, based on the fundamental areas (the big ideas) of biology – developed through the curriculum committee, underpinned by the research of the Biology Education Research Group (BERG)
- Launch international accreditation and scope the expansion of the accreditation programme into additional areas of the UK higher education landscape
- Pilot sub-licensing of our technical professional registers with a small number of interested Member Organisations

## YEAR 3

(to Sept 2018)

- Roll out the opportunity to sub-license the technical professional registers to all interested Member Organisations
- License the training portal to our Member Organisations, aiding their internal professional development processes
- Accredit courses in at least 50% of UK universities offering life science programmes



# A broad reach

With headquarters in London, our work and activities reach far and wide.



**Our network of 17 branches – run by committees of volunteers – accounts for an average of 100 events per year. Most of these events provide opportunities for our members to learn or network, and many support our public engagement work.**

Our regional grant scheme, launched in 2014, allows members to apply for funding to run public engagement activities, and has so far funded almost 80 extra local events and activities.

The Scottish Government provided us with a further £5,000 to launch a grant scheme for bioscientists wishing to run events for both members and non-members across Scotland.

We would like to see events, activities and policy initiatives covering as much of the UK as possible, and not forgetting our branch in Hong Kong. In addition to our branch events and the regional grant scheme, we will take a number of steps to further our work at a local and international level.

Accreditation of international degree programmes is an area of potential development for the Society over the period of the business plan. Assessment processes and criteria have already been developed and there is interest both from universities based overseas and UK institutions with overseas campuses. By offering international accreditation, we would seek to encourage the sharing of best practice between different national jurisdictions and facilitate a smooth transition for postgraduate students entering the UK – either in research or industry positions. (For deliverables, see the section on professional membership).

What we will do:

## YEAR 1

(to Sept 2016)

- Work with members abroad to develop appropriate support and engagement, including discussion of the formation of branches

## YEAR 3

(to Sept 2018)

- Seek funding to expand our team of regional co-ordinators

## YEAR 2

(to Sept 2017)

- Expand our regional grant schemes, and explore opportunities to double the number of funded projects
- Establish an annual Charter lecture, to be delivered at a different location each year





# CITIZEN SCIENCE & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



**Working across the three themes, we are beginning to establish a new public engagement strategy<sup>10</sup> that focuses on diversity – both in terms of the areas of the biosciences we choose to bring to the public’s attention and the types of audience that we aim to engage with. It is not just about the numbers of people we reach, but about reaching a mix of people – to include those who do not typically attend science festivals as well as those who do.**

This will fit with our communication of the overall importance of the life sciences in the 21st century, and with our position as the unified voice for biology. This will be achieved through collaborations with other organisations, the work we do with our Public Engagement Working Group (for Member Organisations), and our membership of the National Forum for Public Engagement, which has a broader STEM remit.

We reach audiences through a whole range of activities: hands-on public engagement at festivals, events such as our Policy Lates series of debates, and through Biology Week, which aims to highlight the importance of biology to a wide audience. We also run competitions such as our photo competition and science communication awards, and reach people through our citizen science projects and media and public relations work.

We will build on joint activities with other organisations – such as recent projects with the Biochemical Society, the Society for Endocrinology, the

Nutrition Society, British Ecological Society, Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Society for General Microbiology, Royal Veterinary College, Bugs for Life, University of Glasgow, and BBSRC – collaborating on activities and monitoring which key messages need to reach our public audiences.

Biology Week continues to build momentum and is now recognised as a key calendar event for the bioscience community and a focal point for public engagement. This compliments our overall aims by encouraging more events around the UK, and beyond, during this period.

Through our partnership with the University of Gloucestershire, we have developed a range of citizen science projects – the flying ant survey, the spider ID survey and app, and the more recent starling murmuration survey – all of which have captured media attention and public interest. Over the next three

years we plan to build on these with the aim of increasing and improving the data sets so our research partners will be in a position to publish articles. In addition to these projects focusing on species observation, we are working with the British Society for Immunology and the University of Manchester on a citizen science project looking at breathing and allergies.

Our public engagement and citizen science activities tie in with our press and media strategy, and we are continuing to establish ourselves with journalists as the organisation of choice for comment on stories in the news. We aim to reach as wide an audience as possible with a positive message about the excitement and importance of biology, alongside the message that we need professional biologists more than ever before.

**“It’s #Spider Season! Identify the 8-legged guests visiting your home with our app: <http://bit.ly/1KpWxTC> @uniofglos”**



<sup>10</sup> Our public engagement strategy is available online.

What we will do:

## YEAR 1

(to Sept 2016)

- Evaluate the success of our citizen science projects, working with our partners to assess usability of collected data, and public/media interest. We will seek funding to develop these projects, including producing an online resource.
- Ensure that our public engagement programme continues to reach a diversity of audiences and cover a diverse range of topics, working with a number of partners as appropriate. We will plan public engagement activities throughout the year with this diversity as the backbone to the strategy.

## YEAR 2

(to Sept 2017)

- Evaluate our media reach and effectiveness, and assess whether we need to invest in growing our media/PR function. A report will be produced by the end of March 2017.

## YEAR 3

(to Sept 2018)

- Carry out a full assessment to make sure that all communication channels across the Society continue to be aligned with our vision and values, and are effective in getting our key messages out. We will complete a consultative exercise by March 2018 with a new communications plan in place by summer 2018.

Eating insects at the Glasgow  
Science Festival  
© Angela Catlin



**biology**  
week

# WHO WE REPRESENT – BREADTH OF MEMBERSHIP



**Under the last plan, membership had grown to over 15,000 individual members and 93 Member Organisations. Our individual membership is very broad, and includes academics, researchers, those working in industry, those working in science regulation, policy and communication, teachers, university students, school students, and non-professionals with an interest in biology. We aim to grow membership significantly and at all grades. This includes strengthening our links with schools, colleges and universities to reach out to young biologists.**

Our members' work covers the whole range of biosciences. It is through our membership that we are the unified voice for biology, and we represent our members' views in many ways: when we reply to policy consultations; through our special interest groups; when flying the flag for science funding; when advising governments on the school curriculum; when communicating industry skills needs to universities and students; and when we comment on breaking news stories in the press. We recognise the importance of equality, diversity and inclusiveness in science and within our membership and we will promote these values and practical steps to achieve them. The percentage of female Fellows has increased from 9% to 23% over the last six years.

Through our public engagement work, our media activity, and our schools competitions, we communicate the importance and excitement of the life sciences – aiming to inspire students to study biology, supporting professionalism to encourage careers in biology, and fostering a general appreciation of how biology can change the world. The world needs to hear from bioscientists more than ever, and the more members we have, the stronger our voice.

## What we will do:

We have ambitious plans to significantly grow our individual membership, aiming to have 18,000 members by the end of September 2018. We will achieve this through a combination of marketing, partnership working, and continuing to raise our profile through our media and policy work. In addition to growing numbers, we monitor the gender balance of our individual membership, and particularly at the higher grades. We will continue to run specific recruitment campaigns to improve gender balance where required.

We will also increase the number of Member Organisations, aiming to have 120 by the end of September 2018.

## Breadth of our membership

Individual members include senior scientists from industry and academia, people working in a wide range of scientific environments, lecturers, teachers, students of all ages and interested members of the public. Members support the future of biology, and receive a range of benefits including:

- Post nominal letters
- Access to professional registers
- A flexible online CPD scheme
- The Biologist magazine
- Informative newsletters
- Heavily discounted training courses
- Networking opportunities and events

Organisational members include learned societies, membership organisations, corporate bodies, schools and colleges, and other organisations operating in and around the biological sciences. Depending on the type of organisation, benefits include:

- Influencing public policy
- Access to senior level networks in science and public life
- Discounted individual membership for staff and members
- Discounted promotional opportunities
- Invitations to networking events
- Free CPD course approval
- Regular newsletters
- Discounted attendance at courses, workshops and training events





### Dr Fiona Henriquez FRSB

Reader in Parasitology at the University of the West Scotland, and Research Group Leader of the Infection and Microbiology group within the Institute of Biomedical and Environmental Health Research of the School of Science



### Stephanie Arnold AMRSB

A recent Royal Veterinary College graduate with a degree in Bioveterinary Science



### Dr James Donald MRSB

Strategy and Policy Manager at the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)



### Carol Kopp MRSB

Scientific Adviser, Bowling Green State University, Ohio



### Dr David Meek FRSB

Reader in Molecular Oncology, University of Dundee, the Lead for Doctoral Studies in the College of Medicine, Dentistry and Nursing, and the Deputy Chair of the Higher Degrees Committee in the Medical School

# FINANCING THE PLAN

**Individual membership will remain at the heart of the Society, continuing to provide the majority of our income. There are ambitious targets for membership growth across the grades, with a particular focus on the MRSB level – supported by new investment in staff resources in the membership team. This will be accompanied by growing support and services for our members, especially through professional development and career resources. Overall income will be supplemented by a growth in net revenue from professional registers, training and a range of assessment programmes and initiatives.**

Our Member Organisations (MOs), and in particular our enhanced MO funding group, provide essential financial support. Total MO numbers are predicted to grow steadily, across the range of biological disciplines. This income will be used to support a range of work in our capacity as the “unified voice” for biology.

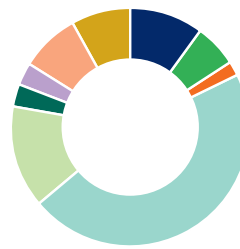
Plans for UK-wide engagement will be supported by more local grants and sponsorship and, as resources become available, through growth in local staff capacity. The branches will continue to play a critical role through our volunteer networks to help deliver both the public engagement and professional aims at a local level.

The pension deficit from the closed defined benefits scheme, inherited from the Institute of Biology, will continue to be addressed and an affordable repayment schedule established over the course of the plan.

Income will be set aside through the UK Biology Competitions (UKBC) special interest group, along with dedicated fundraising programmes, to support our commitment to host the International Biology Olympiad in 2017.

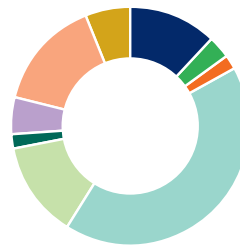
The next three years’ budgets for the Society are prudent. They do not include assumptions around new grants or significant sponsorship. Nonetheless, these will be important opportunities and any successful bids will add to our capability to deliver on these priorities rather than being a prerequisite for them.

The Society’s free cash reserves will drop during the course of the plan, especially in 2017 – as funds put aside for planned projects start to be used – before starting to grow again towards the end of 2018 and then beyond.



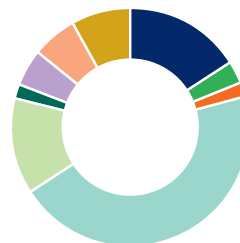
## Income 2015–16

Education	10%
Registers	6%
Science Policy	2%
Membership – IMs*	46%
Membership – MOs*	14%
Membership Services	3%
Generated Funds	3%
Special Interest Groups	8%
Other grants and income	8%



## Income 2016–17

Education	12%
Registers	3%
Science Policy	2%
Membership – IMs	42%
Membership – MOs	13%
Membership Services	2%
Generated Funds	5%
Special Interest Groups	15%**
Other grants and income	6%



## Income 2017–18

Education	16%
Registers	3%
Science Policy	2%
Membership – IMs	45%
Membership – MOs	13%
Membership Services	2%
Generated Funds	5%
Special Interest Groups	6%
Other grants and income	8%

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Total income	£2.37m	£2.74m	£2.67m
Total expenditure	£2.43m	£3.07m	£2.57m
Total funds and assets	£1.59m	£1.25m	£1.36m

\*IM – Individual members

\*MO – Member organisations

\*\*Significant income (and expenditure) in 2016/17 is associated with the UK hosting the International Biology Olympiad

As well as a diverse individual membership base, we are supported by over 100 organisations in the biosciences and beyond including over 60 biology-based learned societies in the specialist sub-disciplines, all of which have a vital role to play in ensuring we have a strong voice and platform for advocacy.

For a full list please visit [www.rsb.org.uk/membership/organisational-membership](http://www.rsb.org.uk/membership/organisational-membership)

We would like to thank the following organisations for their enhanced support and/or project funding:





**Royal Society of Biology**

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