

Introducing the Chair and President

Chair of the Executive Management Committee – Anne Dell, Imperial College London



I am delighted to have taken up my position as Chair from 1 January 2017. I am aspiring to bring as much to the Society as Ida Smedley MacLean did. She was the first woman to Chair the Society (1927–1928) and you may have read about her in Robert Freedman's Historical Feature in the December issue. If not, I urge you to read Robert's article now –

Ida's life is an inspiration to us all.

The beginning of 2017 marks a number of governance changes for the Society. These will be coming into effect as a result of the recent review of the Society Governance, the outcomes of which were approved by the membership at the Annual General Meeting in July 2016. More information about the Society's governance can be found on our website at www.biochemistry.org/AboutUs/CommitteesGovernance.

The key aims of these changes are to introduce clearer, more transparent and responsive governance structures, policies and procedures and to encourage collaboration amongst our Committees and with other Learned Societies. Another important outcome of the review is an agreement to ensure a more proportional representation of the Society's membership amongst its Trustees.

A significant change arising from the review is that a new Executive Management Committee has been formed, along with a new Council of Trustees. Also, committee structures have been streamlined and terms of reference have been updated to ensure they are fit for purpose. I will chair the Executive Management Committee, which will be working hard to implement our strategy as set by the Council of Trustees under David Baulcombe's leadership. This Committee will meet regularly and will act to efficiently evaluate and govern Society activities as outlined by the scientific, community and operational strategy set by the Council of Trustees. We will report to the Council on how these activities are progressing according to the relevant strategies.

Exciting activities to look out for early in 2017 include the launch of two new journals by Portland Press. The first articles in *Neuronal Signaling* have just been published and the first issue of *Emerging Topics in Life Sciences* will appear in April. The 2017 Science Communication Competition has just opened for entries. This is a great opportunity for all the students among you to practise your science communication skills. The Society's second scientific meeting of the year - ROS and Mitochondria in Nervous System Function and Disease – takes place at Charles Darwin House at the end of March. Places are still available if this is an area of interest for you. There are also a number of conferences taking place over the summer that have recently opened for abstract submissions. You can find information about these and other events on the Society website.

President of the Biochemical Society – David Baulcombe, University of Cambridge



As a new year begins, I welcome Anne to her new role at the Society and reiterate my thanks to outgoing officers including Steve Busby, our outgoing Chair of the Executive Committee. One of Steve's achievements was to oversee changes to the Society Governance that will help us to become more efficient and allow us to achieve more

towards raising the profile of biochemistry and molecular bioscience and to give better support for students and colleagues in the scientific community.

A consequence of these changes is that the President will now chair the newly constituted Council of Trustees. This is an expanded role in which the President will oversee the formulation and evaluation of the overall strategy for the Society working in collaboration with the area-specific committees such as the Science Activities Committee. I look forward to this challenge.

Both Anne and I would welcome any feedback or questions you may have about governance changes or other aspects of the Society. Please contact us at info@biochemistry.org. ■