



Minutes of the 2025 AGM of the Flow Cytometry Section of the Royal Microscopical Society which was held on Wednesday 16 July 2025 at the RMS Offices, Oxford.

Members present in-person: Yanping Guo FRMS (Flow Chair), Jennifer Cassels, Derek Davies, Christopher Law, Steven Servin Gonzalez, Pruntha Yoganathan, Sali Davis (RMS Chief Executive), Jade Sturdy (RMS Committee Co-ordinator and PA to Chief Executive) and Callum Perrett (RMS Intern).

Members present virtually: Karen Hogg FRMS (Flow Vice Chair – due to step down at this AGM), Barry Moran FRMS (Flow Deputy Chair), Radhika Patel and Hilary Sandig FRMS.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from: Pete O'Toole FRMS (RMS President), Michelle Peckham FRMS (RMS Executive Honorary Secretary) Maddy Parsons FRMS (RMS Honorary Secretary), Kerry Thompson FRMS (RMS Honorary Secretary) Bev Goward, Rajeev Gupta, Phil Hobson and Victoria Masters (RMS Events and HR Director).

2. Minutes of the 2024 AGM

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Report from Section Chair

The Section Chair gave the following Report:

“It was a privilege to begin my term as Chair of the RMS Flow Cytometry Section in November 2024. The past year has been marked by strategic collaboration, strengthened committee infrastructure, and an emphasis on community engagement, inclusive representation, and training development. This report outlines our key achievements, current initiatives, and plans for the year ahead.

Committee Development and Communication

Following a successful Open Call in early 2025, we welcomed several new members whose diverse expertise in clinical, technical, and international contexts has enriched our committee. To support coordination and engagement, we launched a dedicated Microsoft Teams workspace, which has enabled more effective communication, document sharing, and collaboration within working groups.

SWOT Analysis:

The Section has made solid progress on opportunities identified in our SWOT analysis. The analysis reaffirmed the Section's core strengths, including its established training programmes, strong community engagement through events like FlowCytometryUK, and a diverse, experienced committee. The continuation of virtual training courses post-COVID has proven particularly effective in reaching a wider audience.

Key areas for development include expanding training offerings for clinical cytometry professionals and increasing engagement with underrepresented fields such as marine and environmental cytometry. The Section also recognises the need to build more sustainable structures for maintaining community resources, including mailing lists and online content.

Significant opportunities exist to grow our influence and impact. These include developing a high-parameter data analysis course, integrating unconventional applications such as oceanography, and strengthening collaborations with external organisations, including ISAC, ELRIG, and the British Society for Immunology. Enhancing international engagement, promoting global nominations for RMS awards, and increasing cross-society activities are also priorities.

One of the challenges we face is the continued pressure on travel budgets, which may lead to reduced attendance at in-person events. There is also a risk of overlap and fragmentation as more training resources appear across different platforms. We'll need to stay coordinated, both within the committee and with external partners, to ensure our efforts remain focused, relevant, and accessible to the wider cytometry community.

Working Groups: Structured, Collaborative Action

To deliver on our strategic goals, we established four active working groups:

1. FlowCytometryUK Mailing List

Aim: Transition mailing list management from Derek Davies to RMS stewardship.

Status: No confirmed volunteers yet; planning underway in coordination with Derek.

2. FlowCytometryUK Meeting Organisation Committee

Aim: Ensure continuity in FlowCytometryUK meetings as organisational responsibilities gradually transition to the Section, in preparation for Derek's upcoming retirement.

Members: Karen Hogg and Phil Hobson (RMS reps), working alongside Derek and Rachael.

3. JoM Special Issue – Imaging OMIPs

Aim: Propose a Special Issue of the Journal of Microscopy on imaging OMIP-style workflows, including panel design, protocols, and image analysis.

Status: Initial outreach to potential contributors is underway, with cross-section collaboration expected.

Members: Yanping Guo, Phil Hobson and Hilary Sandig.

4. Online Resources Hub on the RMS Website

Aim: Curate verified online resources (e.g. training materials, SOPs, software guides, event links) grouped by topic.

Status: Content collection ongoing; discussions pending on webpage format and long-term maintenance.

We encourage all committee members and colleagues to contribute or join any of these working groups.

Key Activities and Strategic Engagement

• FlowCytometryUK Transition Plan

We are in active discussions with Derek and Rachael to plan the smooth transition of FCUK meetings, communications, and finance into the RMS framework.

• A joint Spectral Cytometry User Meeting

A meeting with the BSI London Group is in development for late 2025/early 2026. This will strengthen training and community engagement in the London region and beyond.

• RMS-Wide Engagement

Section members continue to contribute to broader RMS initiatives, including the Chartered Microscopist Working Group, Decade of the Microscope, and engagement with ISAC and international societies.

Events and Highlights (2024–2025)

- **Virtual European Flow Core Meeting** (Dec 2024): 385 registrants, 11 sponsors
- **Flow Cytometry Facilities Meeting** (Jan 2025, Edinburgh): 69 attendees.
- **Virtual Data Analysis Course + Clinical Module** (March 2025): Strong participation, excellent feedback.
- **FlowCytometryUK 2025** (March 2025, Newcastle): 107 delegates, 14 sponsors
- **CYTO 2025** (May–June 2025, Denver): RMS Flow Section represented by committee members and ambassadors.

Upcoming Events

- **mmc2025** (30 June – 3 July, Manchester): Contributing to scientific organisation, Learning Zone and networking.
- **RMS Flow Cytometry Course** (8–12 Sept 2025, University of York): Focused on basic and clinical flow cytometry, and the application of the technology.
- **RMS Facility Management Training Course** (6–7 Oct 2025, York)
- **ELRIG High-Content Imaging & Flow Cytometry** (Nov 2025, Stevenage): Contributing to programme and presentations.

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to:

- *Karen Hogg and Katy Moffat, whose terms conclude this summer, for their valuable service and commitment.*
- *Sali Davis, for her exceptional leadership and strategic support throughout this transition period.*
- *Jade Sturdy, for her outstanding coordination and tireless support.*
- *Derek Davies and Rachael Walker, for their long-standing contributions to FlowCytometryUK and continued mentorship during this transition.*
- *Our many sponsors, partners, and contributors who make our activities possible and impactful.*

I look forward to building on this momentum with our members, partners, and RMS colleagues in the year ahead.”

5. Election of Officers

There being no other nominations, the following Officers were duly elected:

Chair: Yanping Guo, University College London
Deputy Chair: Barry Moran, Trinity College Dublin

6. Election of Ordinary Members (up to 8)

The following Ordinary Members were duly elected:

Jennifer Cassels, University of Glasgow
Bev Goward, Sony Biotechnology
Rajeev Gupta, UCL Cancer Institute
Philip Hobson, Francis Crick Institute
Andrea Holme, University of Aberdeen
Christopher Law, University of Liverpool
Radhika Patel, AstraZeneca
Hilary Sandig, CRUK – Therapeutic Discovery Laboratories

In addition to the nominated Committee Members, Pruntha Yoganathan has been co-opted on to the committee and Steven Servin Gonzalez has been co-opted as the Early Career Representative.

7. Any Other Business

There were no further items discussed.