

Court Annual General Meeting

Record of the Meeting of the Court of the Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine held on Wednesday 30 June 2021, via Microsoft Teams.

Present:

Mr John Allan (Chair), Mr Andrew Bayode, Ms Claire Cockerton, Ms Ann Collins, Mr Hamish Common, Professor Alice Gast (President), Dr Sarah Houlton, Dr Tristram Hunt, Mr David Keene, Ms Dominique Kleyn, Dr Tim Littlewood, Mr Ian McCulloch, Mr Christopher de Mattos, Mr Martin Mensah, Mr Michael Murphy, Mr John Neilson, Ms Christine Peterson, Mr William Shek, Professor Joe Smith, Mr Abhijay Sood, Mr Bernard Taylor, Professor Ian Walmsley (Provost), Mr Marc Warner, Dr Kerry O'Donnelly Weaver, Dr Malcolm Weir and Mr Oliver Woolley.

In Attendance:

Ms Amy Brown, Mrs Rachel Knight, Ms Katie Livingstone, Ms Nicola Pogson, Mr Pramod Kumar Puthumanapully, Ms Chelcie Ratcliffe, Professor Amir Sam, Dr Francisco Suzuki Vidal, and Ms Meredith Wilson.

WELCOME

The Chair, Mr John Allan, welcomed everyone to the meeting and members introduced themselves.

COLLEGE UPDATE

The Court received an update on recent developments at the College from the President, Professor Alice Gast. She noted that the College had been visible in addressing some of the world's biggest challenges, including the pandemic and climate change. The next alumni magazine would feature some of the rising stars who had emerged over the past year, particularly in the field of virology, some of whom had become household names. Amongst the most visible research had been the REACT study, the most comprehensive study of the virus involving over 2.5 million Covid tests.

The President also outlined ways in which students had risen to the challenges, in particular medical students who had been assessed remotely and graduated as doctors to support the front-line response. Remote assessments were one of the ways the College had focused on making the student experience and education as effective as it could be, and some of the innovative teaching would remain as the pandemic receded.

Advocacy and philanthropy opportunities had also been seized to shape education, including scholarships for under-represented students and investment in student space. The College was also engaged with the government build back better agenda, the innovation and net zero strategies, and global initiatives.

INNOVATIONS IN TEACHING DURING THE PANDEMIC

The Court received a presentation from Dr Francisco Suzuki Vidal regarding lab in a box. In discussion it was noted that there was potential to expand the initiative to outreach activities, and to offer new business models that could make education more affordable.

Professor Amir Sam showcased some of the work that had been completed in the medical school during the pandemic. The first challenge had been the final exams, which had to be run remotely to the required standard to ensure graduates met the threshold for safe practice. The second challenge had been the transfer to online education, including developing new tools to enable the delivery of placement experiences. The discussion explored the impact of the innovative tools on future medical training and the role of the future doctor.

ADVANCEMENT PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

The Vice President (Advancement), Mr Michael Murphy, and the Director of Alumni Relations, Ms Nicola Pogson, updated Court on fundraising and alumni priorities and opportunities.

CLOSING REMARKS

The Chair briefly updated Court on news from Council, including the search for new members. The Chair then opened discussion about how the role for Court could be enhanced to make better use of talent.

The President closed the meeting by thanking members for their contributions. Court members were reminded that they would shortly be receiving an invitation to the Court-Council dinner, which was expected to resume in November. This would be an opportunity to explore ideas suggested by members about the role of Court.