

Meeting of UKFN Executive Committee

10:00-11:30, Monday 20 July 2020

AGENDA

1. Welcome **new members** of EC.
2. Agree the **Minutes** of last EC meeting (23/3/20).
3. Review **outstanding actions** from last EC meeting.
4. Choose winner of **2020 Thesis Competition**.
5. Discuss **SIGs**:
 - a. recent online activities
 - b. overseas members
6. Discuss refresh of UKFN **Advisory Board**.
7. Review **UKFN/LIFD** collaboration:
 - a. newsletter and website
 - b. 'Our Fluid Nation' booklet
8. Discuss Big Ideas in Fluids from SIGs.
9. Any other business.

MPJ/NCD, 20/7/20

Item 1: EC membership

- Matthias Heil (Manchester) and Ignazio Viola (Edinburgh) have kindly agreed to serve as members of the Executive Committee, taking over from Anne Juel (Manchester) and Paul Linden (Cambridge), respectively.
- The EC is also pleased to welcome Cath Noakes, who will take over from Steve Tobias at Leeds once her commitments related to the COVID-19 pandemic have eased; in the meantime, Steve has kindly agreed to continue.

Item 3: Outstanding actions from previous EC meeting

[Note: the first of the actions below is in progress, so may be complete before the meeting.]

The only outstanding actions from the 23/3/20 EC meeting concern obtaining input for the proposed booklet on the importance of Fluid Mechanics in the UK, working title 'Our Fluid Nation':

Action: ST to draft email requesting input on aims/content/etc of the booklet, and circulate to EC for comment by 30/4/20.

Action: ND/MJ to send agreed email to SIG leaders and institutional points of contact by 15/5/20, with deadline for input of 31/5/20.

These actions will be carried forward, suitably amended with agreed changes to the dates.

Item 4: Thesis Competition

The shortlist comprises (in alphabetical order):

1. Peter Baddoo (Cambridge), 'Analytic solutions for flows through cascades'
2. Hannah Kreczak (Leeds), 'Rates of mixing in models of fluid devices with discontinuities'
3. James Steer (Edinburgh), 'An Experimental Study of Wave Dispersion and Stability in Crossing Seas and on Sheared Currents'

Item 5: Special Interest Groups

(a) Recent online activities

- 'Flow instability, modelling and control' SIG held its first online event '[Data Assimilation in Fluid Mechanics](#)' on 27 May 2020. [MPJ to report. How well did it work? Could this be an (essentially zero-cost) option for future SIG meetings more generally?]
- 'Urban Fluid Mechanics' SIG held an online meeting '[Short-range dispersion in urban environments and its role in virus transmission](#)' on 29 June 2020. It was a great success, with over 120 attendees participating via MS Teams.

(b) Overseas members of SIGs

Each SIG has a leader, one or more co-leaders plus between 10 and 100 members, who together attend SIG meetings and decide on their SIG's activities and direction. All are normally UK-based fluids researchers, with overseas participation limited to the occasional invited speaker from outside the UK.

The point under discussion here is whether to open up membership to non-UK fluids researchers. To consider:

- In practice it is unlikely there would be a large take-up in a given SIG, so the influence on the SIG's activities and direction would not be overwhelming.
- As SIGs are no longer funded centrally by UKFN they should be free to pursue the model that works best for them, including who is formally a member of the SIG.

Item 6: Refresh of Advisory Board

The current members of the Advisory Board, who have served since the launch of UKFN in 2016, are:

- Dr Simon Bittleston, Schlumberger Gould Research
- Dr Ton van den Bremer, University of Oxford
- Prof GertJan van Heijst, Burgerscentrum
- Prof Ann Karagozian, American Physical Society DFD and UCLA
- Dr David Standingford, Zenotech

The last AB meeting was held on 28 February 2019 [[Agenda](#)] [[Minutes](#)], at which it was agreed to refresh the membership after the end of the grant in February 2020.

Would the EC

- comment on whether any changes to the overall parameters of membership (location, background, etc) would be helpful
- suggest possible candidates to ask

Item 7: UKFN/LIFD collaboration

Newsletter and website

The handover of the newsletter to Mark Allen at LIFD has proceeded smoothly, with items for inclusion continuing in a steady supply.

'Our Fluid Nation' booklet/report

See Item 3.

Item 8: Big Ideas in Fluids

Earlier this year MPJ wrote to the SIG leaders for suggestions on research ideas – proposals, networks, grand challenges or strategic thoughts – with a view to collating and discussing them with EPSRC.

Would the EC discuss how best to use [this material](#) and what steps to take next.