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Bi-Annual Newsletter



Animals in Science - Education Trust

Lord Walton of Detchant Kt, TD, MA, MD, DSc, FRCP, FMedSci.



We are very sad to announce that Lord Walton of Detchant, the first patron of AS-ET, died on the 21st of April after a short illness. Lord Walton stood down as our patron at the end of last year on passing his 93rd birthday.

John, as he liked all to address him, was born in 1922 in Rowlands Gill, a small mining village on the river Derwent, and throughout his long life retained fierce pride in his 'Geordie' origin. He commenced his medical training at King's College Newcastle, then part of Durham University, in 1941, and graduated with First Class Honours in 1945. After a period of military service during which he attained the rank of Colonel, he returned to the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle as Medical Registrar where he began studying

muscular dystrophies. He was appointed to the Professorship of Neurology at Newcastle University in 1968 and from 1971 served for a decade as Dean of Medicine.

His subsequent prestigious appointments included Presidency of the British Medical Association, the General Medical Council and the Royal Society of Medicine, and the Wardenship of Green College Oxford.

John was knighted for services to medicine in 1979, and elevated to the House of Lords a decade later as a cross-bencher where his greatly respected judgement and good sense ensured that sound scientific reasoning was introduced into debates on such contentious issues as human embryo and embryonic stem cell research, and manipulating fertilised eggs to tackle mitochondrial disease. He continued to be an active participant in the House until very shortly before his death.

In 2014 Newcastle University established the John Walton Muscular Dystrophy Centre in recognition of John's outstanding contributions to myology.

Despite his very busy life, John took a great interest in AS-ET, wishing to be kept informed of developments, regularly attending December Receptions to meet the Trustees and IAT Council members, and even presiding over a graduation ceremony. I am sure by all who encountered him on any of these occasions he will be remembered for his integrity, charm, friendliness, total blindness as to status, and value as a very witty and engaging raconteur. He will be greatly missed by all.

Prof Sir Richard Gardner

John Walton Prize

The AS-ET Trustees have agreed to award a prize to the IAT Higher Education Level 6 graduate who has gained the highest marks throughout the course. We already award prizes for levels 4 and 5. The Trustees have further agreed that the prize will be called the John Walton Prize in memory of this remarkable man.



Lord Walton being presented with a gift to mark his retirement as AS-ET Patron by Sir Richard Gardner (December 2015).



Lord Walton addressing the graduates at the 2012 Graduation Ceremony'

AS-ET Patron



Prof Lord Patel KT

One of the last things Lord Walton did as patron was to recruit his successor and we are delighted that Lord Patel agreed to take over the post. Like Lord Walton Lord Patel is a distinguished medical practitioner having spent his career as a consultant obstetrician in Scotland. He has made a major contribution to his field especially in the area of high-risk obstetrics. His work has been recognised with the award of many honorary fellowships and degrees from around the world. Among the many important

offices Lord Patel has held is Presidency of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. In addition to his duties in the Lords he holds the prestigious post of Chancellor of the University of Dundee.

In 1996 Lord Patel was made a Knight Bachelor, in 1998 he was elevated to the House of Lords, where he sits as a cross bench peer. In 2008 the Queen appointed him a Knight of the Thistle, a very high national honour, limited to only 16 people at a time and reserved for Scots who have made a major contribution to the Scottish nation.

We are very fortunate to have Lord Patel as our patron and we look forward to a long association with him.

Trustees News

We are sorry to have to announce that Dr Jon Tyzack has resigned from the Board of Trustees. Jon has recently taken up an important post with the European Bioinformatics Institute and can no longer be sure that he would be able to attend meetings of the Trustees. In his resignation letter Jon wrote,

'I really enjoyed being a part of AS-ET and I hope I was able to contribute to the success of AS-ET. I would like to thank all the Trustees for their kindness and making me feel very welcome

and I would be grateful if you could pass on my thanks to the other people I met in the animal technology community. I was always very impressed by the enthusiasm and dedication of the people involved and it certainly felt like a very cohesive tight-knit community.'

We will miss Jon's contribution to our meetings and the conscientious way he carried out his duties. I am sure all who met him will join with us in wishing him well in his future.

AS-ET Fifth Anniversary Events

We held four special events in 2015 to celebrate our fifth anniversary, the AS-ET Young Presenters Symposium, the IAT Congress silent auction and sponsored platform session, the AS-ET Ball and the AS-ET Annual Lecture.

Young Presenters Symposium

The IAT West Middlesex Branch generously allowed us to take over the symposium section of their very successful Annual Trade Show held in London in February.

Our young speakers gave excellent presentations and we are grateful to them and to the three first time session chairs (Anthony Iglesias, Lewis Young and Amy Wathen). As further evidence of their support of AS-ET the West Middlesex Branch made a donation of £2,500 from the proceeds of the day.



Symposium Speakers, from left, Clare Sims, Helen Cooper, Haley Forrest, Ali Robertson, Amy Wathen, Natalie Edwards and Emma Filby with AS-ET Trustee, Steve Barnett

AS-ET at the IAT Congress 2015

On the opening night of Congress Elaine Kirkum organised a silent auction. Most of the trade exhibitors took part by providing items and encouraging delegates to bid for them when they visited their stands. This raised a magnificent sum of £1011 for AS-ET. We were also given £483 raised as part of the Passport Competition organised by Nicky Windows. When the £150 raised in donations from delegates is added to this it makes a grand total of £1,644. We are grateful to the organisers for their efforts on our behalf.

To mark our fifth anniversary AS-ET sponsored a platform session at Congress that was chaired by Prof Sir Richard Gardner. This session included a presentation by Clare Sims of Bristol University the winner of the Andrew Blake Tribute Prize that AS-ET co-sponsors.



Some of our Corporate Sponsors

It has now become a tradition that AS-ET holds a reception just before the Congress Gala Dinner. The reception is the main opportunity for the Trustees to get together with sponsors, supporters and helpers to celebrate the success of the Trust.

This event is generously sponsored by the IAT and is organised by Nikki Stevens.



Some of our Official Supporters

AS-ET Ball

If you could not make it you missed a treat. It would not have happened at all without the AS-ET Fundraising group. In particular Elaine Kirkum who did all the arranging and ticket selling, David Spillane who acted as master of ceremonies and Paul Sanders whose staff helped organise the hotel and provided four of the auction lots, including two tickets for the Rugby World Cup semi-final which raised £2,000. We are grateful to all these people, to Sir Richard Gardner who made the after dinner speech, to Roger Francis, Sarah Duthie and Richard Gardner for providing auction lots and to all the people who attended and whose generosity meant that £5,600 was raised on the night.



Diners at the Ball



David Spillane starting the auction

A full report of the ball can be found in the October IAT Bulletin.

AS-ET Annual Lecture

The inaugural Annual Lecture took place at University College, London in October. The lecturer was AS-ET Chair of Trustees, Prof Sir Richard Gardner FRS and his subject was 'Harnessing Stem Cells for Regenerative Medicine, how far have we got?' AS-ET Secretary and IAT Council Chair, Ken Applebee OBE, chaired the lecture.

There is nobody better than Sir Richard to tackle this subject as he was responsible for developing the techniques upon which stem cell technology is based. His lecture made a great impression on the audience, some of the audience were still talking about it six months later.

We were pleased to be joined at the lecture by our Patron Lord Walton of Detchant and IAT President Prof Robin Lovell Badge FRS and we are grateful to Pivotal International for sponsoring the event.



Sir Richard illustrating a point during his lecture.



Ken Applebee about to start the lecture.

Other Activities in 2015

During 2015 AS-ET Secretary Ken Applebee and Trustee Steve Barnett were pleased to accept invitations to attend the IAT Ireland Branch symposium. It was an excellent meeting and it was good to have the opportunity to meet with our supporters in Ireland.

AS-ET was also represented at the 2015 LASA Meeting. We were pleased to provide a prize for the first presenter judged to have given the best presentation. We would like to thank LASA for inviting us to bring the AS-ET Stand at no cost.

Review of Five Years of AS-ET Bursaries

At this stage of our existence it is appropriate to summarise the income we have received and the ways in which this income has been spent. To this end we have put our audited accounts and an analysis of the bursaries we have distributed on our revised website (www.as-et.org.uk)

Activities in 2016

Second Young Presenters Symposium

Following the success of the first young presenters symposium we were pleased to be invited to collaborate with the IAT West Middlesex Branch to repeat the symposium as part of their excellent Annual Trade Show this year.

Six young speakers took part, they were: Matthew Bilton, Selina Hopkins and Scott Kemp, Clare Sims, Rosemary Keeble and Melanie Crooks. Their talks covered the benefits of becoming an MIAT and RAnTech, creating a germ free Unit, rearing Zebra fish and three papers covering welfare topics. All were of a very high standard and we congratulate all the speakers and thank them for presenting for us.

The Young Presenters symposium also gives the opportunity for young people to experience chairing a symposium session. The three chairs, Amy Wathen, Helen Cooper and Clare Sims coped excellently with this role.

The day ended with a special lecture from Sir Richard Gardner.

It was very encouraging to note how the lecture theatre was full for every presentation.



Speakers at the 2016 Young Presenters Symposium From the left: Guest speaker Prof Sir Richard Gardner, Rosemary Keeble, Melanie Crooks, Scott Kemp, Matthew Bilton, Clare Sims and Selina Hopkins

Congress 2016

Harrogate proved to be an excellent location to hold a Congress and the Congress committee are to be congratulated on yet another excellent meeting.

There are certain legal responsibilities that charity trustees have to take but no charity can survive on the efforts of trustees alone. AS-ET is supported by a wide range of people, some give financial support and some help in other ways. The AS-ET Congress reception provides the opportunity for all members of the AS-ET community to get together.

The AS-ET Trustees decided to institute the role of AS-ET Ambassador to be awarded to people who have made an outstanding contribution to the Trust. The Ambassadorship is for four years and no more than three will be appointed in a given year.

At the 2016 reception the Trust's chair, Prof Sir Richard Gardner, presented two of our first three Ambassadors, Elaine Kirkum and Paul Sanders with their certificates. Our third ambassador, David Spillane could not attend the reception and had been presented with his certificate earlier.

We congratulate our ambassadors on their award and thank them for their work for AS-ET over the last five years and particularly in our anniversary year.



During opening night of the Congress, the AS-ET Chair of Trustees, Sir Richard Gardner, presented all our corporate sponsors with certificates to acknowledge their contribution to the trust. The photographs of these presentations will be placed on the AS-ET Website.

At the reception we were presented with a cheque for £3,250 from IAT West Middlesex Branch and we are very grateful for this generous donation. We were also delighted to present certificates to the IAT, the IAT Ireland Branch and the IAT Cambridge Branch in acknowledgement of the very generous donations they have made to AS-ET in the last year.

Ambassador David Spillane



Members of the IAT West Middlesex with Sir Richard Gardner

Ambassador Elaine Kirkum



Linda Horan, Secretary to the Council of the IAT receiving a certificate from Sir Richard Gardner

Ambassador Paul Sanders



Nigel Pawsey receiving a certificate on behalf of the IAT Ireland Branch



Theresa Langford receiving a certificate on behalf of the IAT Cambridge Branch

At the Gala Dinner Paul Sanders was very successful in auctioning two of Sir Richard Gardner's watercolour paintings and a helicopter trip (donated by Paul) raising a total of £1,200 for AS-ET. Two more of Sir Richard's paintings were sold at Congress raising a total of £1,265 from his paintings alone. We are very grateful to Sir Richard and Paul Sanders for raising this money. We would also like to put on record our grateful thanks to the IAT for sponsoring the Reception, allowing us a free stand in the exhibition hall and for all the other financial and other help they give us.

Fund Raising

The Fund Raising Group consists of Elaine Kirkum, David Spillane, Paul Sanders, Wayne Russell, Lynda Westall and Lewis Young. We are pleased that Nicky Windows and Sharon Jones have accepted an invitation to join the group.

The FRG has had a busy year. As indicated earlier, they were responsible for the Ball, from the initial idea to the planning, organising and running the event on the day. They are also responsible for most of the other fundraising events we run.

James Bussell of the Sanger Institute has been accepted to take part in the Great North Run in September. James is seeking sponsorship so he can raise funds for AS-ET. We will circulate an e-letter explaining how you can sponsor James in the next few weeks.

Communications

We continue to make announcements in the IAT Bulletin every month so you can read our news there. This is the first Newsletter for a year but we have introduced shorter e-letters that keep you informed about upcoming events.

Allan Thornhill has redesigned our website so if you have not visited it recently please do so now and let us know what you think (www.as-et.org.uk).

We would like to thank Allan for the work he does on behalf of AS-ET, not just the website but in sending out e-letters and in a number of other ways.

Future Events

The AS-ET Stand will be at the LASA Winter Meeting so if you are attending the meeting please come see us there.

Second Annual Lecture

We are very pleased that Prof Robin Lovell Badge FRS has agreed to give the Second AS-ET Annual Lecture this year. He has also agreed to give the lecture twice, once in London and once in Manchester. The London date will be on Wednesday 19th October. The date of the Manchester Lecture and the venues of both will be announced shortly.

Thames Boat Trip

We are also planning an evening boat trip down the Thames in the summer details will be available shortly.

Bursaries and Prizes

Bursary Policy

In the past the Trustees have granted a small number of bursaries to overseas applicants we judge deserving and to home applicants who were involved in laboratory animal welfare but who were not specifically involved in day to day care and welfare of laboratory animals. As demands for our funds have increased, the Trustees have decided to restrict bursaries to what we consider our core public, that is those that are concerned with the day to day care and welfare of animals used in science. We have passed a resolution to that effect in accordance with our duties as Trustees.

Special Travel Bursary

The winner of the 2015 special travel bursary was Scarlet Martindale of CRUK, Manchester Institute.

The 2016 Special Travel Bursary was launched at the IAT Congress. Details can be found on the AS-ET Website.

Prizes

The AS-ET /Tecniplast Prize for the IAT Higher Education Diploma Prize was awarded to Caroline Wilson of the Babraham Institute

The AS-ET/ IAT West Middlesex Branch Higher Education Certificate Prize was awarded to Claire Knox of MRC, Cambridge.

Lord Walton presented these prizes at the IAT Reception in December.



Caroline Wilson and Lord Walton



Claire Knox with Lord Walton

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all those people who help us throughout the year. In particular Allan Thornhill, Nikki Stevens and Sarah Lane (Bulletin Editor) of the IAT and Sue Ojakowa of PRC.

Finally Stuart Lamming of Agenda Resource Management who not only makes this Newsletter and our posters look professional but provides assistance in a number of ways, for instance he arranges for our stand material to be stored and makes sure they get to where they need to be.

Bursary Report

Zebrafish: Husbandry, Care and Welfare course **UCL April 21st-22nd 2016**

I attended the zebrafish course which was held at University College London. This was a two day course and consisted of a mixture of lectures, practical demonstrations and group discussions. We covered a wide range of subject areas. Starting with how to run a fish facility. This mainly covered balancing the needs of both the fish and for those who work within the facility i.e. staff and researcher's. It outlined the need for resources that are required to maintain a fish facility and that funding is a main constraint. Current practices were also covered this included housing, feeding, handling and sexing and environmental enrichment.

We then moved onto procedures which included cryopreservation and fin clipping. We had a practical demonstration of fin clipping and this was really interesting to see as I haven't yet seen this procedure take place at our establishment. This was closely followed by a group discussion on anaesthesia.

We moved into the laboratory for a practical demonstration on microinjections of which we had the opportunity to inject some embryo's ourselves. This was also very interesting and needed a lot of patience and a steady hand and eye to inject into the correct part of the embryo. We had a separate practical session on embryo stages and had to look at embryo's under the microscope and compare them to a chart to identify which stage and how old the embryos were. This brought day 1 to an end and after a very long and interesting day we all had a meal at a lovely restaurant. This gave us the opportunity

to mix with other participants on the course and also the UCL staff. We had a very interesting night. Day 2 compromised of maintenance of systems and water quality. We had a practical demonstration of the different test types for water quality and we were shown how to change a particulate filter sock correctly. Although we don't have this type of filter on our own system it was good to see .

Stock management, breeding and genetics and larval rearing were next to be discussed. Health, disease monitoring was a great topic too. We all had to participate in a team game of watching a video of fish in a tank and writing down what we thought were the disease and health problems associated with the fish. To end the day off we went on a tour of the facility. We even had a look at their new SPF facility although currently not yet running. This looked fantastic and full of cutting edge technology. We returned to the lecture theatre to discuss case studies in which we had the opportunity discuss any problems that may have arisen in our facilities.

It really was a great course, with the mixture of learning techniques. I learnt a lot and will take what I have learnt and put into practice in my current role. The main areas I particularly took on board were the health and welfare topics and larval fish rearing. There are a number of things that I have learnt that I would like to implement in the Nottingham facility. I have already discussed these with senior members of staff and hope to put them into practice very soon. Some are very basic things like implementing the use of nitrile gloves to protect the fish's protective layers. Others include introducing a smaller dry feed to the larval fish to improve on productivity. We would also like to use a disinfectant to regularly clean the fish nets as this is currently not standard practice and we have been made aware of safe cleaning agents that we can use in the aquarium area. We would also like to implement the use of a body scoring system very similar to the one used at UCL . So we can ensure consistency from staff and researchers.

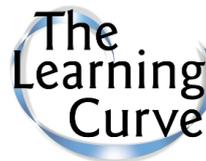
I really have taken a lot away from the course. It was very well run and by such a lovely, friendly team. I would like to thank the Animals in Science – Education Trust for the bursary funding which has enabled me to participate in this course.

Helen Richards
Senior Animal Technician
University of Nottingham



Animals in Science - Education Trust

AS-ET Corporate Sponsors



For details of how you can support AS-ET please visit:
www.animalsinscienceeducationtrust.org.uk