

**MINUTES OF THE SEGH BOARD MEETING HELD ON 24TH APRIL 2024 AT 12:00
(LONDON, UK) ON ZOOM**

Agenda:

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the last meeting
3. Matters arising from the last Minutes
4. Report on preparations for Nigeria 2024 Conference
5. Report on preparations for ISCMGEH- Europe Edition Virtual Event and ECR matters
6. Bid for 2025 Conference in Northern Ireland (Dan Middleton - invited)
7. Reports from the Regions
8. (a) Report on Membership and Finance (b) Decision on types of membership and renewal date
9. Updates on the Website/Social media
10. Reports on Fellows' Matters
11. Report on EGAH
12. AOB

Attendance:

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| 1. A Argyraki | 11. D Middleton |
| 2. D Purchase | 12. M Gabersek |
| 3. F Onyangore | 13. A Hursthouse |
| 4. C Prater | 14. A Olatunji |
| 5. M Hashmi | 15. S Potgieter |
| 6. M Watts | 16. J Olajide-Kayode |
| 7. O Humphrey | |
| 8. K Torrance | |
| 9. C Monteiro | |
| 10. M Abdou | |

AA welcomed all to the meeting and the Agenda for the day was shared for members to preview.

1. Apologies were received from:

- (i) Gillian Gibson (ii) Felicia Ajayi

2. The Minutes of the last meeting was summarised by JO and the matters that arose from it **(3)** were taken as substantive Agenda items.

4. AA congratulated AO on securing a sponsorship of USD 10,000 from IUGS for the 39th SEGH Conference, for ECRs and students from LMICs. In his report, AO said the process of selecting beneficiaries was being fine-tuned. He stated that more than 100 Abstracts had been received, and 86 accepted for both Oral and Poster presentations. Letters of invitation had been sent out to those who had registered and had effected the corrections on their Abstracts,

especially those who needed to obtain Visas to attend the Conference. Registered participants were from China, UK and other parts of Africa, while more were expected. The draft programme schedule for the Conference which was to be published in May was presented at the meeting. AO reiterated that the Nigerian Mining and Geosciences Society (NMGS) and the local Chapter of the International Medical Geology Association (IMGA- Nigeria) were co-hosting the Conference with SEGH. Local payments for the Conference was being made into the local IMGA account. AO requested members of the Board who would attend the Conference to volunteer to give Plenary Talks. KT stated that the IUGS grant was GBP 7700+, suggested that the sum of GBP 9500 should be sent for the Conference expenditure and requested for a Board approval for this. The Board was unanimous in support.

Action:

KT to transfer GBP 9500 to AO for further Conference Planning (Status: In progress).

5. CM reported that preparations for the ISCMGEH- Europe Edition virtual conference started in February 2024, with meetings with the ECRs and facilitators. The themes and sub-themes had been decided on, Abstract submissions opened in April, and the website page is being updated. CM thanked all the Board members who agreed to be on the Conference Scientific Committee, stating that the Abstracts would be sent out to reviewers as they come in. Sponsors were being contacted and it was hoped that massive support would be received from Institutions and National Funding Agencies. Keynote Talks and Workshop were to be decided soon. AA advised Board members in Europe to publicise the Conference and encourage their students to attend.

On ECR matters, MA reported that the Coffee Meetings had not gained as much traction as expected, but ways of improving interest/attendance were being sought out. MG suggested that sending emails to all ECRs on notice or meetings/events would be better. KT responded that an updated ECR list would be generated from the membership database. In compliance with privacy requirements however, the list would be put in a Drive link and sent to MG/MA.

Action:

KT to send ECR list to MA.

6. DM presented the Bid from Queensland University, Belfast for hosting SEGH 2025. It is proposed to be hosted at the Centre for Public Health. The facilities (Halls, Multimedia, Accommodation, etc) available were showcased by DM, and the Tourist attraction that the city offers were also highlighted.

AA appreciated the enthusiasm of DM in presenting the bid. KT believed hosting SEGH 2025 in Belfast was a good idea, especially as it would be an avenue to draw in more members into SEGH from Northern Island/Scotland. Other Board members were in support of hosting SEGH 2025 in Belfast. DM to attend future Board meetings to give updates on preparations.

Action:

DM to give further updates on preparations for SEGH “Belfast” 2025 in subsequent meetings.

7. CP reported that the Americas region are trying to do a monthly get-together within their network to prepare to set up another SEGH Americas Live event. FO stated that she had updated the Health Sciences Community in Kenya about SEGH and its activities, and positive feedback was received. Apart from the update from AO, JO added that the major challenge with Nigerians was the financial regulations restricting payment of dues in foreign currency. He however stated that alternative ways to pay were being sourced. AA said that she had contacted the people who had a very successful SI in India, and they were happy to host an SEGH Live Event. She stated that she would work with OH to organise an India SEGH Live Event. MH suggested that a Facebook account would greatly help SEGH publicity. Agreeing that it was a good idea, AA suggested that a link to a particular event to be used on social media handles should redirect to the website, where adequate information about all events are available. AA and MH asked OH to make them Admins. for the SEGH Facebook page.

Actions:

(i) AA to work with OH on organising India SEGH Live event.

(ii) OH to give AA and MH Admin. privileges to the Facebook page.

8. (a) KT presented the financial report from 1 April 2023 - 31 March 2024. He reported that the Society had GBP 6,305.42 in her coffers as at 1 April 2023, and had GBP 7,264.13 as at 31 March 2024. He pointed out that bank fees on the account had gone up, with the Springer Journal fees being the bulk of expenditure payments. KT added that he would be retiring from the University of Strathclyde at the end of April 2024, and his email address would change to keith.w.torrance@btinternet.com.

(b) While it had been decided that the Membership database needs to be migrated from GoDaddy to Stripe, OH presented three options for a new membership structure/rate. The option chosen was:

Annual membership (Journal Access): GBP 50

Annual membership (No Journal Access): GBP 30

Annual membership (Discounted Rate^{*,1}): GBP 20

**Discounted rate applies to academics/students from LMICs, LICs and LDCs*

¹The discounted rate is without Journal Access. Springer in the past, offered free Institutional journal access to LMICs, LICs and LDCs. MW to inquire if the free access is still in place and check on the process.

With the new structure, conference attendees who are already SEGH members get a discounted registration fee (the discount equaling the cost of their membership), and remain on their initial membership cycle. Also, no member can have more than a 12-month membership validity without having to renew. New SEGH members (i.e. first timers at a conference) would be added to the Stripe membership database. When the new structure takes effect (ca. in 12 months), reminders on due renewals would be sent automatically a month before the due validity ends.

***For the Conference in Nigeria, Journal access had been incorporated into the Full Member Fees.**

Actions:

(i) Membership database to be migrated to Stripe. OH to coordinate (Status: In progress).

(ii) AA, KT, JO and OH to work together on due reminders while the migration to Stripe takes place.

(iii) MW to check on process of Springer's free access for Institutions in LMICs, LICs and LDCs (Status: In progress)

9. OH presented updates on website usage for the period since the last Board meeting. There were 787 users, with a markedly improved average engagement time of 3 min, 50 secs. Top visitors by country were Nigeria, Poland, UK, Greece, India, China and US. The analysis showed that most visitors to the website were still in the 18-34 age group; resulting most likely from the planned European Students' Conference. The *Registration page* for SEGH 2024 and the *Home Page* were the most popular, while the *ISCMGEH - Europe* page also received many visitors. However, OH stated that no new blogs had been uploaded by Board members in a while. He encouraged that blogs should be written on SEGH 2024 and a promotional blog for SEGH 2025 after the 2024 Conference.

AA asked JO to coordinate the sending of reminders to Board Members to write blogs for the website. It was also decided that the SEGH Live videos on YouTube should be made public, instead of listed videos which redirect to the website. MA added that as she has now been made an Owner/Admin. for the ECR LinkedIn page, SEGH events will be published regularly on the page. OH and DM to promote SEGH events more on X (Twitter).

Action:

(i) A reminder to be sent to Board members to write more blogs by JO/TL (Status: Ongoing).

(ii) OH to make SEGH Live videos on YouTube public access.

10. On Fellows Matters, AH reported that efforts are being made to improve the scheduling of the talks and a couple of talks are planned to be held within the next few months. AH inquired if MW and DP could do a Fellows' Talk on publishing in EGAH.

Action:

AA to propose doing a Talk/Tutorial on publishing in EGAH to MW and DP.

11. MW reported that an EGAH Editorial Board meeting held late March, with ways of improving the Editor experience discussed. He stated that submissions are increasing through 2024 with 653 received, compared to 1360 in 2023 as a whole. He stated that the quality of submissions is still an issue despite guidance on the website. He feels that particular countries where there are issues with quality may benefit from some tutorials - i.e. building on the writing workshops. The journal is now in *ad hoc* publishing mode, which is speeding up the turnaround of papers into a release with DOI and pages numbers.

On the SI from the 38th Conference, AA reported that 7 papers have been accepted, and some sent back to authors for review.

12. In the absence of other matters for discussion, AA thanked all for their time, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned. The meeting ended at 1:48pm (London).