



25 June 2013

Society for General Microbiology Policy Note

Parliamentary Links Day 2013 – Science and Diversity

About the Society for General Microbiology

The Society for General Microbiology (SGM) is a membership organisation for scientists who work in all areas of microbiology. It is the largest learned microbiological society in Europe with a worldwide membership based in universities, industry, hospitals, research institutes and schools.

SGM Equality and Diversity Working Group

In early 2013, the Council of the Society for General Microbiology agreed to establish a small short-term Working Group to make recommendations to Council to improve the equality of opportunity and diversity of representation in the Society's membership. The Working Group is chaired by Professor Hilary Lappin-Scott, Equality and Diversity Champion.

The Working Group was asked:

- To comment on issues of equality and diversity in the communities in which SGM members work, based on available evidence.
- To develop a series of recommendations for the Council's methods of working with the aim of improving the diversity of representation of membership and equality of opportunity to influence the Society's business.
- To recommend a formal Policy on Equality and Diversity to Council.
- To support the Equality and Diversity Champion, who will serve as a member of the Policy Committee in the first instance.
- To recommend continued actions beyond the life of the Working Group.

The Working Group is currently preparing its report for Council. The 'Science and Diversity' theme of Parliamentary Links Day is therefore particularly timely.

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