

## **MGMS Chair Report from July 2010 to April 2011**

During the 9 months since the last AGM, the MGMS has held a number of successful meetings. The first of these was the 2010 Sheffield Conference on Cheminformatics, organised by Val Gillett, John Holliday, Eleanor Gardiner and Peter Willett. This meeting is held every 3 years and proved, as usual, to be very popular. It has become one of the flagship international meetings in the Cheminformatics area. The second meeting, organised by Graham Richards and Nigel Richards, took the theme of Computational Biology and was held as a tribute to the work of Frank Blaney. The third multi-day meeting, on Membrane Proteins: Structure and Function, is being held here in Oxford currently, organised by Phil Biggin. It focuses on the exciting advances in one of the main protein families of both pharmaceutical and academic interest. On behalf of the Society, I would like to thank all the conference organisers for their hard work, dedication and enthusiasm. They make a huge contribution to the Society and to the field.

In addition to the multiday meetings, each year the Society holds the one day Young Modellers' Forum, which gives postgraduate students an opportunity to present their work and discuss it in the wider community. This meeting is always popular and attracts presenters from both the UK and overseas. Thanks are due to Steve Maginn and Louise Birch for organising the 2010 meeting. We also held a one day meeting on Exploiting New Computer Architectures in Molecular Dynamics Simulations. I'd like to thank Jonathan Hirst for taking this on and organising it at short notice.

One of the aims of the MGMS is to disseminate information and to encourage discussion of computational chemistry and allied fields. The conferences provide an important vehicle for achieving this and we aim to keep costs as low as possible. The Society also funds student bursaries wherever possible, both for MGMS meetings and conferences in related areas. None of this would be possible without the generous sponsorship we have received for the various meetings, particularly from exhibitors. This is much appreciated.

As mentioned at the previous AGM, the financial and job uncertainty within the community had had a detrimental effect on conference attendance and cash flow. The MGMS has weathered the turbulence and is now back on a good financial footing.

Looking forward, a number of events are planned. These include a meeting to celebrate the work of Andy Vinter. This conference, Connecting structure to function: from calculation to experiment and back again, will be held in Cambridge from 19-21 September. More details, including how to register, will be made available through the MGMS diary page shortly (<http://www.mgms.org/diary.htm>). The Young Modellers' Forum will take place later in the year and a number of other meetings are in early planning. These include CEADD2012 (Cutting Edge Approaches to Drug Design) and a potential meeting on protein-protein interactions in collaboration with the RSC and SCI.

With this report, I come to the end of my 3 year position as Chair and will be stepping down. The MGMS is a charity and is run by a team of volunteers, who provide a tremendous amount of time, effort and good will. It has been a pleasure. I'd like to thank everyone, but especially the conference organisers and fellow committee members. In particular, recognition is due to Phil Biggin for taking on the Treasurer position, Jonathan Hirst for his role as Journal Editor, Jamie Platts for being Membership Secretary, Stuart Firth-Clark for maintaining the webpages and Richard Bryce for his many years of service as Secretary.

This year, the MGMS celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday. I'm sure that the next 30 years will present many more exciting developments in the Society and the field as a whole. The MGMS is your Society. Please feel free to make suggestions around meetings that you would like to see and to get involved. E-mail addresses for all the committee members can be found on the Society website (<http://www.mgms.org>).