

# Annual Report of the Fisher Memorial Trust for 2023

## Introduction

The Fisher Memorial Trust (FMT) was set up to promote interest in the life and work of the great statistician, evolutionary biologist and geneticist, Sir Ronald Aylmer Fisher (1890-1962) and to maintain his scientific legacy by encouraging discussion of the scientific fields in which he was active. The Trust does this by organising regular Fisher Memorial Lectures, and making donations to support the attendance of young scientists at conferences on subjects in which RA Fisher was active.

Information about the Trust can also be found on its [website](#).

## The situation in 2023

After the successful organisation of the 40<sup>th</sup> Fisher Memorial Lecture (FML) (with a statistical focus) in November 2022, it had been hoped to organise the 41<sup>st</sup> FML, with a genetics focus, during 2023 with Professor Mary-Claire King as the speaker (see Annual Report for 2022). However, it was not possible to agree on a appropriate date and venue, and so there was no FML during 2023. An initial approach to the organisers of the MODA (Model-Oriented Data Analysis and Optimal Design) conference, being held in Southampton in July 2023, to include a FML was also unfortunately rejected. Towards the end of the year, plans were initiated to organise a FML in early 2024 in Cambridge, jointly with the MRC-BSU and IBS-BIR.

## Activities

### Other

The Trust continued to engage with the Royal Society about the information included on their website about R.A. Fisher – a successful resolution was eventually reached with regards to the concerns raised by the Trust.

The Trust continued to explore how it could expand its interactions with the International Biometric Society, British and Irish Region (Biometric Society representatives)

## Bursaries and other financial support

A bursary for £150 was provided to the IBS-BIR to support attendance of John Addy at the International Biometric Conference in Riga in 2022 (report at [John Addy's report from IBC 2022](#)). A contribution of £200 was made to the IBS-BIR to support their donation to the IBS International Travel Fund.

A bursary grant of £1200 was made to the Population Genetics Group to support attendance at their conference, and four bursaries were provided.

A grant of £750 was made to the UK Network for Agricultural, Biological and Environmental Statistics (UK-NABES), through Rothamsted Research Ltd., to support their first annual conference at the end of October 2023.

A contribution of £500 was made to the IBS-BIR to support their Young Biometrician Award. Professor Rosemary Bailey joined the panel to judge this award.

## Trustee News

There were no changes to the trustees during 2023

### Trustees for 2023

Biometric Society (IBS-BIR)	Prof Rosemary Bailey	
Biometrics Society (IBS-BIR)	Dr Heather Battey	
Biometric Society (IBS-BIR)	Mr Andrew Mead	Secretary
Genetics Society	Prof Brian Charlesworth, FRS	Chair
Genetics Society	Prof Ian Tomlinson	
Royal Society	Sir Walter Bodmer, FRS	
Royal Statistical Society	Prof Christina Yap	
Royal Statistical Society	Prof Stephen Senn	Treasurer

## Financial

Total income during the year was £6,009.49 and total expenditure was £2,800. Total assets at 31 December 2023 were £213,991.10.

Further details are given in the annual financial statement.