

## David Kent Candidate Statement

“Why would you be a good candidate for the role you are nominated for and how do you think you would be able to positively impact the society if elected?”

ISEH is a society that works for its members to both build community and to share excellent science across the world. It is run by researchers for researchers, ensuring that the goals of the society align with the interests of the scientific community and it is critical to maintain this aspect in the wake of financial challenges and huge changes in how we communicate and share science.

Over the last decade as a principal investigator, I feel I have grown as a community leader and my commitment to collaborative science and community building aligns extremely well with the roles and responsibilities of the ISEH senior leadership positions. Examples include:

- 1) ISEH Board of Directors and Publications Committee – I have an intimate knowledge of ISEH and the challenges facing the society from these roles.
- 2) EHA Vice-Chair Fellowships and Grants Committee, Research Committee, Scientific Editor (HemaSphere) and mentorship programmes (TRTH, CBTH) – for the last 5 years I have been intimately involved in a wide range of EHA activities.
- 3) UK MRC National Mouse Genetics Network – I lead the Haematopoiesis Cluster and sit on the National Executive Board. I also chair the Training Committee as we look to build the next generation of experts in mouse genetics.
- 4) Scientific Networks – I have led multiple international research projects including a Gates-funded collaboration on sickle cell gene therapy (USA, UK, Tanzania, and Uganda) and a UK-Japan HSC expansion network. I am also co-hosting an ISEH-partnered hands-on meeting/workshop on HSC expansion (HExaT, York, UK) with ISEH member discounts (dually serving as an ISEH community builder)
- 5) Deputy Head of Department (Research) – I am chair of research in a Department of >80 academics, making me intimately aware of the general struggles and changing landscape of academic jobs while also gaining a wealth of experience in strategic planning and performance management.
- 6) Enhancing Research Culture – in addition to serving as one of our institutional leads for a Wellcome Trust funded enhancing research culture project (Valuing Voices), I also co-founded The Black Hole which is an opinion column where I have written about issues facing young scientists.

My vision for ISEH would focus on four aspects:

- 1) Building the community and serving its needs – I would look to expand the annual membership of ISEH by ~10% year on year. Managed growth would preserve the intimate and interactive nature of the meeting, but also allow numbers and revenue to grow.
- 2) Build the reputation and impact of the journal Experimental Hematology. Having served on the Publications Committee and having experience with the EHA journal HemaSphere, I have first-hand experience with the challenges facing the journal and the opportunities for building its brand and impact. Working with the Editorial team to enhance the journal reputation would be a major priority for me.
- 3) Launching an ISEH Fellowships and Grants programme – the brand and reputation building that a fellowships and grants programme would achieve would push ISEH and its members to a new level.
- 4) Expanding involvement of clinician scientists and industry partners – we need to have more direct routes to translating our findings in experimental settings to products and therapies. I would push to expand both of these areas and also provide workshops and programming in line with the interests of these groups.