

Welcome to the 2024 Annual General Meeting of the **sigma** Network. This meeting is your opportunity to have your say in what the focus should be for your network over the next 12 months. Therefore, I hope you can join us at this meeting and will feel that you have an opportunity to share your views with everyone else present. As ever, please accept a very warm welcome if you are new to the **sigma** Network. The network aims to make everyone feel included and to have the opportunity to talk to colleagues across our network working in maths and statistics support, and to share your experience and good practice. Please do also remember to join the online coffee mornings or the various other events and workshops we try to offer, which are often advertised on the Jisc mailing list.

After serving as Chair for the last three years I took the decision to stand down from this role in October and have also decided to now stand down from working on the Steering Group. Our network would not operate (constitutionally and practically) without the commitment of its Steering Group, and so as the outgoing Chair, I would again like to acknowledge and thank all members of the Steering Group for their continued hard work and contributions during the last 12 months. I would also like to acknowledge my thanks to Samuel Walton at Birmingham City University, who also stood down earlier this year from the group, for his time serving as the Co-Opted Early Career Representative. Thanks also to Anne Savage who has had to stand down from representing the Scottish Maths Support Network (SMSN) on the Steering group. However, I am pleased to welcome George Kyritsis as the new representative of the SMSN.

I plan to remain active across the network, and in particular promoting good practice in Statistics Support, so I still hope to catch up with all of you over the coming months. My final duty as the outgoing Chair is to welcome the new Chair of the **sigma** Network, Mark Hodds from Coventry University who was unanimously elected to the role by the Steering Group in October this year. I am sure Mark will do a great job and so I step down feeling that the network is in safe hands.

All the best for a very happy and successful 2025.

*Alun Owen*

I am delighted to be taking on the role of Chair and I want to thank Alun for all of his hard work during his time as chair for ensuring that the success of the network has continued. I have been on the Steering Group since it was formed in 2016 and have been in the role of vice-chair for the past couple of years so I hope that my experience will help to ensure we continue to support and develop excellence in mathematics and statistics support. I look forward to the forthcoming year where we will have an excellent selection of events for you – please make sure you get involved and also share any thoughts on what you would like to see. The network is nothing without its members! Here's to a prosperous 2025!

*Mark Hodds*

This AGM is where all proposed members of the Steering Group for 2024/25 are put to the membership of the **sigma** Network for consideration and formal ratification by a vote, which will be via an online poll. The proposed list of members to be ratified is as follows:

Alison Loddick - University of Northampton  
Ellen Marshall – Coventry University

Emma Cliffe - University of Bath (Vice-chair Technical)  
Gareth Woods - Aston University  
Lois Rollings - Middlesex University  
Mark Hodds - Coventry University (Chair)  
Peter Hart - University of Sheffield  
Rob Wilson - Cardiff University  
Safa Elsheikh - Loughborough University (Secretary)  
Sue Pawley - Open University (Vice Chair – Operations)  
Tony Mann - University of Greenwich (Treasurer)

All of the above have expressed their willingness to serve on the group for 2024/25 and have the support of their institutions to do so, as well as the necessary standing and experience to undertake this work. I hope that the membership of the **sigma** Network will endorse this list and thus show support and appreciation of those who are taking on this voluntary role on behalf of the **sigma** Network.

The Steering Group also includes additional non-elected members who have either been co-opted by the Steering Group to undertake certain tasks, or to represent other stakeholder networks or associations. We therefore hope the new committee once ratified will also endorse these continued roles. The full list of the current co-opted members and other representatives is shown below:

Co-opted members:

Ed Southwood University of Bath (Membership Secretary)  
Evi Papadaki University of Bath (Events Secretary)

And representatives of

IMA Duncan Lawson  
SMSN George Kyritsis  
IMLSN Ciarán Mac an Bhaird