

Welcome to the 2025 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.

This year has been a busy one, particularly behind the scenes where we are working hard to get our website up and running again. We have a new, cleaner version of the website ready to go however the hosting of the site has proved tricky and we apologise that it has made communications that little bit harder. We are in discussions to get this up and running as soon as we can and hope to bring you good news shortly. Our events however go from strength to strength as we provide more opportunities to learn and share practice. We understand that finances are difficult everywhere currently so we have been exploring various options to continue offering in-person activities alongside our online offerings which everyone can attend. With AI becoming more and more prevalent in all of our activities, we also plan to launch a new special interest group (SIG) in AI this year – if you are interested in being part of this or even leading this new SIG then please get in touch with myself.

Our network would not operate (constitutionally and practically) without the commitment of its Steering Group, 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, especially during my first 12 months of being chair. I would also like to acknowledge my thanks to Lois Rollings at Middlesex University, who stood down earlier this year from the group, and for her hard work on editing the newsletter. Thanks also to Ciaran Mac an Bhaird who has had to stand down from representing the Irish Maths Learning Support Network (IMLSN) on the Steering group. However, I am pleased to welcome Deirdre Casey as the new representative of the IMLSN and to Tom Coleman who is now the representative for the Scottish Maths Support Network (SMSN).

This AGM is where all proposed members of the Steering Group for 2025/26 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
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 2025/26 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. We will have some vacancies to fill in the forthcoming academic year so please do get in touch if you are interested in becoming a member of the steering group or becoming our early career representative – we will put out a call for these later in the academic year.

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 UCL (Events Secretary)

And representatives of

IMA Duncan Lawson
SMSN Tom Coleman
IMLSN Deirdre Casey

Wishing you all a successful 2025-26 academic year.

Mark Hodds

Chair of the sigma Network