

Presidents report

It has been an exciting year for CSAR! Thanks to the availability of Zoom and the expertise of colleagues we were able to deliver a full programme of lectures, which were well attended albeit remotely. The facility for asking questions worked better than we dared hope and the feedback from members has been generously positive. It has also been possible to engage speakers from overseas which would not normally have been possible.

Our graduate awards competition went ahead as usual with, once again, an excellent range of applications and very worthy prize-winners. Prizes were presented by Prof Andy Neely, the Pro-Vice Chancellor for Business and Enterprise, though remotely and without the 'party' which usually accompanies the prizegiving.

The Society is in good health financially. The costs of remote delivery have been offset by savings from our normal face to face meetings. We are very grateful that so many members have chosen to renew their subscription, despite the somewhat reduced 'service'. We are also most grateful for the individual and corporate sponsors of the awards competition. However we are actively seeking new sponsors as our initial, very generous sponsors move to supporting new ventures. If you feel able to support a prize, or prizes of £1000 for one or more years we would be very pleased to hear from you.

Finally our warmest thanks go to the Council members Dr Zhang Xiang, Barry Thomson and Edward Briffa who are standing down this year. We thank Zhang for his connections to the Royal Society, Barry for his very long service keeping the finances in order behind the scenes and Edward for masterminding both the recent programme and the smooth transition to 'virtual' delivery. We hope that we will continue to see them all at future meetings. New members of Council will be proposed for election at the AGM but we still have a small number of vacancies and if there are members who would like to become actively involved in the Society and be involved in its future development we would be pleased to hear from them.

I fear we cannot anticipate an early return to physical meetings but we are keeping the situation under review and can perhaps look forward to more normal conditions returning by the summer.

With good wishes and thanks to all our members for your continuing support.

Mike Gregory
President