



ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS

AAB CONFERENCE SERVICES

September 2021

Introduction

As a learned society and charitable organisation, the Association of Applied Biologists (AAB) operate a cost-recovery-only policy for the organisation of conferences and workshops in the area of applied biology.

The AABs unique selling point is that their team includes expertise in conference organisation and has a detailed knowledge of the applied sciences. The institutional memory of many years of conference organisation enables the AAB team to be familiar with most event situations.

The AAB conference team is led by previous research-active plant scientists Dr Geraint Parry and Dr John Andrews, who can provide a scientific opinion on the proposed content of your event. The AAB team understands what is important for a successful scientific event; namely providing opportunities for formal and informal networking, for early career professionals and students to present their work and to provide an optimal expertise for the promotion of research by both oral and poster presenters.

The Association owns and co-owns the peer-reviewed scientific journals '*Annals of Applied Biology*' and '*Plant Biotechnology Journal*' and so opportunities exist for special articles or special issues with these journals. This can add value to the contributions of your event attendees.

General meeting arrangements

AAB will manage the following general aspects of any event:

- Organisation of in-person venues or virtual platforms.
- Manage the call for abstracts and abstract submission (if appropriate).
- Manage all payments for venue/platform.
- Manage meeting registrations, invoicing, refunds and certificates of attendance.

Conference Platforms

In-person events

The AAB has a long history of organising in-person events and therefore are able to advise with the selection of geographic location, conference site and detailed meeting

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arrangements such as schedule setting, provision of poster sessions, appropriate catering etc. This is achieved through our in-house expertise and through collaborations with our event-finder partners. AAB are comfortable finding and organising venues both in the UK and further afield. We are happy to discuss all in-person options prior to making concrete decisions or signing contracts.

Virtual events

AAB have experience hosting virtual events on Zoom, GoToMeeting and Remo platforms. This includes management of single and multi-day meetings and webinars. This general experience will enable us to learn to use different platforms that might be preferred by meeting organisers. We have used innovative strategies to maximise the personal interactions for virtual delegates. AAB understands that a quality scientific conference experience focuses on the delegate ability to promote and discuss their science. We have ideas how this can be best achieved and we are happy to discuss all options with scientific organisers.

Hybrid events

The future of conferences likely lies with hybrid events that will allow both in-person and virtual delegates to attend events and to both benefit from these opportunities. AAB has experience organising hybrid events both working with in-house audio-visual (A/V) teams or with our own preferred A/V team. Whilst the in-person portion of a hybrid event can proceed 'normally' it is important that the virtual delegates are also able to have a positive experience. This requires the provision of a quality video-presentation and having a realistic expectation of what is possible in the particular environment. Virtual delegates will pay significantly less than in-person delegates but will not have access to live poster sessions or social events. However, provision will be made for virtual delegates to present their research through oral presentations, short-talks and/or submission of poster PDFs. Hybrid events will be an important to widen participation from international delegates.

All options are open for discussion but the overall strength of AAB organisation is that we will focus on providing the scientists with the best opportunity to promote their research.

We welcome all expressions of interest to work with the AAB team so please contact Geraint Parry to arrange an informal discussion (geraint@aab.org.uk, 07411967414)

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