

The International Union of Physiological Sciences IUPS Editorial II

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In our first IUPS editorial published in the February 2006 issue of *Physiology*, we promised to report on the progress and decisions made at the IUPS Executive Committee and IUPS International Scientific Program Committee (ISPC) Meetings held in Osaka, Japan earlier this year.

The Executive Committee, chaired by Akimichi Kaneko, discussed at length the problem of how to improve contact with its major regional members [African Association of Physiological Societies (AAPS), Federation of Asian and Oceanian Physiological Societies (FAOPS), Federation of European Physiological Societies (FEPS), and the Latin American Association of Physiological Science (ALACF)] in the 4-year interval between international congresses. In order to provide a simple pathway for contact in the future, it was decided that each of the major regional members would have a specific Council Member as contact person. Each Regional Member has now been informed as to the Council Member with whom they will have primary contact, and we hope that this will ease communication. In addition, the Executive Committee felt that the IUPS should increase its visibility in the regions and that the most cost-effective way to do this would be to institute IUPS Lectures at Regional Congresses of Physiology. It was decided to allow spending of up to USD 2000 for each Regional Member during the interval between two successive IUPS Congresses.

Due to shortage of funds, it has been difficult in the past for the IUPS Executive Committee to help its Commissions to be active and creative. Nevertheless, in the last couple of years, small sums have been allocated to Commissions upon request and after review. It was decided to continue this policy, and each Commission may now apply for up to USD 2000 per year as pump priming for workshops and other types of scientific events. We hope that all Commissions will find this helpful and thereby be able to increase the level of their activities.

The 2009 IUPS Congress in Kyoto was one of the main items on the agenda. The most important task for the Executive Committee was to set

up the ISPC. The composition is as follows:

Chair:

Yoshihisa Kurachi (Japan)

Vice-Chair:

Ole H. Petersen (UK)

Ex Officio members:

Akimichi Kaneko (Japan)

Pierre Magistretti (Switzerland)

International Members Appointed by IUPS:

Yung Earm (South Korea)

Malcolm Gordon (US)

John Hall (US)

Cecilia Hidalgo (Chile)

Hans Hoppeler (Switzerland)

Peter Hunter (New Zealand)

Caroline McMillen (Australia)

Quentin Pitman (Canada)

Irene Schulz (Germany)

Ann Sefton (Australia)

Curt Sigmund (US)

Local Program Committee Members:

Ken-ichi Honnma, Yoshihiro Kubo,

Harunori Ohmori, Hideyuki Okano,

Yasuo Sakuma, and Makoto Suematsu

Associate Members:

Yukiko Gotoh, Tadashi Isa, Fumihiko

Kajiya, Yoshikatsu Kanai, Kazuyuki

Kanosue, Itsuo Kodama, Masato

Konishi, Osamu Matsuo, Katsuhiko

Mikoshiya, Hiroshi Nose, Masahiro

Sokabe, Miyako Takaki, Jun Tanji,

Gozoh Tsujimoto, Tadaharu Tsumoto,

Toshihiko Yada, and Megumi

Yoshimura.

The first ISPC Meeting took place immediately after the Executive Committee Meetings. Professor Myashita (Congress President), Akimichi Kaneko (IUPS President), and Ole Petersen (IUPS Secretary General) welcomed members to the meeting, and all emphasized the crucial importance of the work of the ISPC for the success of the 2009 Congress. Thereafter, Yoshihisa

Kurachi outlined the specific plans. The theme of the Congress will be "Function of Life: Elements & Integration."

At this first ISPC Meeting, one of the aims was to select the first group of the Main Lecturers, so that the July 2006 Announcement could already provide some specific information about the scientific content of the Congress. The remaining Lecturers (total ~24) would then be decided at the 2nd ISPC Meeting scheduled to take place in December 2007. After extensive discussions and voting, a list of Lecturers to be invited was produced. Invitations were issued after the ISPC Meeting, and the following distinguished scientists have now accepted:

Frances Ashcroft (UK)

Clara Franzini-Armstrong (US)

Jeffrey Friedman (US)

Lily Jan (US)

Kenji Kangawa (Japan)

Mu-Ming Poo (China/US)

Erwin Neher (Germany)

Denis Noble (UK)

Joseph Takahashi (US)

Masatoshi Takeichi (Japan)

There were also preliminary discussions about the rest of the scientific program. As usual, symposia (~2.5 h) will constitute the backbone of the Congress, and it is envisaged that there will be more than 40 such events. A variety of sessions are also planned, including teaching symposia, externally supported whole-day symposia, and the Physiological Society of Japan Symposia. (The Congress will be held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Physiological Society of Japan.)

Finally, the following tentative schedule for continued work on the scientific program was agreed: After the 2nd Announcement (July 2006), there will be an international call for symposia proposals (February to May 2007). At the 2nd ISPC Meeting in December 2007, the specific symposia to be programmed will be selected. It is hoped that all the Plenary Lectures and Symposia will be listed on the Congress (IUPS) website in January 2008. The 3rd Announcement may be issued in April 2008. A Program Outline should be ready in January 2009, and the full program, with all details, should be published online in April 2009, well before the actual Congress (27 July to 1 August 2009). ■