

Membership Committee report

The 2009-2013 the membership committee was composed of Professor Saeed Semnanian, Chair, Professor Denis Nobel and Ms. Susan Orsoni. We had about 25 teleconferences through Skype and discussed different issues. Some of the issues discussed are:

Institutional documents: The membership committee collaborated in preparing or upgrading some documents needed for better conducting the membership issues of IUPS such as:

- Benefits of being an IUPS member, Requirements for admission to IUPS, IUPS outreach strategy, The "Statement on utility and relevance"

Inviting new members:

An effort was made to find appropriate scientists in several countries which IUPS and invite them to join our organization. These countries include:

Albania, Nepal, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Uzbekistan, UAE, Lebanon, Slovakia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Malaysia, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Vietnam, Moldova, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, and Tajikistan.

An application for membership of the Bangladesh Physiological Society, Nepal have been received and are to be presented to the 2013 General Assembly.

New membership category:

In order to better approach certain areas of the world which are currently not well represented within the IUPS, the Membership Committee proposed the possibility of forming a new membership category to include societies that cover geographical areas rather than national boundaries. The Membership Committee recommended to the Executive Committee that the word "territory" in the IUPS constitution (Article IV, Membership, item #2) be more clearly defined. They requested it to mean "outside national borders." This would allow the definition to include individual physiologists from countries that do not have societies who form their own group to join IUPS as an adhering body. The suggestion was approved by the Executive Committee.

Due system - how best to proceed:

The current category/ units system was established a number of years ago in order to reflect both size and economy of the member societies. In this respect we first checked the present systems of some other similar institutions. Thereafter, we tried to design different models of Dues systems, based upon the GDP of the member countries, but we have not as yet succeeded in designing such a new defensible system to replace the current Category and Units. So for the time being, we concluded that it would be best to try to identify the pitfalls in our membership system and attempt to negotiate with them one by one in order to update the system. Samples of these members are: S. Korea, Brazil, Egypt, Russia, Republic of China (Taiwan), Poland, Philippines, Romania, Pakistan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Nigeria and Japan.