

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PHYSIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

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I. SCHULZ, Germany, First Vice President
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M. GORDON, USA, Treasurer
O. H. PETERSEN, UK, Secretary General

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S. ORSONI, Paris, France



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M. RUPNIK, Slovenia
A. SEFTON, Australia
T. YAO, People's Republic of China

IUPS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

27 July 2009

Grand Prince Hotel

Kyoto, Japan

1. The President opened the meeting at 9:10 with the approval of late registered delegates/observers

Asuncion Rocher Martin, Sociedad Espanola de Ciencias Fisiologicas, delegate

Prem Gathiran, Association of African Physiological Societies, observer

There were 72 voting delegates present.

2. The minutes of the 2005 IUPS General Assembly were approved.

3. Reports of the Officers

a) *Report of the President.* A. Kaneko was pleased to report on the success of the 2009 congress with ~4000 registrants with about half from abroad. The Long Range Planning Committee produced a very fruitful report which should help guide the union in the future, and he thanked D. Noble and the committee members, as well as the member societies, for their useful input. He also noted how useful the now informative website was and urged everyone to consult it. He closed by saying how much he enjoyed his work while President of IUPS and thanked everyone for their cooperation during his term of office.

b) *Report of the Treasurer.* M. Gordon presented a summary of the financial activity over the past four years although he only assumed the responsibility of Treasurer in early 2007. The IUPS is a US registered charity organization which pays US taxes annual and has an audit carried out biannually. Most of the union's income is derived from membership dues assessed from 49 paying members of which about 90% is received. An effort is being made to reestablish contact with those members who are in arrears. There are also several small endowment funds which are mainly used to finance named lectures at our congresses. Finally, since 2001 a small amount of income has been received from each of the quadrennial congresses.

The expenses fall into four categories: salary, travel of council, publication of *Physiology* and support of young investigators to the congress.

A proposal was made that a 2% increase be applied annually to the membership dues to cover the cost of inflation. The majority approved, one opposed. Accepted.

The IUPS account at the Credit Lyonnais bank in Paris has recently been reactivated thus allowing payments to be made in Euros and also permitting societies which do not deal with the US to have a means of payment. Although the IUPS Secretariat in Paris will soon close, it was proposed that the account be maintained at the new Secretary General's office with the President, Treasurer and Secretary General to have signing powers. Accepted.

c) *Report of the Secretary General*. O. Petersen noted that his most important activity over the past four years has been the preparation of the 2009 congress as co-chair of the ISPC. He extended many thanks to Y. Kurachi, chair of the scientific program committee, and Y. Miyashita as the president of the local organizing committee.

The success of *Physiology*, formerly NIPS, has increased the visibility of IUPS to the world, especially due to the bi-annual editorials prepared by himself and A. Kaneko. He expressed his thanks to W. Boron, editor of the journal, for his support.

The enlarged content of the IUPS website has also helped with this effort, and thanks were extended to M. Rupnik for assuming this responsibility.

Finally thanks were extended to the departing members of the council for their efforts, and personal thanks to A. Kaneko, President, I. Schultz, Vice President, during the past eight years on council, to W. Boron for his success in San Diego and Y. Kurachi in Kyoto. At the end of 2009 the Paris office will close and official thanks were extended to S. Orsoni for her efforts over many years.

4. Reports of Committees

a) *Archives* – P. DeWeer was unable to attend but reported that he was trying to identify someone in the Philadelphia area to assume the responsibility of the archives which are housed at the library of the American Philosophical Society there.

b) *Ethics Committee* – P. Moody-Corbett, who assumed the chair in 2007, has been focussing on their congress symposium, “Best practices in physiology research”, and will now reorganize the membership of the committee.

c) *Education Committee* – A. Sefton and P. Hansen represented the 21 members from 14 countries that comprise this active committee. One of their many projects is the satellite workshop following the congress where 76 people from 60 countries will participate at a minimum cost to learn how to teach physiology with a limited budget. They also have a web base course, “Effective and economical experiments for teaching”. FAOPS is their most active regional group. A poster showing their activities over the past 20+ years was shown at the congress along with a written summary of their efforts.

d) *Membership/ Admissions* – A. Macknight proposed that the Hellenic Physiological Society's application to become a Category I Adhering Body be approved. Accepted.

e) *Physiome Committee* – P. Hunter noted that details could be found in the written report but that much of the work of the committee (co chair, A. Popel) has been directed toward setting standards for physiological models. Towards this end there has been substantial recent funding by the European Commission of an important Physiome project which will have an important impact.

f) *Long Range Planning Committee* - D. Noble extended his thanks to the members of the committee (A. Cowley, C Hidalgo, Y. Okada and S. Orsoni) for their efforts. Following lengthy discussions with the council in 2007, the final report was made available on the IUPS website (www.IUPS.org) in 2008. While no changes in the constitution were recommended requiring action by the General Assembly, certain changes are already being put into effect.

g) *Nominating Committee*: O. Petersen reported that there were no counterproposals made before the 15 March 2009 deadline to the slate presented to the member societies in November 2008. Thus each of the following persons was presented to the General Assembly and received unanimous approval:

<u>Executive Committee</u>		<u>Country</u>
President	Noble, Denis	UK
Vice President	Kurachi, Yoshihisa	Japan
Vice President	Wang, Xian	China
Treasurer	Gordon, Malcolm	USA
Secretary General	Boron, Walter	USA

Council Second Term

Campos de Carvalho, Antonio	Brazil
Pittman, Quentin	Canada
Ricquier, Daniel	France
Rupnik, Marjan	Slovenia

Council First Term

Hunter, Peter	NZ
McMillen, Caroline	Australia
Moody-Corbett, Penny	Canada
Semnanian, Saeed	Iran
Rettig, Jens	Germany
Wang, Tobias	Denmark

5. Reports of Commissions, I. Schulz, 1st Vice President, provided a summary of the activity report provided for the eight commissions. Each chair is a member of the International Scientific Program Committee thus providing good international input to the congress program. In addition highlights are as follows:

- *Commission I, Locomotion*. H. Hoppler has raised funds to begin the Knut Schmidt-Nielsen named lecture.

- *Commission II, Circulation & Respiration*. Y. Earm organized an Ion Channel workshop in Seoul, Korea, in January 2009.

- *Commission III, Endocrine, Reproduction & Development*. C. McMillen devoted most of her efforts to the ISPC.

- *Commission IV, Neurobiology*. Q. Pittman hosted an IUPS symposium at the 2007 IBRO congress in Melbourne, Australia, dealing with Brain adaptations for a successful pregnancy. Discussions are also ongoing concerning IUPS participation in the IBRO schools.

- *Commission V, Secretion & Absorption*. I. Schulz reported on several symposia worldwide over the past four years, which were organized by members of the Council including one in Copenhagen in honor of O. Petersen.

- *Commission VI, Molecular & Cellular*. C. Hidalgo concentrated mainly on the ISPC with the result that they had eight symposia selected for the program.

- *Commission VII, Comparative*. M. Gordon has co-sponsored two international meetings and has had several symposia accepted for the scientific program in Kyoto.

- *Commission VIII, Genomics & Biodiversity* appears to have been relatively inactive.

6. Regional Activity, O. Petersen introduced the four regional members of the IUPS.

a) *Federation of Asian and Oceanic Physiological Societies (FAOPS)*. J. Chan reported that there are 30 societies which belong and seven associations. Their last congress was in Korea in 2006. They are changing the rhythm to alternate with IUPS by 2 years, so the next one will be in 2011 in Taipei, followed by one in Thailand in 2014.

b) *Federation of European Physiological Societies (FEPS)* A. Verkhatsky reported that there are 30 European member societies, and their principal activities are their biannual meetings and the publication of their journal, *Acta Physiologica*, which now has an impact factor of 2.4. Starting in 2003 their meetings have been held in conjunction with the annual meeting of a member society which hosts it. The next one will be in Slovenia in November 2009. The FEPS will play an active role in the 2013 IUPS congress in the UK.

c) *Association of Latin American Physiological Societies (ALACF)* C. Hidalgo reported that the 2007 meeting took place in Buenos Aires and the next one will be in Pucon, Chile in conjunction with the Chilean and Spanish Physiological Societies.

d) *Association of African Physiological Societies (AAPS)* P. Gathiran reported that the organization was founded in 1989, and since their first congress in 1992 in Kenya there have been four more with the 6th to take place in Egypt in 2012. They now have a website www.aapsnet.org, and hope to launch a physiological journal in the near future.

PSSA, the South African society, raised a concern about poor communication concerning AAPS congresses and asked that the website be well maintained so all physiologists in Africa will be aware of the congresses. However, it was mentioned that, although noted to be a member, the PSSA has not as yet become an active and contributing member.

7. XXXVI International Congress, 2013

The official invitation from The Physiological Society, London, UK, to host the 37th Congress in Birmingham from 21-26 July was presented by B. Lund (chair of the organizing committee) and D. Eisner (chair of the ISPC). A strong collaboration is being developed with the FEPS with an aim to have each of their member organizations hold its annual meeting at the same time. There will be two main themes, "New Technologies" and "Public face of physiology". The Physiological Society has promised to absorb the projected loss. The vote was taken to confirm the original invitation issued in 2005. Accepted.

8. XXXVII International Congress, 2017. Three invitations to host the 38th International Congress were presented:

Brazilian Physiological Society, represented by B. Machado, proposed the theme “Rhythms of Life” to take place on 1-5 August in Rio de Janeiro. They hope to make a profit of about \$209,000 which would be used to support young physiologists attending the meeting.

National Research Council of Canada, represented by D. Jones, proposed the theme “Physiology: Bridging transformational advances in science and medicine” to be held in Toronto 25 – 29 July with an expected registration of about 3500 and a fee of \$400/\$240. Any loss would be assumed by the National Science Council of Canada.

Chinese Association for Physiological Sciences, represented by X.L. Yang, put forth a theme of “Integration and Translation” to take place in Beijing 27-31 July. The registration fee would be \$350/\$200 with registrations planned between 3000-5000 participants with an expected profit.

A ballot was taken with 72 votes cast. None of the proposals received the required majority. So a second vote was called for between the two front runners, Brazil and China. The result of the final ballot was: Brazil 36, China 33 and 1 blank for a total of 70 votes.

The invitation from the *Brazilian Physiological Society* was accepted and will be presented for confirmation by the IUPS General Assembly in 2013.

9. Publications

IUPS website, M. Rupnik, who now manages the website, reported that the content has been updated and modernized, with new information added on a regular basis. The name, IUPS.org, is now owned by the IUPS and is being managed on a server located in Slovenia. It was requested that everyone continue to provide information.

Physiology, K. Barrett, chair of the APS Publications Committee and Joint Managing Board, gave a brief history of the journal. It was founded as NIPS (News in Physiological Sciences) in 1986 as a joint venture between the IUPS and the American Physiological Society. The name was changed in 2003 to *Physiology* and the journal continues to grow in stature under the leadership of W. Boron, the current editor. It currently has an impact factor of over 7 and is the third ranking journal in its discipline. Unfortunately expenses continue to exceed revenue.

10. Relations with other scientific unions international organizations: O. Petersen

ICSU, Dr. Reiko Kuroda, ICSU Vice-President of External Relations, introduced her organization to the General Assembly with a brief presentation.

As there was no other business the meeting was adjourned at 12:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Orsoni
IUPS Executive Secretary

31 August 2009