

# INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PHYSIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

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## IUPS Executive Committee Executive Summary Oxford, United Kingdom October 6, 2014 – October 7, 2014

**Attending:** D. Noble, J. Chan, P. Hansen, W. Boron, P. Wagner, S. Webster

### 1. Review and Approval of September 30, 2014

The minutes for the September 30, 2014 were approved. S. Webster was asked to post them to the IUPS website, and to transmit them to the IUPS BGA, Council, Committee and Commission Chairs, and Dues Representatives, and Society Contacts.

### 2. World Wide Programs/Future Direction

ExCo agreed that IUPS should do more than hold a congress every four years. To that end, P. Wagner will create a questionnaire to send to member societies so ExCo has a better idea of their needs.

**Regionalism.** The five regional federations work quite differently from one another. The Federation of the Asian and Oceanian Physiological Societies (FAOPS) in Asia is quite strong and proactive. The Federation of European Physiological Societies (FEPS) and the Latin American Association of Physiological Sciences (LAAPS) are less active, whereas African Association of Physiological Sciences (AAPS) is in the process of reorganization. It was discussed how to better serve the Middle Eastern and predominantly Muslim countries not currently part of IUPS. J. Chan offered to speak to the FAOPS council, and discuss admitting Middle Eastern countries. S. Samnanian, as the recruitment chair, was seen as a major advantage in including the Middle East in future IUPS matters.

An important question posed by ExCo was how to encourage regional collaboration of this kind without having to force it on member societies. One of the problems faced by regional federations (e.g., FEPS) is potential competition from strong member national societies (e.g. PhysSoc. Consultation with members outside of ExCo was needed to gain more insight into the matter (see discussions below with RVJ and David Eisner).

ExCo also discussed the concept that regional activities might completely replace the current quadrennial Congresses. A major problem with Congresses is the enormous costs associated with hosting one. These include the cost of holding the Congress, and for members to travel to it. The consensus was that the IUPS ought to continue holding regular Congresses, but that the financial model needs revision. Requiring regional cooperation for future Congress bids was seen as a way to reduce the economic burden on any one country. SBFis in Brazil was seen to be reaching out to neighboring societies as part of its planning for 2017. However, it is not clear that SBFis is strongly involving LAAPS. J. Chan reported that

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CAPS seeking strong collaboration with FAOPS for 2021 Congress. Another approach would be to finance the Congress based on substantial contributions from physiology organizations around the world.

***The function of IUPS commissions and committees.*** D. Noble spoke of increasing frustration at the commissions and committees. The source of this frustration was felt to be the commissions and committees inaction, and the committees and commissions nominations being rejected for the 2017 Congress.

He spoke of the commissions being able to provide regional and subject area balance to IUPS. He also said that the Education Committee was doing great work with little outside help. It was felt by ExCo that by making commission and committee chairs members of Council, they would further reinvigorate their membership.

It was decided that Committee and Commission chairs would serve on the International Science Programming Committee for the 2017 Congress in Brazil. It was proposed that Committee and Commission Chairs would also serve as members of the IUPS Council. This change would have to be ratified as a constitutional change by the General Assembly.

P. Hansen reported continued work on the IUPS Terms of Reference. She asked to work with individual members or pairs to work on specific Terms. She will work with J. Chan on BGA Terms, W. Boron and D. Noble for ExCo ToR, and S. Webster on ToR for the Manager's position.

### **3. Commission Nominations**

The following were named for IUPS Commission Chairmanships:

- Commission I—Locomotion: Sten Grillner
- Commission III—Endocrine, Reproduction, and Development: Ludmila Filaretova
- Commission IV—Neurobiology: Katsuhiko Mikoshiba

Email invitations were sent to the nominees. K. Mikoshiba accepted the position, while S. Grillner declined. No answer has been received from L. Filaretova.

### **4. 2017 Congress Planning**

B. Machado sent out Save the Date notifications for the 2017 IUPS Congress on October 1 for August 1-5, 2017. He also sent a planning timeline to W. Boron and S. Webster. Upcoming tasks include launching the congress website in October, and putting out the first call for proposals for keynote and plenary speakers in November. Evaluation of proposals will start in March 2015. The ISPC will meet in conjunction with the SBFis annual meeting in August 2015 to discuss details of the 2017 Congress. ExCo also discussed adding a second meeting to better discuss congress details.

The IUPS contribution to the ISPC for the 2017 Congress will comprise of 12 members, plus a co-chair, W. Boron. Members will be the IUPS President, commission chairs, and chairs of the education, ethics, and Physiome committees. The IUPS Vice Presidents and Treasurer will serve on the ISPC in a non-voting role.

Methods of funding were discussed. W. Boron proposed that a “draft system” be set up for societies to fund symposia. Under this system, member societies would contribute money to a general fund. After all interested societies had given money, they would rotate in choosing which symposia would be funded

from it. P. Wagner suggested that all symposia funded from the donations would be sponsored by all the contributors to the fund.

P. Wagner put forth a formal motion to finalize the contract, and send it to SBFis by the end of the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The contract for the 2017 Congress was finalized and emailed to B. Machado on October 7. B. Machado acknowledged receipt of the contract later that day.

## **5. Dues Revision Process**

P. Wagner went over the dues revision process. The “white paper” he and M. Spyer created was circulated to be BGA and was looked at favorably. Some members suggested using budget, rather than membership numbers as a metric. P. Wagner explained that: 1. Budget information would be very hard to obtain 2. Society budgets are quite heterogeneous depending on needs, programs and funds available and 3. Basing the dues on membership numbers reflects the philosophy that IUPS would like to support Society members separately from considering the societal budgets. He and M. Spyer are waiting for 75% participation from the member survey released in August to come in before moving on with the process. S. Webster will follow up aggressively, by telephone if necessary.

## **6. Journals**

Collaboration with APS for the promotion of *Physiology* was further discussed. A letter from D. Noble, and T. Wang was written and sent to D. Pollock. The letter expressed enthusiasm for APS’s proposal, and offered open discussions with APS to determine the best course of action moving forward.

ExCo discussed the creation of a specialist journal devoted to the Physiome project. D. Noble is the President of the Board of Trustees for the Virtual Physiological Human Institute. He reported that its meetings were published in *Interface Focus*, not in an “in-house” journal. It was decided that the journal would entail a broader concept of physiology using insights of Physiome.

ExCo discussed the financial risks of creating a new journal. P. Wagner pointed out other societies were required to put up half a million dollars of their own money to start journals. He emphasized the need to find a professional publisher, and to create a scope statement for the journal.

P. Wagner put forth a formal motion for D. Noble to send a message to the Physiome Committee to discuss the creation of a Physiome journal, and create a scope statement to send to publishers. J. Chan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **7. Skype Meeting with David Eisner**

ExCo spoke with David Eisner, President of FEPS, via Skype. D. Noble asked if ExCo’s proposed regional cooperation model for future congresses would have worked with the Birmingham congress in 2013. D. Eisner felt that it would not, mainly because FEPS is considerably “weaker” than PhysSoc. He went on to say that FEPS is largely concerned with supporting the smaller European societies. D. Noble asked about the other proposal for congresses, where regional federations bid. D. Eisner thought it was a good idea, but would not work in Europe. FEPS would have to work with PhysSoc, DPG (Germany), and the Scandinavian societies.

## **8. Lunch Meeting with Richard Vaughan-Jones**

ExCo spoke to Richard Vaughan-Jones, President of PhysSoc. They spoke of the proposed congress funding model. R. Vaughan-Jones said that there was some regional cooperation for Birmingham, but not much. He informed ExCo that PhysSoc had recently completed a review of its own governance, and was very carefully evaluating its finances. He would not be able to guarantee much more than travel grants for members for the 2017 Congress. He was open to the idea of societies providing a certain amount

of money, and then rotating with other donors to choose where the money went to (the “symposium draft” proposal).

### **9. Dinner Meeting with Mike Spyer**

ExCo met with Mike Spyer for dinner Tuesday night. He accepted ExCo’s points regarding outreach and organizing future congresses. ExCo pointed out that only FAOPS and the ad ho PanAm federations were capable of organizing major events. M. Spyer and P. Wagner decided to wait for 75% participation in the member survey sent out in August.

M. Spyer reported that PhysSoc was also developing their own outreach plan to reach out to developing societies. P. Wagner offered to write a letter to Richard Vaughan-Jones to suggest cooperation in developing a survey to distribute to developing societies. M. Spyer also expressed excitement in revitalizing the BGA.

### **10. Other Matters**

ExCo directed S. Webster to work with IUPS Web Developer to create a space on the IUPS website for members in developing countries to connect with others to exchange equipment or textbooks. They emphasized the need for IUPS to track exchanges to make sure everyone was being served.

Colin Beesley, Head of Media Services at the University of Oxford, was contacted to consult on IUPS acquiring digital copies of some of the photographs of physiological society meetings dating back before World War II. He reported that he would be able to do so. ExCo also discussed digitizing programs from prior congresses to post on the website. There was some discussion on destructive vs. non-destructive digitization. D. Noble has programs from IUPS meetings going back to the 1960’s.

## **Action Items**

1. S. Webster to distribute minutes to website, BGA, Council, Committee and Commission Chairs, Dues Reps, and Society Contacts
2. P. Wagner to create questionnaire for societies to fill out regarding how IUPS can best serve them
3. ExCo to propose constitutional amendment to make Commission and Committee Chairs members of the IUPS Council
4. P. Hansen to continue work on IUPS Terms of Reference with the following
  - a. J. Chan to assist with BGA
  - b. D. Noble and W. Boron to assist with ExCo
  - c. S. Webster to assist with Manager
5. S. Webster to investigate alternatives to Skype to facilitate Council and BGA meetings
6. S. Webster to meet with IUPS web developer to discuss the creation of an “exchange” on the IUPS website.
7. S. Webster to reach out via telephone to member societies that have not yet answered the request for information.
8. P. Wagner to write letter on behalf of ExCo to Richard Vaughn-Jones to offer to collaborate in outreach survey.