

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PHYSIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

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IUPS Council 24-25 August 2001, Christchurch, NZ Minutes

Present: E. Weibel, A. Cowley, R. Latorre, S. Chien, D. Noble, A. Kaneko, S. Medvedev, A. Paintal, C. Pholpramool, E. Szczepanska-Sadowska, S. Orsoni
Absent: O. Akinkube, R. Greger, N. LeDourain, S. Grillner, J. Young

The meeting was called to order at 9:10

A. Minutes of 1999 Council meeting were approved.

A brief update was presented on the media situation with the antivivisectionist demonstrators.

B. Reports of IUPS Officers

1. Report of the President: The written report was presented and approved and will be included with the minutes.
2. Report of the Secretary: The written report was presented and approved and will be included with the minutes.
3. Report of the Treasurer: The written report was presented and approved and will be included with the minutes. With regard to the two lecture accounts, the income from the Fenn account is used to pay the costs of the Fenn Lecture at the Congress every four years, and that of the Feng Lecture to pay the travel costs for a lecturer to go to China every two or three years. The local status of the Feng lecture needs to be confirmed. The 2002 budget was discussed but is to be approved by the new council. Although it had been agreed in 1997 that there would be an annual 4% increase in dues he recommended that this be limited to 2% to compensate for inflation levels; the proposition will be put to the general assembly.

C. New Zealand Congress

Sincere thanks were expressed to the local organizing committee for all the impressive efforts made by their team.

1. A Progress report of the Organizing Committee was presented by P. Hill. He noted that someone chosen in conjunction with the local committee and the IUPS council would meet with local journalists concerning the antivivisectionist demonstrations on a daily basis.
2. Finances: B. Smaill reported that based on the income at hand and an estimated 2000 registered participants, they are projecting a loss of about \$US125,000. They have raised significant external funds from sponsors, and that the money for the YIA is not included in the operating budget. The loss will be covered by the loan from the city of Christchurch part of which will go unpaid. They are very disappointed that the registrations from the South Pacific region were not better.

3. Scientific Program Committee: T. Macknight noted the difficulties caused by the high cost of international meetings. However, he said that many speakers did find funding elsewhere and that few refused the invitation.
4. Invited Lectures: Prof. Hochacha who was to have given the Fenn Lecture has fallen ill and will be replaced by Prof. Moncada.
5. Satellite Symposia: P. Cragg reported of the original 40 symposia planned, 37 will take place and 31% of their total participants will attend the main congress. Perhaps there were too many satellites and that were too widely scattered, but it is strongly felt that such meetings need to be linked, perhaps financially, to the main congress.
6. Travel grants: Approximately 100 young people will benefit from the YIA. Particular thanks are extended to FAOPS, APS, IUPS, Wellcome Trust, Physiological Society, Nestle Foundation etc. for their generosity. The awards were based more on need than excellence because of the need for exposure, and the selection process was aided by the member societies. The grants covered the full cost of travel and on-site expenses.

P. Hunter was thanked for his efforts resolving the technical and information systems aspects of the meeting. In the future other computer companies should certainly be recruited as a source of support as Compaq was in this case.

D. Regular Business of Council

1. Changes to IUPS Constitution & By Laws

ARTICLE V item 7: *Selection of location for an international congress*: The phrase "This decision can be altered by council only in case of an emergency occurring between meetings of the General Assembly" was inadvertently left out and is to be added. As noted in item 5 of Article V, delegates continue to serve until a new delegate is appointed, thus an exceptional vote could be taken between congresses.

ARTICLE VI: *Terms of service on council*: approved as presented

ARTICLE VIII: *Commissions*: the terms dissolution and merger are to be added to the powers of council and thus permit a better management.

ARTICLE VI (Bylaws) *Terms of service on commissions*: to make the change more supple "as a rule" is to be added to the definition of length of service.

E. Weibel noted that it could be useful to have the constitution and by-laws reviewed by an American lawyer, since the Union is registered in the US, to be sure that it is still valid.

2. **Membership Committee**: E. Szczpanska-Sadowska reported that the **Crotian Physiological Society**, having 83 members has requested to become an Adhering Body. The Myanmar has asked to be come an Associate Member. ALACF has asked that its status be changed from Adhering Body to Regional Member and the Scandinavian Physiological Society (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway & Sweden) has applied to become a Regional Member with the understanding that its members would retain their status as direct members. The proposals were approved and will be presented to the General Assembly. Lebanon, UAE, Costa Rica and Colombia had shown interest but did not submit an application.

3. Regional members:

AAPS: The 3rd Congress was held in Pretoria in 2000. \$10,000 was provided in support but no report has yet been received.

FEPS: The 1999 congress in Prague was very disappointing and poorly attended.

FAOPS: In 1998 the 4th congress was held in Brisbane and was well attended by about 500. The next congress is planned for October 2002 in Kuala Lumpur. The generous support of FAOPS for the YIA is greatly appreciated.

ALACF:

4. Agreement with Scandinavian Physiological Society: In 2001 the Krogh Lecture is being reinstated (B. Saltin) and funded by the SPS. A proposal that an agreement be signed between the IUPS and SPS to fully fund for the next four congresses and that such a lecture would be selected in conjunction between the two organizations was approved. The agreement is to be signed in NZ.
5. Nominating Committee: E. Neher chaired the committee composed of M. Ito, J. Neill, C. Lee, O. Akinkugbe, D. Noble & E. Weibel. Their task was particularly difficult because of the proposed change to the constitution that would only permit two of the current members of council to continue. However, their proposed slate met no opposition and is to be presented as is for a vote.
6. Ethics Committee: For NZ each abstract author was asked to declare that the Helsinki agreement had been followed. They were all scrutinized and some were returned to the authors with ethical criticisms; finally none had to be rejected for ethical reasons. In 1999 the Ethics Committee, E. Knobil chair) was instructed to define specific guidelines, but unfortunately this was not accomplished. All present fully agreed on the importance of ethics both for the public and in the profession for humans and animals. E. Weibel presented a resolution that declares adoption of Ethical Guidelines (WMA Declaration of Helsinki, CIOMS Int'l Guidelines, CIOMS Int'l Guiding Principles) for all IUPS events, and defines a mandate for the Ethics Committee. Council unanimously accepted this resolution which is to be communicated to the General Assembly.
7. International Project Committee: it has been agreed that this committee should remain dormant until new funds become available.
8. Archives: R. Berne and his wife Beth had done an extraordinary job of reorganizing the Archives back in the mid 1990's. Since then H. Sparks and then R. Forster were asked to take on the responsibility; but little has been done. The new council will be asked to deal with the problem.
9. ICSU: Relations with other Scientific Unions
The documents summarizing the World Science Conference of ICSU-UNESCO of 1999 entitled 'The Declaration on Science and the Use of Scientific Knowledge' and 'Science Agenda – Framework for Action' are included with the minutes.

E. Weibel reported on his attendance at various ICSU meetings.

Three applications for grants (Physiome Project, Muscle Symposium and Teaching website) were submitted to ICSU but without success.

10. Publications

IUPS website: it is currently housed at FASEB but this has not proven to be a viable solution. It needs to be greatly improved, but a British company which was consulted had asked a far too high price. The new council will be asked to follow up.

Newsletter: D. Noble has done an excellent job in publishing the first three issues including a President's Platform, regional issues, topical articles, etc. However, the existence of this newsletter is not perceived by a majority of physiologists; it must be made better known perhaps by sending an email to each society, the commission chairs etc. announcing each new issue. The possibility of an e-mail news bulletin to a broader constituency should be explored.

NIPS: a letter was sent in December 2000 to all recipients of free subscriptions asking that they confirm their desire to continue to do so and that their address was correct. Approximately one half replied and their subscriptions will be continued. Those who did not reply will receive a letter stating that it has been cancelled; if they wish to be put back on the list they will have to request it.

E. Congress 2005: Washington V. Huxley (Ch. USNC), M. Frank (Exec Director, APS) and W. White (National Academy of Science) joined the meeting. S. Chien, as chair of the National Organizing Committee, presented the alternate proposal in which the meeting would take place in San Diego in conjunction with the Experimental Biology meeting in April 2005 rather than Washington in August. Apologies were extended for the lateness in the date of proposing such a change. It was noted that the registration would be separate from EB, the program would be organized by the ISPC, all the oral sessions would take place in the IUPS hotel, and that the meeting would begin two days earlier than the EB. With the increased registration the IUPS section of the EB would become a majority force in that meeting. Poster sessions would be grouped together in the Convention Center. The registration fee would be all inclusive (opening reception and banquet) but a \$50 abstract fee would be in addition.

The APS would be the organization representing the National Academy of Sciences. 5% of the registration fee will go to IUPS as well as 25% of net profits (minimum payment of \$100,000, but this should not be limited in advance). Such an organization would avoid a split between the APS annual meeting and the IUPS congress, an intention that had not been understood by the IUPS council. Concern was expressed about loss of identity of IUPS but assurances were given that while some sessions would be "APS sponsored" all would be IUPS, and there would be a balance of IUPS vs APS members on the program. The current list of "APS supported lectures" may be too numerous, a point which will have to be clarified by the ISPC. Among the 12 international members of the ISPC perhaps some non-physiologists should be included.

An agreement was signed by the USNC Chair and the IUPS President stating the conditions under which IUPS considers this new arrangement acceptable. A contract will be signed between the APS (not the USNC) and the IUPS in 2002.

The Council agreed to recommend to the General Assembly to accept and confirm, under these conditions, the revised invitation by the USNC to host the congress in April 2005 in San Diego in association (?) with the EB meeting.

F. Congress 2009

Each of the societies which had submitted an invitation to host 2009 were invited to make a presentation to the council.

Austrian Physiological Society : H. Hinghofer-Szalkay presented the invitation and supplied the following information:

- What dates are being proposed? 16-21 August or 25-28 August
- Where would the congress take place? Austrian Center of Vienna
- Has a theme been selected? of "Physiology *in* Medicine: Physiology *or* Medicine".
- What direction will be given to the ISPC? Plans are to meet several times in the next 4 years.
- Are there any new ideas to be proposed? A broad effort will be made to link up with the physiological societies in the surrounding countries.
- How will satellite symposia be linked to the main congress and participants encouraged to attend main congress? They will take place before and after the congress but will offer philosophical links with one keynote speaker to be invited from each. Although people cannot be forced to contribute, they will be urged to do so. They would be requested to pay a percentage of their income to main congress
- What would be the minimal cost (registration, accommodation, etc) to participants?
- Who will guarantee the meeting? The Austrian Physiological Society
- How would a deficit be met? A private company would be established.
- What is the provisional budget?
- How many participants are expected? About 4000 between satellites and main congress.
- Is there any competition with other meetings in the region? Not that are known.

Japan Science Council: presentation made by Y. Kurachi

- What dates are being proposed?
- Where would the congress take place? Kyoto Convention Center
- Has a theme been selected? "Function of Life: Elements and Integration"
- What direction will be given to the ISPC?
- Are there any new ideas to be proposed? Meet the lecturers, whole-day symposia, brainstorming for integration, teaching seminars, company sponsored lunch hour seminars
- How will satellite symposia be linked to the main congress and participants encouraged to attend main congress?
- What would be the minimal cost to participants?
- Who will guarantee the meeting? Physiological Society of Japan
- How would a deficit be met?
- What is the provisional budget?
- How many participants are expected? 2000 from the JPS and 2000 international
- Is there any competition with other meetings in the region? This would be the Physiological Society of Japan's annual meeting combined with the IUPS congress.

Sociedad Espanola de Ciencias Fisiologicas: presentation made by J.M. Delgado-Garcia

- What dates are being proposed? 5 – 10 September
- Where would the congress take place? Universidad Pablo de Olivade in Seville which has 40 lecture halls for 100, an auditorium for 1200 and a residence for 50 students. The local convention center could deal with up to 8000 but the cost would increase proportionally.
- Has a theme been selected? "A Bridge towards XXI Century Physiology"
- What direction will be given to the ISPC?
- Are there any new ideas to be proposed?
- How will satellite symposia be linked to the main congress and participants encouraged to attend main congress? They will be held as close as possible to the main meeting with no more than 20 tied to the scientific program and will not be independent.
- What would be the minimal cost to participants?
- Who will guarantee the meeting? A private company would be formed perhaps linked to an insurance company. If held at the university, the costs would be minimal and thus the risks reduced.
- How would a deficit be met?
- What is the provisional budget?
- How many participants are expected? 3000
- Is there any competition with other meetings in the region?

Discussion of the invitations in Council arrived at the following synopsis :

Scientific Program

- Austria – 'dreamy'
- Japan – location of Satellite not clear
- Spain – not fully developed

Venue

- Austria – fine
- Japan - fine
- Spain – new university setting would lessen costs

Backing

- Austria – no official backing
- Japan – JPS has already made a large advance
- Spain - none

Finance

- Austria - unrealistic
- Japan – conservative & balanced
- Spain – no budget provided

Council concluded that only the dossier presented by Japan was sufficiently solid to be recommended to the General Assembly for acceptance.

- G. Commissions:** Prior to the meeting with commission chairs R. Latorre reported on the discussion in the Executive Committee of the grouping the commissions in order to obtain a broader picture and lessen the number from 33. The topic groups would become Commissions, some of which might have subcommissions/subgroups. Each Commission would have a chair and perhaps co-chair. He also suggested a mandate of 5 points to help give them direction. The discussion with the commission chairs would be on how best to proceed with restructuring the commissions.

The meeting was adjourned at 14:30 so as to meet with the commission chairs.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Orsoni
Executive Secretary

IUPS Council

Meeting with Commission Chairs

25 August 2001, Christchurch, NZ

Minutes

Present:

Council: E. Weibel, A. Cowley, R. Latorre, S. Chien, D. Noble, A. Kaneko, S. Medvedev, A. Paintal, C. Pholpramool, E. Szczpanska-Sadowska, S. Orsoni

Commission chairs: J. Brugge, M. Case, S. Gandevia, M. Gordon, R. Hainsworth, P. Hunter, G. Malnic, C. Michel, A. Popel, M. Rowe, I. Schulz, A. Sefton, M. Seron-Ferre, B. Whipp

The meeting was called to order at 15:00.

A report was presented by VP for Commissions, R. Latorre, dealing with several topics:

1. A proposed change to the Constitution & By-Laws which will shorten the cycle one can serve from four to three terms has been ‘softened’ somewhat to allow for an exception. Also, “dissolution or merger” is to be added to the text.
2. Budget proposals will be made to the new council for \$500 grants upon request, \$3000 for Teaching Commission to compensate for the negative decision by ICSU, and \$10000 to Physiome Project which has also been refused by ICSU.
3. It has been proposed to form two new Committees that would replace current commissions and report directly to council: Committee on Education and Committee for the Physiome Project.

4. A mandate of 5 points was also proposed to be provided to each commission:
- Advise IUPS on scientific activities in their field
 - Seek ways to bridge areas of basic physiology with clinical sciences and medicine
 - Provide input to the Int'l SPC for programming a congress and satellite symposia
 - Represent IUPS in related organizations
 - Consider specialized physiology in broad perspective

Should the provision of how commissions provide input to congresses be made more firm by perhaps providing each commission with one slot on the program? For NZ the suggestions received were very heterogeneous with some giving many and others providing none. Clear written instructions should be provided to the SPC to be in direct contact with the chairs of the commissions as early as possible. And a more rapid feedback should be provided concerning their suggestions and which have been selected.

A suggestion, made by the Executive Committee to regroup a number of the commissions in order to obtain a broader picture and lessen the number from 33, was discussed in detail. Each group would have a chair and perhaps co-chair and sub sections if necessary. A list has been proposed and would be further refined by the new Council. . There was no consensus. While the majority of the Chairs present welcomed a tightening of the Commissions some (microcirculation, respiration) were fervently opposed to eliminating some of the commissions with a high activity profile. The chairs were nonetheless in agreement that this be proposed to the general assembly.

The meeting was adjourned at 17:00

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Orsoni
IUPS Executive Secretary