

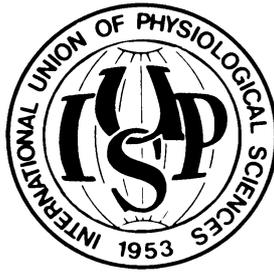
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PHYSIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

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IUPS Council Meeting

25-26 July 2009

Grand Prince Hotel

Kyoto, Japan

Present: A. Kaneko, I.Schulz, P. Magistretti, M. Gordon, O. Petersen, Y. Earm, C. Hidalgo, A. Macknight, D. Oyebola, Q. Pittman, M. Rupnik, A. Sefton, T. Yao. S. Orsoni.

Excused: A. Campos de Carvalho, D. Ricquier.

Observer: W. Boron

The president called the meeting to order on Saturday 25 July at 9:05.

1. The minutes of the December 2007 Council meeting were approved.

2. Reports of the Officers

- *Report of the President*, A. Kaneko reported that the past four years proceeded smoothly and successfully. It was devoted in large part to the preparation of the 2009 congress. The program was carefully prepared by the ISPC chaired by Y. Kurachi and O. Petersen. The website now is now more active and visible thanks to the efforts of M. Rupnik. There has been a smooth and effective collaboration with *Physiology*, edited by W. Boron. The work of the work of the LRPC chaired by D. Noble has now shown the direction in which the IUPS should take in the future.

- *Report of the Secretary General*, O. Petersen has submitted a written report of his activity. Many good things have happened since the outstanding congress in San Diego. *Physiology* is to be congratulated on an outstanding impact factor of 7 and thanked for publishing the seven editorials over the past four years describing the work of the IUPS. The newly designed website is bringing the IUPS into forefront. He noted the successful CAPS meeting in Beijing in 2008 as well the teaching workshop in Kenya. He also reported on chairing the nominating committee and how pleased he is with the proposal and that since no counterproposals were received, the election will be mostly a formality.

- *Report of the Treasurer*, M. Gordon reported on the good state of finance with a net value of over \$456K. The bi-annual audit for 2008 will be available in September. He proposed nonetheless to propose an annual increase of 2% of the membership dues to the GA for approval. Agreed.

He would also like to propose that the account at the Credit Lyonnais in Paris be maintained even after the secretariat is closed. Members in the Euro zone have been able to pay their dues directly into it, and it has been discovered that certain countries prefer not to have to pay into a US\$ account. Agreed.

The ExCo replied to the US National Academy of Science inquiry concerning why the IUPS warrants the funding provided by the National Science Foundation, but no final decision has yet been received. A. Kaneko

noted that he has had to make a similar statement to the Japanese Academy, and similar requests have been made in Australia and NZ

3. Regional Activity

FAOPS – A. Kaneko reported just briefly since J. Chan will be present at the GA. However he pointed out it was far more active in the field of education than the other regional organizations.

T. Yao reported that the CAPS meeting in Beijing in 2008, sponsored by the IUPS and several Anglophone physiology societies, was very successful. O. Petersen noted that there had been a particularly good representation of the neurosciences.

FEPS – O. Petersen noted that A. Verkhatsky will present a report to the GA. The official FEPS journal is now *Acta Physiologica* (formerly *Acta Physiologica Scandinavica*). Slovenia will host the next congress in Ljubljana in November 2009 in conjunction with the Austrian society. The meeting in 2013 will be linked to the IUPS congress in the UK.

ALACF - C. Hidalgo reported that this group had become dormant after the last meeting was held in 2007 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and it is hoped to reactivate it at the time of the 2009 meeting in Chile. This is particularly important since Brazil is bidding for 2017.

AAPS – D. Oyebola noted that there seems to be an ongoing problem between this group and the societies in Nigeria and S. Africa. T. Macknight seems to think that it is mainly one of finance. Everyone must understand that many countries in Africa do not have an organized society. Regrettably the IUPS only has limited funds to help support their efforts.

4. Publications

IUPS website - M. Rupnik reported that the site name now belongs to the IUPS with the server being used currently in Slovenia. The current data has been brought up to date visually and in terms of content. There will soon be new content added including from the education committee. He suggests showing the recipients of the travel grants at Kyoto. He is looking for new projects and activity. The editorials from *Physiology* have replaced the former newsletter. O. Petersen noted the content should be more than just current events. The GA minutes could perhaps be included for public access, along with limited access to other items for council only.

Physiology – A. Kaneko report on the Managing Board of which he has been a member for many years but without any recent meetings. In the past the IUPS had a sizeable project (\$50k funded partially by ICSU) that provided subscriptions to people from developing countries, but regrettably this project no longer exists. The IUPS does, however, continue to provide \$15k annually to the APS in support of the journal. W. Boron noted that the APS business model is such that the journal will lose money, with \$10 from APS membership dues providing a subscription. The current impact factor (2008) is an impressive 7.159. The hope is that it will pass 10 by 2010 and that publication will move to a monthly rhythm and possibly include brief high-impact original research papers.

The joint Managing Board is currently composed of A. Kaneko, Ewa Szczepanska-Sadowska of Poland, and the IUPS treasurer as ex officio from the IUPS and K. Barrett and M. Frank from the APS. New IUPS members are to be named by the new council. There is an agreement between IUPS and APS which goes back to January 1985 but which needs to be updated.

5. Relations with international organizations

ICSU, In the absence of D. Riquier O. Petersen reported on the question of what concrete benefit (very little!) is gained from paying more than 5000€ annual dues. IUPS actually pays more than many much wealthier Unions. The reason is that the dues to be paid to ICSU by a Union is based exclusively on the dues income to that Union and does not take into account other types of income (for example profits from journal publishing). Since our income, in contrast to that of many other Unions, is almost exclusively dues income, we are in a particularly unfortunate situation. Negotiations continue on how to reduce the amount to be paid to ICSU.

However, there is a need to remain affiliated with ISCU due to their connections to UNESCO and the fact that many national science academies require it.

SCOPE, O. Petersen reported that he recently attended their General Assembly in London. This organization which deals with the environment was until recently part of the ICSU organization but is now becoming independent. He noted that they too may make a request to pay dues which we may not wish to do.

IBRO: Q. Pittman reported that an IUPS sponsored symposium was held at their congress in Melbourne in 2007 with good success, but they showed no interest in sponsoring anything in Kyoto. Neuroscience is healthy in the world and it is important that it continues to be present in the IUPS. He noted that neuroscience was in fact very well represented at the Kyoto Congress.

IUPHAR: Y. Earm noted that they currently have an ICSU project in which IUPS is considered to be a partner. However, no role has been defined.

6. - Commissions

Review and discussion of written reports of 8 commissions

- Commission I, Locomotion. H. Hoppler was not present.

- Commission II, Circulation & Respiration. Y. Earm organized a successful Ion Channel workshop in Seoul, Korea, in January 2009. He noted that it is difficult to have respiration and circulation together since there is less overlap than expected.

- Commission III, Endocrine, Reproduction & Development. C. McMillen's group provided input to the ISPC. There is a need to highlight integrative areas of interest.

- 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." Members of his commissions asked what use they are since none of their suggestions were included in the program (although he noted that neuroscience had a major presence at the Congress).

- Commission V, Secretion & Absorption. I. Schulz organized several symposia worldwide over the past four years. The three groups in the commission made numerous suggestions to the ISPC.

- Commission VI, Molecular & Cellular. C. Hidalgo concentrated mainly on the ISPC with the result that they had eight symposia selected for the program. She felt it was most regrettable that R. DiPolo was unable to obtain the necessary financing to travel from Venezuela.

- Commission VII, Comparative. M. Gordon, who is retiring as chair, regretted that the satellite symposium they have organized could not be formally affiliated with the congress because of the obligatory registration fee.

- Commission VIII – Genomics. D. Cook was not present. It is not clear what should be done with this Commission; an important point to consider for the new Council.

7. XXXVI International Congress, 2009, Japan Science Council

Professor Y. Miyashita, president of the Local Organizing Committee, summarized the situation with the congress with over 4000 registrations and 2500 posters. As of June, the estimated income was \$2,410,638 and estimated expenses \$2,507,906, ie a net balance of -\$97,267. However, this did not include the extra security costs due to visit of the Crown Prince. It also did not include the \$100,000 promised to be paid to the IUPS. Revenue from exhibitors is about 13,000,000 yen lower than expected.

8. XXXVII International Congress, 2013, The Physiological Society, UK, was represented by B. Lumb, chair of the Local Organizing Committee, D. Eisner, chair of the Scientific Program Committee, C. Orchard, President and N. Boross-Toby, Head of Events. The congress is now planned to take place 21-26 July 2013 in Birmingham. They are working closely with the FEPS in the hope that their member organizations will hold their annual meetings in conjunction with the congress.

The ICC in Birmingham is a modern (1991) building that can easily accommodate 4-6000 people. There are good accommodations within walking distance at reasonable prices. The Honorary Presidents (C. Blakemore, A. North and O. Petersen) are all Past Presidents of The Phys Soc. The organizing committee is composed of four permanent members and four rotating members (current officers of the society, an invited member (the president of FEPS) and two staff members from the society. Satellite symposia will be permitted throughout Europe with a charged flat fee for official recognition. There will be no registration fee for invited speakers and £4000 allocated to each symposium.

There will be substantial support for young physiologists. The budget is currently estimated to have costs of £1,200,000 with revenues of £937,500 or a loss of about £270,000. The IUPS will provide substantial support for the travel program which should be included in the budget. But the guarantee pay back of US\$100,000 needs to be included as well. O. Petersen noted that in 2005 A. North (at that time President of The Phys Soc) had promised in San Diego that this would be paid.

T. Macknight raised the question of security particularly because of the problem of animal rights, but the organizers were confident that the Congress Centre would be able to handle this within the costs agreed.

9. XXXVIII International Congress, 2017. Invitations to be presented by

- Brazil: Brazilian Physiological Society: B. Machado presented the invitation entitled "Rhythms of Life" to take place at the RioCentro convention center in Rio de Janeiro from 1-5 August. The program plans to have 6 lectures, 12 symposia and 6 workshops each day. The Registration will be \$350 (\$140 student) with an expected participation of 1800 + 1000 students of whom about 10% will be from Brazil. The estimated budget is \$1,268,175 income, \$1,049,419 expenses with a net profit of \$208,756.

With regards to visas, it was stated that "they are only required from those countries that ask Brazilians to have them". Their proposal only shows that 100 travel grants are planned, but it was noted that more than that need to be awarded both for students and third world participants. With regards to education, workshops are planned for that field. Any satellite symposia will be tied to the main congress. A concern was raised about accommodations within a reasonable distance of the RioCentro.

- Canada: National Research Council of Canada. R. Wang, D. Jones, S. Heximer, L. Forget, D. Whitaker and A. Au represented the organizations which extend an invitation to host "Physiology: Bridging transformational advances in science and medicine" in Toronto 25-29 July. The Metro Toronto Convention Center is centrally located with good transportation and accommodations nearby. The hotels have offered to maintain a 3% annual inflation with no attrition, and there is good low cost housing. The budget has been estimated at revenues of \$1,790,913 and costs at \$1,788,745 with an expected attendance of 3500 and registration fee of \$400. Although the funds for the IUPS are included in the budget, no funds are shown to cover travel grants. Any deficit will be covered by the National Research Council of Canada. There are currently 30 symposia planned but more could be added. The question was asked if there would be a good turn out from Canada.

- China: Chinese Association for Physiological Sciences. X.L. Yang presented the invitation entitled "Integration and Translation" to take place in Beijing 27-31 July. This would be the first truly IUPS congress in China, although the CAPS has already hosted many international meetings with much effectiveness including FAOPS. The congress would take place in the new congress center which has a plenary hall that can accommodate 6000 persons. There are 4500 hotel rooms and 150 restaurants within walking distance. There would be eight pre-congress satellites. Early registration would be \$350/\$200. A net profit of about \$100,000

(based on 3000 participants) is expected. Of these about 1500-2000 would be from China, probably with a reduced fee. There are 50 symposia planned and they will try to get support from difference associations. Although not in the budget, funds will be available from various government agencies. How any deficit would be covered was not disclosed.

General Discussion

C. Hidalgo noted that she fears this may be a crucial time for physiology in Latin American and that there is a genuine effort of cooperation among the societies in Argentina, Brazil and Chile. It was remarked that Brazil continues to promote physiology and science. The government support is very encouraging, and hopefully the economic situation will continue to back it up. It is regrettable that there are not more Brazilians in Kyoto. It was asked if enough of the community is fluent in English. One of the main concerns was the distance between the congress center and the downtown area. O. Petersen noted that he had participated in a large international symposium organized by B. Machado at the University of Sao Paulo in 2008 and that this had been very well organized.

The main concern about Canada is that the home base is too small and that it was not obvious that collaboration has been established with the APS. They would have to convince the APS to have their annual meeting in Canada that year.

With regard to the Chinese invitation, there was a concern about the budget since nothing other than oral promises have been offered. T. Yao remarked that the Chinese fully understand how important science is for the future and that the government would support such a congress. But it is hard to know how much would be offered by the government in eight years time. O. Petersen reported that at the 2008 CAPS meeting the invited speakers were financially supported by their own individual national physiological societies. However, he stressed that all the local arrangements in Beijing were excellent and that he considered the 2008 CAPS meeting to have been very successful.

Both Brazil and China have a good home base and could potentially be successful.

10. Committees

Archives – P. DeWeer was not present but sent an email offering to try to help locate someone in the Philadelphia region to assume responsibility for the files at the American Philosophical Society.

Ethics Committee – P. Moody-Corbett reported that they have two symposia on the program. The committee is active in three areas, ICLAS, CIOMS and a new ICSU freedom and responsibility committee.

Education Committee – A. Sefton/ P. Hansen are very pleased by the interest shown at the congress. The low technology teaching book which was first published some 20 years ago has been updated and will be available free on the web. Teaching is very important especially in less developed countries. Currently there are 21 members from 14 countries on the committee. A. Sefton presented a book of the history of the committee to the President and Secretary General, and was thanked for her continued efforts. The question arose as to how they continue to finance their activities, and it appears that T. Macknight's company ADI has been one of their major contributors over the years and will continue to be so. There is very good registration for the Workshop after the congress with 67 registrants. The fee is \$25 - \$100 for the three days (transportation, accommodations and materials). An Education fund is to be opened by the Treasurer to be used among other things to finance Special Lecturers at the congress. It is very important that education be very visible in future congresses, as it is indeed at the Kyoto Congress.

Membership/ Admissions – A. Macknight reported that the Hellenic Society has asked to have its membership reactivated. The Dutch Society has resigned but without fully explaining why.

Physiome Committee – P. Hunter/ A. Popel were not present but submitted a written report.

Long Range Planning Committee, D. Noble reminded the council of the valuable discussion at the December 2007 council meeting which was included in the final report, now on the IUPS website. It should be remembered that the report is a set of recommendations, accepted by Council, that now need to be put into action, but no vote is required of the GA. It still is not clear if “systems biology” is just a fashion.

Nominating Committee; O. Petersen noted the proposed slate will be submitted as is to the GA for approval.

A. Kaneko expressed his thanks to the Council and the Secretary General for their continued support. O. Petersen thanked, on behalf of Council, The President for all his work for IUPS over many years.

The meeting was adjourned on Sunday 26 July at 16:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Orsoni
Executive Secretary

31 August 2009