

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PHYSIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

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IUPS Executive Committee Teleconference Meeting Agenda

June 23-24, 2012

Present: D. Noble, M. Gordon, W. Boron, L. Price
By phone and Skype: X. Wang, P. Hunter

9:00pm – phone X. Wang

The meeting started at 9:00am

1. Approval of minutes of May 8, 2012

The minutes were approved.

2. Selection of three Nominating Committee (NomCom) members:

Malcolm Gordon - chair

Y. S. Chan (Hong Kong)

Ole Petersen (UK)

Substitutes:

Tony MacKnight (New Zealand)

Irwin Neher (Germany)

The Board of the General Assembly (BGA), IUPS Council and member societies will be asked for names for a new treasurer and four new Council members. The groups submitting names will also be informed that any of the Executive Committee (ExCo) members may also be changed.

The main reason for having the NomCom meet soon is because it needs a minimum of one year to do its work. L. Price will determine the dates of the meeting when the selected people have agreed to be on the Committee. She will set the dates as early as possible.

Action: L. Price will determine the best dates for the NomCom members to meet. She will also solicit names for replacements of the treasurer and four Council members.

3. Website

After review by an IT attorney, the contract with Dale Huffman to redesign the IUPS website was accepted and signed by M. Gordon, treasurer. D. Huffman will start to work on the web site at the beginning of July. L. Price will be the web master in charge of adding content. It was suggested that streaming videos should be added, such as the IUPS videos recorded at the 2013 Congress. It was also proposed that any links to other sites will always return the user to the IUPS web site.

D. Noble asked if videos can be placed on the IUPS website. The ExCo agreed that an email should be sent to N. Boross-Toby and Bridget Lumb. It would express that IUPS welcomes the fact that The Physiological Society (TPS) is making arrangements to record the events at the 2013 Congress. The email would also tell them that IUPS will be recording at the Congress. These videos would be placed on the web site.

Request forms for travel grants from commission funds could be filled out online and submitted to L. Price. Both the ExCo and Council will be able to look at the redesigned website before it is "live" and submit requests or comments.

<p>Action: L. Price will send an email to N. Boross-Toby and B. Lumb about the fact that IUPS will be recording events. The videos will be placed on the IUPS website. P. Hunter and A. McCulloch should write a blurb for the website about how other countries have started using the model, including Europe, Japan, the US and New Zealand.</p>
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4. Young physiologists symposium

Nick Boross-Toby requested that IUPS select a young Brazilian physiologist to serve on the organising committee of the symposium to be held at the 2013 Congress. The ExCo accepted B. Machado's suggestion of Dr. Daniel B. Zoccal, a young faculty member of the Department of Physiology at the Federal University of Santa Catarina in Brazil. Dr. Zoccal is a very active young investigator and he will be a speaker in a symposium during the 2013 Congress in Birmingham. The young physiologists symposium will be a two and a half hour session.

<p>Action: L. Price will contact B. Machado and D. Zoccal about the ExCo's approval of the Dr. Daniel B. Zoccal as the young physiologist to be a member of the organizing committee for the young physiologists' symposium at the IUPS 2013 Congress.</p>

Break for lunch – 12noon to 1:00pm

5. ICSU Bio-unions

W. Boron reported that IUPS is a co-sponsor of the annual IUBMB conference and that the Bio-unions are sending a representative to the PanAmerican Congress in 2014 in Brazil.

He also reported that the startup of an open-access, interunion journal across disciplines is seriously being considered by the Bio-unions of ICSU. A. Azzi has asked W. Boron if IUPS would like to contribute planning and articles to the journal. It would be backed by a private publisher. The journal has a strong possibility of earning money and is organized so it will not lose money.

D. Noble asked if it can be determined which online journals are struggling. Then the Bio-unions could take another approach and rescue them. It was suggested that W. Boron be the liason to this interunion journal. ExCo approved.

Action: W. Boron will contact Angelo Azzi saying that IUPS would like to join in the endeavour to start an online journal of the Bio-Unions.

3:00pm - Skype P. Hunter

6. *Physiology*

X. Wang suggested Y.S. Chan for the editorial board. P. Hunter is satisfied with the bylaws for the journal's Joint Managing Board (JMB). The JMB will have a meeting at Experimental Biology in 2013 and at the 2013 IUPS Congress. The ExCo should begin a discussion with APS about the finances concerning *Physiology*.

APS and TPS are planning a joint online journal. D. Noble has contacted J. Ashmore and M. Spyer to inform them that IUPS would like to join their endeavor.

Action: P. Hunter will begin a discussion with APS about finances concerning <i>Physiology</i> at the next Experimental Biology meeting.

7. Board of the General Assembly (BGA)

P. Hunter reported that the next step for the BGA is the election of a chair and then the development of the roadmap and bylaws. D. Noble felt the BGA roadmap needs more specific information. He gave official thanks to P. Hunter as Acting Vice President for setting up the procedures so far and sending out a draft of a possible road map. He suggested that the ExCo discuss what other ideas to generate in relation to the roadmap. These should include how it could be developed and how it could answer the question of what IUPS is doing.

M. Gordon proposed that instead of spending time developing the content of the road map the BGA should be asked questions. What are the grand challenges? He also proposed that the organizers of the symposia for the 2013 Congress also be asked the same question. P. Hunter agreed and will make a list of questions. It was pointed out that we have some of the biggest questions that face humanity. There is a need to develop instrumentation at a certain scale to enable discoveries. The IUPS BGA should also address the intellectual deficit in the understanding of physiology. Since P. Hunter is the Chair-Elect of the International Academy of Medical and Biological Engineering (IAMBE) he accepted the responsibility for including the biomedical engineering relationship to the physiology roadmap. The Executive Committee requested that he also ask for suggestions from the BGA members as to what should be addressed. There needs to be a balance between different parts of

the discipline. This might be accomplished by looking through the list of symposia at the 2013 Congress and asking if they have contributions to make to the roadmap. There should be a vision of what is needed and what positive actions can be taken. The BGA ought to discuss the major challenges in each member's area of physiology and how they could be met in the next 10 years. The member countries need to be asked about their major challenges. They could be referred to major funding areas and to RFPs for incentive. The member countries should be asked for names of other groups who should be contacted for suggestions. Basically, the question is "wouldn't it be nice to know____?" By filling in the blank and giving the reasons why it is very important to know this, it will supply a list of items that are of the greatest importance for the BGA to address.

M. Gordon talked about the interface between physiology and evolutionary biology. Perhaps that interface could respond to the challenge. The big problem is that for 50 years evolutionary changes were made by chance events, then by natural selection and finally selection at the level of the gene. It is now clear that changes in the genome are not random. They are nonrandom in a way that is affected by the environment and many of the changes are not gradual. If one puts together all the changes in the standard story, there is a possibility of going beyond what experimental biology has shown.

<p>Action: With the help of L. Price, P. Hunter will ask the Board of the General Assembly, the member countries and other groups to identify their major challenges. P. Hunter will make a list of questions for them to use.</p>

The meeting reconvened at 9:00am on June 24, 2012

8. Commission grants

The commissions have not asked the treasurer for grant money nor done anything for quite a while. The policy is not to fund meetings during the year of the Congress. The ExCo needs to contact Jayashree Sengupta about the date of the Indian workshops. It will write a letter saying that IUPS is interested in supporting these events, but there is a policy of not supporting meetings during the year of the Congress. The topics of the events should be sent to the ExCo. L. Price will draft an email to be approved by the ExCo.

The commissions should consider grant requests of \$2,000 on a case by case basis. If more than one request is received around the same time, the commission will decide which one should receive the grant, the one submitted first or the one most compelling.

D. Noble pointed out that it would be hard to distribute grants globally. Groups should also make requests to the US and the UK along with IUPS to make this a cooperative effort and proactive. IUPS gives a lot of weight to the activity of societies which are from developing countries. IUPS prefers that the funds be used for travel expenses for young scientists, but these are guidelines, not rules. Each request will be funded on a case by case basis.

The Feng Fund's permanent restricted asset is around \$30,000. Only the interest may be used. Every year that CAPS has a meeting, this money is used to support sending an American neurobiologist as a speaker. The money may also be used to support a

neurobiology speaker at IUPS congresses. The website should show that the Feng Fund has money available to be used for neurobiology.

Each commission can decide if they want to split the \$2,000 between two requests. The new website should have a description of the IUPS Physiome project and how it was started. There should also be a link to the Physiome website. The IUPS website should also explain what different countries have contributed in money to the project. Japan has started using physiome modeling. D. Noble felt that P. Hunter and A. McCulloch should write a blurb about how other countries have started using the model, including Europe, Japan, the US and New Zealand.

After the \$2,000 for a specific year has been awarded, the member societies should be informed on the website that they will have to wait until the following year to apply for a grant. The member countries will also be informed about the available funds and IUPS' preferred uses which includes support for sessions at a conference.

<p>Action: L. Price will contact Jayashree Sengupta about the date of the Indian workshops. The message will say that IUPS is interested in supporting these events, but there is a policy of not supporting meetings during the year of the Congress. The topics of the events should be sent to the ExCo. L. Price will draft an email to be approved by the ExCo.</p>

9. Other business

US dues

L. Price will arrange a conference call with Kathy Baily-Mathae, M. Gordon and W. Boron about funds from NSF and NIH. Hopefully, APS will pay dues for at least 2012 and 2013.

<p>Action: L. Price will arrange a conference call to discuss funds from NSF and NIH. She will bill the five USNC members for the 2012 dues.</p>

Response letter to APS

L. Price will place bullet points on letterhead, send to W. Boron, who will turn it into prose and send to M. Gordon and D. Noble for editing. It should highlight D. Noble's talks, M. Gordon's activities plus P. Hunter and the Physiome project which was established by IUPS. It is extremely important that APS understand that it is IUPSciences, and that it represents all areas of physiology. It is not the union of physiological societies, but physiological sciences.

Adhering body of US

M. Frank says APS wants to be the adhering body. D. Noble remarked that there is a precedent for this. After the Royal Society stopped funding, The Physiological Society is the one paying the IUPS dues and so they are the adhering body. APS is wary of molecular physiology. The Society of General Physiology handles that and it should be included in the USNC. The Biophysical Society used to be part of USNC, but now is not. M. Gordon emailed them to see if they wanted to renew their relationship with IUPS, but they never responded.

IUPS can have other related sciences be the adhering bodies. It is important to IUPS that this not get narrowed but include other areas of physiology. This will be expressed in the next editorial for *Physiology* by D. Noble about physiology without borders. This would include neighboring disciplines such as veterinary, comparative, thermal, biophysics and neuro physiologies.

Response to APS

APS and TPS have asked:

1. What international activities are you involved in?
2. What amount of your budget is not for administration
3. Do you report what you're doing?

Budget:

IUPS operates on a shoe string. It is not intending to replace the large physiological societies. IUPS gives \$100,000 to every congress to support the travel program. The commissions each have available \$2,500 per year to distribute as grants. The dues structure has been reviewed, but it has been difficult to come up with an equitable plan. IUPS will be getting an ICSU grant to support travel for the Congress.

Outreach:

IUPS has been working on reorganizing in order to do more outreach. Out of this reorganization, the Board of the General Assembly was created. This 15 member board, which includes people from many different countries, will represent the General Assembly during non-Congress years. IUPS is a member of the ICSU International Biunions group with W. Boron, Secretary General, as the IUPS delegate. A representative of the Biunions attended the IFoST 2012 Conference in Brazil. The ICSU International Bio-unions are planning a satellite symposium at the 2013 IUPS Congress. These interactions with other international unions are a part of IUPS outreach.

D. Noble, as the President of IUPS, has been invited to speak at different countries. At these meetings he has always been introduced as the IUPS president. The attached document lists over 30 countries since 2009 where he has lectured.

D. Noble will make a list of countries he has visited since 2009 and this list will be included in the reponse letter.

P. Hunter also travels to different countries to speak about the IUPS Physiome project. He will also be asked for a list of countries where he was a speaker. He estimates that he gives 15 talks per year. M. Gordon and W. Boron will identify themselves as IUPS Treasurer and Secretary General, respectively, on programs where they speak. M. Gordon indicated that he is a member of the International Physiology Committee of APS. As a member, he told the Committee that IUPS wants to become more of a partner with APS on international events. He is also on the APS Section on Comparative and Evolutionary Physiology and told the members the same thing about partnering. Both groups gave a positive response to M. Gordon's announcement. L. Price will ask him for the minutes of the APS Section on Comparative and Evolutionary Physiology.

There is a feeling in the rest of the world, especially in developing countries, that IUPS is their organization. There would be a democratic deficit if APS or TPS took

over having the international congress because many countries would not be represented.

A question was posed by an ExCo member: Should IUPS write to organizers in China about being a sponsor and allowing them the use of the IUPS logo for their events? It was decided that more should be found out about the situation with D. Noble. He will ask X. Wang to find out why he was not informed about being a speaker. ExCo wants to find out where she has talked and been introduced as the Vice President of IUPS.

Action: L. Price will ask M. Gordon for the minutes of the last meeting of the APS Section on Comparative and Evolutionary Physiology.

Membership committee

Korea has upgraded, but Brazil has not decided on an upgrade yet. It was decided that TPS does not need to pay higher dues right now. L. Price will check with M. Gordon about countries that haven't been paying to determine if they should become associate members or pay the minimum dues of \$230. The Membership Committee has elected to engage N. Korea and Burma as members due to their stated desire to be part of IUPS. In order to accomplish this, IUPS needs the help of APS. If it is possible to identify people to send to the 2013 Congress, IUPS would be willing to finance them. It was suggested that IUPS approach the UK embassies in both countries. TPS and APS would be asked about supporting the physiologists along with IUPS. The chairman of Hyundai will pay for IUPS to send someone from N. Korea to the Congress.

Action: W. Boron will contact APS and TPS about the progress they have had with N. Korea and Burma and if they wish to work cooperatively with IUPS on this matter. He will ask them for their opinions on how to approach the countries and if they know physiologists in either country. L. Price will draft a letter and forward to W. Boron for editing.

Death of Andrew Huxley

A notice of Andrew Huxley's death with a biography should be put on the website. D. Noble will ask David Patterson of TPS if the biography can be placed on the IUPS website. D. Patterson would have to get approval from Christopher Wang, the writer of the biography.

Action: D. Noble will contact TPS about Huxley biography.

Africa

IUPS needs to give African physiologists a way to discuss the direction they wish to take.

Development committee

The Treasurer will be the chairman of the development committee. Because of this, M. Gordon, as chair of the Nominating Committee, will make sure that they understand that the next treasurer has to fit the position of chair of development. According to the Long Range Plan, the Treasurer is supposed to be freed up to do things more global than balancing the books. He/She needs to have good contacts

with industry and finance. The ExCo discussed the people who should be on the Development Committee. M. Gordon suggested that the roadmap be used to ask people to help make it happen. Some companies were listed as possible sponsors: Loligo (equipment; T. Wang is familiar with them), Sable Systems (equipment; in Nevada; M. Gordon knows someone there), Harvard Apparatus (Vick Pantani); Grass. Exhibitors can be contacted: Sigma (pharmaceutical); Novis Nordis (pharmaceutical); Leroy Hood would need to be approached by a person who knows him. L. Price will research the companies and report the results to the ExCo. W. Boron suggested that IUPS try to raise money from the Development Committee and have them raise money from others. The IUPS council could be asked to find names for the Committee.

The meeting ended at 12:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Price