

International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (IUPHAR)
2014-2018 Executive Committee Minutes
December 1st and 2nd, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, Melbourne, Australia

Participants

Executive Committee

Darrell Abernethy, USA, Chair of Clinical Pharmacology Division
Leigh Ann Arbuckle, USA, Treasurer's Assistant
James Barrett, USA, Councilor
S. J. Enna, USA, President
Graeme Henderson, United Kingdom, First Vice President
Masamitsu Iino, Japan, Second Vice President
Lynn LeCount, USA, Administrative Officer
David LeCouteur, Australia, Secretary, Clinical Division
Eeva Moilanen, Finland, Councilor
Bhagirath Patel, India, Councilor
Michael Spedding, France, Secretary-General
Petra Thürmann, Germany, Treasurer
David Webb, United Kingdom, Vice Chair, Clinical Division

Guests

Dom Geraghty, Australia, President, Australasian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists and Toxicologists
Ying Zhao, PR China, Administrative Secretary, Chinese Pharmacological Society

Unavailable

Patrick du Souich, Canada, Past President
Francesca Levi-Schaffer, Israel, Councilor
Maria Isabel Lucena, Spain, Treasurer, Clinical Division
Yong-Xiang Zhang, PR China, Councilor

Discussion Topics

President's welcome

President Enna welcomed the IUPHAR Executive Committee members and thanked Dr. Geraghty and his colleagues in the Australasian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists and Toxicologists (ASCEPT) and the Melbourne Convention Bureau for generously providing the IUPHAR Executive Committee members with local accommodations, ground transportation and a meeting room. He thanked Dr. Ying Zhao from the Chinese Pharmacological Society for volunteering to serve as an administrative assistant at the IUPHAR Executive Committee meeting.

Secretary-General comments

Secretary-General Spedding reminded the group that the operations and annual activity reports were reviewed by the Executive Committee earlier in the year so as to focus on strategic issues during the Melbourne meeting.

Treasurer's report

Summary of 2012 – 2015 finances

Treasurer Thürmann summarized the 2012-2015 IUPHAR financial reports, noting that deficits over those years have reduced the reserves by US\$171,000. At this time, IUPHAR has ~US\$600,000 in cash and investments.

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(Amounts in USD Thousands)				
Category	2012	2013	2014	2015
Cash Balance January 1	743.0	739.9	726.0	626.9
Total Income	210.9	165.1	194.2	184.0
Total Expenses	268.7	199.5	233.8	219.4
Unrealized investment gain/loss	54.7	20.5	-59.5	-22.5
IUPHAR Net	-3.1	-13.9	-99.1	-57.9
Cash Balance December 31	739.9	726.0	626.9	569.0

Actual vs. projected 2016 income and expenses

Dr. Thürmann then discussed the actual versus projected 2016 income and expenditures as of October 31st, 2016. In particular she noted that 98% of the US\$113,000 projected membership dues were received. She expressed her gratitude for the ongoing support of the IUPHAR member societies and to the Treasurer's Assistant, Ms. Arbuckle, for her efforts in collecting dues. Investment dividends, grant overhead fees, and PharmacoCareers are expected to yield US\$6,800 for the year. Servier has pledged another €25,000, which Dr. Thürmann hopes will arrive during the current calendar year to offset the IUPHAR cash advance paid to support the October, 2016 Nomenclature Committee (NC-IUPHAR) meeting in Paris. She acknowledged the generosity of Servier, and noted its long history of providing financial support for IUPHAR activities.

While describing 2016 expenses, Dr. Thürmann pointed out that the hospitality of the Australian hosts had substantially reduced the IUPHAR cost (~US\$25,500) for this Executive Committee meeting. Another ~US\$3,500 was budgeted for 2016 for miscellaneous travel by the IUPHAR officers and the liaisons to the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Other 2016 expenditures include the Administrative Office and Treasurer's Assistant (US\$63,500), support of the Clinical Pharmacology Division and various projects proposed by the Sections and Subcommittees (US\$15,000), the IUPHAR.org website (US\$5,400), dues paid by IUPHAR to other organizations (US\$4,500), the reciprocal symposia with the International Union of Toxicology (US\$3,500), the external auditor (US\$3,100) and bank fees (US\$2,500). Dr. Thürmann feels the IUPHAR operations budget will likely break-even for 2016 assuming there is no dramatic change in the value of the investment accounts between now and the end of the year.

Endowment bond

Dr. Thürmann informed the Executive Committee that because the 245,000 CHF endowment bond matured in May 2016 she has been examining various options for reinvesting these funds. She summarized a risk rating system of 1 (no risk) – 7 (high risk) that is utilized by UBS and explained that IUPHAR peer organizations, such as the WHO and the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS), invest in instruments with risk ratings of around 3. Such investments are expected to grow by ~4% annually. Over the past decade IUPHAR investment risk factors have ranged between 2 and 3. The value of purchasing a bond versus an annuity or equities was discussed by the Executive Committee. On behalf of the IUPHAR officers, Dr. Thürmann recommended, and the Executive Committee approved, to commit the endowment funds for five years in an investment with a risk factor of 3 or less. The group also agreed the bulk of the funds should be held as US dollars given the recent volatility in the values of the British pound and euro. The UBS representative advised Dr. Thürmann to wait until after the US elections before making the final investment decision for these funds. She plans to contact UBS in late January, 2017 to make the investment under the conditions approved by the Executive Committee. *

With the creation of the NC-IUPHAR endowment in late 2010, the IUPHAR Executive Committee established a policy restricting annual distributions from the fund to either 3% of its total value or the interest earned over the previous 12 months, whichever is less. As the Wellcome Trust grant funds to support the Guide to Immunopharmacology may

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only be spent in the United Kingdom, NC-IUPHAR has not the funds to support meetings and initiatives elsewhere. To address this issue, Dr. Thürmann suggested that ~US\$22,000 be set aside from the endowment account to provide some cash flow for NC-IUPHAR operations outside of the Wellcome Trust project. It is anticipated that NC-IUPHAR will be responsible for replenishing this account annually as no additional funds beyond the annual interest income up to 3% can be taken from the endowment savings without special approval of the Executive Committee.

Dissolution of the *Ad hoc* Finance Committee

The *Ad hoc* Finance Committee was established by the Executive Committee in 2016. During the May 2016 teleconference, Dr. Thürmann reported to the Executive Committee strategies proposed by this group for possibly raising additional funds to support IUPHAR activities. Dr. Thürmann then summarized the advantages and disadvantages of each idea put forth by the *Ad hoc* group. Included were a proposal to invite individuals rather than just organization to hold memberships in IUPHAR, the awarding of fellowships in the hopes that fellows would be inclined to make donations to IUPHAR, partnering with a publisher to sponsor a journal in the field, being more proactive in identifying relevant societies that could be recruited to join IUPHAR, and the organization of scientific conferences and expert lectureships. Dr. Abernethy, Chair of the Clinical Pharmacology Division, suggested IUPHAR consider selling advertising via emails or by allocating space on its website to market conferences and workshops. Ms. LeCount, Administrative Officer, noted that the PharmacoCareers website has about 800 registered job seekers and the *Pharmacology International* newsletter is distributed to some 1,200 individuals and organizations. She cautioned against emailing advertisements as this would condition recipients to think of IUPHAR correspondence as spam and to have it automatically deleted. However, she felt making available website space for advertising was feasible. Vice President Henderson encouraged the group to further investigate the possibility of generating journal income. Although this idea had been explored in the past, the compensation offered by the publisher at that time was considered too low to make the effort worthwhile. He still believes this is a viable option for raising funds to support IUPHAR. Councilor Barrett volunteered to open discussions with a few publishers to learn whether there are any publishing opportunities for IUPHAR at this time.* The Executive Committee agreed that a publishing contract should provide sufficient income to offset the intensive labor required to edit a journal as well as bring in additional income to support IUPHAR operations overall. Dr. Spedding thanked Dr. Thürmann and the members of the *Ad hoc* Finance Committee for their time and efforts, and Dr. Barrett for volunteering to look into publishing opportunities.

2017 budget

Dr. Thürmann highlighted the major components of the 2017 projected budget. Although a deficit of up to US\$17,750 is projected for next year, she noted that the earlier decision to establish a fund for NC-IUPHAR activities from the endowment will offset the projected IUPHAR general fund costs in support of NC-IUPHAR. It now seems more likely the 2017 budget will break even or perhaps have a small surplus, depending on the performance of the investment accounts. As meeting income has historically been a major source of revenue for IUPHAR, Dr. Thürmann encouraged the Executive Committee members to help Dr. Masamitsu Iino and his colleagues market the 2018 World Congress of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (WCP2018) to help ensure a budget surplus for this event.

Audit reports

Dr. Thürmann reported the IUPHAR internal auditors, Drs. Kathy Knights and Johannes Knollmeyer, reviewed and approved the 2015 financial records. It came to Dr. Thürmann's attention that external auditors must be accredited by the Canton of Basel because IUPHAR is a not-for-profit entity under Swiss laws. Given this discovery, she undertook recruitment of a new auditor to meet the cantonal requirements. After seeking recommendations from UBS and peer not-for-profit organizations, she recommended to

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the Executive Committee the appointment of Dufour Treuhand of Basel. The cost for the initial examination will be somewhat higher than their future fees for annual audit services. The changes recommended by Dufour Treuhand during the initial assessment have been incorporated into the IUPHAR financial accounting and record keeping. Dr. Thürmann proposed the Executive Committee appoint Dufour Treuhand to examine the financial data of 2015 – 2017. The firm will be presented to the IUPHAR Council in Kyoto during the July, 2018 General Assembly, at which time the Council will be asked to endorse their appointment as the external auditors of record.* The Executive Committee unanimously approved the appointment of Dufour Treuhand as the IUPHAR external auditor for evaluation of the 2015 – 2017 financial records.

Conclusions/questions

Dr. Thürmann concluded the Treasurer's Report by encouraging the Executive Committee to continue in its attempts to identify additional revenue sources for IUPHAR.

Australasian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists and Toxicologists

Dr. Enna invited Dr. Geraghty to summarize for the IUPHAR Executive Committee the ASCEPT strategic objectives. Dr. Geraghty indicated that the profit from the Xth International Congress of Pharmacology that was held in Sydney in 1987 sustained the society for nearly two decades. When those funds were exhausted, ASCEPT reassessed its activities and prioritized its resources to focus on updating and maintaining the Australian Medicines Handbook. By Australian law, pharmacies must have access to standardized sources of information, thereby creating a niche market for this handbook and a source of revenue for ASCEPT. IUPHAR Vice President Henderson suggested utilizing the expertise within IUPHAR to extend the ASCEPT book model in an attempt to meet the needs of developing countries and perhaps increase ASCEPT income. Dr. LeCouteur, Secretary of the IUPHAR Clinical Division, indicated the handbook does not offer decision guidance but rather supplies current information needed for the reader to make his or her own decision. Dr. Geraghty added that users may purchase an app for AU\$5 to access only the data they need from the online version of the handbook. Dr. Spedding observed such an approach could be a mechanism to obtain additional revenue for the Guide to Pharmacology.

Dr. Geraghty reported that ASCEPT hired recently a new administrative organizer. This individual has helped the society become a company under the laws of Australia and has restructured the membership databases. The process of becoming a registered charity is underway. Dr. Geraghty reported that the Australian government partnered with local universities, ASCPET, and its members to establish an AU\$80 million drug discovery venture in Melbourne. To obtain a grant from the AU\$20 million government funding budget, academic researchers must demonstrate an industry partnership to provide evidence their research has the potential to result in the development of a useful product or therapy.

Dr. Enna asked how IUPHAR could assist ASCEPT in attaining its strategic objectives. Dr. Geraghty noted that the ASCEPT Board would like to expand the number of undergraduate members so are offering reduced fees for student membership and meeting registrations. Another option being considering is offering fellowships to established researchers in lieu of the current practice of lifetime memberships. Dr. Geraghty noted that this joint meeting of ASCEPT and the Molecular Pharmacology of G Protein-Coupled Receptors group had been particularly successful in increasing the number of registrants. Dr. Spedding stated that IUPHAR would be an excellent resource for identifying potential meeting collaborators, particularly from among other IUPHAR member societies. IUPHAR Councilor Patel indicated the Indian Pharmacology Society would be very interested in partnering with ASCEPT for a future conference. Dr. Zhao added that the Chinese Pharmacological Society frequently collaborates on conferences with other IUPHAR member societies and feels confident the Chinese Society would be interested in considering such a joint venture with ASCEPT. Dr. Enna congratulated Dr. Geraghty and his colleagues on the success of the ASCEPT-MPGPCR conference and thanked them once again for their hospitality and generosity.

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Fundraising initiatives

- Dr. Spedding summarized the funding agreements and submitted grant applications since the 2015 Executive Committee meeting. He noted these efforts are costly, not only in terms of the time needed to prepare and submit applications, but also with regard to the resources needed to initiate new projects while maintaining the existing programs that are no longer funded by outside sources. In partnership with the IUPHAR Immunopharmacology Section (ImmuPhar) and the International Union of Immunological Societies, Dr. Spedding recently submitted a grant application to the ICSU for US\$100,000 annually for three years. The aim of the proposed project is to develop simple, validated immunological protocols around drug targets. The objective is to establish research protocols in this area that can be executed in laboratories lacking major facilities, such as those in developing countries. The International Union of Immunological Societies has expressed an interest in ongoing collaborations with IUPHAR. Of particular note is the opportunity to co-organize a conference with the Conferences Division of Elsevier Science. With such conferences, Elsevier pays organizational and marketing expenses, performs all activities necessary for organizing the meeting, with any profits resulting from registration being split evenly with IUPHAR. The Elsevier Conferences criteria are that the meeting must attract no fewer than 200 registrants at US\$500 each, that it be held in a major North American or European city, and that the meeting proposal be submitted to Elsevier 18 - 24 months prior the desired date for the conference. Dr. Spedding encouraged Executive Committee members to contact him with potential ideas for an Elsevier meeting proposal.
- Dr. Spedding also recommended the development of a database to store contact information and keywords associated with pharmaceutical companies and biotech firms. This would facilitate the sending of invitations and communications to these firms regarding meetings and possible collaborative endeavors. He feels another IUPHAR priority should be to identify funding to reconcile natural product research with that employed for discovering new chemical entities to more quickly identify and characterize novel medications. Dr. Geraghty feels an excellent project would be documenting the oral histories of Australian and African medical lore. Dr. Spedding reported he is always seeking sponsors for NC-IUPHAR meetings, for IUPHAR Section and Subcommittee initiatives, and for an environmental pharmacology project, particularly if the programs fit well with the strategic aims of the WHO. Dr. Abernethy recommended that Dr. Spedding work Dr. Lars Gustafsson, the chair of the Clinical Pharmacology in Developing Countries Subcommittee of the IUPHAR Clinical Division, and with Drs. Kalle Hoppu, Marja-Liisa Dahl and Simon Maxwell of the IUPHAR Liaison Committee to the WHO to establish formal contacts within that organization.* Dr. Enna thanked Dr. Spedding for his many and ongoing efforts to secure funding to support IUPHAR programs and initiatives.

IUPHAR publications

- Dr. Spedding summarized briefly the recent activities of the IUPHAR Editorial Board chair, Dr. Eliot Ohlstein. One of Dr. Ohlstein's responsibilities is to encourage each of the IUPHAR Sections and Subcommittees to publish at least one article per year. Dr. Henderson said publishers will often pay meeting organizers for the rights to publish articles from a conference as a special issue of their journal. He asked Dr. Spedding to encourage Dr. Ohlstein to take advantage of such opportunities when possible.*

IUPHAR structure: past, present and future

- Dr. Enna reminded the Executive Committee that Dr. Kim Brøsen and the IUPHAR Nominating Committee are currently developing a slate of candidates for the 2018 - 2022 Executive Committee. He noted that the Executive Committee structure described in the Statutes no longer reflects the current IUPHAR activities. This matter was discussed at length by the group and included a variety of ideas for ways to improve the Executive Committee composition. Dr. Henderson said he would like to see specific roles defined for future Executive Committee members and believes the NC-IUPHAR chair should be an Executive

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Committee member. Dr. Spedding suggested that an IUPHAR Vice President automatically become the chair of the IUPHAR Membership Committee to ensure that new IUPHAR member societies are identified and recruited on a consistent basis. Dr. Enna felt another option would be to appoint at least one member of the Executive Committee to the Membership Committee. Ms. LeCount recommended that a young investigator be named as a representative on the Executive Committee, with the winner of the quadrennial Young Investigator Competition being good candidate for that role. It was also suggested the young investigator representative could be asked to manage IUPHAR social media to enhance ongoing interactions with young scientists. Dr. Webb, Vice Chair of the Clinical Division, suggested it may be advantageous to invite applications to ensure the young investigator selected has the time for, and interest in, such an appointment.* While Dr. Spedding wondered whether establishing a Young Investigator Section would have merit, it was noted that most IUPHAR member societies either already have such a section or invest in initiatives to involve young scientists in society activities. Dr. Henderson remarked that student groups require an actively engaged mentor to be sustainable.

The Executive Committee agreed that a permanent administrative office would help stabilize IUPHAR operations and provide greater continuity of programs and initiatives than the current practice of rotating the office every four years with the election of a new Secretary-General. It was generally felt that an IUPHAR Executive Officer should be able to handle a range of activities, from financial accounting, to meetings organization, to newsletter/website oversight and editing. Dr. Spedding emphasized the need to also budget a small stipend for the Secretary-General and Treasurer to offset expense for local secretarial assistance for these individuals. Councilor Moilanen suggested partnering with the ICSU or possibly a sister-union to share office facilities. Dr. Abernethy noted that the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology had successfully employed the approach of joint administrative resources with their office building in Bethesda, Maryland. The group affirmed the desirability of housing the IUPHAR Executive Officer in a large, member society office if possible so the person is surrounded by others involved in managing an organization devoted to pharmacology and to allow cross-training for coverage of absences. Dr. Webb suggested circulating a request for proposals to host a permanent IUPHAR Executive Officer to all IUPHAR member societies. Dr. Spedding feels it may be possible to delegate some administrative tasks to individuals in member societies in various parts of the world so long as the Executive Officer is held accountable for results. As an example of such collaboration, he noted that Dr. Zhao had played a major role in producing the June, 2016 issue of *Pharmacology International*, the IUPHAR newsletter. Dr. Henderson felt it is important that the society hosting the IUPHAR office be a partner in recruiting and hiring the IUPHAR Executive Officer.

Dr. Enna recommended, and the group agreed, to solicit proposals to host the IUPHAR Executive Office, with a submission deadline of June 30th, 2017. The proposals must be submitted by an IUPHAR member society and should include a brief description of the office (location, amenities, etc.), other personnel at that location, and a salary projection for an experienced administrator at that location. The Executive Officer position description will be posted on IUPHAR.org and circulated to societies by April.*

Clinical Pharmacology Division Update

Dr. Abernethy highlighted the recent implementation of Mentoring Centers of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics Expertise. Each of the five current sites offers expertise in a specific area: Edinburgh, Scotland (clinical pharmacology education); Malaga, Spain (hepatotoxicity and toxicology); Busan, South Korea (pharmacogenetics/genomics); Sydney, Australia (geriatrics); and Toronto, Canada (pediatrics). The offerings of the mentoring centers range from basic email contact and advice through to collaborative research and scientific exchange. He also announced the Clinical Division has submitted, and been approved for, two symposia and two keynote speakers during the WCP2018.

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- Dr. Abernethy also described the translation from English of the 2012 publication entitled *Clinical Pharmacology in Health Care, Teaching and Research*. This report was originally prepared by the IUPHAR Clinical Division and released in conjunction with the WHO and CO. Both Korean and Japanese versions are now available, with a Russian translation in process. Dr. Abernethy encouraged the Executive Committee members to contact him if they have colleagues who may be willing to translate the work in additional languages.
- Dr. Abernethy described his efforts to date to establish a collaboration with the Chinese Pharmacological Society to produce two training workshops in clinical pharmacology. These courses would be designed to emphasize clinical research protocols and standards for phase I-IV clinical trials. Dr. Enna reported that IUPHAR has committed up to US\$10,000 from its Integrative and Organ Systems Pharmacology (IOSP) fund for these clinical workshops. The aim is to have them presented during 2017.
- Dr. Abernethy reported the Clinical Division Subcommittees have been very productive. The Clinical Pharmacology in Developing Countries Subcommittee co-organized in Botswana in July, 2016 the Second Medicine Utilization Research in Africa (MURIA) Group Training Workshop on Drug Utilization Research. The Geriatrics Subcommittee submitted to the International Association of Gerontological Societies a symposium proposal on pharmacology in aging frail people that would be held during the July, 2017 conference in San Francisco. In addition, the Geriatrics Subcommittee is developing a curriculum for geriatric pharmacology training. A pharmacovigilance and regulatory affairs meeting was organized in Cairo in 2016 by the Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmacovigilance Subcommittee. Another of these meeting is planned for Mumbai during 2017.
- Given the importance and breadth of the clinical pharmacology activities, Dr. Abernethy recommended the IUPHAR officers consider having a Division representative present during their monthly officer teleconferences. The officers agreed to this request and instructed Ms. LeCount to schedule Dr. Abernethy or his designee on all future officer conference calls.*

IUPHAR future directions

- Dr. Spedding summarized the areas in which he feels IUPHAR can have the greatest impact given its limited resources, especially with respect to the priorities established by the WHO, ICSU and United Nations for global healthcare as they pertain to the discipline of pharmacology:
- Major initiatives in the developing world, particularly those with high clinical relevance
 - Facilitate training and research in pharmacology world-wide via IUPHAR member societies
 - Facilitate pharmacology education and outreach through social media
 - Exploit the drug targeting information accumulated and curated by NC-IUPHAR by extending it to the design of experimental protocols and the needs of translational pharmacology
 - Support academic drug discovery and development
 - Given the growing importance of immunopharmacology, continue to liaise with the International Union of Immunological Sciences
 - Take advantage of the forthcoming merger of ICSU with the International Social Science Council by working to have pharmacology and healthcare included as major components of the new organization's mission
- Dr. Abernethy questioned how IUPHAR could assist in the traditional medicines and natural products initiatives set forth in the WHO strategic plan. Dr. Spedding believes IUPHAR is in a unique position to provide guidance and advice on research needed to define mechanisms of action and to assist in establishing guidelines in the rational use of medicines, particularly in developing countries where the need for such information is greatest. Dr. Thürmann observed that political and economic considerations in each country will determine the degree to which emphasis is placed on discovering and developing new chemical entities as drug candidates. She recommended that an IUPHAR representative be asked to present a statement to WHO delegates to clarify the IUPHAR position on natural products as

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medications to ensure that globally accepted scientific standards are met when developing drugs from such sources. Dr. Patel observed that communicating this idea at the operational level will be difficult, pointing out that two separate departments within the Indian government regulate the Indian pharmaceutical industry. Dr. LeCouteur noted the challenges in applying western approaches to traditional medicines given that consumption of a plant mixture may yield greater benefit than administration of the individual constituents either alone or in combination. While Dr. Thürmann acknowledged the difficulties in applying such standards, she felt it is important that IUPHAR promulgates sound science. She reported an interest expressed by the CIOMS in forming a workgroup in collaboration with IUPHAR to establish a framework for what constitutes safe uses of natural products. As a group, the Executive Committee agreed that the IUPHAR policy in this area is:

...to assist the World Health Organization in its strategic objectives by supporting evidence-based medicine from molecular sites of action for identified active substances to proven clinical efficacy and safety for natural products and traditional medicine.

Proposal for Academic Drug Discovery Section

Dr. Barrett summarized the turbulent state of the global pharmaceutical industry and noted that more drug discovery research is being undertaken by academicians who often have no prior experience in identifying and developing new medications. He noted that pharmacology is the common thread running throughout the entire drug discovery and development process. Given these considerations, Dr. Barrett asked the Executive Committee whether he should look into the advisability of establishing an IUPHAR Academic Drug Discovery Section that could serve as a source of information, guidance and advice for academic investigators interested in this area. Industry/academic collaborations already exist, such as one aimed at the treatment of malaria and tuberculosis. Dr. Barrett cited the drug discovery center recently opened in Melbourne and the Academic Drug Discovery Consortium in Baltimore, both of which are populated with investigators who moved from industry to academia, as examples of groups that could possibly benefit from IUPHAR leadership in this area. Dr. Barrett said he is unaware of any natural products being studied at these centers but feels it is simply a matter of time before this occurs. In his view the main mission of an IUPHAR Academic Drug Discovery Section would be to offer drug discovery/development advice, guidance and training to academic investigators, especially those in developing countries. Dr. LeCouteur suggested utilizing the Clinical Pharmacology Mentoring Centers as a model for offering assistance to academicians. Dr. Barrett feels the initiative could be implemented through the growing number of academic drug discovery centers. Dr. Enna asked how the Section activities would be funded. Dr. Barrett indicated he knows of some foundations that may be interested in furthering drug discovery in academic settings. However, before approaching potential sources of funding he wanted to determine whether the IUPHAR Executive Committee supports the formation of an Academic Drug Discovery Section. Dr. LeCouteur asked whether the Section would actually be engaged in drug discovery itself. Dr. Barrett believes it will function solely as a resource of research groups for consulting, training and identifying opportunities for collaboration. The Executive Committee encouraged Dr. Barrett to investigate the potential benefits and feasibility of forming an IUPHAR Academic Drug Discovery Section and asked him to report his findings at the next Executive Committee meeting.* Dr. Patel volunteered to put Dr. Barrett in contact with some colleagues at the Indian National Academic Center so he can make inquiries about their level of interest in participating in such a Section. Dr. Abernethy recommended engaging the Chinese Pharmacological Society in similar discussions. Dr. Zhao indicated she can furnish Dr. Barrett with the necessary contacts in China.

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Education initiatives

Pharmacology Education Project website (PEP: www.PharmacologyEducation.org)

Dr. Enna outlined the history of PEP, noting the project began three years ago thanks to the generosity of the American Society for Experimental Pharmacology and Therapeutics. The PEP is co-directed by Drs. Simon Maxwell and John Szarek. The website was launched in April, 2016 under the guidance of the Database Curator in Edinburgh, Dr. Elena Faccenda. Dr. Enna reported that the Japanese and Chinese Pharmacological Societies have each pledged a total of US\$30,000 over the next three years in support of the PEP project. The Hungarian Society for Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology gave a one-time donation to the project during 2016. Most of the funding is used to pay Dr. Faccenda's salary. The PEP team is now in the process of formalizing a process for obtaining additional content. This effort is being aided by an Editorial Board consisting of pharmacology educators from around the world. Dr. Enna plans to continue communicating with the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics Council about continuing its financial support of this endeavor. One member of the Executive Committee said he explored the website when it was initially launched and felt the layout and functionality were attractive but the content superficial. Dr. Spedding acknowledged that part of the urgency to establish a reliable process for adding new information is to enhance the quality of the offering. He has encouraged the PEP team to emulate the NC-IUPHAR model of curation through expert committees to ensure the site contains only material of the highest quality.

Integrative and Organ System Pharmacology initiative

Drs. Enna and Zhao reported that Dr. David Lewis, in collaboration with the Chinese Pharmacological Society, delivered during 2016 two Integrative and Organ Systems Pharmacology (IOSP) training workshops in Beijing and Yantai, China. Each course was attended by at least 30 participants, with trainee evaluations indicating high levels of satisfaction and enthusiasm for these workshops. Dr. Lewis reported that the curriculum for the current workshops is more advanced than earlier IOSP offerings.

IUPHAR liaisons to other organizations

As requested previously, Dr. Enna drafted a policy for consideration by the Executive Committee regarding specifying which outside organizations should have an appointed IUPHAR liaison. He noted that the Division, Section and Subcommittees may select to name their own liaisons to other organization if they feel this is of benefit to their membership. He proposed, and the Executive Committee endorsed, that IUPHAR will only appoint liaisons to those organizations to which IUPHAR pays dues, e.g., the International Council for Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS) and ICSU. Dr. Henderson asked what benefits IUPHAR receives by belonging to ICLAS. Dr. Thürmann said she is aware of its collaboration with the CIOMS, while Dr. Abernethy noted that most of the animal welfare regulations are governed by nationally-based organizations. Dr. Spedding said he would solicit Dr. Lewis' opinion on this matter given that animal husbandry standards are discussed as part of the IOSP workshop offerings. Dr. Enna agreed to consult the IUPHAR liaison to ICLAS, Dr. J.R. Haywood, to seek his opinion as to why IUPHAR should belong to ICLAS given that IUPHAR interests in this area are also represented through its member societies. The results of these discussions will be communicated to the Executive Committee at its next meeting when the advisability of continuing IUPHAR membership in ICLAS will be considered.*

Pharmacological Society of Singapore Full Member application

The Executive Committee members reviewed and unanimously approved the application of the Pharmacological Society of Singapore as a Full Member in IUPHAR. Dr. Enna will notify Dr. Fred Wong, the current president of the Singapore Society, of their acceptance as a member of IUPHAR.*

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Congresses

2018 World Congress of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (WCP2018: www.WCP2018.org)

Dr. Iino announced the registration fee schedule for the 2018 World Congress meeting in Kyoto. The Executive Committee complimented him and the other WCP2018 organizers on keeping the registration fee low and particularly affordable for students. Dr. Enna reported that earlier this year he asked the officers of the larger IUPHAR member societies to establish travel bursaries to ensure their younger members have the resources to attend this meeting. Currently the WCP2018 budget projections are based on 5,000 meeting participants.

Dr. Iino listed the plenary speakers recruited thus far: Tasuku Honjo, Shinya Yamanaka, Karl Deisseroth, Nancy J. Brown, Adam Cohen and Feng Zhang. The NC-IUPHAR has identified Dr. Bryon Roth as their choice for the IUPHAR Lecturer in Analytical Pharmacology. Dr. Enna will communicate with Dr. Roth about this award and his invitation to present a plenary lecture at the meeting.* Dr. Iino indicated that over 30 highly influential biomedical scientists have agreed to present Cutting Edge Lectures. The Program Committee has issued tentative approval for approximately 80 symposia. Concern was expressed by some about the large number of symposia and the expense associated with underwriting the attendance of so many speakers. Various ideas were put forth about ways to reduce these costs. In addition, the Executive Committee suggested to Dr. Iino some possible strategies for securing additional sponsors, including the City of Kyoto, to ensure the Congress offered not only a broad array of scientific topics but also ended with a financial surplus for the benefit of the Japanese organizers and IUPHAR.

The WCP2018 Organizing Committee looked into the possibility of having a member of the Japanese Imperial Family attend the Opening Ceremony. They were told that in addition to an honorarium the Congress must cover the costs for the extra security needed for such a guest. The cost for having a member of the Imperial Family present is estimated to be approximately ¥5,000,000 (~US\$50,000). While the Executive Committee was unenthusiastic about this additional expense, they were sensitive to the fact that Japanese participants may place a high value on having such an important visitor at the Opening Ceremony. Dr. Iino stated the Organizing Committee is now exploring possible social event venues that are large enough to accommodate the Congress participants while offering a cultural glimpse of Japan as well as shelter in the event of rain.

The WCP2018 organizers developed the following criteria for officially sanctioned satellite meetings:

- Must be proposed by a person belonging to an IUPHAR member society
- Must be scheduled within one week before or after WCP2018
- Must be held at a location requiring one day or less of travel to Kyoto
- All organizers and participants of the satellite meeting must be WCP2018 registrants

February 28th is the deadline for submitting satellite meeting applications at <http://www.wcp2018.org/satellite-symposia.html>. Successful applicants will be notified by the WCP2018 Program Committee no later than March 31st. Dr. Iino noted applications to organize satellite meetings have already been received from the Japanese Pharmacological Society and the IUPHAR Education Section.

2022 World Congress of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology

Dr. Webb described the extensive efforts already undertaken by the British Pharmacological Society in anticipation of this meeting. The meeting organizers have toured the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre in Glasgow and have reserved it for the tentative dates of July 16 – 22, 2022. The current plan is to offer registrants high-speed internet and a downloaded app in lieu of a printed program and book of abstracts. Dr. Webb reported that the budget projections are currently based on 3,000 participants, but stressed the forecasts are subject to change given the five year time-line.

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2026 World Congress of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology

Dr. Spedding reminded the group that the preliminary bids to host the 2026 World Congress are due from IUPHAR member societies by August 31st, 2017. The documents will be reviewed by the Executive Committee during their October meeting, with the final decision on the venue made by the IUPHAR member society delegates at the 2018 General Assembly.

Next Executive Committee meetings

October, 2017

Dr. Enna announced the Italian Society of Pharmacology (SIF) has offered to host the IUPHAR Executive Committee meetings in conjunction with the 38th SIF National Congress scheduled for Rimini, Italy on October 25th – 28th, 2017. The WCP2018/2022 and IUPHAR officers' meetings have been tentatively planned for the afternoon of Saturday, October 28th. The full Executive Committee meeting will take place all day on Sunday, October 29th and until noon on Monday the 30th.

July, 2018

Ms. LeCount described the custom of convening the existing IUPHAR Executive Committee prior to the beginning of the World Congress followed a few days later by a joint meeting with the newly elected Executive Committee after the World Congress General Assembly. Traditionally the newly Executive Committee met for a day and a half after the Congress. She explained the purpose of the pre-Congress and joint meetings were to allow the outgoing Executive Committee members to recommend potential IUPHAR chairs and liaisons to the newly elected Executive Committee members. She suggested that, given the ease of electronic communication and the implementation of the new liaison policy, it should be possible to eliminate the pre-Congress meeting of the existing Executive Committee. Dr. Thürmann noted the expense to IUPHAR of such meetings and wondered if there was a need for the outgoing Executive Committee to meet at all during a World Congress. After some discussion the group agreed to hold joint meetings consisting of both the outgoing and newly elected Executive Committees on the afternoon of July 6th and all day on July 7th, 2018 in Kyoto immediately following the WCP2018.

At 11:30 a.m. AEDT Dr. Spedding concluded the meeting and thanked the Executive Committee members for their time and efforts on behalf of IUPHAR.

Lynn LeCount, CMA
Administrative Officer

* Summary of Action Items

Dr. Thürmann will contact UBS in late January, 2017 to make the investment under the conditions approved by the Executive Committee.

Dr. Barrett will contact a few publishers to explore publishing opportunities for IUPHAR.

Ms. LeCount will include on the 2018 General Assembly agenda the topic of appointing Dufour Treuhand as the IUPHAR external auditor.

Dr. Spedding should contact Dr. Lars Gustafsson, the chair of the Clinical Pharmacology in Developing Countries Subcommittee of the IUPHAR Clinical Division, and Drs. Kalle Hoppu, Marja-Liisa Dahl and Simon Maxwell of the IUPHAR Liaison Committee to the WHO to establish formal contacts within WHO.

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Dr. Spedding will encourage Dr. Ohlstein to seek opportunities where publishers will pay IUPHAR for the rights to publish articles from a conference as a special issue of their journal.

The IUPHAR officers will explore the option of recruiting a young investigator to serve as a representative on the Executive Committee and manage the IUPHAR social media sites

The IUPHAR officers will solicit proposals from member societies to host the IUPHAR Executive Office, with a submission deadline of June 30th, 2017.

Ms. LeCount will schedule Dr. Abernethy or his designee on all future officer conference calls.

Dr. Barrett will investigate the potential benefits and feasibility of forming an IUPHAR Academic Drug Discovery Section and to report his findings at the next Executive Committee meeting. Dr. Patel can provide contact information for colleagues at the Indian National Academic Center and Dr. Zhao can furnish contact information for colleagues in the area of Chinese academic drug discovery.

Dr. Spedding will contact Dr. Lewis and Dr. Enna will contact Dr. J.R. Haywood to seek their opinions about the value of IUPHAR paying dues to ICLAS.

Dr. Enna will notify Dr. Fred Wong, the current president of the Singapore Society, of their acceptance as a member of IUPHAR.

Dr. Enna will communicate with Dr. Roth about the IUPHAR Lecturer in Analytical Pharmacology award and his invitation to present a plenary lecture at the meeting.