Joint Meeting of the IUPHAR 2002-06 and 2006-10 Executive Committees

Minutes
July 7th, 2006
Beijing International Convention Center, China

Participants:
Donald Birkett, Australia
Kim Brösen, Denmark
Patrick du Souich, Canada
Sue Piper Duckles, USA
S. J. Enna, USA
Sérgio Ferreira, Brazil
William Fleming, USA
Mohamed Khayyal, Egypt
Gabrielle Hawksworth, UK
Salomon Langer, Israel
Zhi-Bin Lin, China
Masayoshi Mishina, Japan
Urs Ruegg, Switzerland
Petra Thürmann, Germany
Paul Vanhoutte, Hong Kong
David Webb, UK
Lindsay Hart and Lynn LeCount (Administrative Support)

Discussions:
The newly elected President, Dr. Sue Piper Duckles, congratulated and welcomed the new Executive Committee members. She acknowledged and thanked Ms. Lindsay Hart for her efforts and service by presenting her with a crystal paper weight. Over the last few years Ms. Hart helped to bring IUPHAR activities into the electronic age and will be remembered for her many contributions to the IUPHAR website and biannual publications of the Pharmacology International newsletter. Ms. Hart should also be commended for her extensive activities in support of NC-IUPHAR activities and preparation of compendia for several meetings.

The 2002-2006 President, Dr. Paul Vanhoutte, expressed his enjoyment in working with the Executive Committee over the past eight years as both Secretary-General then President and acknowledged the contributions of Dr. Folke Sjoqvist. Dr. Vanhoutte feels IUPHAR is in much better condition now than when he became an officer, but noted there is still much work to be done. He urged the new Executive Committee members to help promote IUPHAR’s message in the world and to maintain advancing the development of the discipline of Pharmacology in developing countries as a top priority of the union.

The newly elected Secretary-General, Dr. S. J. Enna, introduced Ms. Lynn LeCount, who will be assisting him in the coordination of the Secretary-General responsibilities. He anticipates the recruitment of a new person dedicated to those tasks by October 1st, 2006.

Dr. Duckles summarized the recommendations of the 2002-2006 Executive Committee:

- The need to enhance income. Membership dues, congresses, and corporate contributions have historically been the major source of funding for the Union. However, development of creative mechanisms of on-going support and fundraising should be the top priority for the incoming Executive Committee.
- Continuous improvement of accounting. The 2002-2006 Executive Committee emphasized and initiated external auditing procedures, and Dr. Duckles called upon the incoming Executive
Committee to maintain and improve those processes to provide transparency and consistency in the accounting reports.

- The Spanish Society of Clinical Pharmacology may now be notified of gaining full membership by virtue of the General Assembly’s approval to modify the statutes.
- The current associate members should be notified of the change in statutes in the event any of them would care to apply for full membership status.
- The reappointment of Dr. Karl Netter as chair of the Membership Committee.
- The appointment of Dr. Vanhoutte as the Executive Committee liaison to the newly approved Natural Products section.
- Pharmacologists in Malta desire to become a member of IUPHAR, but have fewer than 20 members so do not qualify by the statutes. An innovative approach should be developed to allow them to participate in the activities of the union on an interim basis until their society develops to a size to merit application for full membership.
- The Teaching section has been developing well and is now contributing materials to the IUPHAR website to assist educators around the world. It is recommended that quality control and formal organization of the material now be considered.
- Corporate support should be pursued as a mechanism to enhance revenue and visibility of IUPHAR.
- The appointment of Dr. Vanhoutte as the Executive Committee liaison to the International Council for Science (ICSU).
- The appointment of Dr. Mohamad Khayyal as the Executive Committee liaison to the African Initiative sponsored by the South African Society
- The reappointment of Dr. Michael Spedding as chair of the IUPHAR Nomenclature Committee (NC-IUPHAR).
- The empowerment of the NC-IUPHAR officers to raise funds.
- Broaden the membership of the Executive Committee to provide more clinical pharmacology division representation. The recently approved name change to the International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology demonstrates the desire to integrate the discipline so the composition of the Executive Committee should reflect that perspective.
- Encourage the incoming Executive Committee to meet annually, and the Officers to meet biannually.

Dr. Enna thanked the members of the 2002-06 Executive Committee, and said he hopes to build on their past success to accomplish many of their recommendations. He urged them to provide the new Executive Committee with their advice and guidance. Dr. Enna then conveyed gratitude on behalf of the Executive Committee to Dr. Zhi-Bin Lin for the considerable hospitality of the Chinese Pharmacological Society in hosting the 2006 World Congress.

The newly elected Treasurer, Dr. Urs Ruegg, was introduced. Per the procedures established to transition between the Treasurers, Dr. Ruegg is responsible for transactions occurring on or after July 1st, 2006. The 2002-06 Treasurer, Dr. Salomon Langer, will ensure the external audit of the 2005 finances is completed. After reconciling the June 2006 bank statement, Dr. Langer will transfer the documents and transactions that have occurred from January 1, 2006 through June 30, 2006 to Dr. Ruegg no later than August 1st, 2006. Dr. Duckles expressed gratitude on behalf of the Executive Committee to Dr. Langer for his efforts as Treasurer over the past four years.

Dr. Ruegg noted his appreciation for the confidence that IUPHAR has shown in electing him as the Treasurer. He will work with Dr. Langer in facilitating a smooth transfer of the accounts, documentation, and auditing processes.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.