

## **Minutes of the general meeting of the Drug Metabolism Section of IUPHAR** **Beijing, China – July 4, 2006**

The general meeting of the DMS was held on July 4, 2006 at the 15th World Congress of Pharmacology (Beijing, China, July 2-7, 2006). Eleven section members participated in the meeting. Prof. Olavi Pelkonen was not able to attend and sent his apologies.

Prof. John Miners (Chair of the DMS) opened the meeting and reported on the activities of the DMS during the past four years. The DMS sponsored workshops in developing countries (for details see the DMS report in the IUPHAR website). The Balkans workshop planned for 2006 was postponed by the organizers to 2007. The DMS sponsored the International Conference in Pharmacogenetics, a satellite meeting of the 15th World Congress of Pharmacology. The DMS will consider sponsoring future workshops in South Africa, Southeast Asia or India, and South America.

The DMS was very active and successful in submitting proposals for symposia and plenary lectures in IUPHAR-related meetings (CPT Congress in Brisbane and World Congress of Pharmacology in Beijing). Dr. Paul Erhardt (University of Toledo) submitted to the DMS an interim report on a project aimed to establish a Human Drug Metabolism Database. This pilot project was supported by a grant from ICSU, received by the DMS with the help of IUPHAR. The database is in a very initial phase, and additional financial support is required to advance it.

Prof. Miners highlighted the good financial status of the DMS (actual balance: \$36,598.96). The optimal financial performance of the DMS is a direct result of the outstanding contribution of its treasurer, Prof. Grant Wilkinson, who has passed away recently. The DMS mourns his untimely death and sends condolences to the family. A Grant Wilkinson Scholarship (\$1,500) will be established by the DMS to allow a student from a developing country to attend an international drug metabolism meeting.

Prof. Miners acknowledged the contributions of the members of the DMS Executive Committee who completed their terms in office: Profs. Gabrielle Hawksworth, Stanislav Yanev, Yuichi Sugiyama and Philippe Beaune.

Prof. Miners presented a proposal for the new Executive Committee of the DMS (2006 – 2010), which retains its geographical balance:

Chair

Prof. Jaime Kapitulnik, Israel

Secretary

Prof. Olavi Pelkonen, Finland

Vice-Chair

Prof. Allan Rettie, USA

Treasurer

Prof. Steven Leeder, USA

Councillors

Prof. Mumtaz Iscan, Turkey

Prof. Aldo Mottino, Argentina

Dr. Amin Rostami-Hodjegan, UK  
Prof. H. Suzuki, Japan  
Prof. Andrew Walubo, South Africa  
Prof. Hong-Hao Zhou, China

Past Chair  
Prof. John Miners, Australia

The proposed committee was approved unanimously. It was agreed to have 6-9 councillors, if the IUPHAR statutes allow it. Another option was to have co-opting members in the Executive Committee.

Prof. Stanislav Yanev reported that the Balkans workshop in Skopje (Albania) will host scientists from many Balkan countries. The organizers decided to postpone the workshop to 2007 because they applied too late for financial support and there was uncertainty about funding sources. Eurotox will sponsor a special session on risk assessment and the COST program of the EU will consider additional support. The final decision about holding the meeting will be taken in another 2 months.

Prof. Miners passed the chair to Prof. Kapitulnik, the newly elected chair. Prof. Kapitulnik thanked the DMS members for their vote of confidence, and Profs. Miners, Hawksworth and Birkett (the previous DMS chairs) for their contributions to the Section. He also highlighted the excellent work done by Prof. Pelkonen in his first term as secretary of the Section.

One of Prof. Kapitulnik's main goals is to increase the involvement of the DMS in the activities of IUPHAR and establish a close collaboration with the Division of Clinical Pharmacology. He will also try to interest more scientists in the drug metabolism area to join the Section and contribute to its activities. Profs. Kapitulnik and Leeder will act to increase the yearly IUPHAR allocation for the DMS beyond \$5,000 and to receive it on a more regular basis.

Kathy Knights asked if there was an e-mail list of DMS members. Prof. Kapitulnik responded that Prof. Pelkonen is starting to develop a list, which can increase the roster of active members by assigning specific tasks to DMS members.

Gabrielle Hawksworth suggested working with IUTOX for coordinating new programs for developing countries. She also suggested that we keep an eye on deadlines for submission of proposals for symposia in pharmacology and other meetings.