

*Postal* Internal Box 16  
Pharmacology  
North-West University  
Potchefstroom, 2520  
SOUTH AFRICA

*Tel* +27 18 299 2234 / 26

*Fax* +27 18 299 2225 *Mobile* +27 82 920 9698

*E-mail* Tiaan.Brink@nwu.ac.za *Web* www.iuphar.org

Education  
Section



To: The Secretary-General  
IUPHAR

24 February 2014

Dear Dr Sam Enna

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE IUPHAR EDUCATION SECTION FOR THE YEAR 2013**

### **1 General Comments**

The Education Section of the International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (IUPHAR-Ed) has the mandate and responsibility to support educators in pharmacology in fostering and promoting innovative teaching, learning and assessment of basic, clinical and translational pharmacology to higher education pharmacology students and wider audiences across the globe.

### **2 Activities during 2013**

IUPHAR-Ed has been active during the 2013 cycle and a number of successful projects were completed as described below.

#### **2.1 Capacity building & global networking**

IUPHAR-Ed looks forward to playing a leading role in the development of the new IUPHAR Education website that is to be developed following a generous contribution from ASPET. This site will complement the IUPHAR Guide to Pharmacology website that is designed to deliver current peer-reviewed information on receptors and ligands. Professor Maxwell will lead an Editorial group that will develop a site providing and linking accessible learning resources that will benefit undergraduate and postgraduate students of the pharmacological sciences as well as those with a more passing interest. While the focus in the next year will be establishing a basic site IUPHAR-Ed looks forward to bringing together those interested in pharmacology education more widely to make sure this project has firm foundations in the future

Prof Tiaan Brink presented an invited talk on pharmacology education at the XXXVII<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the West African Society for Pharmacology–Société Ouest Africaine de Pharmacologie (WASP/SOAP), October 22-26<sup>th</sup>, Lagos, Nigeria. Together with Prof Oliver, Prof Brink represented IUPHAR at this African meeting. The talk by Prof Brink was on the following topic as per their request:

“Combining disciplinary teaching in Pharmacology and multidisciplinary state-of-the-art research”

#### **2.2 IOSP initiative**

A substantial grant application to the Nuffield Foundation (UK) to fund IOSP courses in Africa over the next 5 years was unsuccessful. To expand the Initiative beyond Africa,

a call was made in the June 2013 edition of Pharmacology International seeking expressions of interest to co-host IOSP courses elsewhere in the world. This call failed to elicit any response. There were also plans to submit a proposal for an IOSP symposium at WCP2014 featuring speakers from different regions. However, again, we were unable to attract speakers from certain regions and therefore this proposal was not submitted.

On a positive note, an IOSP workshop, hosted by the University of KwaZulu-Natal (Durban, SA) will run prior to WCP2014 (see par 2.3 below) and a website of educational, training and research resources in in-vivo sciences has been launched (ETRIS [www.etriss.leeds.ac.uk](http://www.etriss.leeds.ac.uk)). The latter is being publicised globally, including at WCP2014. It will also form part of stage 1 of the "Pharmacology Education" website. Further, a presentation on IOSP training initiatives within UK undergraduate programmes has been submitted to WCP2014 and this will provide a discussion forum to promote/publicise the IUPHAR IOSP initiative and actively seek individuals interested in hosting a training course in their own country or region. If no expressions of interest are forthcoming then consideration will have to be given to new ways to generate interest or whether the Initiative should continue in its current form.

### **2.3 WCP2014**

IUPHAR-Ed organised a workshop at the 17<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (WCP2014) in Cape Town, South Africa.

IUPHAR-Ed has started with its preparations to organise two pre-congress Satellite meetings of the 17<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (WCP2014) in Cape Town, South Africa as follows:

- a) IUPHAR-Ed Pharmacology Education Satellite Meeting (<http://www.iuphar-ed2014.org/>), from 12-13 July 2014 at the Cape Town International Convention Centre, Cape Town, South Africa.
- b) Integrative and organ systems pharmacology (IOSP) training workshop (<http://www.iosp2014.ukzn.ac.za/>), from 7-10 July 2014 at the Royal Palm Hotel in Umhlanga (near Durban), South Africa.

#### **2.3.1 IUPHAR-Ed Pharmacology Education Satellite Meeting 2014**

- **PROGRAMME COMMITTEE**

The Programme Committee of the IUPHAR pre-congress Satellite meeting 2014 was established earlier in 2013 and consists of the officers plus several councillors from around the globe, chaired by Dr Simon Maxwell. This committee drafted the programme outline and roundtable discussions, and will be finalising this as described below.

- **PROGRAMME**

Themes & chairs of sessions and roundtable discussions, as well as guest speakers have been confirmed and competitions finalised. Fine-tuning is still in progress, where the podium speaker programme is to be expanded from abstract submissions due 14 February 2014. Plenary speakers include Prof Helen Kwanashie from Nigeria and Prof Leszek Wojnowski from Germany. Besides several free communications, there will be six roundtable discussions

on relevant topics, of which each delegate can select two to attend. The programme can be viewed on the website (<http://prosperis-iuphar.s3.amazonaws.com/Programme%20IUPHAR%20V3.pdf>).

- **AWARDS**

Several prizes will be awarded, including:

- “The Teaching Excellence Award” for senior educators
- “The Outstanding Early Educator Awards” in the categories “Teaching in Basic pharmacology”, “Teaching in Clinical pharmacology” and “Teaching in Transdisciplinary Pharmacology”.

The Evaluation Committee is chaired by Dr Liz Daves from Australia. Awardees will actively participate in the programme.

- **WEBSITE**

The satellite website is fully developed (<http://www.iuphar-ed2014.org/>), including registration and abstract submissions. A Local Organising Committee is chaired by Shirra Moch, with the support of Madeleine Erasmus (treasurer) and Karen Cohen. An event co-ordinator, Imfunzelelo was appointed, with Kim Peters as project manager.

- **SPONSORSHIP**

The venue space was provided as a sponsorship of WCP2014. In addition, the North-West University and Elsevier also committed to some financial sponsorship (see par. 4.1). Sponsorship remains a challenge to ensure financial success of the meeting.

### 2.3.2 IOSEP workshop

- **PROGRAMME COMMITTEE**

Dr Johannes Bodenstein from the University of KwaZulu Natal (UKZN) organised the workshop in collaboration with Linda Bester and Dr Sanil Singh (veterinarian) at UKZN. They also collaborated with the UKZN Conference and Gift Services to assist with logistics. IUPHAR-Ed remained involved and in particular Dr Dave Lewis, chair of the IUPHAR-Ed IOSEP committee, assisted with the programme development. A lack of sufficient sponsorship and relative late announcement may be the biggest concerns.

### 2.3.3 Contribution in Pharmacology International

IUPHAR-Ed prepared a one-page contribution to the December 2013 issue of Pharmacology International to promote the IUPHAR-Ed pre-congress Satellite meeting on Pharmacology Education, to be held from 12-13 July 2014 in Cape Town, South Africa.

## 3 Activities planned for 2014

During the first half of 2014 IUPHAR-Ed will focus on the organisation and finalisation of its activities during and prior to the 17<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology. This includes its activities in preparation of:

- a pre-congress Satellite meeting on Pharmacology education,
- educator awards and travel grants for educators from developing countries,

- the pre-congress training workshop on Integrative and organ systems pharmacology (IOSP),
- further development of the 'Guide to Pharmacology' project and related projects by members
- finalisation of the IUPHAR-Ed content on the new IUPHAR website as it becomes available, in preparation of its launch at WCP2014

The newly elected executive committee (elections 13 July 2014) will determine the direction and strategies forward. It is anticipated that future focus will include the development and implementation of 'Guide to Pharmacology', other collaborative projects related to pharmacology education, fund raising and enhanced communication with members.

## **4 Finance**

### **4.1 Fundraising efforts**

The local organising committee of the IUPHAR-Ed Satellite on Pharmacology Education developed a sponsorship prospectus for the 2014 meeting. Unfortunately it has to compete with the world congress for grants and contributions from the same sponsors, making it a difficult task. This far the following sponsors had come on board:

- WCP2014 – venue space to host the Satellite meeting
- Elsevier – €2,000
- Faculty of Health Sciences, North-West University in South Africa – \$1,000
- School of Pharmacy, North-West University in South Africa – \$1,500 (towards 1x early educator award)

### **4.2 Financial balances**

The current bank statement of IUPHAR-Ed indicates a balance of 4,586.61 GBP.

In addition, seeding money to the amount of 6,525.18 GBP ( $\pm$ 100,000 ZAR) was transferred to the IUPHAR-Ed Satellite meeting account on 29.10.2013, managed by the North-West University in South Africa.

## **5 Conclusion**

IUPHAR-Ed experienced a phase of increased activity focussed on the planning of its next pre-congress Satellite meeting in July 2014. The key role of education in the larger world of pharmacology is increasingly becoming apparent, particularly with the IUPHAR Guide to Pharmacology project under the leadership of Prof Maxwell. The web platform that will be established in parallel will be instrumental in expanding the Section's activities and enabling active collaboration between members of the Section from around the globe.

Yours sincerely



---

**Prof Christiaan B Brink**  
(Chair 2010-2014 – [Tiaan.Brink@nwu.ac.za](mailto:Tiaan.Brink@nwu.ac.za))