

IUPHAR Executive Committee Minutes

October 23rd - 25th, 2011

Courtyard Marriot Neuilly sur Seine
Paris, France

Participants

Present

Darrell Abernethy, USA, Vice Chair of Clinical Pharmacology Division
Donald Birkett, Australia, Chair of Clinical Pharmacology Division
Kim Brøsen, Denmark, Councilor
Kay Brune, Germany, Councilor
Patrick du Souich, Canada, President
Sue Piper Duckles, USA, Past President
S. J. Enna, USA, Secretary-General
Graeme Henderson, UK, First Vice President
Masamitsu Iino, Japan, Second Vice President
María Isabel Lucena, Spain, Treasurer of Clinical Pharmacology Division
Douglas Oliver, South Africa, Councilor
Urs Ruegg, Switzerland, Treasurer
Petra Thürmann, Germany, Secretary General of Clinical Pharmacology Division
Yongxiang Zhang, PR China, Councilor
Lynn LeCount, USA, Administrative Support

Excused

John Miners, Australia, Councilor

Guests

Oct. 23rd Joint Meeting with Nomenclature Committee (NC-IUPHAR) 9 a.m. to noon
Michael Spedding, Chair, NC-IUPHAR
NC-IUPHAR members
Christiaan Brink, Chair, Education Section, and Secretary, WCP2014
Gary Maartens, Chair, Program Committee, WCP2014
Oct. 25th Executive Committee
Robert Fuchs, Website Developer

Discussion topics

The meeting opened with Dr. Enna expressing IUPHAR condolences to Dr. Iino and the Japanese people for the loss of life from the earthquake and tsunami earlier this year.

President's report

Dr. du Souich gave a brief, historical overview of IUPHAR, highlighting milestones related to the development of the division, sections and various committees. He called attention to some of the noteworthy activities and accomplishments that are detailed in the reports submitted to the Executive Committee.

Secretary-General's report

Dr. Enna informed the group that following his communications with representatives of the Southeast Asian Western Pacific Regional Federation of Pharmacologists (SEAWP) and the Japanese Pharmacological Society (JPS), they indicated they may be interested in undertaking local education initiatives, such as IOSP, either alone or possibly in collaboration with IUPHAR. Dr. Enna will communicate this information to the Education Section and its subcommittee on IOSP to ensure their services are offered to SEAWP and JPS, if needed.

Dr. Thürmann described a recent experience whereby she was contacted by multiple people within an IUPHAR member society regarding the same matter. Because

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viewpoints varied among this group, it was difficult for Dr. Thürmann to decide on a course of action. To avoid such confusion in the future, she suggested a "Corresponding Officer" for each member society be named for handling communications between the society and IUPHAR. Dr. Duckles noted this has been a problem in the past for reasons beyond the control of IUPHAR. She encouraged the Executive Committee (EC) members to forward to the Secretary-General's office messages received from multiple individuals within the same society for sorting out disputes. Ms. LeCount explained there is a "Corresponding Officer" designation in the IUPHAR Member Directory and that a few member societies are already utilizing it. She will encourage more member societies to identify a "Corresponding Officer" when the Secretary-General's office is notified about the election or appointment of new officers.

Dr. Enna announced that current contact information is missing for a few member societies. He asked the Executive Committee members to contact Ms. LeCount if they know a colleague in one of the following organizations so the Secretary-General's office can attempt to establish communication:

- i. Indonesian Pharmacological Association
- ii. Pakistan Pharmacological Society
- iii. Venezuelan Society of Pharmacology & Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics

Treasurer's report

Dr. Ruegg recommended that an amendment to the IUPHAR Statutes be submitted to the delegates during the 2014 General Assembly asking them to designate Basel, Switzerland as the address of record for IUPHAR. Dr. Ruegg noted that this is necessary as the Canton of Basel is, and has been for years, the legal entity that certifies not-for-profit status for IUPHAR. The Executive Committee members agreed this issue should be brought to the delegates for a vote.

The internal and external audit reports for the 2010 financial records were reviewed. There were no questions or concerns raised by these reports. Dr. Ruegg provided an overview of the 2010 audited, and the 2011 estimated, accounting reports.

Amounts in USD thousands	2010	2011
Cash Jan. 1	652.6	815.5
Total Income	433.1	<i>307.0</i>
Total Expenses	309.0	<i>325.0</i>
Unrealized investment and currency gain/loss	38.8	<i>-36.0</i>
IUPHAR Net	162.9	-54.0
Cash Dec. 31	815.5	761.5

Italics indicate estimates

It was noted that NC-IUPHAR activities have created an annual deficit since 2009. Dr. Duckles reminded the EC that for many years NC-IUPHAR was self-sufficient and occasionally generated an annual surplus. Those funds were integrated into the IUPHAR cash balance. She believes the worldwide economic downturn, and the consolidation taking place in the pharmaceutical industry has limited donations to NC-IUPHAR over the last few years. The NC-IUPHAR members have tried to compensate by applying for grants and seeking new types of income. Dr. Enna reminded the group of the recent agreement with the British Pharmacological Society (BPS) which will help underwrite the IUPHAR Receptor Database team at the University of Edinburgh and will involve NC-IUPHAR in the production of the BPS *Guide for Receptors and Channels* (GRAC). This collaboration should help stabilize

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the funding situation for NC-IUPHAR beginning in 2012. Dr. Ruegg highlighted the 2010 donations to NC-IUPHAR and announced an anonymous donor had established an endowment on behalf of NC-IUPHAR (all amounts in USD thousands):

Donor	Amount
Abbott	10.0
ASPET	10.0
Servier	71.0
<u>NC-IUPHAR endowment</u>	<u>254.7</u>
Total	345.7

The EC members agreed the NC-IUPHAR endowment account principal should be protected. To this end, the EC directed that NC-IUPHAR may spend up to 3% of the value of the endowment each year, or the interest earned, whichever is less, as of December 31st of the prior year.

Dr. Ruegg presented to the EC the names of those member societies that are overdue in their dues payments. The amounts shown below are in USD :

Society	2009	2010	Total
Bulgarian Pharmacology Society		160	160
Chilean Society of Pharmacology	304	320	624
Colombian Pharmacological Association		160	160
Indonesian Pharmacological Association		168	168
Iranian Society of Physiology & Pharmacology		160	160
Latin American Assoc. of Pharmacology		585	585
Pakistan Pharmacological Society		160	160
Pharmacological & Therapeutic Society of Thailand		160	160
Philippine Soc. Experimental & Clinical Pharmacology	211	222	433
Polish Pharmacological Society		799	799
Safety Pharmacology Society		585	585
Venezuelan Society		160	160
TOTAL USD	515	3639	4154

Dr. Enna complimented and thanked Dr. Ruegg and the Treasurer Assistant, Ms. Leigh Ann Arbuckle, for their efforts and diligence in contacting societies with delinquent dues. He noted that the amount of uncollected dues was particularly low, representing less than 10% of the total. The Executive Committee endorsed a 5% increase in membership dues for 2012.

Strategic planning proposal

Dr. Brune explained that his recent attendance at an annual conference of an IUPHAR member society had brought to his attention how few of the conference participants were aware of IUPHAR. He felt that while IUPHAR should be more actively promoted, the organization lacks a strategic plan for doing so. Dr. Brune also noted the need for IUPHAR to develop a steady income stream, in addition to membership dues, to underwrite initiatives that could enhance the visibility of IUPHAR among pharmacologists. He suggested it may also be worthwhile to spend time and resources on public relations to bring IUPHAR to the attention of the lay public.

A subcommittee was formed to draft an outline of a strategic plan. It was agreed this plan would be prepared in time for distribution to the Executive Committee before the

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2012 meeting. The primary goal of this subcommittee is to propose ways for IUPHAR to increase its visibility in the pharmacology community and among the lay public, and to identify how to fund such an effort. Drs. Abernethy, du Souich, and Henderson agreed to serve on this subcommittee with Dr. Brune as chair. The subcommittee was encouraged to consider various ways for IUPHAR to contribute to the discipline in a more visible manner. There was a general agreement to emphasize pharmacology in developing countries and to utilize, rather than duplicate, the many resources already available for this purpose in Europe and North America.

Fundraising issues

Journal proposal

Dr. Henderson described his past experience with society-owned journals. He cautioned that while a newly created journal can be financially successful in the long run, it must be based on an unserved niche market. Dr. Abernethy endorsed this view, stating it is important that IUPHAR is not perceived by its member societies as a competitor. It was agreed that identifying an internationally recognized pharmacologist to lead such a journal would be a key factor for success. The strategic planning subcommittee will take into consideration the possibility of launching a journal as they formulate their proposal.

Fund to send IUPHAR representatives to member meetings

Dr. Brune reminded the EC of the need for IUPHAR to be represented at member society conferences to help promote the Union. This concept will also be taken into consideration by the strategic planning subcommittee.

NIDA Travel Award of US\$1000

Drs. du Souich and Enna described an ongoing travel award offered jointly by IUPHAR and the U.S. National Institute of Drug Abuse for early career investigators who are not U.S. citizens. IUPHAR selects the two or three winners based on abstracts describing the work of the applicants that they are to present at a Society for Neuroscience satellite conference entitled "Frontiers in Addiction". The EC agreed these travel awards are of value in that they give member societies the opportunity to send young investigators to an international conference. This award program can also be viewed as a way to increase the visibility of IUPHAR among the scientific community.

PharmacoCareers

Ms. LeCount reported that, despite a Google advertising campaign, annual sales of job postings have continued to decline since the career site was launched in 2007. She encouraged the Executive Committee members to mention PharmacoCareers to their colleagues seeking to hire fellows, faculty or staff. There are over 500 registered job seekers at PharmacoCareers, many of whom are seeking postdoctoral positions. She noted that the career center may have to be abandoned if sales continue to fall as it would no longer be a cost effective service.

Overview of reports

Dr. Enna reminded the group that the activity reports of the various IUPHAR groups were distributed with the meeting materials. Although there were no questions or concerns raised by the EC about the contents of these documents, verbal reports were made by EC liaisons.

Dr. Duckles recently attended the International Council for Science (ICSU) General Assembly as the IUPHAR delegate. She reported that while the ICSU initiatives tend to be dominated by the earth sciences, there is a growing movement among the biological unions to draw more attention to health-related issues. She stated that in the past IUPHAR was the recipient of two ICSU grants. One in 2005 supported the Receptor Database and another in 2009 helped fund the Integrative and Organ

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Systems Pharmacology (IOSP) workshops in Africa. Dr. Oliver reported the organization Pharmacology for Africa (PharfA) plans to prepare an IUPHAR ICSU grant application by the December 1, 2011 deadline. The goal of this program is to organize additional IOSP workshops in Africa with an expanded scope to include pharmacovigilance.

- Dr. Duckles met with the President and Executive Director of IUTOX during the ICSU meeting. They agreed that IUPHAR may sponsor a symposium during the International Congress of Toxicology (ICT 2013) meeting scheduled for June 30th – July 4th, 2013 in Seoul, Korea. IUTOX in turn will be able to propose and sponsor a symposium to be held as part of the 2014 World Congress of Pharmacology meeting in Cape Town. The IUPHAR Executive Committee supported this idea by approving the funding necessary to organize a symposium at ICT 2013. Dr. Enna will communicate their endorsement to Dr. Miners, the IUPHAR liaison to IUTOX, and Dr. Acosta, the IUTOX President, so that planning can be initiated for organizing these symposia.
- Dr. Enna noted that IUPHAR has an agreement with the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET) to publish nomenclature articles in *Pharmacological Reviews*. Beginning in 2012 this agreement will automatically renew each year unless either party notifies the other of an intent to terminate. Dr. Enna reminded the group that the IUPHAR-BPS agreement to produce GRAC also contains a provision for publishing in the *British Journal of Pharmacology* short articles generated by NC-IUPHAR. Before agreeing to those terms, Dr. Enna contacted Dr. Sibley, the Editor-in-Chief of *Pharmacological Reviews*, who indicated his interest in retaining rights to publish the nomenclature articles. Dr. Sibley indicated he has no problem with shorter, more general NC-IUPHAR sponsored articles appearing elsewhere. Dr. Enna reported that the NC-IUPHAR Chair, Dr. Michael Spedding, feels the IUPHAR-ASPET agreement is beneficial to NC-IUPHAR. The Executive Committee agreed to allow the agreement with ASPET to continue unchanged.
- Dr. Enna summarized the activities of the Education Section. He reported that Drs. Brink and Maxwell are working with Ms. LeCount to develop on-line resources for the Section members as part of the new IUPHAR website. Dr. Lewis has agreed to evaluate the teaching materials that are currently posted to determine how much should be incorporated into the new IUPHAR website. Dr. Douglas announced the Education Section is organizing a satellite meeting to be held in conjunction with the 5th All Africa Congress in Accra, Ghana in July 2012.
- Drs. du Souich and Birkett reported that the IUPHAR liaisons to the World Health Organization (WHO), in conjunction with the Clinical Division, have been working on an updated position paper on clinical pharmacology to emphasize the importance of the discipline to governments, regulators, industry and other health organizations. He presented an amended introductory section with definitions of the discipline of clinical pharmacology and clinical pharmacologists which recognized explicitly the contribution to the discipline of a range of health professionals. This was accepted by the Executive after some discussion. Dr. du Souich also described recent efforts to initiate WHO training centers in clinical pharmacology and to establish an international network on the rational use of drugs. In particular, he noted the WHO is encouraging collaboration between clinical pharmacologists and pharmacists.
- Dr. du Souich informed the EC that the Clinical Division has had discussions with NC-IUPHAR about including information on translational medicine in the Receptor Database. During a recent meeting with NC-IUPHAR it was suggested this could begin by cross referencing the receptors discussed in the database to clinical pharmacology websites containing information on the therapeutic relevance of the site. Questions about what type of clinical data should be integrated into the database, how it will be generated and updated, and the way in which such an effort would be funded remain unresolved. With the assistance of Dr. Dollery, a member of

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NC-IUPHAR, an *ad hoc* committee composed of Drs. Birkett, Brink, du Souich, Neubig and Webb, has been appointed to consider, and make recommendations, concerning these issues.

Dr. Birkett complimented Drs. Thürmann and LeCouteur on their efforts in organizing a geriatric-themed symposium during the EACPT Congress in Budapest, Hungary (June 26th – 29th, 2011). He highlighted for the EC some of the recent changes in the Clinical Division, including the discontinuation of two subcommittees and the formation of a new one, to be chaired by Dr. LeCouteur, on geriatric clinical pharmacology. This subcommittee has approached IUPHAR and WHO about the possibility of forming a list of recommended medications for geriatric patients. It was noted the IUPHAR officers have endorsed the compilation of such a list. Dr. Birkett indicated the Clinical Division helped to sponsor the Pediatric Clinical Pharmacology Workshop that is to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina on October 28th, 2011.

The Clinical Division Treasurer report was presented by Dr. Lucena. She noted that at the beginning of 2010 the Clinical Division had ~€46k in cash. Over the course of the year they received ~€4k from IUPHAR and spent ~€2k, resulting in a year-end balance of ~€48k. The funds were spent on the Clinical Division General Assembly held during WP2010, for travel expenses related to WHO meetings, and for bank charges. Dr. Lucena asked whether the ~€150 in banking fees could be reduced. Dr. Ruegg responded that most of the banking industry assesses some type of fee on nearly every transaction. He expressed frustration about the bank fees charged against the IUPHAR accounts. Dr. Lucena reported that ~€6k has been spent during 2011 thus far to underwrite the geriatric symposium at EACPT, the Pediatric Clinical Pharmacology workshop, travel expenses for the WHO liaison, and to pay for the WP2010 survey. She anticipates there will be just over €5k in additional expenditures during 2011 to support the November Pharmacogenetics/genomics Section symposium at the Psychopharmacology Congress in Turkey and to reimburse Dr. Orme for his efforts on the clinical pharmacology position paper.

Dr. Thürmann informed the group that in 2010 she and Dr. Miners, as the newly appointed IUPHAR liaisons to the Sections, began to gather information on IUPHAR Sections. They were surprised at the differences in the content and length of the various Sections' statutes. Besides the lack of uniformity, she feels that some of these Section statutes need updating. Dr. Thürmann recommended the development of an IUPHAR Section statutes template to ensure that all Section statutes coincide with the aims and mission of IUPHAR in general while reflecting the unique needs and goals of each Section. She felt it would also be more efficient if organizers of future Sections have a template available for preparing their statutes. The EC endorsed Dr. Thürmann's proposal and asked her to prepare a template for review at the next EC meeting.

It was reported that the Pediatric Clinical Pharmacology chair, Dr. Hoppu, was successful in having IUPHAR appointed as a third party to the Global Research in Pediatrics (GRIP) initiative, underwritten by the European Union 7th Framework Program. Dr. du Souich gave a brief description of the project. Together with the European Society for Developmental, Perinatal, and Pediatric Pharmacology, an IUPHAR member society, IUPHAR will assist in the efforts to improve clinical protocols and to increase the number of investigators and centers devoted to conducting research in pediatric pharmacology.

Dr. Zhang described the meetings organized and attended by Natural Products Section members. The Second World Conference on the Pharmacology of Natural and Traditional Medicines is planned for October or November of 2012, probably in Macao. While in Paris, Dr. Zhang is meeting with Dr. Schini-Kerth, the Natural Products Section Vice-Chair, to work on plans for the Macao meeting. Dr. Douglas encouraged Dr. Zhang to integrate African traditional medicine into the offerings for this meeting.

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Meetings

WorldPharma2010 (WP2010)

Dr. Brøsen was congratulated for the scientific and financial success of WP2010. He reported that two-thirds of the revenue was from registration dues, with the remaining third provided by sponsors. The program was roughly a quarter pure basic science, and a quarter pure clinical. The remaining half was more integrated topics. Dr. Brøsen complimented Dr. Mulvany's efforts to obtain feedback from the various IUPHAR member societies as part of planning the program. Everyone agreed the majority of the speakers were well-respected authorities in their fields. The targeted attendance of 3,000 registrants was met. Dr. Brøsen summarized the organizational strengths and weaknesses revealed by WP2010 as a guide in preparing for future meetings.

Data depicting the number of WP2010 registrants from each country as a percentage of the total membership of the corresponding pharmacology society was presented by Dr. du Souich. It was noted that participation was lower than expected from the United States and most Western European nations, perhaps because of the number of pharmacology-related meetings that are routinely held in these countries. He asked the EC to consider how World Congress participation could be increased from under-represented countries. Suggestions included lowering the costs associated with attending the congress, and incorporating into the program more focused themes to appeal to specialists in the field. Dr. Henderson observed that not all of the basic pharmacology areas are represented in the IUPHAR Sections. He wondered to what extent this may have affected participation in WP2010.

Dr. Thürmann summarized the results of a participant survey taken a few weeks after WP2010. Of the 581 responses, roughly 60% considered themselves basic scientists, 25% clinicians, with the remaining 15% categorizing themselves as "other". When asked if the respondents had previously attended an IUPHAR congress, over half replied no. For future congresses, 82% of the respondents indicated they would prefer a combined basic/clinical congress. The EC invited Dr. Thürmann to author an article describing the survey results for publication in *Pharmacology International*.

World Congress of Pharmacology 2014 (WCP2014)

Dr. Oliver announced that the WCP2014 International Advisory Board (IAB) met yesterday to review the draft program. He noted that the IAB recommended varying the program offerings so as to appeal to basic scientists and clinicians in specific areas of pharmacology and to increase the international representation on the Program Committee. To accomplish the latter, the EC members will be asked in the future to nominate candidates to serve on the WCP2014 Program Committee. Dr. Oliver reported that the meeting organizers will soon seek input for the program from the IUPHAR member societies. Based on the IAB comments and suggestions, the organizers are revising the congress budget to ensure there is no financial loss even if there are only 1,600 paid attendees, which is about half the number that registered for the Copenhagen meeting. Chairs have now been identified for all the WCP2014 committees. Dr. Oliver concluded by stating that the organizers are actively recruiting sponsors and encouraged the EC members to suggest the names of potential sponsors in the coming months.

Dr. Henderson described an initiative undertaken by the BPS Young Pharmacologists Group to raise travel support for African students to attend WCP2014. BPS has created white T-shirts that say "I Love Pharmacology", which are being sold from the BPS booth at various pharmacology meetings. He presented one to each EC member.

2018 World Congress of Pharmacology (WCP2018)

Dr. Iino reported that JPS and the Japanese Society of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics are in the process of creating a separate legal entity that will be

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responsible for organizing the congress. He anticipates finalizing the World Congress contract with IUPHAR by the end of 2011. The group has selected a Professional Congress Organizer and is now evaluating candidates to serve as the officers and committee chairs. Dr. Iino noted the organizers will attempt to keep the registration fee as low as possible.

Regional Focused Conferences

As charged during the 2010 EC meeting, an *ad hoc* committee composed of Drs. Birkett, Brune, Brøsen, du Souich and Enna, studied the possibility of IUPHAR sponsoring Regional Focused Conferences in the field. Dr. du Souich noted that the primary goal of this initiative is to generate visibility for IUPHAR between World Congresses while creating opportunities for pharmacologists to meet to discuss topics of interest in a particular geographic region. After a lengthy discussion of the *ad hoc* committee recommendations, the EC members agreed IUPHAR should serve as a participant and sponsor for meetings co-organized by societies in three or more countries. The *ad hoc* committee proposed that financial support should be in the form of a loan of up to US\$10k to be repaid at the conclusion of the conference. The objective is that the ultimate cost to IUPHAR should be nothing or negligible. Some EC members felt a loan could create ill-will if the Regional Focused Conference organizers were unable to repay it. It was also felt that a US\$10k grant would draw more applicants. Dr. Birkett volunteered to draft an announcement to be sent to all IUPHAR member societies describing this opportunity and requesting proposals.

Website demonstration

Dr. Enna provided a brief history of past efforts to identify a web developer for a new IUPHAR website. In 2010 the Executive Committee empowered the IUPHAR officers to identify and hire a web developer. Mr. Robert Fuchs was engaged for this purpose in June. He was invited to the EC meeting to present the first iteration of the new website.

Mr. Fuchs introduced himself and described his prior experience working with a scientific union. He presented the proposed homepage and menu systems to the Executive Committee. The EC committee members suggested changing the categories used to organize the hotlinks, integrating the menu along the left side of the screen into the menu bar across the top of the screen, and incorporating the logos of ICSU and IUPHAR member societies into the scrolling announcements. In response to his question, Dr. Brink was told that the new website will be accessible by hand-held devices. Dr. Brink will invite a colleague who owns a Blackberry to preview the webpages to ensure compatibility. Mr. Fuchs then demonstrated the website group contact functions. He informed the group that FaceBook users can utilize their existing username and password to import their FaceBook profile information into their IUPHAR profile. Dr. Henderson volunteered to teleconference with Mr. Fuchs and Ms. LeCount to offer insights he gained from launching other websites and to recruit a few young pharmacologists with FaceBook accounts to test the group functions. Mr. Fuchs asked the group to think about possible metadata terms to be utilized by internet search engines to locate the new IUPHAR website. Dr. Abernethy recommended advertising the website to draw new visitors. Ms. LeCount will explore the possibility of setting up a Google AdWord campaign. Dr. Enna invited Mr. Fuchs to the 2012 EC meeting to demonstrate the finalized version.

Future Executive Committee meetings

Dr. Enna announced the 2012 Executive Committee meeting will be held in Basel, Switzerland in late May. The officers recommend the welcome dinner be scheduled for Thursday evening, May 24th followed by meetings all day on Friday, May 25th and Saturday morning, May 26th. Ms. LeCount will contact the EC members to confirm these proposed dates.