

International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (IUPHAR)
2014-2018 Executive Committee

Minutes
July 17th, 2014 at 7:30 a.m.

The Boardroom in the Cape Town International Convention Centre, South Africa

Participants

2014-2018 Executive Committee Members

Darrell Abernethy, USA, Chair, Clinical Pharmacology Division
James Barrett, USA, Councilor
Patrick du Souich, Canada, Past President
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-General, Clinical Pharmacology Division
Francesca Levi-Schaffer, Israel, Councilor and Chair, Immunopharmacology Section
Eeva Moilanen, Finland, Councilor
Bhagirath Patel, India, Councilor
Michael Spedding, France, Secretary-General
Petra Thürmann, Germany, Treasurer
David Webb, United Kingdom, Vice Chair, Clinical Pharmacology Division
Yong-Xiang Zhang, China, Councilor and Chair, Pharmacology of Natural Products Section

Guests

Duan Chen, Norway, Chair, Gastrointestinal Section
Ann Daly, United Kingdom, Chair, Drug Metabolism and Drug Transport Section
Sarah Hilmer, Australia, Chair, Geriatric Clinical Pharmacology Subcommittee
Gregory Kearns, USA, Chair, Pediatric Clinical Pharmacology Section
David Lewis, United Kingdom, Chair, Integrative and Organ System Pharmacology Subcommittee
Nicole Moreau, France, Ordinary Member, International Council for Science Executive Board
Douglas Oliver, South Africa, President, 2014 World Congress of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology
Andrew Somogyi, Australia, Vice Chair, Pharmacogenetics/genomics Section
Shirra Moch, South Africa, Vice Chair, Education Section
Urs Rugg, Switzerland, Past Treasurer
Sandor Szabo, USA, Past Chair, Gastrointestinal Section

Unavailable

Maria Isabel Lucena, Spain, Treasurer, Clinical Pharmacology Division

Discussion Topics

17th World Congress of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (WCP2014)

President S.J. Enna (USA) greeted the meeting participants and introduced Dr. Douglas Oliver (South Africa), who updated the group on the progress of WCP2014. Although he expressed disappointment with the number of registrants from the Northern Hemisphere, Dr. Oliver believes that WCP2014 would break even financially, and possibly produce a small profit. Secretary-General Michael Spedding (France) encouraged the past IUPHAR congress organizers to create a document about basic strategies and recommendations

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based on their experiences in organizing this meeting as a guide for IUPHAR congress organizers. Dr. Enna reminded Dr. Douglas that he is required to submit within six months the final congress financial report.

Dr. Enna asked Past-President Patrick du Souich (Canada) to summarize the IUPHAR Young Investigator Competition, which he had chaired the previous day. Dr. du Souich felt the presentations were very good. He announced that, in fact, two Young Investigators tied for third place. After a brief discussion, the Executive Committee decided to award both third place winners the full prize amount of US\$500. The certificates and financial forms will be distributed by Dr. du Souich during the Closing Ceremony of the Congress.

Treasurer's report

Treasurer Petra Thürmann (Germany) led the group through a summary of the expenses for 2010 – 2013 and the projected income and expenses for 2014-2017. She noted that annual deficits will occur if no additional funding sources are identified. She stated that fundraising will be one of her major goals over the next four years.

According to the IUPHAR Statutes, any increase in membership dues must be voted upon by the Executive Committee. The members of the Executive Committee voted unanimously to authorize the IUPHAR officers to increase membership dues by up to 5% per annum through 2018.

Fundraising initiatives

Dr. Spedding noted that the composition of the Executive Committee covers the entire spectrum of the discipline. He encouraged the members to generate new ideas for ways to obtain funding for the NC-IUPHAR Database Team and the Administrative Office personnel. He described four grant applications submitted within the last five months to demonstrate his commitment to fundraising. He asked the Executive Committee members to bring to his attention opportunities for future applications and to bring more recognition to IUPHAR, which in turn will help improve chances for funding. Use of social media and increasing public awareness were cited as some possible ways to grow IUPHAR. Dr. Spedding recommended enlisting the help of young pharmacologists to exploit social media for advertising IUPHAR activities and initiatives.

Dr. Enna noted that donations to IUPHAR need not be large. He indicated that receiving small amounts from many sources will help build a support base that helps attract larger donations. He used the GuideToPharmacology (GtP) database as an example. In his view having only two IUPHAR member societies donate to the project isn't nearly as impressive to an international funding agency as having two dozen member societies donating to the project even though the total sum of the donations is the same.

One of the ways cited by Dr. Spedding to increase the visibility of IUPHAR is to call upon its experts to publish position papers under the auspices of IUPHAR to make recommendations based on available evidence in areas under social scrutiny, such as the environment, illicit drugs, or the failures of the pharmaceutical industry to develop therapeutics in key areas of human disease. Dr. Spedding commented that IUPHAR must change its paradigm to address issues of worldwide health. He pointed to the IUPHAR General Assembly presentation by Dr. Nicole Moreau of the International Science Council on Future Earth (www.ICSU.org/Future-Earth) as a potential high profile initiative to which IUPHAR could contribute by identifying and characterizing environmental toxicities.

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Dr. Francesca Levi-Schaffer (Israel) asked about offering the GtP to pharmacists and practitioners to raise visibility and perhaps make IUPHAR more competitive for new funding opportunities. She noted the Immunopharmacology Section has established subcommittees to curate antibodies and biologicals. The Immunopharmacology Section plans to collaborate with the GtP team to post and disseminate these data. Michael noted that grant applications could be submitted to the European Cooperation in Science and Technology initiative once deliverables are in place. Dr. Levi-Schaffer noted that Dr. Katarina Tiligada (Greece), the Immunopharmacology Section Treasurer, is particularly skilled at grant writing. Dr. Spedding informed her that the next deadline is April, 2015, at which time he plans to submit applications for two proposals and that he would welcome any assistance in preparing these documents. He thanked Dr. Levi-Schaffer for her efforts and those of her colleagues as he feels bringing curated antibody data into the GtP database is a high priority.

In closing, Dr. Spedding urged the formation of an Executive Committee subgroup to focus on long-term financial stability for IUPHAR.

Recommendations from 2010-2014 Executive Committee

Dr. Spedding summarized the recommendations of the 2010-2014 Executive Committee to the 2014-2018 Executive Committee. As the 2014-2018 endorsed these recommendations, the following individuals will be invited to serve as IUPHAR liaisons:

International Council for Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS):

JR Haywood (USA)

International Council for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (ICMAP)

Yongxiang Zhang (China)

International Council for Science (ICSU)

Urs Ruegg (Switzerland)

ICSU Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA)

Rick Neubig (USA)

ICSU CODATA Versailles Project on Advanced Materials and Standards (CODATA/VAMAS)

Darrell Abernethy (USA)

International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC)

Chris Southan (United Kingdom)

International Union of Physiological Sciences (IUPS)

John Miners (Australia)

International Union of Toxicology (IUTOX)

John Miners (Australia)

Pharmacology for Africa (PharfA)

Douglas Oliver (South Africa)

Dr. Spedding encouraged Executive Committee members to consider possible ways for communicating with the IUPHAR Sections on a regular basis. Dr. Levi-Schaffer suggested regularly scheduled teleconferences could be arranged by Ms. Lynn LeCount (USA) in the Administrative Office and/or that the IUPHAR Sections share a website or FaceBook page to keep each other informed of meetings or initiatives.

The Executive Committee agreed on the importance of supporting PharfA in an effort to maintain the momentum that has been building in the years leading up to the Cape Town World Congress of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology. Drs. Spedding, Enna and Graeme Henderson (United Kingdom) have volunteered to serve on a small committee dedicated to this endeavor. Dr. Darrell Abernethy (USA)

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recommended that Dr. Lars Gustafsson (Sweden), Chair of the Subcommittee for Clinical Pharmacology in Lesser Developed Countries, be considered for appointment to this group as well.

Dr. Levi-Schaffer recommended that a liaison be appointed to the International Union of Immunological Societies. Dr. Enna felt it would be best to first develop casual contacts with this organization. If this develops into a working relationship it could be formalized with appointment of a liaison. Other international organizations were recommended as deserving IUPHAR liaisons. However, given the time limitations, it was agreed that each of these organizations would be discussed during the next Executive Committee meeting and decisions made at that time about whether it is appropriate to name liaisons for any of these.

Create/reactivate Sections/Subcommittees

Dr. Spedding stated that he believes the recent, and ongoing, contraction in the pharmaceutical industry has made it unlikely that IUPHAR will, as in the past, receive major, unrestricted donations from pharmaceutical companies. Rather, support will come primarily to underwrite specific projects or initiatives that fit with a company's mission. IUPHAR can also offer industrial pharmacologists a forum for discussing with academic colleagues the challenges associated with bringing new compounds to market. Dr. Spedding described the structure of the NC-IUPHAR subcommittees where industry- and academia-based pharmacologists work together without conflicts. He suggested forming a Section for Industrial Pharmacologists and volunteered to write a proposal to the Executive Committee. Dr. Thürmann cautioned him about the need for transparency to avoid any perceptions of conflict of interest. She described the Phase I Club established by the German Society of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics, which attracts the participation of industrial pharmacologists without excluding government or academicians. While it has a separate governing committee, it still evaluates and supports meeting or symposia proposals received from the German society. She felt this division in the structure helps maintain independence for the German society. Dr. Abernethy suggested focusing the envisioned section on service instead of industry so it would be more inclusive yet still be in a position to approach pharma to fund specific projects.

Environmental pharmacology is another area Dr. Spedding feels could be developed into a Section to bring visibility and funding opportunities to IUPHAR. Key to its success will be identifying an enthusiastic chair, who has the ability to raise funds on behalf of the proposed section. Dr. Spedding has explored the idea with Dr. Moreau on behalf of ICSU and the International Union of Toxicology (IUTOX), and was encouraged by their responses. Dr. Levi-Schaffer asked whether data on dioxin has been incorporated into the GtP database. Dr. Spedding stated there are currently two grant proposals being prepared to request funds for supporting the effort needed to add these data.

NC-IUPHAR Structure

Dr. Spedding informed the Committee that he is preparing a document describing a proposed reorganization of NC-IUPHAR.

Next Executive Committee meeting

Xi'an, China in May, 2015

Dr. Enna explained that the meetings of the Executive Committee held this week were exceptionally short due to the limited time available during WCP2014. Therefore, most of the topics touched upon during this meeting will be

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discussed at length during the next Executive Committee meeting, which traditionally lasts a day and a half. He explained a strategy used in the past to reduce the cost of these meetings while increasing the opportunity to interact with member societies. As examples, Dr. Enna cited past Executive Committee meetings hosted in part by Egyptian, Japanese and American societies.

Dr. Yongxiang Zhang (China) presented an invitation from the Chinese Pharmacological Society (CNPHAR) to host the Executive Committee in Xi'an in conjunction with a day and a half scientific session. If members of the Executive Committee would be willing to be speakers, the officers of CNPHAR are confident they can draw participants from Chinese pharmaceutical companies and universities. The ground transportation and hotel accommodations of the Executive Committee members would be covered by the local organizers.

Dr. Enna explained May 23rd and 24th were the most desirable dates for the Executive Committee meeting if it is to be held in Xi'an because it allows Executive Committee members to participate, at their own expense, in a Hong Kong pharmacology conference being jointly organized by the Australasian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists and Toxicologists (ASCEPT) and the British Pharmacological Society (BPS) in association with the Asia Pacific Federation of Pharmacologists and the Hong Kong Pharmacology Society on May 19th – 21st (Tuesday – Thursday), 2015. It was decided that Ms. LeCount will circulate a calendar poll to the Executive Committee members to determine the feasibility of meeting in Xi'an on May 23rd – 24th, 2015.

Dr. Spedding volunteered to prepare a document outlining the aims of the 2015 Executive Committee meeting. For this purpose, he asked members to introduce themselves and to describe how they feel they can benefit IUPHAR over the next four years:

Dr. Abernethy indicated the Clinical Pharmacology Division is holding its General Assembly this afternoon. Once the Division officers are elected they will establish the priorities for 2014-2018.

Dr. Eeva Moilanen (Finland) would like to see more support for Sections and efforts made to enhance the mobility of young investigators.

Dr. Levi-Schaffer will work toward establishing a structure to facilitate higher levels of communication and collaboration among Sections.

Dr. David LeCouteur (Australia) echoed Dr. Abernethy's statement about awaiting the outcome of the Clinical Division elections before establishing objectives. Dr. Enna noted many developing countries would be grateful to receive advice from the Clinical Division with regard to regulatory issues and drug discovery and development.

Dr. David Webb (United Kingdom) would like to see stable funding for the GtP and recommends seeking new opportunities for revenue. He expressed his disappointment that there were no representatives from either the UK Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency or the USA Food and Drug Administration in any of the WCP2014 symposia. He encourages IUPHAR to build relationships with these types of government agencies to help facilitate safe and effective utilization of drugs.

Dr. Thürmann aims to stabilize the IUPHAR finances and exploit new technologies to reduce the expenses associated with meetings and

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collaborations. She also sees as a high priority the need to enhance communication between the Division, its Subcommittees and the Sections. Dr. Thürmann plans to establish a transparency policy so the reputation of IUPHAR can never be called into question, and she will work towards developing a better balance of gender diversity.

Dr. Zhang indicated a strong need for educational programs to help grow pharmacology as a discipline in developing countries.

Dr. Bhagirath Patel (India) cited young investigators as an undervalued resource. He recommended expanding their role(s) within IUPHAR by offering them more opportunities to participate in the activities of the Union. He hopes to bring more Indian colleagues into the IUPHAR activities, especially with regard to the GtP.

Dr. Henderson expressed his desire to see a better balance of resources between the GtP, the IUPHAR website and the Sections. One option he suggested for providing a long-term revenue stream to support the core services of IUPHAR would be establishing a journal. Lastly, Dr. Henderson felt smaller meetings should be arranged under the auspices of IUPHAR between the quadrennial congresses.

Dr. James Barrett (USA) explained that he has worked in both the pharmaceutical industry and academia. He feels enhancing collaboration between the two groups is a high priority, especially if it can be accomplished at an international level. Dr. Barrett is also exploring gaming-based technology that may be of value in training pharmacologists.

Dr. Masamitsu Iino (Japan) looks forward to working with the Executive Committee members to create a top quality program for the 18th World Congress of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology in 2018. He noted there is limited awareness among Japanese pharmacologists of the GtP even though there are two Japanese pharmacologists working on the database. The Japanese Pharmacological Society has generously paid for their travel to the NC-IUPHAR meetings. He encouraged Dr. Spedding to invite Dr. Adam Pawson (United Kingdom) to deliver a seminar on GtP during an upcoming national meeting in Japan. Once they understand the value of the GtP, Dr. Iino feels some Japanese pharmaceutical companies would be interested in donating to it, but he noted the importance of acknowledging their support. Dr. Iino would also like to become more involved in the Immunopharmacology Section.

Dr. Spedding welcomed representatives of the IUPHAR Sections. He asked everyone to introduce themselves and briefly describe the Section they represent:

Ann Daly (United Kingdom) is the newly elected Chair of the Drug Metabolism and Drug Transport (DMDT) Section. As the Section has limited financial resources, it will focus in the near-term on increasing income. Collen Masimirembwa, the DMDT Secretary, is keen to train young Africans and will solicit support for such an initiative. While traditionally the DMDT has helped support a meeting in the Balkans, the most recent conference has been delayed until more sponsors are identified. Dr. Daly noted her disappointment that a drug disposition satellite to the WCP2014 had to be canceled. She reported that the DMDT Section has also collaborated with

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the Pharmacogenetics / genomics (PGx) Section, most recently on the IUTOX-IUPHAR reciprocal symposia.

- Dr. Greg Kearns (USA) has just been named the Chair of the Pediatric Clinical Pharmacology Section. He announced Drs. Shin Ito (Japan), Facundo Garcia Bournissen (Argentina), and Madlen Gazarian (Australia) are his fellow Section officers. The Section was fortunate to have received through the efforts of Dr. Kalle Hoppu (Finland) funding from the Global Research in Pediatrics (GRIP) initiative. The Section members developed a road show designed to educate pediatricians and physicians about safe and effective drug utilization in children. The road show has been presented on three continents and will soon add a fourth as it's scheduled to travel to India later this year. The Section hopes to expand the offering to South America before the GRIP funds are exhausted in 2016. The next challenge will be to identify a long-term funding source, for which Dr. Kearns hopes IUPHAR can assist. Another area he will seek IUPHAR support is to travel to World Health Organization meetings relating to their "Make Medicines Child Size" initiative. The Section is already considering the logistics of organizing a WCP2018 satellite meeting in Japan.
- Dr. Shirra Moch (South Africa) is the Vice Chair of the Education Section. She announced that Drs. Simon Maxwell (United Kingdom), Robert Likc (Croatia), and Elizabeth Davis (Australia) have recently been elected as officers. She reported the Education Section has four primary goals. The first is to continue to build an international repository of education resources to share world-wide. Once launched, the Section will heavily advertise the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET)-sponsored Pharmacology Education website. A second goal is to establish routine Section meetings, for which Africa is targeted as the next location. Dr. Moch explained the intent of the regular meetings is to develop a stronger core, which will assist the Education Section in collaborating with other Sections and the Division. It was noted that the BPS has just appointed a new Senior Editor for the *British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology* while ASPET is currently recruiting a chair for their Education Division. Dr. Kearns commented that ASPET has a very active Education Section. Dr. Moch was encouraged to have the Education Section seek ways to share common resources with these other groups. A final goal of the Education Section is to develop a pharmacology education journal. Dr. Moch observed that while physiology has the quarterly *Advances in Physiology Education*, there doesn't appear to be an equivalent outlet for pharmacology. Ms. LeCount reported that Dr. Paul White (Australia) and Sandor Szabo (USA) are also exploring potential pharmacology education publications. Dr. Henderson stated that such a journal would not generate a profit but, if the Executive Committee feels it is of value, he would be willing to explore the possibility of creating such a publication. To be successful, he added, an education-based journal would need to be a partnership of many societies. Dr. Levi-Schaffer wondered if videos posted to You Tube might be less expensive to produce and easier to disseminate. A disadvantage of this as the sole approach is that the instructional contents would be limited to those topics that can be viewed by the general public.
- Dr. Levi-Schaffer introduced herself as the chair of the Immunopharmacology Section, which was formed in 2013. She asked the IUPHAR officers to arrange regularly scheduled teleconferences of the Section chairs.

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- Dr. Sarah Hilmer (Australia) has become the chair of the Geriatric Clinical Pharmacology Subcommittee. This group is focused on delivering instructional symposia at large meetings, including the upcoming ASCEPT / BPS meeting in Hong Kong. They are looking forward to WCP2018 because Japan has one of the highest proportions of elderly people in the world. Dr. Hilmer said the Geriatric Subcommittee will seek travel funds for presenting these symposia. Dr. Hilmer anticipates working closely with Dr. Maxwell in extending the Prescribe.ac.uk website.
- Dr. Andrew Somogyi (Australia) is the Vice Chair of the Pharmacogenetics / genomics (PGx) Section. Dr. Guilherme Suarez-Kurtz was elected as the chair. A primary goal for the PGx Section is to expand their membership geographically. They are open to collaboration opportunities and have targeted Africa, the Middle East and Southeast Asia for training workshops. Dr. Somogyi cited the need for a convenient mechanism for people interested in PGx to be able to communicate freely. Ms. LeCount suggested this might be possible through the IUPHAR website that is currently under construction. However, she noted there is currently no webmaster for the PGx Section. She will contact him after the meeting about naming someone to this post. Dr. Spedding invited the PGx Section to participate in an epigenetics initiative he is developing. He will send Dr. Somogyi more information by email.
- Dr. David Lewis (United Kingdom) introduced himself as the chair of the Integrative and Organ Systems Pharmacology (IOSP) Subcommittee of the Education Section. An IOSP satellite meeting to WCP2014 was organized in Durban, South Africa. Dr. Lewis reported there have been many volunteers for hosting IOSP programs, but that organization of these meetings remains challenging. Dr. Enna commented that CNPHAR is interested in hosting an IOSP training workshop. Dr. Lewis reported that they would like to reorganize the subcommittee with a new name and an updated mission to incorporate more clinical aspects. Last year Dr. Lewis launched a new database resource entitled Education and Training Resources in In Vivo Sciences (ETRIS). He would like to see this information utilized more in the IOSP curriculum.
- Dr. Enna alerted the representatives that limited IUPHAR funding is available to the Sections in support of their initiatives. Applications for these funds can be made by completing the application located on the IUPHAR website (<http://www.iuphar.org/sections.html>).

Dr. Spedding expressed his enthusiasm for working with everyone in the coming year and thanked them for their time in participating in these discussions.

The meeting closed at 10:30 a.m. South African Standard Time
Lynn LeCount, CMA
Administrative Officer