

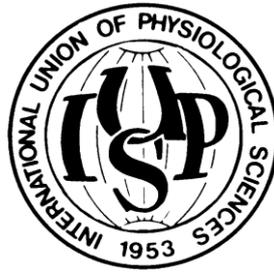
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PHYSIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

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T. YAO, People's Republic of China

IUPS Council Meeting 7-8 December 2007 Kyoto Hotel Okura, Japan

Present; A. Kaneko, I. Schulz, M. Gordon, O. Petersen, A. Campos de Carvalho, Y. Earm, C. Hidalgo, A. Macknight, Q. Pittman, D. Ricquier, M. Rupik, A. Sefton, T. Yao, S. Orsoni. P. Magistretti and D. Oyebola were unable to attend.

The meeting was called to order by the President at 8:40.

1. The President noted that P. Magistretti sent his apologies and that no news has been received from D. Oyebola for some time. The minutes of the April 2005 meeting of the new Council were approved

2. XXXVII International Congress, 2009

Y. Miyashita, President of the Local Organizing Committee, presented a progress report of the next congress. The Science Council of Japan has accepted to co-host the congress which means it will provide financial support and that there is a possibility that there will be a visit from the Imperial family.

More than 150 proposals for symposia were received by the Scientific Program Committee on its website.

The total budget is currently over 211 million yen (approx \$1,930,400 in Jan '08). In order to save money many evening sessions were cancelled due to the extra room charge at the congress center. Expenses have increased by 6% over the original budget and will probably continue to do so. For example, the ISPC has increased the number of symposia and thus the cost. The registration fee is 35,000 yen (approx \$300 at present), and it is important to maintain it as there currently is a deficit. It is important that the number of participants reaches 3500. The Physiological Society of Japan has also provided a sizeable donation which has increased from the original 32,000,000 yen to 48,000,000.

Young Investigators Travel Grant will be for a minimum of 150,000 yen (currently \$1370), but it will depend to a large extent on the distance to be traveled. It is hoped to be able to provide 80. The support from the IUPS is greatly appreciated.

The Satellite Symposia will be prior to or after the congress and within 1200 km of Kyoto. All organizers and speakers must be registered members of the congress. The call for proposals will be from February to August 2008. The third Announcement will be in April 2008 and registration will open in October 2008 along with the submission of abstracts.

T. Macknight pointed out that for Christchurch part of the loss was due to having too many symposia with each of the speakers having to be paid, and that it is very important that Americans attend. However, this could prove difficult, as could attracting people from outside the physiology community. The editorial in *Physiology* by A. Kaneko and O. Petersen hopefully will help. Q. Pittman also pointed out that those bidding

to host the congress in 2017 should be present. T. Yao remarked on how difficult it is for people from certain countries to obtain a visa. The Education workshop needs to be widely publicized.

From a financial point of view A. Kaneko noted that the organizer of each Symposium will receive a set amount (about 300,000 yen) and could then decide how to use it. All speakers (except the Invited Lecturers) will have to pay the registration fee. This policy will be announced to all the organizers when they are invited.

Dr. Miyashita was thanked for all the efforts of the Local Organizing Committee.

3. Long Range Planning Committee: Denis Noble joined the meeting at 9:30 and was introduced by A. Kaneko who thanked him and his committee, A. Cowley, C. Hidalgo and Y. Okada, for the hard work in preparing the report.

D. Noble began his presentation by explaining the general background. The committee was appointed in May 2005 by the Council, the questionnaire was sent in November 2005 to all member societies and current and past members of council. The replies came in over the next six months, and the committee met in Oxford in December 2006. The preliminary report was presented to the ExCo at its meeting in January 2007 and the final report distributed to Council in October 2007.

He emphasized that the majority of those doing “cutting edge” science and who would provide the “core” of the congress speakers come from about 10% of the world’s population. But IUPS has the responsibility to provide for the other 90% as well, which is one important reason why we continue to need the IUPS.

O. Petersen made the point, which had been made forcefully in the December 2007 *Physiology* editorial by The President and himself, that in spite of the general perception that physiology was a bit of a Cinderella in the Life Sciences, the physiological journals were, in fact, doing very well now with their impact factors having recently increased dramatically. This was an interesting perspective that perhaps should be taken into account in the final version of the report. He also stressed that the international congresses are undoubtedly extremely important.

D. Noble asked if the council felt the report needed to be fine tuned and then widely circulated. This in turn led to a lengthy discussion about the position on System Biology making it too narrow and that it should be broadened in education and other fields. In the 1960’s veterinary medicine and agro were large components of physiology, but since the 80’s they have disappeared. Biodiversity and environmental topics have not been sufficiently addressed.

How should the term “system biology” be defined since it covers many topics: integrative neuroscience, molecular biology, neuroscience in general, etc? One needs to find a way to work with other fields as an overarching discipline. Most funding is currently going to “systems biology” but this is now mostly at the cellular level rather than that of integrated systems, and in the current perspective of funding bodies, systems biology often does not seem to contain much physiology. A. Campos De Carvalho noted that “translational science” has become a popular term and could perhaps also be more strongly addressed. But in some parts of the world it refers to clinical medicine. T. Yao noted that in China systems biology has been slow to take hold, though it becomes more popular and now only in Shanghai there are two institutes of systems biology by name but without substantial participation of physiologists; the *Acta Physiologica Sinica* invited A. Cowley to write an article to help promote a better understanding of systems biology in China. In the US, Europe and Japan the fashion of the current version of systems biology (at the cellular level) is increasing so rapidly that there is a danger that it could become dominant.

The definition of physiology contained in the long range report needs to be announced to the world in general, and the IUPS website is a good place to do so. The proposed definition in the report is very good since it emphasizes that we must work at all levels of physiology and that each is equally important.

However, it should not be limited to human health. Thus the definition as found in the report was revised to read as follows and it will be posted on the IUPS website:

“Physiology is the study of the functions and integrative processes of life at all levels of structural complexity between and including the molecular level through to that of the whole organism. It includes all organisms, and frames function in evolutionary, environmental, ecological and behavioral contexts. It embraces a cross-disciplinary approach to modern science, through which physiologists aim to achieve translation of this knowledge into the health of humans, animals and ecosystems.”

Often problems come from within societies whose members feel that the field is in crisis and need to be convinced that physiology as a discipline will survive. Those who provide the funding need to be convinced as well. But the pendulum has probably swung too far and now will start to return.

M. Gordon mentioned that other Unions have been trying to act as clearing houses for a 10 year agenda with a consultative group trying to predefine the coming fields of interest. O. Petersen noted that education should be better emphasized in the report. In the UK the Physiological Society is conducting a campaign to reinstate the central importance of physiology in the medical curriculum. As President of The Physiological Society (UK) he has written to all the deans of UK medical schools emphasizing this point. The feed-back from the Deans has been surprisingly positive, but it remains to be seen what action will be taken.

There was considerable discussion about why maintaining IUPS' membership in ICSU is necessary. T. Macknight stated that the NZ society adheres through their National Academy. If the IUPS were to resign from ICSU there could easily be fall-out onto the society. A. Sefton confirmed the same is true in Australia. The principle of “Universality of science” has also been one very important reason to maintain the membership. However, the cost of that “insurance” has become very expensive especially since the dues are now charged in Euros and not dollars.

D. Ricquier, the IUPS liaison with ICSU, reported on a meeting he attended in Rome in April dealing with strategy. Their mission seems to be very wide and ambitious and appears to want to address the question of impartiality and promote the involvement of scientists, but it is also very political. The Geo Unions were widely represented but the Bio Unions were not.

The list of recommendations were reviewed and revised and D. Noble will now fine tune the report to reflect the comments made and resubmit the report to council as a definitive version. It has also been suggested to prepare a one to two page appendix dealing with the “Principle of system biology relevant to physiology”. A. Sefton will provide him with a statement concerning education to be added.

The Council accepted the report in principle and will vote electronically once the revisions have been done.

Summary of Recommendations

Future of Physiology

It is recommended that:

- 1. Future Congresses promote the essential role that the physiological sciences must play in systems biology and other interdisciplinary areas.*
- 2. The editors of physiological journals might consider highlighting physiological approaches to systems biology and bioengineering.*
- 3. Physiological societies work with grant agencies and funding institutions to improve the representation on their committees of this discipline*
- 4. IUPS and its member societies promote or encourage problem-based joint meetings and joint researches between physiologists and physicists, mathematicians, engineers, or computer scientists. Similar productive interactions with other disciplines, such as structural biology, biophysics, ecology and clinical medicine, among others are required.*
- 5. Education play an important role in achieving all of these aims and in enthusing the young with the substantial challenges of our discipline.*

Image and Communication

It is **recommended** that:

6. IUPS broadcast the above definition of physiology and the indispensable role of physiology in the modern biology.
7. IUPS add a suitable motto or rider to the IUPS logo.
8. A Communication Committee will be formed chaired by a member of Council. One of the functions of this committee would be the IUPS website.
9. The Communication Committee consider the future of the IUPS Newsletter.

Role of Officers

It is **recommended** that:

10. The President of IUPS should not carry a particular portfolio. The President should be free to represent the Union generally, and to act in particular areas when necessary
11. One of the Vice Presidents should be responsible for Internal Affairs.
12. One of the Vice Presidents should be responsible for External Affairs.
13. The Treasurer should play a strategic role in relation to finance and so should chair the Finance Committee.
14. The Secretary General is responsible for overseeing the running of the Union including the Secretariat.
15. The Secretariat of IUPS should be responsible for routine management of finance as well as the general affairs of the Union.
16. The role of the Executive Secretary is to service the Union's affairs in general and so be responsible to all the Officers

Finance

It is **recommended** that:

16. IUPS should form a Finance Committee chaired by the Treasurer, who would be relieved of day-to-day management of IUPS finance. Consideration should be given to transferring the administrative responsibilities of day to day finance to the Executive Secretary.
17. IUPS should not undertake setting up a separate central office for fund raising. Instead, among other solutions: engage fund-raisers, seek assistance from the industry, or form a "Star Committee" with people of influence.

IUPS Organization: Administration

It is **proposed** that:

18. In the first instance, the successor to the current Executive Secretary should be chosen after the choice of a new Secretary General who will appoint a secretary working in close association with him or her.
19. Consideration be given to renaming the Physiome Committee to become the "Physiome and Systems Biology Committee".

Ethics Committee

20. We **recommend** that Council should reemphasize the importance of Ethics in the field of physiology and need to be led by someone active in this field.

International Meetings

We **recommend** that

21. The International Congresses be continued after 2013 and the call for invitations for 2017 should be issued.
22. IUPS have a greater presence at the Regional Congresses (FAOPS, FEPS, ALACF, AAPS).
23. The IUPS consider how to implement joint activities with the regional societies.
24. More should be done via organizations like ICSU, UNESCO and TWAS.
25. The IUPS maintain its membership in ICSU

The meeting was adjourned 17:15 on 7 December.

The meeting reconvened at 9:00 on 8 December.

4. Reports of the Officers

- *Report of the President*, A. Kaneko reported that since the last council meeting everything has progressed smoothly. With O. Petersen he has written four editorials for *Physiology* reporting on the activities of the IUPS. In early 2007 J. Hall submitted his resignation as Treasurer and M. Gordon was invited to assume this responsibility. The vacancy that thus occurred in Council was then filled by M. Rupnik who was asked to be responsible for the website and a newsletter to appear therein. Both nominations were approved by Council.
- *Report of the Secretary General*: O. Petersen further remarked that most of his activities were reported in the noted editorials. In addition, a great deal of his time was devoted to being co-chair of the ISPC.
- *Report of the Treasurer*, M. Gordon reported that the transition from J. Hall's office occurred on 1 June 2007. The official audit for 2005/2006 was shown to council. Merrill Lynch continues to manage the accounts with responsibility transferred from Mississippi to their office in Beverley Hills. The liquid assets are in a money market fund with mutual funds used for investment of the remainder including the blocked funds. The IUPS continues to be solvent although far from wealthy with a current balance of about \$400,000. The principal source of income is dues from the 52 adhering bodies, but several members are in arrears some for a long time, others for 2006 and 2007 which may be merely an administrative problem. Regrettably the US, by far the largest contributor, has paid only 50% of the assessed amount in both 2006 and 2007, and may continue to occur. It was agreed by everyone that the entire system needs to be revisited particularly with regards to the number of units assigned to each society. This is meant to reflect the number of members, but the last time this was calculated was a quarter of a century ago.

The system is currently only in US\$ but due to currency exchanges this has become very expensive. A proposal was made that a Euro account also be opened with Merrill Lynch. How and when the exchange rate would be set needs to be studied. The Council approved the suggestions.

M. Gordon to study with Merrill Lynch how best to proceed with opening and managing an account in Euros.

The contract with the Japan Physiology Society states that the IUPS will receive a minimum of \$100,000 from the congress and more if it makes a sizeable profit. A minimum of \$50,000 is to be provided by the IUPS to the 2009 congress organizing committee to fund travel grants and up to a maximum of \$100,000 if possible.

Thanks were extended to M. Gordon for assuming this responsibility as Treasurer.

5. Regular Business of the Council (*written reports were received from those not on council*)

- *Commissions and Committees*

Ethics Committee – P. Moody-Corbett has submitted a written report dealing mostly with the committee's contribution to the ISPC.

Education Committee – A. Sefton reported that over the years their workshops have become an important part of the IUPS congresses, and one will be held in 2009 although the location has yet to be defined.

Action: M. Rupkin noted that he will work on how best to make use of the IUPS website for educational purposes.

Physiome Committee – P. Hunter submitted a written report outlining the ongoing activities of this committee

Membership – A. Macknight said that not much has occurred with regards to interest of new societies wishing to become members. The one area that might be pursued is the UAE.

Action: T. Macknight to contact the UAE about possible membership.

Nominating Committee: A. Kaneko noted that the ExCo suggests that A. Kaneko, I. Schulz and O. Petersen, none of whom can stand again for election, be named to the committee and that S. Chien, A. Cowley and C. Pholpramool, each of whom has served on council, be invited as well. The Council approved the suggestion, and voted to name O. Petersen as chair. The member societies will be asked for suggestions of possible candidates, with the Committee to meet in September 2008, and the suggested slate to be sent to the societies in March 2009 in case they wish to make any further specific nominations. The final slate needs to be ready by May 2009.

Action: O. Petersen has extended an invitation to S. Chien, A. Cowley and C. Pholpramool, all of whom have accepted. S. Orsoni is to contact the Member societies in January 2008 for possible suggestions and to organize the meeting to coincide with the ExCo meeting in Paris in September.

Financial Assistance

It was decided to continue to make annual contributions of \$2000 to any of the commissions or committees which submit a detailed proposal and that is approved by the ExCo.

- Regional Activity

FAOPS – A. Kaneko reported that the 2006 congress was held in Seoul with about 800 persons attending. In addition, they had a successful teaching workshop. The new elected president is Y. Okada of Japan.

CAPS will be holding a meeting in October 2008 in Beijing in conjunction with The Phys Soc (UK), the Australian, Canadian and American societies and with the IUPS also sponsoring it. They expect about 400 people to attend which might impact attendance at 2009. T. Yao will represent the IUPS at their organizational meeting.

It was suggested that IUPS sponsor a lecture during the CAPS meeting, perhaps a T.P.Feng Lecture partially supported by that fund. The amount has not yet been fixed, and the suggestions must be approved by Jane Feng.

Action: [M. Gordon to contact Jane Feng about possible participation in the CAPS meeting.](#)

Action: the Japanese organizing committee will be contacted about being present to advertise 2009.

FEPS – O. Petersen reported that 500 participants attended the 2007 congress in Bratislava where he gave the IUPS lecture (which was supported by the IUPS). Ulrich Pohl from Germany is their new President. The next congress was meant to take place in Slovenia / Australia in 2008 but complications arose so it was cancelled. Thus the next one could be in “late” 2009 which unfortunately goes against the IUPS 6 month rule.

ALACF - C. Hidalgo noted that this regional society has resumed activity. The 2006 meeting took place in Buenos Aires and IUPS sponsored the opening lecture. The next one will be in Chile in 2010. The new president is from Chile.

AAPS seems to continue to be active with the 5th International Congress scheduled to take place in Nairobi at the end of July 2008. Further information can be found on the congress website <http://www.natural-events.com/mara/news/news>. As part of the “African Initiative”, T. Macknight and A. Sefton are working on having a 2 day “train the trainers” workshop at the time of the meeting in Kenya. In 2005 the Council had approved \$5000 in seed money which has not yet been used. The Education Committee of The Phys Soc (UK) has also offered to assist, and members from South Africa also will be present. It might be possible to reorganize the AAPS membership to become similar to the former ALACF membership so that individuals from countries having very small societies or none at all could become members of IUPS and by extension be eligible to serve on council).

Action: T. Macknight and A. Sefton will finalize the details with the congress organizers.

7. XXXIX International Congress, 2017. The call will be sent to the member societies along with the document defining the Expectations of Host Countries with the deadline January 2009. The ExCo will review and select the best three candidates. To date it is expected that at least three invitations will be received.

Action: S. Orsoni to send an electronic mailing to the Adhering Bodies and Supporting Societies in January 2008.

8. Relations with international organizations

ICSU. There was a continuation of the discussion begun in LRPC as to whether or not to remain a member.

The cost is felt to be high for what is received. D. Ricquier suggested that the other biounions should be contacted in order to try to form a coalition. And given the remarks about membership in NZ and Australia, it is not clear that we have the option of resigning if it would lead to loss of funds from National Academies. The suggestion was made that some be nominated for the forthcoming election of members to the ICSU board.

TWAS: It was noted that the Third World Academy of Sciences might easily be interested in assisting with the African Initiative.

A. Campos de Carvalho has offered to contact the current TWAS president to establish a relationship

ICLAS: A. Kaneko had been the liaison but it was suggested that the ethics committee might be a better link.

Action: P. Moody-Corbett is to be contacted about someone on her committee becoming the liaison.

IBRO: Q. Pittman submitted a written report about the symposium which IUPS sponsored at the 2007 congress. They need to be contacted about organizing and supporting an IBRO symposium at the 2009 congress. As another symposium is needed in the field of neurology, this might be a good solution.

Action: Q. Pittman to contact IBRO about organizing a symposium in 2009

IUPhar should also be contacted about supporting a symposium.

CIOMS: P. Moody-Corbett had hoped to have someone from the committee attend their meeting and sought approval to provide the necessary financial support, but unfortunately time was not on their side.

Action: In the future, such requests should be treated more positively and quickly.

9. Publications

IUPS website - M. Rupnik reported that he has assumed the management of the website and transferred it from the US to the server in Slovenia. The design has now been modernized and upgraded. He suggested that each society be sent a questionnaire asking for information and links that could be established with them. We might also want to start a section on career opportunity and job markets. Having corporate sponsors might be a means to increase our revenues. A. Kaneko thanked M. Rupnik for his efforts to increase the visibility of the IUPS and welcomed him to the Council.

Action: M. Rupnik is to pursue the possibility of corporate sponsors of the website.

Physiology – Since the inception of NIPS (News in Physiological Sciences) now called *Physiology*, the IUPS has provided \$15,000 annually to cover part of the operating costs, but the question was raised as to whether this should be continued. From the beginning there has been a “Joint Managing Board” with two members from IUPS (currently A. Kaneko, E. Szczepanska-Sadowska and M. Gordon (ex officio as IUPS Treasurer) and in theory two from APS although only currently it is only K. Barrett.. However, there has been no activity in several years.

S. Orsoni to send the copy of the original agreement and any other files to M. Gordon who in turn will discuss it in detail with M. Frank

Free Subscriptions Program – The list of those to continue to receive a free subscription in 2008 has once again been reduced. Due to lack of replies to the confirmation letter sent to all recipients in mid 2007 it now has only about 50 names on it, but O. Petersen was very much against canceling this program. How to continue was not clear, but eligibility certainly will need to be better defined. One suggestion was to post the journal on the IUPS website with codes to be given to member societies, but the APS may not approve of this. M. Rupnik suggested that such a program could perhaps be broadened to include other journals.

S. Orsoni to contact Margaret Reich about how best to proceed. She will also provide her with a list of council's addresses to be sure they all receive complementary copies of *Physiology*.

10. Any other business

There was further discussion about the proposals of the LRPC, and the major suggested change was that the role and responsibility of the two vice presidents might be better as one for External Affairs (interaction with other organizations) and the other for Internal Affairs (interactions with the member societies).

The Iranian Society had contacted A. Kaneko asking for support for a training course. Q. Pittman suggested using the IV commission money to support this.

Action: Q. Pittman acting as chair of Commission IV has written to the individual but to date has not had a reply

T. Macknight noted that it could be worthwhile to try to develop a database list of retirees on the web who might be available in various areas of the world for short term jobs. This was agreed and will be pursued.

Action: S. Orsoni to prepare an open letter from the President and Secretary General to be posted on our website inviting those who are interested to submit a résumé to the Secretariat.

The Council meeting was adjourned at 13:15.

Following lunch the members of Council were taken by Ms. Etsuko Ohno, our contact at Japan Convention Services, on a successful visit to the International Congress Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Orsoni
Executive Secretary