

# INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PHYSIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

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## IUPS Executive Committee Teleconference Meeting

*June 15, 2010*

Present: D. Noble, W. Boron, M. Gordon, M. Rupnik, L. Price.

The meeting was called to order by the President at 10:30 a.m. EDT.

### **1. Website and Communication – M. Rupnik**

Hits on the site have been comparable to the Physiological Society website. Hits below the congress level are not active. The videos increase the time the visitor is on. Interaction should come through the projects that IUPS does. M. Rupnik wants to improve the presence of the education program and expand the number of projects. There could be an interactive dialogue on the website for people to respond to. D. Noble suggested that ExCo members could respond to questions on the website. If the “contact us” option would generate a form welcoming the visitor, there could be the names and emails of ExCo members and commission chairs to address specific questions. L. Price could triage general questions on the website to the appropriate officer. M. Gordon thinks there should be open questions on the site for people to dialogue about. In the future, it could become more database driven, but right now the database is not large. The commission chairs could be informed that they can enter input about their commission. M. Rupnik thinks that we could hand the website over to a professional website developer now. L. Price will look for companies and prices and get information from Nick Borross-Toby.

Action: L. Price will contact Nick Borross-Toby for website development companies & costs. M. Rupnik will make appropriate changes to the website under “Contact us.”
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### **2. Balkan countries – M. Rupnik**

M. Rupnik can talk to the heads of the societies of the Balkan countries and ask them what they would like to do about combining. Greece and Turkey have some working connections with FEPS. It would be helpful to organize a meeting of the Balkan countries under the positive auspices of IUPS and perhaps recover some profit from the meeting. IUPS could give official recognition and allow use of the logo and make sure an officer would attend the meeting. IUPS could give up to \$2000 for junior physiologists to attend a regional meeting. There probably would

be resources for physiologists in these countries from their governments. The membership committee should follow up on this. M. Rupnik could be involved in the next Skype membership committee meeting. He will contact local societies and see how they feel and let them know that IUPS can talk about the best financial arrangements for that country. D. Noble may be able to attend meeting in October.

Action: D. Noble needs to add M. Rupnik to membership committee meetings. Membership Committee followup on helping to organize regional meeting.

### 3. Names for star fundraising committee

Possible funding sources were identified. Spinoff companies may be approached and ask about being on committee. W. Boron would contact Tony McKnight to ask if he would take on an expanded role.

Corporate sponsors could include companies who make equipment for physiology. Joe Romano was mentioned. W. Boron would call Sable Systems as John Lighton, president, may be interested. Lalago Systems in Denmark could be also be approached by W. Boron. When officers go to meetings, they can talk to companies who have displays to see if they're interested in being on the star committee.

Publishing houses would be another area to look into, such as Elsevier. W. Boron has an Elsevier contact, Bill Schmidt, who could talk to the president. D. Noble also has a connection with Bart Wacek at Elsevier. Both can talk to their contacts.

The Company of Biologists could be approached by Hans Hoppeler for funds to sponsor young physiologists to attend the IUPS congress. Tobias Wang is connected to SEB. M. Gordon will contact Tobias and Hans to see how these two groups can be approached. D. Noble will talk to David Eisner about connecting physiology with mainstream biology and ask if it would be all right for IUPS to look for funds from groups and/or companies. D. Noble will also contact the British embassy in North Korea to help locate physiologists so IUPS can let them know there is money from Hundai for them to fly to the congress. There may be other companies who have interest in funding young physiologists in underdeveloped countries.

Action: W. Boron will talk to Tony McKnight about being on fundraising committee. He will also contact John Lighton at Sable Systems and Lalago Systems about contributing funds for travel expenses for young physiologists. He will talk to Bill Schmidt about Elsevier contributions.

Action: D. Noble will talk to Bart Wacek about Elsevier. He will also contact David Eisner and ask about IUPS looking for funds. He will also contact the British Embassy in N. Korea to help locate physiologists in that country.

Action: M. Gordon will contact Tobias Wang re SEB and Hans Hoppeler re Company of Biologists for possible funds.

#### **4. Finish assigning ExCo members to commission chairs to help with getting members**

L. Price was asked to prepare a letter to go under D. Noble's signature to commission chairs, asking them to fill their commission by the end of September 2010. ISPC will need their suggestions for symposia and invited lecturers. If they wish help, they can contact any officer.

Action: L. Price will draft letter to commission chairs and submit to D. Noble, W. Boron and M. Gordon for revision.

#### **5. Bullet points from W. Boron on handling contracts in the future**

D. Noble can talk to Brazilians when he goes in August. The contract should be negotiated with Brazil and signed ahead of the confirmatory vote. Any country who wants to submit requests for Congresses needs to know ahead of time what the funding requirements will be and would sign a memorandum of understanding regarding a contract as a condition of presenting at the General Assembly. As written on the website, the income requirements from the Congress are not clear.

W. Boron proposed that there be a flat tax of \$50,000 from the host to partially pay for the travel fund for the next congress. IUPS will raise additional funds to pay for travel grants. A fraction of the registration fee would go to endowment fund to help stabilize IUPS as an organization. M. Gordon will think about this suggestion.

#### **6. Oral report of first meeting of sub-group of Membership Committee**

D. Noble will write a letter to the British embassy in Tehran to make sure Saeed can get a visa for future meetings. The letter will be forwarded to L. Price to send to ExCo members for input. The committee will work first with countries in the Middle East. They need a recruiting document that clearly defines the benefits of being a member of IUPS. It was suggested that material could be used from the National Academy document from one and half years ago. That information could be used to start drafting a recruiting document.

D. Noble needs to write a letter to AAPS formally recognizing them as they have met the criteria that IUPS gave them. They have six members with two (Nigeria and South Africa) not interested in being members. IUPS will not talk to societies about paying dues to AAPS, but will act as a broker to help them form their organizations. The Membership Committee will continue to meet through Skype every two weeks.

Action: L. Price needs to find National Academy document (late 2008 or early 2009). W. Boron will edit and present at July teleconference, then it will be given to Membership Committee.

Action: D. Noble will write letter to AAPS and to British Embassy in Tehran

## **7. Status of replies to membership outreach document**

We need to send a reminder to everyone who has not replied with a response deadline of October 1. Include in the reminder that IUPS is very pleased with the fact that we have some reactions and that we had preliminary discussion of this at last meeting.

APS and Phys Soc have responded. On June 30 D. Noble will meet with two APS representatives and will say something like to some extent IUPS cannot do much for them, but they are only two of the members and we need their help to work with the rest of the world. IUPS can work in countries who will not work with Americans or British.

Action: W. Boron and M. Gordon need to read APS letter which D. Noble will email.
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## **8. Women in Physiology**

Will be addressed at next meeting.

## **9. Dutch membership letter**

The Membership Committee will discuss this. The issue seems to be financial.

10. L. Price will give oral status report on dues situation for July teleconference.
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