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IUPS Board of the General Assembly Teleconference Meeting

1 August 2018

Minutes

Present: J. Sengupta, S. Barman, N. Belova, C. Brown, L. Csernoch, S. Elias, F. Formenti, S. Webster

With Regrets: L. Burakova, L. Delbridge, A. Dorta-Contreras, MF Essop, CH Leem, L. Peltonen, Y. Wang, S. Wray

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 July 2018

The minutes were confirmed.

2. Update on the proposed Mentor-Mentee Workshop for the advancement of research in physiology sciences for faculty/scientists of South Asia, supported by BGA-IUPS

J. Sengupta reported that she held a skype conversation with J. Chan, U. Pohl, and S. Wray, members of the IUPS Executive Committee recently. U. Pohl had suggested that future Mentor-Mentee Workshops may be held as part of a proposed new initiative of the IUPS, and in conjunction with large international congresses to bring in more international mentors. J Sengupta mentioned that discussions would be held with J. Chan and the members of the IUPS ExCo and the BGA to organize M & M Workshop towards the end of 2019. J. Sengupta suggested that the 2020 SAAP Congress to be held in India may be one such venue but subject to confirmation from the Organizers. S. Webster asked if there was time to include a M & M Workshop in the PanAm II Congress in 2019. S. Barman stated there was insufficient time to organize such a meeting in Cuba in May 2019.

F. Formenti raised the issue of financial support for Mentees participating in such Workshops, J. Sengupta commented that Funding Agencies in several of the developing nations do provide travel grants for such academic exercises.

J Sengupta also elaborated upon her discussions with J. Chan, U. Pohl and S. Wray that as discussed in earlier BGA meetings the format of the M & M Workshop is being considered as "Hands On" activity in three tiers: (i) Acceptance of Mentee based on his/her application that would include a brief research proposal with Aims/Objectives, Methodology, Work Plan, References, and names of referees; (ii) Mentor-Mentee interaction and dialogue as inputs to the research proposal at the Workshop site; (iii)

IUPS Physiology & Biophysics School of Medicine Case Western Reserve University
10900 Euclid Avenue Cleveland, OH 44106-4970 USA
Tel: 216.368.5520 Fax: 216.368.5586 iups@case.edu

Final research proposal framing through email interactions. U. Pohl further suggested that after Workshop, if required, mentees may visit advanced labs to acquire research training to conduct the research study. J. Sengupta also commented that for such activities financial support can also be made available from National Funding Agencies

L. Csernoch confirmed the 3-tier plan for the M & M Workshop and strongly supported these ideas to further suggest M & M Workshop may be organized at the Europhysiology Congress to be held in Germany in 2020. C. Brown commented that one advantage of holding the M & M Workshop together with International Congress was that of resource sharing. The concept of M & M Workshop as a part of IUPS-BGA activities was widely appreciated by the members of the BGA and they hoped that it will facilitate exchange of knowledge and promote advancement in physiological sciences globally and in the developing countries.

3. Preparatory activity for the BGA-2021 Report on the global status of physiological sciences.

J. Sengupta reported that she and S. Barman has drafted a letter to society contacts, informing them of BGA's progress with the IUPS-2017 Report, published in *Physiology*, 2018 (Sengupta, Barman) and a List of the Members of the BGA with their society affiliations and email contacts (as suggested by U. Pohl) requesting for their attention and feedback on execution of the Report-based recommendations. She will distribute these documents to the BGA members first for their approval, and then S. Webster will email them by end of the week to all IUPS associated Physiological Societies.

4. Updates for EuroPhysiology Congress, London, 14-16, September 2018

S. Wray provided an update on the IUPS Open House via email. She stated that a room for the Open House will be assigned sometime in mid-August. In addition, she is working with a graphic designer on a flyer for the Open House, which S. Webster will distribute when completed.

5. Nominations for election of BGA membership from South American physiological societies.

S. Barman reported that the BGA was targeting South America for nominees, to replace S. Ferreira. She stated that they had received three nominees so far from Brazil, Chile, and Argentina. S. Webster will send out the letter soliciting further nominees by the end of the week.

6. Any other matter

J. Sengupta reported that Physoc had released their annual Impact Report, and thought it would be useful for BGA to read. S. Webster will distribute it to BGA members.

C. Brown stated that the BGA needed to determine what information should be included in the 2021 report. He strongly emphasized the need to frame a 'Content List' for the 2021 IUPS Report that would reflect upon the status of physiological sciences in the global scenario, updating the 2017 report, measuring the progress made against its recommendations, expanding to report on the specific activities conducted by the IUPS, BGA and its member societies, and also to document significant progress made by physiological sciences during 2017-2021 aside from societal reportages. J. Sengupta agreed that this was the mission of the two sub committees of the BGA and of its members and requested S. Webster to assist in organizing skype meetings of each of the sub-committees for further discussions.