

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PHYSIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

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IUPS Board of the General Assembly Teleconference Meeting

Minutes

October 10, 2018

Present: J. Segupta, S. Barman, N. Belova, L. Buravkova, L. Csernoch, F. Formenti, L. Peltonan,
M. J. Rocha, S. Webster

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting held on September 5, 2018.

The minutes were confirmed.

2. Welcome BGA member, Maria José Alves da Rocha.

J. Sengupta welcomed M.J. Rocha to the BGA. M. J. Rocha thanked the BGA for the opportunity.

3. Comments on Sub-Committee 1 Report

J. Sengupta asked each member who submitted comments on the Subcommittee report to the BGA to review them to engage discussion. L. Csernoch stated that the IUPS needed to become more active with national policy leaders. He stated that "physiology" as a term was becoming too vague, and part of the 2021 report should be dedicated to refining the definition. S. Barman suggested adding a question on the definition of physiology to the annual survey. L. Csernoch also stated that the IUPS should focus on outreach activities, such as the education and Mentor-Mentee workshops.

N. Belova stressed the need for the IUPS to maintain strong networks of physiologists. She specifically cited the Education committee and the workshops they run as a strong network.

4. Europhysiology 2018

L. Csernoch stated that the IUPS meetings at Europhysiology was a great success. He said the Open House was well attended, and lots of good questions were asked. He stated that similar meetings should be held at future physiological conferences as well.

S. Webster thanked F. Formenti for his assistance with running the teleconference software during the joint ExCo/Council/BGA meeting.

5. Any other matter

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A. Dorta provided an update on the PanAm 2019 meeting. The deadline for abstracts has been pushed back to November 15th. The deadline for APS travel grants is October 31. American attendees are instructed to utilize Invictagroup to assist with visa issues. There will be a satellite symposium on Space Physiology held after the congress in Varadero Beach.

MF Essop reported that the AAPS education workshop was strongly on track. They had received a IOP grant from the APS, and are thus able to cover their costs.

J. Sengupta stated the IUPS Mentor-Mentee Workshop was proceeding as planned. She reported that she, S. Barman, L. Peltonen, J. Chan (President), and R. Carrol (Council, Education Committee) were participating, with support from ADInstruments. The Mentor-Mentee Workshops will take place the first three weekends in November.

History of Physiology Initiative by S. Barman

As requested by Jay, I have prepared a brief summary of the plans for the BGA to help prepare a report on the history of physiology with a global perspective to share with all BGA members:

At a meeting of Subcommittee members in September raised the possibility of including information on the “historical perspectives of how physiological sciences evolved over the ages” in the BGA report that will be prepared for IUPS 2021. This topic was further discussed at our BGA October 10 monthly meeting. Whereas there is considerable interest in obtaining this information, it was agreed that this should be completed as a separate initiative of the BGA in conjunction with an appropriate group of individuals rather than as a part of the requirement that the BGA “develop and present to each full meeting of the GA [General Assembly] a written assessment of the current status of the field of physiology worldwide, emphasizing major challenges, opportunities, and problems.”

Frederico had suggested that we get guidance from regional or national archives or other resources with knowledge/expertise about the history of physiology across the globe. He also mentioned that The Physiological Society received funding to prepare a report that will cover information about The UK and likely elsewhere. The intent of the report directed by the BGA would be a more global view.

We will need to get volunteers from the BGA who would be willing to help with this initiative and we need to identify appropriate people/groups that can help with this important report.

Further Notes from J. Sengupta

Networks and working groups should be created, domestically and internationally, by IUPS and member societies to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practice in teaching and research.

The creation of Networks and Working Groups at national and international levels may be facilitated through active participation and networking under the guidance of the Chairpersons of the eight (8) IUPS Commissions and the three (3) Committees and their individual Working Groups. If at any stage the IUPS Council Members deem fit to involve one or more members of the BGA, we shall be happy to provide necessary assistance. Rapid advances in physiology, molecular biology, evolutionary and environmental physiology, veterinary physiology form the wide umbrella of physiological sciences of the IUPS. The creation of global networks of physiological sciences shall aid the IUPS mission to foster the study of physiology and by working with physiological societies and other organizations worldwide facilitate initiatives that strengthen the discipline of physiology.

IUPS must oversee a new Global Mentorship Building Platform to facilitate Mentor/Mentee relationships among physiologists at various career stages, and in academic and clinical settings, to promote dialogue and aid career development.

The creation of Global Mentorship Building Platform is the first step in creating effective Mentor-Mentee Programs to facilitate research in physiological sciences. Indeed Mentoring is a voluntary service, a professional responsibility of all scientists with an ultimate goal of establishing the mentee as an independent, successful researcher. Good mentors discover their own objectives, methods, and style by mentoring students from diverse backgrounds. The IUPS Mentor-Mentee Program may be designed to train a selected group of young research faculty members the art and science of designing research proposals in specific domains of physiological sciences. There has been prior discussions between the BGA and the IUPS Executive Committee to develop such a Mentor-Mentee Workshop in South East Asia for the promotion research in physiological sciences. The goal of the BGA lies in actualizing the recommendation of the IUPS-TPS 2017 Report in one or more regions of the globe under the BGA-IUPS umbrella.

I shall be happy to have your feedback. I shall then pass it on to the BGA members and to Steven for inclusion in the Minutes.