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IUPS Board of the General Assembly Teleconference Meeting

January 16, 2019

Minutes

Present: J. Sengupta, S. Barman, N. Belova, L. Burakova, L. Csernoch, S. Elias, M.F. Essop, F. Formenti, C.H. Leem, L. Peltonen, M.J. Rocha, S. Webster
With Regrets: C. Brown, L. Delbridge, A. Dorta-Contreras, Y. Wang, S. Wray

1. Confirmation of December 5 Minutes.

The minutes were approved, and S. Webster was instructed to post them online.

2. Plans for execution of BGA decision: *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. (BGA Minutes October 10, 2018).*

F. Formenti asked if IUPS should provide some guidance in the 'best practice for teaching' area by generating a brief document highlighting the main requirements (the few that may be shared between/common to countries, institutions and faculties) for physiology teaching globally. The BGA discussed the importance of qualifications for teaching physiology. J. Sengupta suggested that the IUPS could create a "guiding principles" document to outline the necessary qualifications. She proposed starting with the APS's guidelines, and incorporating the guidelines of others as it sees fit. S. Webster suggested incorporating the guidelines into the BGA-2021 report.

L. Csernoch stated that many countries did not have a specific physiology degree program. He suggested setting up a directory of instructors that meet IUPS's criteria for quality instruction. Individual societies can then make their own directories of physiological instructors. L. Burakova stated that in Russia the requirements to teach physiology differed from institution to institution, even within the same city. L. Csernoch stated that a registry would help simplify the process.

J. Sengupta discussed the need of creating collaborative research networks in the global scenario. One network may involve BRICS that involves setting up research collaborations between scientists from Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, this network may be initiated with the support of L. Filaretova, Chair of IUPS Commission III. Additionally, she will communicate with the IUPS Ex Co to

request Council members initiate research collaborations between countries to facilitate exchange of knowledge and best practice in teaching and research as recommended in the IUPS-2017 Global Report.

S. Barman also noted that many countries and even sections within countries establish minimum requirements for teaching physiology to undergraduate, graduate, and professional schools. It is unlikely that the BGA/IUPS could make recommendations that would be used globally. What might be possible is for the IUPS website to include links to helpful resources (e.g., learning objectives, competencies, etc) that have been developed by physiological organizations or workgroups worldwide in an effort to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practices in teaching and research in physiology.

3. Involvement the IUPS-BGA in developing awareness for best use of animals for research in physiological sciences in the global scenario in light of EARA.

J. Sengupta solicited the BGA's opinion in the matter of use of laboratory animals in training and research in physiological sciences. She suggested writing to the IUPS Ethics Committee for their opinion, and that they may possibly chair a meeting on the matter. C. H. Leem asked why the matter was coming up now, as most countries had their own policies on animal use for research and training. J. Sengupta drew the attention of members to EARA and the support extended by the Finnish Government to scientists in the proper and ethical use of laboratory bred-animals for training and research and wondered whether similar support be extended by physiological societies and government agencies as well since research in physiological sciences is geared to the Health for All agenda of the WHO. J. Sengupta invited members to send in their opinions to discuss over email.

4. Uploading of the Minutes of BGA meetings held in August, September, October and December, 2018 in the IUPS website.

S. Webster reported that all 2018 BGA minutes were posted to the IUPS website.

5. Uploading two Reports of initiatives undertaken by members of the BGA and the IUPS: (i) ICMR-IUPS Report on Physiological Education Techniques 2018: IUPS Initiative (November, 2018), and (ii) AAPS - Physiology Education in Africa and other Resource Challenged Regions: Reflections on Current Practices and Charting the Way Forward December 2-4, 2018) in the IUPS website for wider dissemination:

S. Webster was instructed to post the ICMR-IUPS Report to the IUPS website. S. Elias stated that the AAPS report was not yet completed, but will forward it to S. Webster when it is.

6. Contact Lists of Physiological Societies - share with all members of the BGA.

S. Webster reported that the updated list will be sent out to the BGA by the end of the month.

7. Any other matter.

L. Csernoch reported that Subcommittee 2's questions to societies about the questionnaire for the 2021 report had not yet been answered.

S. Webster forwarded A. Contreras-Dorta's report on the progress of the PanAm 2019 Congress. He reported that the deadline for abstracts passed on December 31, 2018, and the symposia have been picked. He asked for help from the BGA contacting the Chinese society in soliciting Chinese physiologists and astronauts for the satellite symposium on space physiology.

M. F. Essop reported on the AAPS Workshop in Rwanda. He reported that a total of 77 delegates from 16 countries participated in the Workshop. The AAPS hopes to start a physiological society for the Eastern Africa region.