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IUPS Board of the General Assembly Teleconference Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2019

Present: J. Sengupta, S. Barman, N. Belova, L. Buravkova, S. Elias, L. Peltonen, M. J. Rocha, S. Webster

1. Confirmation of the January 16 Minutes

The minutes were confirmed. S. Webster posted them on the IUPS website.

2. Follow-up of the BGA discussions on:

- a. Involvement of the IUPS-BGA in developing awareness for best use of animals for research in physiological sciences in the global scenario;

J. Sengupta reported that in response to a request placed by her and J. Chan, President, IUPS to the Chair, IUPS Ethics Committee in organization of a debate to revisit the issue of use of animals in teaching within the framework of the "3Rs", the IUPS Ethics Committee considered the Committee "is more or less a platform for discussing and disseminating information about the philosophical-ethical combine of the old, new and emerging biology amongst the physiological community worldwide...the Committee does not have a bearing on the laws or rules-to-be-followed in conducting biomedical research in laboratories of any one country." In this context, J Sengupta placed a proposal for generating an Opinion Poll based on a non-biased questionnaire to be sent to faculty members of university and medical schools worldwide to solicit their opinion. S. Elias requested that the questionnaire also include the options available for alternative resources for teaching in cases where the use of animals is barred. L. Buravkova provided the perspective that in Russia in situations where students are not, or do not wish to be, exposed to the use of animals in physiological experimentation as a part of the teaching course, they have the option to join researchers in labs for gaining such exposure in surgical manipulation and animal handling for the understanding of physiological concepts. M. José Alves da Rocha commented that in some countries it is prohibited by the law to use animals for the purpose of teaching biological sciences. It was discussed that the opinion poll would help gather all such information in country-specific manner.

- b. Involvement of the IUPS in creating collaborative research networks in the global scenario.

J. Sengupta stated that she was working with L. Filaretova, Chair of IUPS Commission III, to set up an in-person meeting to discuss the BRICS collaborative research network in St. Petersburg, Russia. L. Filaretova is still working on dates for the meeting, as well as funding. In response to a query placed by S. Elias she strongly recommended members of the BGA to initiate research collaborative networks for promoting research in physiological sciences.

3. Resource links from physiological societies and/or government agencies for teaching of physiology at undergraduate and post graduate levels: (i) basic science; (ii) medical; (iii) nursing and para-medical; (iv) Competency Based Medical Education (CBME). Is there a need to develop this as a part of the IUPS-2021 Report?

S. Barman stated that the idea is to create a “white paper” detailing the IUPS’s proposed physiology education guidelines. S. Elias opined that the physiological education was not necessarily similar between countries. J. Sengupta and S. Barman suggested a sub-group to discuss and work on this matter. S. Elias volunteered to serve on it. J. Sengupta asked BGA members to contribute their thoughts via email.

4. IUPS Report-2021: Before February 28, 2019 the Modified Questionnaire circulated to all members for their individual inputs and the final collation of the Questionnaire tabled by March 30, 2019.

J. Sengupta and S. Barman proposed a deadline of Feb 28 for revisions to the 2021 questionnaire, and March 30 for the Questionnaire to be ready in its final form. S. Barman stated that the deadline for responses to the questionnaire should be no longer than three months. She stated that any longer, and it would be put on the backburner, and forgotten. She stated that once the questionnaire has been distributed, contact people would be advised to complete it themselves, or delegate it to a member of their council.

5. Report on Brainstorming Meeting (January 20, 2019) as a follow up of the ICMR-IUPS Report on Physiological Education Techniques 2018: IUPS Initiative (November, 2018) – Request for involvement of the BGA and the IUPS.

J. Sengupta summarized the report she submitted to BGA.

6. Any other matter

a. Report from AAPS Education Workshop

S. Elias gave a summary of the report on the AAPS Education Workshop she submitted to BGA. She reported that representatives from 16 different countries participated in the workshop, including countries without physiological societies or other IUPS representation. M. F. Essop will send the full report and photographs for inclusion in the 2021 Report and website.

b. PanAm Travel Award

S. Webster reported that IUPS was offering \$500 travel awards for physiologists in Latin American countries to attend the PanAm Congress in Cuba.