

# INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PHYSIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

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## IUPS Board of the General Assembly Teleconference Meeting October 2, 2019

### Minutes

*Present:* J. Sengupta, S. Barman, C. Brown, L. Csernoch, S. Elias, M. F. Essop, C.H. Leem, L. Peltonen, M.J. Rocha, S. Wray, S. Webster

*With regrets:* N. Belova, L. Buravkova, L. Delbridge, A. Contreras, F. Formenti, Y. Wang

### 1. Confirmation of the Minutes of meeting held on September 4

J. Sengupta had one addition to the minutes, but they were otherwise approved.

### 2. Update on the Responses received till date for the IUPS Questionnaire

S. Webster reported that seven completed questionnaires have been received. S. Webster as well as J. Sengupta and S. Barman have sent reminder emails to those societies that had not yet done so. J. Sengupta announced that the deadline had been extended to December 15th, 2019.

### 3. Follow up executed at personal levels by the BGA members

J. Sengupta thanked BGA members for reaching out to their respective societies from whom responses have been received. She requested S. Wray to kindly encourage through her contacts the completion of the questionnaires from physiological societies that are associated with the FEPS.

### 4. IUPS-BRICS Symposium on Stress and Integrative Physiology Symposium

M. F. Essop submitted the following report:

The IUPS-BRICS symposium was held on Monday 23 September 2019 at the Pavlov Institute of Physiology of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Saint Petersburg, Russia. Representing the BRICS countries were:

- Brazil – Dr. V. Antunes, IUPS Regional Representative-North/South America, Institute of Biomedical Sciences - ICBI University of São Paulo – USP, Avenida Professor Lineu Prestes, São Paulo, Brazil
- Russia – Dr. L. Filaretova, Director, I.P. Pavlov Institute of Physiology, Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS), Saint Petersburg, RAS, Russia and Council Member, Commission III - Endocrine, Reproduction & Development of the IUPS, ~~and several of her colleagues~~

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India – Drs. D. Ghosh, Head, Molecular Physiology Laboratory, Department of Physiology, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, India and Dr. J. Sengupta, Chairperson of the Board of the General Assembly (BGA) of the IUPS and Former Professor and Head, Department of Physiology, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, India.

- China – Dr. J. Chan, President of the International Union of Physiological Sciences (IUPS), Kaohsiung Chang Gung Memorial Hospital Kaohsiung, Taiwan and Dr. S. Chan, Director, Institute for Translational Research in Biomedicine, Kaohsiung Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Kaohsiung, Taiwan.
- South Africa – Dr. M. F. Essop, Member of the BGA-IUPS, Department of Physiological Sciences, Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch, South Africa.

In addition, Dr G. Baffy, VA Boston Healthcare System and Brigham Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston, USA, and Dr D. Zelena, Institute of Experimental Medicine, Budapest, Hungary and Ms. Elizaveta Savochkina, Professor Elena Rybnikova, Professor Yuri Shelepin, and Professor Yuri Gerasimenko from the Pavlov Institute of Physiology, RAS, St. Petersburg, Russia delivered lectures. This was an excellent session with the theme of "stress physiology". During the evening the BRICS delegation visited the Ivan Pavlov Apartment Museum for a tour and this was followed with intense discussions to derive a common research theme. The nature of the various projects was diverse and it was decided to arrange for additional discussions.

The Integrative Physiology Symposium was held at the same venue and from 24-26 Sept 2019, although the international contingent only attended the first day's session. The symposium was very interesting and honored the first Russian Nobel laureate, Ivan Pavlov as it was his 170th birthday anniversary. There was synchronous translations from English to Russian and vice versa. It was highly enlightening and inspirational to learn about the research work and life experiences of Ivan Petrovich Pavlov (1849-1936) and of Ivan Mikhaylovich Sechenov (1829-1905) Russian physiologist whom Ivan Pavlov referred to as the "Father of Russian physiology and scientific psychology". During the evening there was an excellent welcoming reception with snacks and entertainment.

On the 25th September the international delegates visited the Koltushi village – which forms part of the Pavlov Institute – to tour the Pavlov Memorial Museum and also view the original labs where he conducted his experiments on dogs. This was followed by some lovely tea and snacks and more discussions regarding a common theme for the BRICS proposals. A common theme was identified as Stress and Women's Health and will be used as the basis for future BRICS grant applications.

For the 26th September there were additional activities that included a visit to pay homage to Pavlov at his grave site on the occasion of his 170th birth anniversary. Overall, the visit was a huge success and allowed for the strengthening of bonds that shall lay an excellent platform for future scientific collaborations and interactions. Dr. L. Filaretova and her team must be acknowledged for arranging an excellent program and as hosts left a lasting impression with their hospitality, generosity and always willing to go the extra mile.

J. Sengupta stated that the full report of the twin symposia once finalized would be submitted to the IUPS Executive Committee and to the BGA by the month end for further action.

#### **4. Any other matter**

M. J. Rocha reported that SBFis in Brazil had a successful and interesting congress.

J. Sengupta asked about the status of the report on the PanAm II Congress. S. Webster stated that the Cuban society was in the midst of a potential merger with Sociedad Cubana de Ciencias Morfológicas. J.

Sengupta requested S. Barman to write an interim report on the PanAm II meeting. S. Barman stated she would compare notes with G. Sieck to draft a report.

L. Csernoch asked about the format for the request for one page summary of their research for inclusion in the 2021 BGA Report. J. Sengupta stated that the idea was to provide an insight into the research conducted by members of the IUPS towards creating a symphony of research ideas on basic, applied and translational research that shall inspire young physiologists across the globe.

The next meeting of the BGA will take place on November 13. The meeting time will be Noon UTC, to accommodate daylight savings time.