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IUPS Board of the General Assembly Teleconference Meeting

May 6, 2020

Minutes

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

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of meeting held on March 4, 2020

The minutes were approved as written. S. Webster was instructed to post them to the IUPS website.

J. Sengupta welcomed U. Pohl, Secretary General of the IUPS to this tele meeting of the BGA.

2. IUPS 2021 Congress

S. Wray presented a letter by J. Chan outlining ExCo and CAPS's proposal to postpone the 2021 IUPS Congress to August 2022. BGA agreed in principal, but had questions related to the scheduling of the GA meeting and the release of the latest BGA report. L. Csernoch and J Sengupta both stated that, based on their earlier experience of the 2017 Nominations Committee Meeting, this job was important, requiring in-depth discussions that were held over two days and thus to be conducted in person and not virtually. S. Barman proposed that the GA officially vote to hold the GA meeting at the proposed 2022 Congress and extend Council's term to that date. BGA agreed.

S. Barman made a formal motion for the BGA to vote on concurring with ExCo's request to postpone IUPS-2021, seconded by S. Elias. The BGA voted "yes" unanimously to the proposal. S. Webster will write up minutes quickly to fill in the absent members of BGA. S. Webster requested that J. Sengupta and S. Barman draft a statement to Council, to make the BGA's support official. The statement (as attached) has been issued to J. Chan, President IUPS, in this regard.

3. Discussion on New IUPS Website

U. Pohl provided an update on the new IUPS website. He reported that the new website is being completely redone at the back end. There will be a public facing side, similar content wise to the current website, but with more compatibility with mobile browsers. A new feature will be a private login for

members of Council and BGA to facilitate communication. He anticipated the new website being ready to launch in eight weeks.

J. Sengupta asked about the proposed Mentoring Section of the new website. U. Pohl stated that getting a mentoring program up and running was one of the tasks ExCo had aimed to accomplish in its term. He stated that having a mentoring page on the website was a first step towards that.

J. Sengupta recalled that members of the BGA had worked closely to frame a plan for the conduct of Mentor – Mentee Workshop in 2018. As documented in the attached Minutes of the BGA (March 7, 2018 and August 1, 2018) discussions were held in the BGA and with members of the IUPS ExCo regarding organizing a Mentor-Mentee Workshop in South East Asia. This program was then kept in abeyance based on the recommendation by U. Pohl 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”*. S. Barman co-chaired with G. Sieck, a Mentor-Mentee Workshop in the PAN AM II Congress held in Cuba in 2019 and had presented her talk on *“Networking: Promoting Collaboration Across Borders.”*

J. Sengupta requested BGA members to send any questions/queries related to the new IUPS website that shall be forwarded by Steven to U. Pohl.

4. Discussion on BGA-IUPS 2021 Report content completed till date

S. Barman reported on the completed draft of the 2021 BGA report. She said there was still much work to be done, including copyediting and formatting. She asked the BGA to look over the draft and provide feedback. She asked if the Congress was pushed back to 2022, if the information in the report would be timely. J. Sengupta suggested that an addendum related to COVID-19 could be added.

5. Update on Commentary/Article received till date for the BGA-IUPS Report

J. Sengupta stated that so far, she has received ten commentary articles from members of the BGA for the BGA-IUPS Report, two articles from the IUPS ExCo, and two articles from the IUPS Council.

6. ITAP 2020 Workshop - ICMR-IUPS Initiative is indefinitely postponed

J. Sengupta, reported D. Ghosh, Organizing Secretary of Integrated Translational and Applied Physiology (ITAP) 2020 Workshop and ICMR-IUPS initiative has informed that “In view of all out serious unpredictability prevalent everywhere in the backdrop of COVID pandemic, the Organizing Committee of ITAP 2020 Workshop (scheduled to be held during 16-18 October 2020) has decided to postpone the event indefinitely. The Organizing Committee shall look into the matter once the pressing issues are settled and deem it worth reconsidering.”

7. Publication of Meeting Report for Physiology Education Workshops held in India in 2018, 2019

J. Sengupta reported the manuscript "Physiology Without Borders: Report on Physiology Education Workshops in India - IUPS Initiatives (2018-2019)," (ADV-00050-2020R2), has been accepted for publication in *Advances in Physiology Education*. The contributing authors are D. Chandran, S. Prakash Muthukrishnan, S. Barman, L. Peltonen, S. Ghosh, R Sharma, M. Bhattacharjee, B. Bhandari, R. Carrol, J. Sengupta, and D. Ghosh.

8. Publication of IUPS 2021 Report

J. Sengupta reported that J. Chan had been in discussions with The Physiological Society with regards to TPS collaboration in publishing the 2021 BGA Report. TPS has declined to collaborate, citing staff

involvement with COVID19 activities and that it is not convinced that a follow-up to the earlier report is needed.

9. Any other item

S. Webster reminded the BGA that nominations were still open for the next Council term. He stated that self-nomination was allowed, and that anyone could nominate or be nominated. The due date for nominations is June 15th.