

# INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PHYSIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

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## IUPS Executive Committee and Council Teleconference Meeting February 14, 2017

### Minutes

*Present:* D. Noble, J. Chan, P. Hansen, W. Boron, P. Wagner, B. Machado, P. Moody-Corbett, J. Rettig, S. Semnanian, S. Webster

*With regrets:* T. Brzozowski, P. Hunter, C. McMillen, K. Mikoshiba, T. Wang, X. Wang

### 1. Approval of January 3 meeting minutes

P. Wagner suggested an edit to the minutes to clarify the issue with supporting travel for J. Sengupta. The minutes were otherwise approved.

### 2. Call for Proposals to Host IUPS-2025

S. Webster reported he had so far received two official Letters of Intent from member societies, and several convention organizing companies. P. Wagner asked how these for-profit companies received the Call for Proposals. S. Webster answered that convention and tourism organizations routinely troll for information on the internet for upcoming meetings. W. Boron offered that IUBMB partnered with a company to hold its Congress, splitting the proceeds with it. B. Machado stated that SBFis put out a call for bids to convention organizing companies to work on IUPS-2017.

W. Boron stated that he had spoken with the President of the Federation of European Physiological Societies (FEPS), M. Hecker, about partnering with its member societies for IUPS-2025. S. Webster stated that all of the emails he had received so far were from FEPS members. W. Boron said he would speak with M. Hecker about coordinating between its members.

S. Webster asked about sharing information from past congresses with potential hosts. B. Machado gave permission for S. Webster to share the most recent SBFis quarterly report and budget with bidders once it is released in a few weeks. S. Webster reported that some societies had asked for brief extensions on the deadline to submit their letters of intent. ExCo agreed to extend the deadline to March 1. The deadline for Phase 2 will remain April 15.

### 3. Travel Awards

S. Webster reported that so far, 47 travel awards had been applied for. He stated the applications came from a variety of countries, the majority from Nigeria. He stated the applications were roughly 60% male, 40% female. S. Semnanian asked how many travel awards were being given out. S. Webster stated there

was roughly \$33,000 available for travel awards, so the number of awards depends on the amounts given. He stated that awards of £1000 and £750 were given for IUPS-2013. There is also a \$15 surcharge on IUPS-2017 senior registrations to fund SBFis travel awards for young investigators. B. Machado reported that SBFis expects 1000 senior registrations. He stated that 500 total registrations had been received so far. He also stated that the top five travel award winners would give oral presentations of their abstracts at IUPS-2017.

P. Wagner asked who will comprise the selection committee for the Travel Awards. After discussion, it was decided that the Commission and Committee chairs will be asked to evaluate the individual abstracts using a scoresheet provided by S. Webster, then completed scoresheets will go to ExCo, which would make the final decision on award recipients. S. Webster will coordinate with other societies providing travel awards (SBFis, APS, etc.) to avoid any double awards.

#### **4. Fenn Lecture**

W. Boron provided an update on the IUPS Fenn Lecture. An effort to recruit Y. Ohsumi, the 2016 Nobel Prize winner, was unsuccessful. Working through informal channels, W. Boron was able to induce Nobel laureate R. Kornberg agree to give the Fenn Lecture. A. Yonath will open the congress with her lecture, and R. Kornberg will close it.

D. Noble reported that he had begun reaching out to other societies to help fund the Fenn Lecture. He stated that he was offering potential sponsors to rename the lecture the Fenn-NAME Lecture. He has written a brief bio/introduction of Wallace Fenn for use in soliciting sponsors. He already approached TPS but they declined the offer. J. Rettig offered that the German society might be interested in sponsoring the lecture. J. Chan asked how much money was IUPS looking to raise for the Fenn Lecture. D. Noble said the goal was five to six thousand dollars. W. Boron suggested that several organizations could sponsor the lecture and be given “supported by” credits in the program. D. Noble will send out letters soliciting donations to the Fenn Lecture to several organizations.

#### **5. GA and Council Meeting at IUPS-2017**

W. Boron stated that by tradition, Council meets the two days prior to congresses, and the GA meets the morning the congress opens. This would mean that council would meet July 30 and 31. GA would meet August 1. B. Machado said that SBFis’s contract with RioCentro started on July 31, and thus no room was available on the 30th. He stated that a conference room at the Hotel Grand Mercure Rio de Janeiro would be available, but at some cost. W. Boron asked if SBFis could ask if they could use the conference room without cost, as they would be booking hundreds of hotel rooms during the Congress. B. Machado said SBFis would try. He asked S. Webster to send him a list of Council members and the dates they will need hotel rooms.

J. Chan stated they would also need a room for the newly elected Council to meet after their election. B. Machado stated that SBFis had full use of Rio Centro for the duration of the congress, so finding a conference room would not be hard. W. Boron asked if IUPS would fund the travel of the new Council members to attend the Congress. P. Wagner pointed out that they had not been elected yet, and therefore not technically Council. ExCo agreed that the nominees for Council would be invited to be observers at the Council meeting, but they would pay their own way.

#### **6. BGA Update**

S. Webster provided an update on the activities of the BGA. He stated they were hard at work on the constitutionally mandated Report on Physiology. The BGA had sent out a survey to all member bodies to report on the status of physiology in their countries. Additionally, the IUPS Commission and

Committee chairs were asked to provide brief essays on their respective specialties. The report will be presented to the GA at the meeting in Rio.

## **7. Banking issues**

S. Webster gave an overview of the issues IUPS was having with its bank, UBS. He stated that the union's account had been transferred to a call center because it was too small. This office did not allow for overseas wire transfers, a major necessity in the day to day business of the union. It also had a great deal of difficulty in receiving money from outside sources. S. Webster had been in the process of finding a new bank for IUPS, with no success. In the meantime, S. Webster had been using Western Union to send money overseas. P. Hansen stated that the situation was unacceptable and every effort to reimburse AAPS for their education meeting must be taken.

W. Boron remembered that at one point, the APS offered to take over the union's banking and secretariat. He stated that taking over the secretariat was out of the question, but the bank issue may be worth discussing with them. P. Hansen stated that APS has previously handled the funds for the IUPS Education Committee with no issues. W. Boron and P. Wagner will discuss the matter with M. Frank.

## **8. Any other business**

S. Webster has created an IUPS Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/InternationalUnionOfPhysiologicalSciences/> He asked those with Facebook accounts to share the page among their social networks.

### **Action Items**

1. S. Webster to make changes to Jan 3 minutes, and redistribute to ExCo.
2. W. Boron to contact M. Hecker to discuss FEPS coordination of European IUPS-2025 bids.
3. S. Webster to distribute Fenn biography to ExCo and Council for review
4. D. Noble to send letters soliciting funds for the Fenn Lecture
5. B. Machado to inquire about conference room at Hotel Grand Mercure Rio de Janeiro for Council meeting.
6. S. Webster to get attendance dates from Council, and forward them to SBFis.
7. S. Webster to send AAPS reimbursement ASAP.
8. W. Boron and P. Wagner to contact M. Frank to discuss handing over IUPS banking to APS.