

IUPHAR Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

March 14th and 15th, 2009

Cairo, Egypt

Participants

Committee Members

Donald Birkett, Australia, Vice Chair of Clinical Pharmacology Division
Kim Brøsen, Denmark, Councilor
Patrick du Souich, Canada, Chair of Clinical Pharmacology Division
Sue Piper Duckles, USA, President
S. J. Enna, USA, Secretary-General
Sérgio Ferreira, Brazil, Councilor
Mohamed Khayyal, Egypt, Councilor
Gabrielle Hawksworth, UK, Councilor
Salomon Langer, Israel, First Vice-President
Zhi-Bin Lin, China, Councilor
María Isabel Lucena, Spain, Treasurer of Clinical Pharmacology Division
Masayoshi Mishina, Japan, Second Vice-President
Urs Rugg, Switzerland, Treasurer
Petra Thürmann, Germany, Secretary General of Clinical Pharmacology Division
Paul Vanhoutte, Hong Kong, Past President
Lynn LeCount, USA, Administrative Support

Guests

Christiaan Brink, South Africa, Secretary of 2014 World Congress of
Pharmacology Organizers
David Bylund, USA, Chair of IUPHAR Integrative and Organ System
Pharmacology Initiative
Anastasia Guantai, Kenya, President of Kenyan Society of Pharmacology
Lilly Mokoena, South Africa, Ph.D. Student at North-West University
Douglas Oliver, South Africa, President of 2014 World Congress of
Pharmacology Organizers

The meeting opened at 09:00 on Saturday, March 14, 2009

Discussion topics

Officer Reports

President report

Dr. Duckles welcomed members of the Executive Committee to Egypt and the meeting. She expressed satisfaction with the accomplishments of the organization and thanked all for their efforts. Given the upcoming World Congress in Copenhagen, and impending change in leadership, Dr. Duckles felt it was a good time to reflect on the last few years. She noted that IUPHAR has matured in its ability to communicate with its members and committees via the website and e-mail. The many projects underway exemplify how it is possible for IUPHAR to move forward and have a positive impact on development of the discipline. She emphasized that each initiative must become self-sustaining to ultimately succeed. The strength of IUPHAR lies in its ability to leverage seed money and the passion of a few individuals to devote the time and energy necessary for progress. She described how corporate and member donors have specifically directed their donations to launch new, and to sustain long-standing, initiatives.

The Executive Committee gave its unanimous approval of minutes covering the July 26th and 27th, 2008 meeting in Québec City.

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Secretary-General reports

Dr. Enna opened his report by thanking Dr. Khayyal on behalf of the Executive Committee for all of his efforts in making the Cairo meeting such a success.

Ms. LeCount displayed a slide showing member societies for which contact information is lacking. She asked the Executive Committee members to communicate with her by e-mail should they know of someone who could help her identify the officers of these organization.

Statistics and recent activity associated with the IUPHAR career center, PharmacoCareers (www.PharmacoCareers.org) were presented. Ms. LeCount received the unanimous approval of the Executive Committee to offer employers a 50% discount on the purchase of a 3-pack of job postings as part of the 50th anniversary of IUPHAR celebration over the next year. Information on sponsoring an electronic career fair in conjunction with WorldPharma 2010 will be forwarded to the meeting organizers for their consideration.

As requested during the 2008 Executive Committee meeting, Ms. LeCount reported on her efforts to identify a group e-mail service (e.g., ListServ, Google Groups, etc.) that could be employed to facilitate communication among society members belonging to IUPHAR member organizations that do not have a central office. Also, such a service could be a way for communicating and tracking Executive Committee activities and tasks. As a result of her studies she recommended Moodle for this purpose. A free distance-education software, Moodle can accommodate e-mails for multiple groups, as well as electronic classes and wiki-style (from the Hawaiian term "wiki wiki" which means "very fast") group document development tools. She noted, however, the Moodle software language was not supported by the Kansas University network servers at the Secretary General's office, and stated that the cost to hire a compatible server is estimated at US\$150 per year. **MOTION:** Allocate up to US\$200 to implement Moodle for group e-mails and Executive Committee communication and tasks. Approved unanimously.

Ms. LeCount summarized a website redesign proposal for www.IUPHAR.org. She informed the group that to minimize costs it is best to finalize the components before consulting a web developer because once a firm is hired all changes to the design incur additional fees. Ms. LeCount invited the Executive Committee members to e-mail or call her with their suggested enhancements. She will then obtain bids from professional web development firms for consideration.

The draft table of contents for the 50th Anniversary edition of *Pharmacology International* was presented. Dr. Enna commented that the officers were pleased with the number of authors who agreed to contribute and topics being covered. Dr. Duckles recommended including an abbreviated version of the anniversary edition of *Pharmacology International* in the WorldPharma 2010 delegate handbags. Dr. Brøsen indicated this would be possible if the material file was transmitted to Copenhagen in time for printing and insertion into the bags.

Treasurer report

Dr. Ruegg presented the results of the 2007 external audit. He also reported that the internal auditors, Drs. Kay Brune and Douglas Oliver,

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had reviewed and endorsed the materials. The 2007 financial reports will now be archived.

Dr. Ruegg summarized the 2008 income and expenditures (all amounts are in US dollars):

<u>Income</u>	2007	2008
NC- IUPHAR corporate donations	195,250	30,000
NC-IUPHAR member donations	40,623	112,971
NC-IUPHAR Subtotal	235,873	142,971
IOSP member donations		1,500
CPT2008 African Symposium corporate donations		8,705
Membership dues	79,964	74,879
Interest and Dividends	5,225	6,905
PharmacoCareers		1,647
Misc. Income	2,508	0
Total Income	\$323,570	\$236,607

In terms of the dollar amount, corporate donations during 2008 were only 15% of those received in 2007. Dr. Ruegg acknowledged the generosity of Servier, GSK, Abbott, Roche, Wyeth, and Novartis, especially considering the turbulent economic times and the pressures on the pharmaceutical industry. Member contributions increased substantially thanks in particular to donations from the British Pharmacological Society, the Australasian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists and Toxicologists, and the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics. The British Pharmacological Society donated US\$28,733 on December 31st, 2008 to fulfill their £20,000 pledge for the first half of 2009. Dr. Birkett asked whether the officers or Executive Committee are supposed to know how much money is being held by each of the IUPHAR sections. While Dr. Enna noted there is no requirement for such reporting, this information will be requested as part of the 2009 Executive Committee reports.

<u>Expenses</u>	2007	2008
Data Base expenses	\$148,022	\$ 0
NC-IUPHAR meetings	47,899	62,648
NC-IUPHAR Subtotal	195,921	62,648
Division of Clinical Pharmacology	10,000	0
Loan to CPT 2008	4,893	9,958
CPT2008 African Symposium corporate donations to NRC	0	8,690
Executive Committee meetings	33,875	31,429
Assistant to General Secretary and office supplies	50,933	21,720
Assistant to Treasurer	10,147	9,894
Young Investigator Awards	1,000	1,500
Centennial Memorials	0	2,083
Bank charges	1,688	1,574
Audit 0		1,025
Support of sections	0	11,389
Miscellaneous expenses (CPT2008 booth, beamer, etc.)	0	752
Dues to other societies	3,510	3,228
Total Expenses	311,967	165,890

Positive/Negative balance from operation	11,603	70,717
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The NC-IUPHAR Database had sufficient funding and a reduction in expenses during 2007 to cover the outlays for 2008. Dr. Ruegg noted that US\$17,500 will be transferred to the Clinical Pharmacology Division to cover their annual support of US\$5,000 for 2008 and 2009, and to provide US\$7,500 in proceeds from the IXth Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics 2008 (CPT208) Conference, as agreed during the 2008 Executive Committee meeting. The US\$50,933 paid for the Assistant to the Secretary-General and office supplies represents the last half of 2006 and all of 2007, all of which was paid in 2007. Dues paid to other societies include the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) and the International Council for Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS).

Dr. Ruegg presented a list (as of March 13, 2009) of member societies delinquent in their dues. Several Executive Committee members volunteered to assist Dr. Ruegg in contacting representatives from these societies. Dr. Duckles noted that Dr. Ruegg and his assistant had done a particularly good job in collecting dues on behalf of IUPHAR and thanked him for their efforts.

Delinquent dues affect a member society's ability to have voting delegates to the 2010 General Assembly. It was agreed that while a number of member societies in developing countries do not have the resources to pay IUPHAR dues, they still should be part of the Council since their regions need the IUPHAR benefits as much or more than societies from more affluent countries. Dr. Duckles recommended that the officers be granted authority to waive delinquent dues on a case by case basis. MOTION: The IUPHAR officers are authorized to waive delinquent dues at their discretion to facilitate the participation of IUPHAR member societies that do not have the ability to pay. Unanimously approved.

A report detailing the above actual 2007 and 2008 expenses compared to the budgeted amounts, and the projected budget for 2008 – 2010, was presented by Dr. Ruegg.

As a result of the recent worldwide banking crises, Dr. Ruegg presented potential investment alternatives for the funds currently invested through Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS AG). After discussing the tax ramifications and efforts required to establish alternate accounts, it was decided by the Executive Committee to remain with UBS. Dr. Enna complimented Dr. Ruegg on how well he had protected the IUPHAR investments during a time when most firms lost significant portions of their savings. The IUPHAR bank balance was US\$524,500 on January 1st, 2008, and US\$573,862 on December 31st, 2008. The officers will continue to monitor the situation with UBS and the safety of the IUPHAR funds.

Fundraising initiatives

Dr. Duckles reported that fundraising for specific projects, rather than asking for general donations, has been an effective strategy for underwriting programs. As an example, NC-IUPHAR has partnered with a few IUPHAR member societies to help pay for their work, and now seeks to increase the number of member partners. Although the various IUPHAR initiatives appear to be adequately funded through the term of the current Executive Committee, long term planning is required to ensure support continues beyond 2010.

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Dr. Enna announced a €30,000 award from the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) for support of the IUPHAR Integrative and Organ Pharmacology Systems (IOSP) workshops planned for Africa. ICSU stipulated the funding be used solely to support the participation of young African scientists in this program. Therefore, the Chair of the initiative, Dr. David Bylund, is seeking matching funds from the USA National Institutes of Health, among other organizations, to pay travel expenses for IOSP instructors from other countries.

As a source of long term revenue, Dr. Enna has once again engaged in preliminary discussions with a publisher to possibly launch an IUPHAR affiliated journal. It will likely be several months before a decision is made by the publisher concerning its interest in this venture. Dr. Vanhoutte observed that some of the IUPHAR member societies may view an IUPHAR-sponsored pharmacology journal as a competitor with their own offerings. Thus, he urged the officers and Executive Committee to carefully consider all of the ramifications of such an undertaking if the publisher expresses interest in continuing negotiations.

Reports and Requests

IUPHAR representatives to other organizations

Dr. Enna inquired if there were any corrections or concerns on the submitted reports from IUPHAR representatives to other organizations. Dr. Khayyal noted a change in the ICSU overview report.

Committees

NC-IUPHAR Committee (Chaired by Spedding)

Dr. Enna inquired if there were any questions concerning the report from the NC-IUPHAR committee. None were forthcoming.

Membership Committee (Chaired by Netter)

Dr. Duckles announced the Executive Committee approved by electronic vote the application of the Association of Pharmacologists of Ukraine as a full member of the Union. A letter of welcome was subsequently sent to the Acting President. She commented that Dr. Netter has been in contact with a number of other societies that have expressed possible interest in IUPHAR membership.

Nominating Committee (Chaired by Fredholm)

Dr. Duckles explained, per the statutes, the Executive Committee is responsible for recommending a slate of five individuals to serve as the Nominating Committee for 2010-2014. This slate will be presented to the Council in 2010 for consideration, nominations from the floor and election of the Nominating Committee. Dr. Duckles asked Ms. LeCount to circulate an e-mail of the relevant by-law to the Executive Committee members and to provide a list of former Nominating Committee members. Once names are received from Executive Committee members and a list of potential nominees assembled, Ms. LeCount will circulate the slate for selection of the five to be recommended for election by the Council.

Division and Sections

Clinical Pharmacology Division (Chaired by du Souich)

Dr. du Souich summarized the Clinical Pharmacology Division activity during 2008. He highlighted in particular the request from the Pediatric Clinical Pharmacology subcommittee to expand the

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role of the IUPHAR liaison(s) in relations with the World Health Organization (WHO). Dr. du Souich will forward a proposal concerning this matter to Ms. LeCount for distribution to, and comments from, the Executive Committee. Dr. Duckles complimented the Clinical Pharmacology Division on its level of member participation and the number of worthwhile endeavors in which it is engaged.

Dr. Thürmann summarized the expenditures and financial resources of the Clinical Pharmacology Division. The bank balance on January 1st, 2008 was ~€46,000. Among the expenses for the past year were US\$15,000 in direct support of the CPT2008 Organizers. The division also expended €3,000 in support of the European Association of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics conference, and US\$2,500 for the Pharmacogenetics subcommittee conference. The Clinical Pharmacology Division bank balance as of December 31st, 2008 was ~€36,000.

Dr. du Souich led a discussion on a proposal put forth by the Clinical Pharmacology Division recommending that the Division be dissolved in favor of having the membership of all IUPHAR governance committees equally split between basic and clinical pharmacologists. He opened by describing the history of how clinical pharmacology was first recognized as an IUPHAR section, then later elevated to a division. He proposed three possible models for reconfiguring IUPHAR governance, with a brief commentary on the advantages and disadvantages of each. While there appeared to be support for the idea of ensuring adequate representation for clinical pharmacologists on IUPHAR committees, and for promoting the Clinical Pharmacology Division subcommittees to sections, a number of questions and concerns were raised about implementing such a policy. For example, there was debate about the definition of a clinical pharmacologist and the need to agree on this designation to guide those involved in the nominating processes. Questions were also raised about the wisdom of setting such a high committee membership quota for clinical pharmacologists given the percentage of those who might be classified as such in the overall membership of IUPHAR. The officers of the Clinical Pharmacology Division felt a quota on committee representation was important to protect the gains made by clinical pharmacologists in the governance of IUPHAR over the past decade. It was agreed that the Clinical Pharmacology Division will propose a list of changes to the statutes. Dr. Duckles noted that changes to the statutes must be provided to the General Assembly delegates at least two months prior to their presentation for a vote at the meeting in Copenhagen. Dr. Enna concluded the discussion by asking Ms. LeCount to determine the precise deadline for submitting by-law changes for consideration by the General Assembly. Ms. LeCount will then provide this information to the Executive Committee with a web link to the current statutes and request that any proposed

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changes be forwarded to the Secretary General's office before the designated deadline.

As a consequence of this discussion, the Executive Committee decided that the activities of current sections should be evaluated so that recommendations regarding the viability of each can be made to the 2010-2014 Executive Committee. Drs. Vanhoutte, du Souich, and Birkett (as Chair) will undertake this assignment and e-mail their conclusions to Ms. LeCount for distribution to the present Executive Committee members.

Drug Metabolism Section (Chaired by Kapitulnik)

No activity report was received.

Gastrointestinal Pharmacology Section (Chaired by Cho)

Dr. Enna inquired if there were any questions about the issues raised in the report submitted by the Gastrointestinal Pharmacology Section. None were forthcoming.

Natural Products Section (Chaired by Zhang)

Dr. Enna inquired if there were any questions about the issues raised in the report submitted by the Natural Products Section. None were forthcoming.

Teaching Section (Chaired by Lakoski)

No activity report was received.

IOSP initiative (Chaired by Bylund)

Dr. Enna inquired if there were any questions about the issues raised in the report submitted by the IOSP Initiative Subcommittee. Dr. du Souich recommended publishing an article or special issue to highlight the workshops planned for Africa. Dr. Enna expressed the wish that M.D.s were required to review recent development in pharmacology and therapeutics as part of their continuing medical education. It was noted by Dr. Birkett that the government of Australia underwrites a program called Prescribing Agency, which distributes the latest data on medications to physicians. Dr. Duckles added that a three or four page article on this topic in a major journal could call attention to this need. Dr. Enna felt that *Molecular Interventions* or *Pharmacology & Therapeutics* may be open to publishing such an article, although a more clinically-oriented journal, such as *Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics*, would probably be more appropriate.

Meetings

IXth Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics 2008 (CPT2008) Conference report
Dr. du Souich summarized the registration and accounting of CPT2008, held July 27th through August 1st, 2008. He expressed surprise at the low attendance from the USA and European countries while there was good representation from more distant lands, such as Japan and Australia. Dr. Thürmann commented that the USA and Europe have strong clinical pharmacology societies and that their members may have perceived CPT2008 as being in competition with their own meetings. Nonetheless, the Conference turned a financial profit and Dr. Enna announced that, as per the Executive Committee motion passed during its 2008 meeting,

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US\$7,500 of the amount awarded to IUPHAR would be given to the Clinical Pharmacology Division for its use.

Preliminary proposals for hosting 2018 World Congress

Dr. Enna announced that societies from Brazil, Canada, Cuba, Italy, Japan, and Malta made preliminary bids for the XVIIth World Congress of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology in 2018. After discussing the various proposals, Dr. Enna was directed to invite each of these member organizations to make a formal presentation during the General Assembly in Copenhagen. Dr. Thürmann suggested adding language to the bid instructions that addresses the growing concern about conflict of interest with respect to pharmaceutical companies. For example, it was noted that many societies now require financial disclosures by their speakers. A slide at the beginning of a presentation depicting the speaker's sources of research funding and consulting arrangements generally satisfies this requirement. Ms. LeCount will e-mail the bid instructions to Dr. Thürmann for her recommended changes. The document will then be forwarded to the officers for final approval. Thereafter, it will be shared with the WorldPharma 2010 Organizers, as well as with the organizers of the 2014 and the bidders for the 2018 meetings.

WorldPharma 2010, Copenhagen, July 17th – 23rd, 2010

The President of WorldPharma 2010, Dr. Brøsen, reviewed the planning activities that have occurred since the written report was submitted to the Executive Committee on February 4th, 2009. Final proposals for 18 sessions running two to two and a half days each have now been received, and the chairs for all sessions confirmed. Recently, the program committee reviewed the list of 60+ suggested plenary lecturers, of which 24-26 will be invited to participate in the coming weeks. Dr. Brøsen anticipates around 400 invited speakers. Emphasis is being placed on assembling a diverse group of speakers, with approximately 50% coming from Europe. Gender diversity has been challenging as only ~15% of the nominated speakers are women.

The Call for Abstracts will be announced in August or September, 2009.

January 15th, 2010 will be the deadline for abstract submission, and March 15th, 2010 the early registration deadline. Dr. Brøsen asked the Executive Committee for help in publicizing the conference. Dr. Duckles asked Dr. Brøsen to send one or two slides that the Executive Committee members could show during their own lectures and symposia to help in this regard.

Dr. Duckles also suggested that an abbreviated version of the 50th anniversary edition of *Pharmacology International* be printed and inserted into the delegates' bags so attendees may learn more about the history of IUPHAR. This was followed by some discussion of the events planned to celebrate the 50th anniversary of IUPHAR during WorldPharma 2010.

The IUPHAR 50th Anniversary Lecturer for WorldPharma 2010 Nominating Committee recommended Dr. Vanhoutte for this honor. Dr. Brøsen will add him to the program. Dr. Enna will send Dr. Vanhoutte a formal invitation to serve as the IUPHAR 50th Anniversary Lecturer for WorldPharma 2010.

Dr. Duckles provided an overview of the process for selecting and presenting the Young Investigator Awards during WorldPharma 2010 and reminded the Committee members that some of them may be called upon to serve

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as judges. She will send Dr. Brøsen additional information on this matter to share with the organizing committee.

Dr. Enna reminded the group that the next meeting of the 2006-2010 Executive Committee will be held on Saturday, July 17th, 2010 in Copenhagen. It was agreed to move the joint (2006-2010 and 2010-2014) Executive Committee meeting to the afternoon of Friday, July 23rd, 2010 so the 2010-2014 Executive Committee may meet on its own all day on Saturday, July 24th.

World Congress of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology 2014 (WCP2014) Cape Town July 13th – 18th, 2014

The President and Secretary of the Congress, Drs. Oliver and Brink, respectively, provided a brief update on the planning activities for this meeting.

African initiatives

IUPHAR perspective

Dr. Stuart McLeod organized a symposium entitled “Challenges in Africa” during CPT2008. Besides helping to underwrite this symposium, IUPHAR sponsored a luncheon meeting with the invited speakers. Subsequently it was decided by the IUPHAR Executive Committee that an effort should be made to take advantage of these initial contacts, and to begin laying the groundwork for the 2014 meeting, by sponsoring during the Cairo meeting a formal discussion of the needs in Africa relating to training in pharmacology. This discussion, or summit, was coordinated through the Pharmacology for Africa (Phar*f*A) initiative.

Pharmacology in Africa - Overview of purpose, goals and desired outcomes

Dr. Oliver thanked the IUPHAR Executive Committee for the opportunity to bring attention to the African continent and how pharmacology may be introduced in some regions and expanded in others. He described the Phar*f*A website (www.iuphar-africa.org) and emphasized one of the primary purposes of the initiative is to build a database of professionals within Africa, as well as supporters outside of the continent, to enhance communication and better utilize resources. He encouraged members of the Executive Committee to send him the names and e-mail addresses of their African colleagues and students so Phar*f*A could ask them to join the program. Dr. Oliver believes the next four years of activities will increase the visibility of, and participation in, the WCP2014 among Africans. The 2014 meeting organizers are working hard to secure a sufficient number of bursaries to facilitate a strong continental representation at the congress as funding will be a major barrier for participation by most African scientists. Dr. Duckles encouraged Dr. Oliver to approach fellow IUPHAR member societies to sponsor one or two student travel awards. She suggested the IUPHAR dues invoices for 2011 and 2012 contain an “African Student Sponsor” campaign to help raise the necessary funds. Dr. Oliver summarized the primary goal of this meeting as identifying ways in which IUPHAR and Phar*f*A can bring to African universities and research facilities the networking and expertise appropriate to each region to improve training and research in pharmacology. The desired outcome is to foster a stronger community of pharmacology within the established education and research systems of Africa. While Dr. Oliver acknowledged that although IUPHAR does

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not have a great deal of capital, it can assist in this endeavor by offering its African constituents access to experts around the world and opportunities for collaborations. He then introduced the invited speakers representing different regions of the continent.

Presentations by regional representatives

Kenya – Dr. Guantai summarized the demographics and location of the Republic of Kenya, its university systems and numbers of bioscientists. She highlighted many of the challenges facing Kenya to develop pharmacology as a discipline in general, and to strengthen pharmacology departments in particular. The areas of training most urgently needed in Kenya include animal laboratory sciences, preclinical safety screening, clinical research, pharmacoepidemiology and pharmacovigilance, among others. The technical and financial support that would immediately benefit Kenya include donation of equipment, collaboration opportunities for training and research, exchange programs for faculty and students, and expertise to develop a standardized pharmacology curriculum. Dr. Guantai went on to describe the newly established Kenya Society for Basic and Applied Pharmacology (KeSoBAP). The Executive Committee congratulated Dr. Guantai and her colleagues on formation of the society and encouraged her to have KeSoBAP apply for IUPHAR membership. Ms. LeCount will forward to her information on IUPHAR membership.

Egypt – Dr. Khayyal presented a critical evaluation of the current state of pharmacology in Egypt. He described pharmacology departments in state and private universities, including estimates of the number of graduates, active pharmacologists in the country, as well as a typical career in academia. He noted that individuals are often appointed to academic positions they may not seek. While he believes the number of students entering the profession is adequate, the challenges facing Egyptian pharmacology are generally the result of the lack of resources and guidance. These include a paucity of standards for achieving advanced degrees, a tendency not to specialize in specific areas of research, minimum training opportunities for laboratory assistants and junior faculty, and a scarcity of research funding. Because of financial constraints, many of the traditional animal studies are being replaced with computer simulations and textbook cases. The Egyptian students who work hard to be accepted into an exchange program are often frustrated upon returning home because they are unable to obtain the resources necessary to apply their newly gained knowledge and skills. While most of the current basic pharmacological research in Egypt is biochemically oriented, Dr. Khayyal observed that basic research is waning with the growing emphasis on patient-oriented studies. Thus, many students are now seeking degrees in clinical pharmacology and clinical pharmacy. He described the Egyptian Society of Pharmacology (ESPET) and other past regional unions. While there are ~1,000 pharmacologists in Egypt, only about 10% join the society as their low income makes it difficult to pay even modest membership dues. Among the future directions of ESPET, Dr. Khayyal sees as top priorities improving the curriculum,

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strengthening the scientific quality and peer review process of the society journal, motivating students to enter basic pharmacology, and increasing interactions with pharmacologists outside the country.

South Africa – Dr. Brink provided an overview of the South African Society for Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (SASBCP). He indicated its goals are to improve training in the discipline in South Africa and developing countries, and to foster interdisciplinary collaborations based on the ICPPS model. He described the vision and mission of PharfA in terms of the growing database of African professionals, and the need to organize people and resources at all levels; national, continental and international. Dr. Brink noted that both ICSU and WHO have both been important partners in these efforts and he feels these organizations, and relevant government agencies, must be a part of the program in the future. He cited the development of mentoring techniques and the development of long-term relationships as key elements for retaining bioscientists in Africa. Given the isolation of many regions, Dr. Brink recommended training groups of students or junior faculty in a particular institution or town to achieve a critical mass of peers for scientific interactions. SASBP is encouraging satellite meetings to WCP2014 on topics germane to Africa with an emphasis on involving African delegates in all aspects of science and networking. He noted that the benefit derived from these global opportunities will depend on how earnestly Africans respond to these challenges.

Mali –While Dr. Drissa Diallo was unable to attend the meeting, he provided a written report for review. Dr. Diallo defined, and provided a history of, African Traditional Medicine (ATM) practices. He noted that in the past the primary consumers of these products were the local population, although in more recent years the field has begun attracting the interest of scientists, both domestic and foreign, including those interested in pharmacology, phytochemistry, natural products chemistry, organic synthesis, and clinical trials. A number of African countries have established departments of traditional pharmacopeia to encourage better training of practitioners in the use of local medicinal plants. Also, he noted that a number of countries have introduced national policies for regulating these products, practices and practitioners. Dr. Diallo's report stated that the use of ATM is hindered by a lack of safety data, by incorrect diagnoses, imprecise dosage, substandard hygiene, and an absence of written patient records. He stated that in fact some healing methods are kept secret. He supported the idea of validating ATM by undertaking studies to establish the efficacy and, most importantly, the safety, of these substances. In his view this could be accomplished through a six step process: 1) Ethnopharmacological field research, 2) Pharmacological evaluation, 3) Toxicological screening, 4) Phytochemical screening to identify markers, 5) Formulation, and 6) Clinical trials. He noted that pharmacovigilance should be applied at all times. Dr. Diallo identified the various types of training West Africa would need to validate ATM:

- Pharmacodynamic/kinetics techniques (General and molecular pharmacology) for pharmacological screening

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- Pharmacoeconomy
- Pharmacoepidemiology
- Pharmacovigilance
- Special pharmacology (pharmaceutical groups)
- Clinical Pharmacology and pharmacogenetics
- Pharmacotherapeutics and clinical trials

He closed by noting that courses in these areas would have to be delivered in French.

Discussion

Dr. Oliver opened the general discussion with a recapitulation of the five goals established by the ICSU Regional Office in Africa for 2007-2008:

1. Understand the basis of diseases affecting Africa
2. Promote health/prevent disease
3. Analyze health systems development with respect to human resources
4. Explore traditional, complementary and alternate medicines
5. Promote human well being

The desired outcomes from the above goals are:

1. Improved networking at regional and subregional levels
2. Increased awareness about these issues among African governments and donors
3. Fully functional institutions (capacity building)
4. Change in life styles
5. Evidence-based policy and decision-making
6. Improvement in the quality and quantity of health care professionals

Dr. Oliver reported that during a recent meeting with ICSU representatives, he was asked to encourage IUPHAR to choose strategies and goals that compliment the above framework.

Dr. Bylund was invited to provide a summary of the IUPHAR IOSP initiative meeting held earlier in the day. He concluded his presentation by announcing that IOSP training workshops have been scheduled as follows:

1. Mid-September 2009: South Africa (city to be determined) preceding the annual SASBP meeting with a focus on cardiovascular pharmacology
2. Mid-November 2009: Cairo, Egypt following the annual ESPET meeting with a focus on neuropharmacology
3. Early May 2010: Nairobi, Kenya with a focus on toxicology

An extensive discussion followed with many suggestions and questions for the regional representatives. It was agreed it would be best to work within the framework of the IUPHAR IOSP initiative to leverage the available funds and volunteers to achieve the stated objectives.

Action items:

Drs. Oliver and Enna summarized the following action items:

1. Identify local workshop organizers in each region (Bylund and IOSP Committee members)
2. Work with local organizers to develop a budget for each workshop (Bylund and IOSP Committee members)
3. Identify sources of funding for faculty travel and local expenses (IUPHAR Executive Committee and Bylund)

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4. Work with local workshop organizers to create a program appropriate for each region (Bylund and IOSP Committee members)
 5. Establish an assessment and certificate of completion for participants (Bylund and IOSP Committee members)
 6. Ask local workshop organizers to arrange meetings with regional government agencies to develop awareness and long-term relationships (Bylund)
 7. Identify areas of overlap with ICSU and WHO that can be exploited for future development (local workshop organizers, Pharfa, IUPHAR Executive Committee, Bylund and IOSP Committee members)
 8. Send Pharfa (office@iuphar-africa.org) the names and e-mail addresses of all African colleagues and acquaintances to build the database of professionals (IUPHAR Executive Committee)
 9. Convene open forums or workshops in conjunction with WorldPharma 2010 to report the outcomes of the IOSP training workshops, to discuss how the experiences in Africa can benefit upcoming workshops and discuss future directions (Bylund and IOSP committee)
- Dr. Duckles invited Dr. Bylund to present his assessment of the IOSP Africa training programs during the joint meeting of the 2006-2010 and 2010-2014 Executive Committees.

Closing

Dr. Oliver thanked the regional representatives and the Executive Committee for their participation. He looks forward to revisiting these issues in Copenhagen.

The meeting concluded at 16:00 on Sunday, March 15th, 2009.

Next Meetings: Copenhagen, Denmark, July 2010

July 16th, Friday - evening, welcome reception/dinner

July 17th, Saturday - all day meeting

July 18th, Sunday - morning, Opening Ceremony that evening

July 20th, Tuesday - afternoon, General Assembly

July 23rd, Friday afternoon - joint meeting with the 2010-2014 Executive Committee

July 24th, Saturday - all day meeting of 2010-2014 Executive Committee