

International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (IUPHAR)
2014-2018 Executive Committee Minutes
May 24rd, 2016 Teleconference

Participants

Darrell Abernethy, USA, Chair of Clinical Pharmacology Division
Leigh Ann Arbuckle, USA, Treasurer's Assistant
James Barrett, USA, Councilor
Patrick du Souich, Canada, Past President
S. J. Enna, USA, President
Graeme Henderson, United Kingdom, First Vice President
Masamitsu Iino, Japan, Second Vice President
Lynn LeCount, USA, Administrative Officer
David LeCouteur, Australia, Secretary-General, Clinical Division
Maria Isabel Lucena, Spain, Treasurer, Clinical Division
Francesca Levi-Schaffer, Israel, Councilor
Eeva Moilanen, Finland, Councilor
Bhagirath Patel, India, Councilor
Michael Spedding, France, Secretary-General
Petra Thürmann, Germany, Treasurer
David Webb, United Kingdom, Vice Chair, Clinical Division

Discussion Topics

Welcome

Michael Spedding welcomed the group. Sam Enna noted that because of the various participant time zones the teleconference would be limited to 90 minutes or less.

Treasurer's Report

Review 2015 financials

Petra Thürmann reported that, thanks to Leigh Ann Arbuckle's persistence, IUPHAR received approximately US\$114k in membership dues last year. The other major source of revenue was US\$25k IUPHAR received as its share of the income derived from the 2014 World Congress in Cape Town. The American Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics donated US\$30k to support the Pharmacology Education Project (www.PharmacologyEducation.org). Total IUPHAR income for 2015 was approximately US\$177k. Dr. Thürmann reviewed the 2015 expenses, highlighting the support from the Chinese Pharmacological Society of the IUPHAR Executive Committee meetings in May, 2015. This financing reduced considerably the cost of the annual Executive Committee meeting. Dr. Thürmann reported that the costs of the external audit will increase this year and into the future due to the recruitment of a different firm to review the finances in accord with the requirements of Swiss law. The Clinical Pharmacology Division received its annual IUPHAR stipend, applying the majority to support clinical pharmacology workshops and symposia in developing countries. Dr. Thürmann reported the book value of the investment accounts decreased during 2015, primarily because of the decline in the value of the Swiss franc relative to the Euro and U.S. dollar. The operational and investment expenses during 2015 were approximately US\$167k.

Dr. Thürmann also noted that the IUPHAR Nomenclature Committee (NC-IUPHAR) endowment generated nearly US\$10k in dividends in 2015. During 2015

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IUPHAR reserves were used to pay the final US\$48k promised earlier in support of the Guide to Pharmacology group and US\$19k to help cover costs associated with the Paris NC-IUPHAR meeting. She also noted the NC-IUPHAR endowment lost US\$8k in book value during 2015, primarily because of currency fluctuations. Combined, these NC-IUPHAR-related expenses and paper losses reduced the IUPHAR reserve account by nearly US\$68k. As a Servier donation made to help cover the costs of the 2015 NC-IUPHAR Paris meeting was not received until early 2016, this amount is not reflected in the final figures for 2015. Overall, IUPHAR had a loss of approximately US\$58k for 2015, virtually all of which was related to the financing of NC-IUPHAR activities.

Dr. Thürmann compared these results to the prior four years. She noted that because World Congresses are quadrennial, income from this source is realized only every four years. Dr. Enna observed that historically IUPHAR congresses have added approximately US\$100k to the reserve fund. Dr. Thürmann noted that for most years IUPHAR relies primarily on membership dues to cover annual operational expenses.

Review 2016 budget

Dr. Thürmann summarized actual IUPHAR expenses through the end of April and those anticipated during the remainder of 2016. Her projections forecast a deficit of about US\$12k for the year, not taking into consideration changes in the value of the investment accounts as these are impossible to predict. Dr. Graeme Henderson inquired about the categorization of the Servier donation and why another contribution from them was not forecast for 2016. Dr. Thürmann responded that the Servier donation received in 2016 had been credited to the operational budget because the funds spent in support of NC-IUPHAR originated from there. Ms. Arbuckle noted that for the past two years the Servier donation has arrived during the first quarter of the year following the expenditure. For this reason, the next Servier contribution is not anticipated until 2017 at the earliest. Dr. Spedding believes another donation from Servier is likely but not assured.

Dr. Enna acknowledged and thanked the British Pharmacological Society for their generous funding of the core operations for the Guide to Pharmacology. He reported that the original IUPHAR financial commitment to help launch the unified Guide to Pharmacology has now been fulfilled. While the NC-IUPHAR is financially stable thanks to a recent grant award from the Wellcome Trust, its cash flow is inadequate for covering the hotel deposit required for the autumn 2016 meeting. Dr. Enna explained the funds will be borrowed from the endowment and repaid from the anticipated 2017 Servier donation.

Dr. Enna complimented Dr. Spedding on his efforts to identify, and apply for, funding opportunities to support IUPHAR programs.

Report results of Ad hoc Finance Committee discussions

Dr. Thürmann described the substance of Ad hoc Finance Committee discussions. In addition to hosting two teleconferences, Dr. Thürmann directly contacted several of the committee members and colleagues in various pharmacology societies to explore new approaches for funding. The three suggestions that were most enthusiastically endorsed by the Ad Hoc Finance Committee were 1) operating a journal, 2) allowing individuals to join IUPHAR in addition to societies, and 3) establishing a Fellow category for membership for those who donate funds to the Union. Dr. Thürmann summarized the pros and cons of each proposal, including consideration of the costs associated with launching and

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maintaining these initiatives, especially the bank charges that would be incurred when handling many small financial transactions. Other ideas recommended by the Ad hoc Finance Committee were generation of income from IUPHAR-sponsored meetings and crowdfunding for workshops and initiatives in developing countries. Dr. du Souich wondered whether IUPHAR could establish a panel of experts that could be offered as consultants in return for a small fee. Francesca Levi-Schaffer felt offering IUPHAR speakers could generate income from meeting organizers seeking experts to cover certain topics. Dr. Thürmann stated that both of these ideas had been raised during Ad hoc Finance Committee discussions. It was concluded by the committee that there is little incentive for individuals to offer IUPHAR a portion of their consulting or speaking fees. Dr. Thürmann also mentioned potential tax ramifications for IUPHAR if it were to receive income from such sources and the possibility that the sale of services could jeopardize its not-for-profit status.

Elsevier organized conferences for IUPHAR income

Drs. Enna and Spedding described Elsevier's interest in sponsoring one or more scientific meetings in which they pay all organizational, marketing and administrative expenses with half of any profits being shared with IUPHAR. The Elsevier Conferences Group prefers to sponsor such events in major cities covering topics that would be expected to draw at least 200 participants willing to pay US\$500 registration fee. Dr. Enna encouraged members of the Executive Committee to contact him with meeting ideas for presentation to Elsevier at least 18 months in advance of the anticipated meeting date.

Review Division/Sections/Subcommittees/World Congress activity reports

Dr. Spedding asked if there were any questions regarding the 2015 activity reports. Dr. du Souich inquired why there is so little IUPHAR activity in French-speaking countries. Dr. Spedding described failed efforts made in the past to establish collaborations with the French Pharmacology Society. Dr. du Souich suggested that perhaps the Belgian Society of Fundamental and Clinical Physiology and Pharmacology should be contacted in an attempt to foster more pharmacology-related activities in French-speaking countries, particularly those in northern Africa. Dr. Abernethy recommended working on this with Dr. Milou-Daniel Drici from Nice, France who is chair of the Clinical Pharmacology Division Subcommittee on Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmacovigilance.

Dr. Abernethy reported that the Clinical Pharmacology Division is in the process of establishing five pilot mentoring centers on different continents. The intent is to offer expertise and advice through the IUPHAR.org portal to developing countries seeking assistance on specific projects. The mentoring centers specialize in areas such as drug toxicity, cardiovascular pharmacology, prescribing, pediatric and geriatric pharmacology in addition to the fundamentals of clinical pharmacology. Dr. Abernethy plans to submit to *Pharmacology International* an article describing this initiative.

Dr. Enna reviewed briefly the activity report on the Pharmacology Education Project. He reported the initial donations for this effort from the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET) will be expended by October, 2016. He believes ASPET might consider offering additional support if other IUPHAR member societies contribute funds for this effort as well. Drs. Enna

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and Spedding are in discussions with the Chinese Pharmacological Society, the Indian Pharmacology Society, and the Hungarian Society for Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology about obtaining such support. Dr. Enna will contact the pharmacology societies in Australia and Japan as well. Once commitments are obtained from other member societies, Dr. Enna will approach ASPET about renewing their support for this program.

Dr. Iino informed the Executive Committee that the organizers of the World Congress of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology 2018 (WCP2018) have provisionally obtained support for the Congress from Science Council of Japan (SCJ). He is considering working with SCJ officials to have a member of the Japanese Royal Family attend a WCP2018 event, such as the Opening Ceremony. The Program Committee will meet in July to consider the program proposals submitted by the various IUPHAR member societies, the Division, Sections and Subcommittees. Now that the thematic areas have been identified, efforts are underway to recruit experts in these fields as speakers. Dr. Iino is attending, and speaking at, major pharmacology gathering, such as the 2017 ASPET meeting in Chicago and Pharmacology 2017 in London to advertise WCP2018. Dr. Enna will ask ASPET if it would be possible to give Dr. Iino three to four minutes of podium time to describe WCP2018 during their 2017 ASPET business meeting in Chicago. Dr. Abernethy asked Dr. Iino to provide him with WCP2018 marketing materials he could share with the American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics.

Dr. David Webb reported that the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre and the Glasgow Convention Council have pledged £30k in matching funds towards the World Congress of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology 2022 (WCP2022). British Pharmacological Society representatives recently spent two days visiting Glasgow to inspect the facilities for the congress and available housing for participants. The British Pharmacological Society has invited the Chinese Pharmacological Society, ASPET, and the American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics to be guest societies at Pharmacology 2016, which will be held in London in December of this year. The Japanese Society of Pharmacology has been invited as a guest society for Pharmacology 2017. Dr. Webb invited Dr. Iino to send him marketing materials that could be used to promote WCP2018 during Pharmacology 2016. Dr. Henderson recommended that WCP2018 be advertised at the upcoming congress in Istanbul of the Federation of European Pharmacological Societies. Dr. Iino agreed to send to Ms. Lynn LeCount a marketing slide that will be distributed to all of the Executive Committee members to include in future presentations to help generate awareness, interest and enthusiasm for WCP2018. Dr. Levi-Schaffer requested that she also receive a slide describing Guide to Pharmacology that she could include in her future presentations at meetings. Dr. Spedding agreed to send her a slide for this purpose.

Dr. Enna reported that the Nominating Committee appointed during the 2014 IUPHAR General Assembly has received its charge from the IUPHAR officers and is now accepting nominations for 2018-2022 Executive Committee appointments. The deadline for nominations is October 31st, 2016. Nominations should be addressed to Dr. Kim Brøsen, chair of the Nominating Committee and submitted through the IUPHAR Administrative Office. A solicitation announcement for nominees was sent earlier this year to the officers of the IUPHAR member societies. Dr. Enna noted that the Nominating Committee has the authority to nominate candidates for Executive Committee membership on its own.

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Next Executive Committee meetings

Melbourne, Australia (<http://www.iuphar.org/index.php/meetings/131-2016meeting>)

Dr. Spedding reminded everyone that the next Executive Committee meeting will be held in Melbourne, Australia on December 1st and 2nd immediately following the ASCEPT annual meeting that begins on November 27th. The IUPHAR officers and World Congress International Advisory Board members will meet in Melbourne on November 30th. He asked everyone to consider the following issues in anticipation of the next Executive Committee meeting:

- The International Council for Science (ICSU) has reorganized their grant program and is now offering US\$300k over three years to support programs of interest. He and Dr. Urs Rugg, the IUPHAR liaison to ICSU, recently attended the ICSU general assembly where they spoke with representatives from the International Unions of Toxicology; Immunology; and Pure and Applied Chemistry about potential collaborations to apply for ICSU funding on the topic(s) of urban health and/or the pharmacology education project or environmental toxicology.
- Dr. Spedding expressed the hope that there would be increased interactions between the various IUPHAR Sections and Subcommittees and NC-IUPHAR. The Guide to Pharmacology is applying to the Innovative Medicines Initiative for a grant on the reproducibility of research. The application contains several areas of relevance to the Clinical Pharmacology Division and the Sections.
- He reminded everyone that last year IUPHAR established an Editorial Board, chaired by Dr. Eliot Ohlstein, to encourage and enable the Division, Sections, and Subcommittees to publish more articles under the auspices of IUPHAR.
- He recently participated in a drug discovery meeting in Dundee which offered him the opportunity to meet individuals who could serve as collaborators with IUPHAR in submitting proposals to fund projects of relevance to its mission.
- The 2018 General Assembly provides an opportunity to make structural changes in IUPHAR organization and administration to enhance the ability to meet the needs of pharmacologists and the discipline, and to stabilize finances. He asked everyone to bring to Melbourne ideas for accomplishing these goals.

Rimini, Italy

Dr. Enna announced that the 2017 meeting of the IUPHAR Executive Committee will be held in Rimini, Italy sometime between October 21st and 29th in conjunction with Italian Society of Pharmacology annual meeting that will be held October 25th – 28th, 2017.

Kyoto, Japan

Dr. Enna noted that the 2018 Executive Committee meeting is likely to be held on July 6th-7th because WCP2018 is scheduled for Sunday through Friday, July 1st–6th.

As there was no further business, Dr. Enna thanked the Executive Committee members for their time.

The teleconference concluded at 8 a.m. CDT.

Lynn LeCount, CMA

IUPHAR Administrative Officer