

International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (IUPHAR)
2014-2018 Executive Committee Teleconference
May 9, 2017 Minutes

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 Support
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
Yong-Xiang Zhang, PR China, Councilor

Unavailable

David LeCouteur, Australia, Secretary-General, Clinical Division

Discussion Topics

Welcome

Secretary-General Michael Spedding thanked the participants for their time in joining this discussion. He highlighted a few recent initiatives, including the Clinical Pharmacology Mentoring Centers implemented by the Clinical Pharmacology Division; an International Conference on Mechanisms of Action in Nutraceuticals in September being co-organized by the Pharmacology of Natural Productions Section; and the alpha release of the GuideToImmunopharmacology.org by the Database Team in conjunction with the ImmuPhar (Immunopharmacology) Section, as well as efforts by ImmuPhar to forge a collaboration with the International Union of Immunological Sciences.

Treasurer's Report

Review 2016 financials

Treasurer Petra Thürmann reported that the economy is doing somewhat better, which has benefitted IUPHAR. The Treasurer's Assistant, Leigh Ann Arbuckle, summarized the 2016 year-end financial statement. She reported two donations were received from Servier during 2016, of which the first fulfilled the 2015 pledge and the second fulfilled the 2016 pledge. Ms. Arbuckle acknowledged generosity of Servier had been pivotal in helping IUPHAR meet its expenses for the year. During 2016, ~US\$115k was received in dues from IUPHAR member societies. Along with some miscellaneous revenue, the total 2016 income amounted to ~US\$198k. As the 2016 expenses totaled ~US\$154k, there was a gross surplus of ~US\$44k. Unfortunately, the sluggish global economy resulted in a loss of US\$11k on the investment accounts, resulting in a net surplus for 2016 of ~US\$33k. There were no questions from the Executive Committee members regarding the 2016 year-end financial statement.

Review 2017 budget

Ms. Arbuckle reported that, effective March 31st, ~US\$60k had been received of the anticipated ~US\$119k in member society dues for 2017. She has budgeted US\$17.5k for the 2017 Executive Committee meeting. Taking into account the existing encumbrances on behalf of the IUPHAR

International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (IUPHAR)
2014-2018 Executive Committee Teleconference
May 9, 2017 Minutes

Division and Sections/Subcommittees and the expected operational expenses, along with an anticipated donation from Servier, Ms. Arbuckle projects a loss of ~US\$12.8k at the conclusion of 2017, however, this amount does not reflect gains or losses generated by the investment accounts. As of March 31st, there was ~US\$11.7k in the IUPHAR checking accounts.

President Sam Enna alerted the group that during the IUPHAR Nomenclature Committee (NC-IUPHAR) meeting held the prior week, he and Dr. Spedding had reviewed the status of the budget with its management team. Dr. Spedding noted that the funding from the British Pharmacological Society and Wellcome Trust had been instrumental in allowing the expansion of the Guide to Pharmacology website features and database contents and now the Guide to Immunopharmacology. At this time, they are preparing a grant application for an additional expansion of the database on antibiotics as part of the recent emphasis by the World Health Organization. Councilor Francesca Levi-Schaffer encouraged the exploration of a possible grant on the same topic from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Status of action items from Melbourne minutes

Dr. Thürmann will contact UBS in late January, 2017 to make the investment under the conditions approved by the Executive Committee.

This action has been completed.

Dr. Barrett will contact a few publishers to explore publishing opportunities for IUPHAR.

Dr. Barrett has initiated dialogs with Springer and Elsevier so will report further on his findings during the Executive Committee meeting in Rimini, Italy in October, 2017.

Ms. LeCount will include on the 2018 General Assembly agenda the topic of appointing Dufour Treuhand as the IUPHAR external auditor.

The topics have been placed on file for the July 4, 2018 IUPHAR General Assembly.

Dr. Spedding should contact Dr. Lars Gustafsson, the chair of the Clinical Pharmacology in Developing Countries Subcommittee of the IUPHAR Clinical Division, and Drs. Kalle Hoppu, Marja-Liisa Dahl and Simon Maxwell of the IUPHAR Liaison Committee to the WHO to establish formal contacts within WHO.

This action item is ongoing. Dr. Spedding will provide an update during the Executive Committee meeting in Rimini.

Dr. Spedding will encourage Dr. Ohlstein to seek opportunities where publishers will pay IUPHAR for the rights to publish articles from a conference as a special issue of their journal.

Dr. Spedding described some of the recent activity undertaken by Dr. Ohlstein to increase the frequency of IUPHAR publications and reported that Dr. Ohlstein has been scheduled as one of the guests during the May 16th officer teleconference.

The IUPHAR officers will explore the option of recruiting a young investigator to serve as a representative on the Executive Committee and manage the IUPHAR social media sites

This topic will be undertaken closer to the 2018 World Congress of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (WCP2018) in Kyoto, Japan.

The IUPHAR officers will solicit proposals from member societies to host the IUPHAR Executive Office, with a submission deadline of June 30th, 2017.

This action is in progress with one proposal received thus far.

Ms. LeCount will schedule Dr. Abernethy or his designee on all future officer conference calls.

This action has been completed.

Dr. Barrett will investigate the potential benefits and feasibility of forming an IUPHAR Academic Drug Discovery Section and to report his findings at the next Executive Committee meeting. Dr. Patel can provide contact information for colleagues at the Indian National Academic Center and Dr. Zhao can furnish contact information for colleagues in the area of Chinese academic drug discovery.

International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (IUPHAR)
2014-2018 Executive Committee Teleconference
May 9, 2017 Minutes

Dr. Barrett has discussed with Michelle Larkin, among other colleagues in field, the feasibility of establishing an academic drug discovery section so will report further on his findings during the Executive Committee meeting in Rimini.

Dr. Spedding will contact Dr. Lewis and Dr. Enna will contact Dr. J.R. Haywood to seek their opinions about the value of IUPHAR paying dues to ICLAS.

These actions have been completed and will be on the agenda of the Executive Committee meeting in Rimini.

Dr. Enna will notify Dr. Fred Wong, the current president of the Singapore Society, of their acceptance as a member of IUPHAR.

This action has been completed.

Dr. Enna will communicate with Dr. Roth about the IUPHAR Lecturer in Analytical Pharmacology award and his invitation to present a plenary lecture at the meeting.

This action has been completed. Vice President Masamitsu Iino confirmed that Dr. Roth is now listed among the speakers on the WCP2018 website.

World Health Organization (WHO) collaboration plan for IUPHAR NGO renewal application (Spedding)

Dr. Spedding reported that Dr. Kalle Hoppu, current chair of the IUPHAR Liaison Committee to the World Health Organization was a guest during the March 14th officer teleconference so discussions have begun on the types of activities IUPHAR should include on a Collaboration Plan to submit with the application. Dr. Darrell Abernethy noted that with the exception of the Dr. Hoppu, the WHO liaison committee members have not been very engaged. He felt that, as part of the Collaboration Plan process, it would be prudent to identify IUPHAR representatives willing to read the WHO literature relevant to IUPHAR and suggest possible actions to maintain the NGO status. Dr. Thürmann has been in communication with Dr. Lembit Rägo, a former WHO employee, to seek his advice on how best to compose a Collaboration Plan that will appeal to the WHO NGO review board. Dr. Spedding feels that many of the current IUPHAR initiatives are already in line with the WHO goal. Dr. Enna wondered whether the upcoming clinical workshops in China would qualify in this regard. Councilor Yongxiang Zhang summarized a recent visit to Beijing by Dr. Abernethy to visit the workshop facilities and review the proposed curriculum with the organizers. Dr. Abernethy noted that the success of China in developing science and technology no longer qualifies them as a “developing country” under the WHO mission. Dr. Enna encouraged Dr. Zhang and his colleagues to communicate with the IUPHAR Clinical Pharmacology Division and the American Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics to identify initiatives in the developing areas of Asia where IUPHAR can offer assistance in line with the WHO goals. Past President Patrick du Souich suggested the initiatives also include the Australasian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists and Toxicologists, noting the outstanding efforts in this regard by Dr. Tony Smith and his colleagues. Dr. Enna encouraged Drs. Spedding and Councilor Bhagirath Patel to explore similar opportunities for IUPHAR interactions while Dr. Spedding is visiting India later this year. Dr. Patel reported some interactions have already been undertaken, citing the recent example of the workshop in Mumbai co-organized by Dr. Milou-Daniel Drici, chair of the IUPHAR Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmacovigilance Subcommittee, together with the South Asian College, an affiliate of the American College of Clinical Pharmacology. Dr. Patel feels these are excellent mechanisms for improving the healthcare delivery while meeting the WHO goals. This topic will be on the agenda of the Executive Committee meeting in Rimini.

October meetings in Rimini, Italy

Dr. Enna summarized the discussion topics suggested thus far during the teleconference that will be included on the October agenda. The standard finance and activity reports will be covered. He also raised an issue suggested by Vice President David Webb following the 2014 General Assembly of establishing secure voting procedures for the IUPHAR delegates.

International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (IUPHAR)
2014-2018 Executive Committee Teleconference
May 9, 2017 Minutes

As in past years, the Executive Committee members will receive a travel stipend towards their expenses in participating in the Rimini meeting. Dr. Enna explained in determining the amounts, Ms. Arbuckle took into account for each region the cost of round trip airfare, number of hotel nights needed beyond those being provided by the meeting hosts, the Italian Pharmacological Society, and ground transportation needs. Ms. LeCount recently learned that since the 38th National Congress of the Italian Society of Pharmacology (<http://congresso.sifweb.org>) is being held October 25th – 28th, the free meeting facilities are only available to the IUPHAR Executive Committee on these dates. Councilor Eeva Moilanen, Dr. Zhang and Dr. du Souich encouraged the officers to meet at the beginning of the Italian Congress due to competing obligations on their calendars, however, several other Executive Committee members reported conflicts on the earlier dates. It was ultimately decided to reschedule the meetings during the afternoon of Friday, October 27th and all day on Saturday, October 28th. Dr. Barrett inquired whether participation in the Italian Congress is mandatory for Executive Committee members. Dr. Enna clarified that it is not, noting that many of the lectures are likely to be in Italian. Ms. LeCount will distribute additional details as they become available.

Other business/closing remarks

Dr. Spedding introduced a proposal to host the IUPHAR Executive Officer recently received from the Parthenon Management Group, a spinoff of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology to professionally manage scientific societies. The proposal offers up to 100 hours of service per month and includes nearly all of the tasks and duties currently being performed by Ms. LeCount and Ms. Arbuckle for an annual fee of US\$75k excluding sundry operational expenses, such as long distances charges, postage, photocopying, travel, etc. They are prepared to have an IUPHAR Executive Officer hired by spring 2018 so that the transition within a few weeks of the 2018 World Congress will be seamless. Dr. Webb observed that the annual meeting of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology is well-run and Dr. Enna confirmed it's the same group of people. The possibility of receiving proposals from some of the larger IUPHAR member societies was discussed but none appear to be forth coming at this point. Ms. LeCount noted that a final reminder will be sent at the beginning of June to all IUPHAR member societies that the deadline for submitting proposals is the end of June. The group compiled a list questions and clarifications to communicate to the Parthenon Management Group and their responses will be discussed in conjunction with the proposal during the meeting in October.

Dr. Spedding described a new initiative, which may lead to future funding opportunities. Karolinska Institute (KI) has shown that there are major changes in drug metabolism for many drugs between different human populations, which echo a recent commentary, featuring Collen Masarimabwa a leading member of PharfA, in *Nature* on the metabolism of drugs for AIDS. A preliminary interaction between KI and NC-IUPHAR has shown that drug targets may also be modified between different populations, which is potentially of great interest to world health. This would be of great use if the targets could be enlarged to the WHO essential drugs list. Dr. Spedding hopes to identify major drug targets that may be used to attract grant funding for the IUPHAR Pharmacogenetics and Pharmacogenomics Section in addition to the Pharmacology for Africa initiative. He noted that this would include collaboration opportunities for the Chinese Pharmacological Society and the Indian Society of Pharmacology.

Dr. Enna called for questions or comments and, as there were none, conclude the teleconference at 8:05 a.m. CDT.

Lynn LeCount, CMA
Administrative Officer