



# Minutes: IFPA Annual General Meeting 2009

Colin Sibley (President)  
Stacy Zamudio (Secretary)  
Takeshi Aso (Treasurer)

**Date:** Friday, October 9th, 2009  
**Venue:** Adelaide Convention Centre, Australia  
Time: 3:15 PM

1. **WELCOME** Colin Sibley, IFPA President

2. **MINUTES OF Sept 12th, 2008 AGM**

The minutes are published in Blue Pages and Web Site [www.placenta.cc](http://www.placenta.cc)

It was moved, seconded and carried that the minutes be approved as published in Placenta

3. **SECRETARY'S REPORT** (S. Zamudio)

3.1 Website (S Zamudio for A Rolfo)

The IFPA website is now up and running. Secretary Zamudio presented the features of the website, showed the membership the new sections for New Investigators and the IFPA newsletter and encouraged the members to make use of the site for announcements, job postings etc.

President Sibley thanked Alessandro Rolfo on behalf of the members for his hard work and management of the web site. He also acknowledged Rebecca Jones for her work on the newsletter.

4. **TREASURER'S REPORT** (L Myatt for T.Aso)

The treasurer's report is attached. It was moved, seconded and passed that given we must maintain our IFPA bank account in the United States that Dr. Leslie Myatt would officially become the Executive Treasurer on a continuing basis. This does not detract from the rotation nor from the responsibilities of the treasurer, as both Dr. Myatt and the elected treasurer (Dr. Aso for one more year) are signatories on the account and have check signing and other relevant authority.

Dr. Myatt reviewed the state of the account, showed the balances placed into various CDs with variable yields depending on their term. He indicated the account held sufficient funds to issue checks to all the Loke Awardees at the meeting while awaiting the distribution of these funds from the TRC in Cambridge.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the Treasurer's report be approved.

5. **STANDING COMMITTEES**

6.1 Awards (C Sibley for M. Knopfler).

Dr. Knoefler could not attend the Adelaide meeting, therefore Dr. Sibley acted as Chair for the Awards committee, soliciting sub-committees from the senior membership. Thus far the judging process has gone smoothly. Of the awards already presented, the IFPA Award in Placentology for 2009 was awarded to Berthold Huppertz & Claire Roberts. The NIH lectureship went to Kent Thornburg. President Sibley acknowledged the high quality of the presentations by these awardees and thanked them for their continued participation in and support of IFPA.

The following individuals chaired the sub-awards committees:  
 Chair new investigator oral presentations (Elsevier, Larry Chamley)  
 Chair TR awards (Colin Sibley)  
 Chair Loke Awards (C. Roberts 45 awardees; 5 Adelaide awardees will receive \$50)

The issue of how to handle local competition for the Loke Awards was satisfactorily handled this year by the local committee determining what was a "local", i.e. who would not have to pay airfares etc, to travel to the IFPA meeting and awarding them a \$50 prize. This permits them to place on their CV that they were Loke Award recipients, but without violating the intent of the Loke Awards which was to provide travel funds to those YIs who might otherwise not be able to afford the costs. This was discussed and it was decided that for the time being, the issue of who is to be considered "local" would rest with the organizer and his/her committee for evaluating the abstracts and determining who would receive awards.

Dr. Les Myatt resubmitted the Conference award from NIH; it scored at the 1.2 percentile, and will be renewed. \$10,000 per year is available to cover YIs, and the senior invitee. Only 4 US based YI submitted abstracts this year. Members are encouraged to have their US trainees compete for these awards! Colin commended Les for his stellar job in writing the grant and assuring continuation of these funds.

## 6.2 Publications

Placenta (Michael Nelson, Graham Burton, Editors)

Drs. Nelson and Burton presented the summary statistics for Placenta publications this past year. The major issue discussed is that our Impact factor declined from 3.2 to 2.8 and our standing moved from \$4 to #10 in reproductive biology. Dr. Nelson explained that in part this is because we increased our page number, as per a long-standing plan, which increases our denominator relative to citations. Nonetheless, the editors noted that review articles need to be increased and per our new contract with Elsevier these will be open access immediately. About 50% of articles are rejected. Number of submissions has increased. Regularly using 3 referees.

Trophoblast Research (G. Lash for A. Carter, Editor)

Dr. Gendie Lash presented the TR report for Dr. carter, who could not attend. She noted from the Editorial Board meeting that the major change from last year, i.e. not doing workshop reports, has resulted in a disturbing fall-off of TR citations. Mr. Peoples noted that TR used to be the most downloaded and the most cited issue, but this was not the case in 2008-2009. Discussion ensued about various members' dissatisfaction with the abandonment of the workshop reports and the issue was returned to the Editorial Board for resolution.

## 6.3 Early Career Investigators (ECR, A. Sferuzzi-Perri)

Dr. Amanda Sferuzzi-Perri reported on the attendance at the various ECR activities and encouraged future meeting organizers to include the successful efforts such as the ECR get together and ECR-organized symposium to become regular features of the IFPA annual meeting. Dr. Sibley thanked Amanda for her considerable efforts to organize the ECRs and arrange for social and training activities.

## 6. CONFERENCE REPORTS

6.1 ANZPRA, 2009. 6-10 October, Adelaide, Australia. (Claire Roberts)

Dr. Roberts presented the final attendance figures and noted that while some receipts were still outstanding, the conference would break even. She thanked Nina Cosgrove and the Elsevier Team for their hard work and noted that the meeting has gone very smoothly. Dr. Sibley thanked Claire and her organizing committee and the Elsevier team on behalf of the IFPA membership.

6.2 PAA, 2010, Santiago 19-22 October (Luis Sobrevia)

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Dr. Sobrevia presented an update on the venue for the 2010 meeting with pictures of the hotel and the city, and reviewed the progress of the negotiations for venues and costs to date.

### 6.3 EPG 2011, Gielo, Norway (Berthold Huppertz for Anne Catherine Staff)

Dr. Huppertz was unable to attend.

### 6.4 JPA 2012

Whether and in what venue the Japanese Placental Association might wish to host the 2012 meeting is to be discussed at their upcoming Council meeting in November 2009. A proposal, if one is to be submitted, should be presented at the 2010 Chile meeting.

### 6.5 PAA 2013 Proposed sites, dates (S Zamudio, I Caniggia)

Vancouver was proposed as a site for the 2013 meeting and membership solicited regarding date limitations (August as opposed to September). September was indicated as the favoured time of year especially by European members. Proposals for 2013 should be presented at the Chile meeting.

## 7. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS/NEW BUSINESS

### 7.1 SWOT Analysis (C. Sibley)

Attached to these Minutes is the summary of the SWOT analysis initially prepared by Colin Sibley and discussed extensively by the Executive Committee earlier this week. Members are encouraged to review the analysis and comment on the contents.

### 7.2 Mid Career Investigator Support

One of the opportunities identified by the SWOT analysis (as well as a threat) was the gap we currently have in participation by mid-career investigators. We have been extremely successful in supporting trainees, but when our scientists transition into faculty positions and are struggling for funding and career progress, we have no mechanisms to support them. Among the items discussed were a concentrated effort to ask mid-career investigators to be speakers in plenaries and workshops, and possibly to provide travel support for mid-career investigators invited as speakers. This initiative would be funded, in part, by increasing the IFPA levy (see 7.4 below), and by soliciting specific awards from donors/commercial entities

### 7.3 Registration discounts for middle and low-income countries

As a continuation of new business raised last year the issue of registration discounts for low and middle-income countries was revisited. See 7.6 below) but among the sub-committee tasks delegated, Dr. Nick Illsley was charged with examining how the proposed discount would have impacted our revenues over the past 5 meetings.

### 7.4 Increasing IFPA levy as part of registration (to support MCI initiative)

7.5 Offering focused courses pre/post meetings (to support MCI and NI initiatives within IFPA, increase back-up funds to cover meeting deficits if needed).

Again, as part of an effort to generate funding to support IFPA activities and attendance at the meetings, it was proposed that we sponsor focused workshops prior to or immediately after the meetings that would attract paying clinicians and trainees. Chile 2010 was considered an ideal venue for this, as South American clinicians have a long tradition of attending 1-day courses (certificate courses) to further their knowledge in particular skills or areas of diagnosis/imaging. Again, the responsibility for designing a course and evaluating feasibility was assigned to a sub-committee (see 7.6).

### 7.6 Sub Committee assignments:

7.6.a Mid Career Investigator (MCI) support mechanisms: Gendie Lash, Alex Heazell (EPG), Denise Hemmings (PAA), and Vicki Clifton (ANZPRA), JPA (TBD at next JPA Council meeting)

7.6.b Middle/Low Income countries (N Illsley tasked to evaluate impact on IFPA registration costs over past five years using UN criteria for middle/low income countries)

7.6.c Courses to be offered at Chile meeting (L Sobrevia, E Bevilacqua, S Zamudio, N Illsley)

7.6. d Outreach to China (S. Saito, L Myatt, L Chamley)

## **8. OTHER NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was raised.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

President Sibley adjourned the meeting at 4:38 PM.



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**Executive Rotation Schedule**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>President</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
1994	Sydney		Miller*	Kaufmann*
1995	Spa			
1996	Banff	Kaufmann	Miller	Soma
1997	Vigso			
1998	Tokyo	Schneider		
1999	Schladming			Hata
2000	Rochester		Rice	
2001	Sorento	Hunt		
2002	Melbourne			
2003	Mainz	Myatt		Aplin
2004	Asilomar			
2005	Glasgow	Rice	Morrish	
2006	Kobe			
2007	Kingston			Aso
2008	Seggau		Zamudio	
2009	Adelaide	Sibley		
2010	Santiago			new treas. ANZPRA
2011	Geilo			

<b>IFPA Cincinnati Accounts - September 2009</b>		<b>\$US</b>		
		<i>Credit</i>	<i>Debit</i>	<i>Balance</i>
1-Aug-08	Balance Brought Forward			\$40,489.23
31-Aug-08	reversed fee	\$27.00		
	Service Charge		\$7.00	\$40,509.23
30-Sep-08	Purchase of 4 Certificates of Deposit	\$10,000.00		
	Young Investigator Awards (17@\$500)	\$8,500.00		\$22,009.23
31-Oct-08	Young Investigator Awards (14@\$500)	\$7,000.00		\$15,009.23
30-Nov-08	Young Investigator Awards (2@\$500)	\$1,000.00		
	Than Award T Cindrova Davis	\$1,231.52		\$12,771.71
31-Dec-08	Young Investigator Awards (3@\$500)	\$1,500.00		
				\$11,277.71
31-Jan-09				\$11,277.71
2/29/2009				\$11,277.71
31-Mar-09	Nationwide Info Services (Registered Agent fee)		\$165.00	
	Than Award Payment	\$4,000.00		\$15,112.71
30-Apr-09	Wire Transfer Fee		\$16.50	\$15,096.21
31-May-08	F. Lyall IFPA expenses Glasgow march 2009		\$299.23	
	Reissued Young Investigator Award E Yamamoto		\$500.00	\$14,296.98
30-Jun-09				\$14,296.98
7/31/09	Fee		\$20.00	\$14,276.98
31-Aug-09	Elsevier Profit Share and IFPA levy from Seggau Meeting	11,117.65		25,394.63
29-Sep-09	Reversal of fee	20.00		
	Wire Transfer fee		16.50	
	Check printing Charge		5.00	25,393.13
	<b>Balance Sept 29 2009</b>			<b>\$25,393.13</b>
	note Young Investigator Check not cashed K. Rull			\$500
	note Check not cashed S Zamudio			\$25.00
	Certificates of Deposit Sept 29 2009	2567.29		
		2590.08		
		2606.18		
		2618.71		\$10,382.27
	<b>Total</b>			<b>\$35,775.40</b>