



IFPA Annual General Meeting MINUTES, 2011 Geilo, Norway

Colin Sibley (President)
Stacy Zamudio (Secretary)
Claire Roberts (Treasurer)

Date: September 17th, 2011
Venue: Geilo
Time: 6:30 PM

1. WELCOME from Dr. Colin Sibley, IFPA President

The meeting was called to order at 18:43 PM. Dr Sibley presented a brief overview of IFPA history and welcomed all attendees. He reminded them that by virtue of attending the meeting they are members of IFPA as well as their regional association.

2. MINUTES OF PAST MEETINGS – Distributed

It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the minutes of the 2010 AGM meeting.

3. SECRETARY'S REPORT (Dr. Stacy Zamudio)

We have filed all relevant documents to maintain our status as a not-for-profit educational organization.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT (Dr. Claire Roberts)

Dr Myatt reported for Dr. Claire Roberts on our bank balances, expenditures and our sources of income. He reviewed our investments (CDs) and the decision to renew some of them.

5. STANDING AND AD HOC COMMITTEES

5.1 Publication standing committee

5.1.1 *Placenta* Editors Search Committee (Dr. Les Myatt, Dr. Graham Burton, Dr. Masaomi Takayama, Dr. Anthony Carter, Dr. Claire Roberts, Dr. Mike Nelson, Dr. Melissa Westwood)

Dr. Myatt reported on the process by which the new Editors were chosen. He announced that Drs. Yoel Sadovsky and Vicki Clifton are the new editors of *Placenta*. They were each chosen from a field of 6 North/South American and Pacific Rim applicants, respectively, who were nominated by members.

5.1.2 Report on Publications, Placenta and Trophoblast Research (Dr. Mike Nelson, Dr. Graham Burton, Dr. Anthony Carter)

Dr. Nelson reported that *Placenta's* Impact factor has gone up to 2.985. Submissions remain very high. To date 101 papers were submitted to the European Editor and 141 for the North American Editor. This represents a 25% increase since the past Editor stepped down. Submissions are up from South America and from

China. IFPA members were asked to please download the suggested table from the Placenta website to characterize patients and placentas and to design their studies appropriately. This table will become a formal requirement in 3 years. Another table will be added about cell culture conditions, gas tensions etc. Finally Mike asked that members please cite recent (within 24 month) Placenta articles wherever they choose to submit their ms., as this will raise our impact factor.

Dr. Carter reminded members that the purpose of Trophoblast Research is to report the proceedings of our meeting, therefore they are review articles and workshop summaries, TR was out in March of last year, <6 months after the meeting, in good order. There were two workshop reports last year, this year there will be 3.

5.2 Ad Hoc Conference Committee (Dr. Colin Sibley)

This new committee consists of former and upcoming conference organizers, the secretary, treasurers and a workshop coordinator. The objective is to attain corporate memory and to ensure that we have continuity in that memory to help future congress organizers.

5.2.1 Elsevier Conference Contract

Dr. Sibley reported on the history of negotiating this contract; it is still being discussed. There was a review of options 1-3 as discussed by the Executive. It was moved, seconded and approved to pursue the option of financially supporting meeting organizers with IFPA funds, the amounts to be determined depending on need and funds' availability.

5.2.2 Update on Geilo meeting 2011 (EPG Dr. Annetine Staff)

Dr Staff reported that the Norway meeting had 333 delegates, more than the 250 break-even point. The profit is likely to be ~10%. There will be discussion for EPG and the IFPA Exec about how to give this back to the society.

5.2.3 Update on Hiroshima meeting 2012 (JPA Dr. Yoshi Kudo)

Dr. Kudo reported on the preparations for the Hiroshima meeting next year. He gave a presentation on the venue, dates, program schedule, the locality and the major attractions of the area; as well as the content of the scientific and social programs.

5.2.4 Update on PAA 2013 Meeting (Drs. Isabella Caniggia, Stacy Zamudio)

The organizers presented a brief overview of the venues being considered, their pros and cons, and the timeline for PAA approval of the venue.

5.3 Awards Committee (Drs. Martin Knöfler, Larry Chamley)

5.3.1 IFPA Award in Placentology (Dr. Colin Sibley)

Colin reported on the process by which the IFPA Award in Placentology was determined, since Dr. Knöfler was one of the nominees and therefore had to step down as Chair. There were 5 nominees, but because Martin was one of them, he stepped down as Chair of the Committee. The process then involved all committee members evaluating the CVs and letters of recommendation and then ranking them 1, 2, 3, etc. The sum of ranks determined the winner. Dr. Sibley did

not participate in the ranking as the interim Chair. He congratulated Martin on his award and the fine lecture presented here in Geilo.

5.3.2 Placenta and TR Awards (Dr. Martin Knöfler Dr. Larry Chamley)

Martin has organized the team for the Oral Awards decision. Larry Chamley is in charge of poster judging. He has streamlined the process considerably and ensured that variation in scoring between judging teams will be minimized as follows: There will be 12 judging teams and to account for variation in scores between teams, each team will select their top poster. These 12 will be rejudged by a smaller committee and narrowed to 2, the winner and 2nd place.

5.3.3 Senior Award (Dr. Martin Knöfler, suggested ToR)

Martin presented the ToR approved by the Executive for the IFPA Senior Award. This will be posted on the website. It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the Award and the ToR.

5.4.4 Donations to support named awards (Dr. Stacy Zamudio)

Ideas were solicited regarding how to make it possible for IFPA members to donate to named awards if they wish to do so. Using the registration website is not possible as it will change from year to year and there is no mechanism to transfer funds back into various accounts. It was suggested that donations could be deposited in the IFPA bank account, noted as held in reserve, but the Treasurers will need to review the mechanism and potential problems associated.

6. NEW COMMITTEES/TASK FORCES

6.1 Outreach to colleagues in China (Dr. Larry Chamley, Dr. Shigeru Saito, Dr. Les Myatt)

It would be possible to have an IFPA meeting in China (not the main meeting but as an addition to one already ongoing). If so, Fudan should be used as the starting point. Fudan emphasizes gynecologic oncology. Perhaps the Japan meeting could be used to promote greater communication. Dr Kudo reported that there are two Taiwanese researchers who are members of JPA. Yoshi was encouraged to invite a senior Chinese investigator in placenta to Chair a session or otherwise participate in the 2012 IFPA meeting organized by JPA.

6.2 Affiliations with other societies (Dr. Colin Sibley)

Efforts in this direction were reviewed, but it was concluded that formal liaison with joint meetings is virtually impossible and we should therefore direct our efforts at trying to avoid conflict between when societies schedule their meetings and to make an effort to schedule our meetings, where possible, to permit attendance at FNPS, ISSHP or DOHAD without having to choose between meetings (i.e. being held at the same time)

6.3 Revision of By-laws (Dr. Greg Rice) The following changes to the bylaws were presented to the members:

1. Increase the term of non-voting Executive Committee participation for former officers to 3 yr
2. Rules of procedure. Change to a majority rather than a quorum for voting purposes in the AGM.
3. The number of non-voting editors included in the Executive needs to go to 4 in order to accommodate the additional editor.
4. Include the ECR representative in the bylaws as members of the Executive rather than co-opted members

5. Change the 4 month requirement for revision of bye-laws to a 6 week requirement.

It was moved, seconded and carried to make these changes to our bylaws.

7. REDUCED REGISTRATION FOR LOW & MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRIES (Dr. Nick Illsley)

Nick summarized the discussion from prior executive meetings and the decision to leave the issue of reduced registration for scientists from low-income countries to the individual conference organizers.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Application by the Israel Society of Placental Research to become a member society within IFPA (Dr. Debra Goldman-Wohl)

Dr. Goldman-Wohl gave a brief overview of the ISPR and their goals in becoming a member society within IFPA. They will become a member under the umbrella of the EPG. It was moved, seconded and carried to welcome ISPR to the IFPA.

8.2 IFPA Communications: Website, Blue Pages, Newsletter (Dr. Alessandro Rolfo, Dr. Rebecca Jones)

In future, the 'Blue Pages' will be used to advertise meetings, officer list add other basic information, while the website will publish the minutes, and serve as a repository for past newsletters. Dr. Alessandro Rolfo, webmaster, reported that the IFPA website has been moved to a new site. The link shown in the Placenta website is incorrect and will be changed to <http://www.ifpafederation.org/home/home.html>. Alessandro and Rebecca was commended for doing a great job with the website and newsletter respectively.

8.3 New officers

The EPG has elected Christiane Pfarrer to be the next IFPA secretary. She will take office at the end of the 2012 meeting in Hiroshima.

9. ANY OTHER NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed

10. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Sibley adjourned the meeting at 19:38