

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

**MINUTES from the Annual Business Meeting of the
International Federation of Placenta Associations, 17:30
PM on Friday, 12 September 2008, at Seggau Castle,
Austria. A quorum was deemed to be present.**

Welcome. Greg Rice, IFPA President, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He also acknowledged with gratitude, the efforts of Dr. Berthold Huppertz (Meeting Chair, Seggau 2008), Elsevier (especially Ms. Nina Cosgrove), the IFPA Executive Committee members, and sub-committees for their efforts in the success of the Seggau meeting and Dr. Henning Schneider (Chair, Publications Committee).

Minutes of the 2007 AGM. The minutes of the August 2007 IFPA Annual General Meeting were published in Placenta and posted on the IFPA website www.placenta.cc.

The motion to approve the minutes was passed unanimously.

Secretary's report. Stacy Zamudio reported that the annual dues required to maintain our tax-exempt corporate status in the State of Delaware have been paid. Pursuant to Executive Committee recommendations she made a call for involvement by IFPA members, especially new investigators in the IFPA committees (e.g. Publications) and for webmaster(s). She reported that plans are underway to revamp the IFPA website. Members were reminded that the next meeting (IFPA 2009) will be held in Adelaide, October 6-9 with details available at <http://www.ifpaconference.org/>. A call for nominations for the IFPA Award in Placentology will be forthcoming in the new year, members were encouraged to submit nominations. A call for proposals for the 2012 Japanese Placenta Association was made and a review of the meeting schedule for the next 5 years was reviewed (2009 ANZPRA, 2010 PAA, 2011 EPG, 2012 JPA, 2013 PAA). Venues and meeting Chairs for 2012 and 2013 have not yet been proposed. The secretary's report was approved unanimously.

Treasurer's report. Les Myatt presented the financial report on behalf of Takeshi Aso. He reviewed the relevant 2007-2008 line items for expenses and revenues. He noted that after paying the 2008 Loke awards and the Than Award, the account balance will be \$19,489.23. He reported pursuant to Executive Committee discussions that IFPA plans to invest part of this money in longer term funds to earn interest, using the mechanism of 1, 2, 3 and 4-year CDs. Discussion ensued about rates of return, penalties for early withdrawal and the need to maintain funds that are liquid in case of emergency. Dr. Myatt reported that two recipients of Loke Awards from Kingston (2007) did not cash their checks, and reminded PIs to ensure that recipients cash their checks. The Treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

Standing Committee Reports

Publications Henning Schneider, Chair of the Search Committee, announced that Graham Burton has agreed to be the European Editor for Placenta as of January 1, 2009. Dr. Rice thanked Dr. Schneider and the Committee for their work, congratulated Dr. Burton and expressed profound thanks to Dr. Gernot Desoye for his service to Placenta as the outgoing European Editor of Placenta.

We must now renegotiate our contract with Elsevier; the current contract was for 2005-2010 and will expire January 2010. This must be negotiated well in advance. Electronic publishing will be an issue that the Committee will have to pay careful attention to. Paul Bischoff noted that Public money that goes to research requires open publication

directly on the net with variable time limits from country to country. It was acknowledged that this must be considered when negotiating the contract.

Awards Committee Colin Sibley, Chair of the Awards Committee reported that the 2008 Than Award was received by Teresa Cindrova-Davies. There were only 3 nominations, concern was expressed that we do not receive enough nominations. Pursuant to discussion within the Executive Committee means by which awareness of the Awards and the need for reminders to go to the membership were discussed. A request and procedure for nominations for the 2009 IFPA Placentology Award was made. Members were reminded that the IPFA Placentology Award is for a senior investigator who has made an outstanding contribution. Normally the Award is from someone within 15 years of their terminal degree. A Letter of nomination plus CV is the documentation required. The awards are advertised on the IFPA Pages of *Placenta*. The terms of reference are listed on the IFPA website. For this year's Award the Secretary of IFPA has been asked to organize and send via email a request for nominations to senior IFPA membership.

Discussion ensued of an additional award for senior investigators, those who are beyond 15 years from the terminal degree. This was referred back to the Awards Committee for consideration.

Program Committee

Les Myatt reminded members that the Program Committee serves as a corporate memory and exists to help organizers with program topics and content. Feedback was solicited on program content or innovations that have especially successful/unsuccessful. Terry Mayhew commended the association on the success of the lunch time sessions on grant writing, paper writing, publication submission etc. He would like to see future topics on how to write a critical analysis of published data, how to design a project etc. Members concluded that educational outreach is desirable.

It was suggested that it would be a good idea to email the persons who have designated themselves as new investigators over the past few meetings to find out what topics they would like to see covered in the next IFPA meetings.

Journals

Placenta. Gernot Desoye reported that *Placenta* has now achieved its highest impact factor ever at 3.2. *Placenta* ranks #4 in Reproductive Biology and #5 in Obstetrics and Gynecology. The time between submission and publication in Science Direct is 19 weeks. Turnaround time for review has also been improved; submission to 1st decision is now 25 days. Gernot expressed his gratitude to both reviewers and authors, and to those who have supported him as Editor. He extended his congratulations to Graham Burton who will succeed him as Editor.

Trophoblast Research. Anthony Carter reported that the past format for TR has changed. There will not be workshop reports. Instead only a single workshop report covering all the workshops will be put together. He reminded members that the Editors of *Placenta* are always interested in a Current Topic review article and that this would be an appropriate venue for workshops on cutting edge topics.

Placenta IFPA pages: Anthony Carter reported that these are historically interesting as we were given 4 free pages by the publishers as acknowledgement of the relationship between IFPA and *Placenta*. A record of each meeting and a full page advertisement for the next meeting is always a feature. These pages will continue to contain the Minutes of the AGM, and list of awardees, but barring that the IFPA Executive Committee has concluded we do not need Blue Pages in their current format.

Conference reports

Seggau, Austria 10-13 September 2008: Berthold Huppertz reported a record number of 405 registrants, 10 more than was anticipated as a maximum. Berthold reported that once the budget has been finalized we will make a small profit, even with the bus service that was unanticipated.

Adelaide, Australia 6-9 October. Claire Roberts gave an overview of programmatic themes and topics, venues and social events. She reported that in addition to the IFPA-managed travel awards ANZPRA is offering 6 NI awards for Australian and New Zealand New Investigators, She also presented opportunities for tours of beautiful Australia for members interested in vacationing prior to or after the meetings.

Santiago, Chile, 2010. Luis Sobrevia reported that the issue of Elsevier's ability to underwrite the Chile meeting has been resolved and a final decision made favoring Santiago as the venue.

Geilo, Norway 6-9 September 2011. Annetine Staff's proposal for Geilo, Norway was ratified by the EPG. She presented an overview of the site and preliminary plans for the Program.

Matters arising

Greg Rice reviewed the process of appointing a New President and the rotation schedule of the IFPA presidency and other officers. According to this schedule the EPG will elect one of their representatives to serve as the IFPA president for the term of office 2009-2012. Colin Sibley was received a majority vote of the EPG. His nomination will be ratified by the IFPA executive in their meeting following this AGM on September 12th 18:30-20:30 PM.

No new business was presented.

Adjournment No further business was raised. The meeting adjourned at 18:20 PM.