

International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (IUPHAR) 2010-2014 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

July 24th, 2010
Copenhagen, Denmark

Participants

Donald J. Birkett, Australia, Chair of Clinical Pharmacology Division
Kim Brøsen, Denmark, Councilor
Kay Brune, Germany, Councilor
Patrick du Souich, Canada, President
S. J. Enna, USA, Secretary-General
Graeme Henderson, UK, First Vice President
Masamitsu Iino, Japan, Second Vice President
John O. Miners, Australia, Councilor
Douglas Oliver, South Africa, Councilor
Urs T. Ruegg, Switzerland, Treasurer
Petra Thürmann, Germany, Secretary General of Clinical Pharmacology Division
Lynn LeCount, USA, Administrative Support

Excused

Darrell Abernethy, Vice Chair of Clinical Pharmacology Division
Sue Piper Duckles, USA, Past President
María Isabel Lucena, Spain, Treasurer of Clinical Pharmacology Division
Yongxiang Zhang, PR China, Councilor

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 on Saturday, July 24th, 2010.

Discussion

Welcome

President Patrick du Souich congratulated the new members of the 2010-2014 Executive Committee and thanked the returning members. He feels it's an exciting time to be a part of IUPHAR because of the many projects underway and the movement towards a unified discipline. He recommended that one section or committee chair or Executive Committee member be invited to participate on the monthly officer teleconferences to enhance communication among the IUPHAR constituencies.

Fundraising issues

Secretary-General S. J. Enna reiterated the long-term financial challenges noted by Treasurer Urs Ruegg during the General Assembly. Suggestions for increasing revenue in the coming years included establishing an IUPHAR journal, sponsoring additional meetings, particularly if Continuing Medical Education credit could be arranged, and growing PharmacoCareers, the IUPHAR career center. Individuals and subcommittees were asked to explore some of these issues in more detail and to report their findings and recommendations to the Executive Committee during its meeting in 2011.

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Overview of Reports

Dr. Enna reminded the group that the reports from IUPHAR representatives to other organizations, committees, the Clinical Division and sections were distributed in advance with the other meeting materials. He asked if there were any comments or questions about these reports.

Dr. Petra Thürmann announced that the Clinical Division is establishing a subcommittee to focus on geriatric pharmacology. If this new group is successful in establishing and funding worthwhile initiatives it could in the future be a candidate for establishment as an IUPHAR section. Dr. du Souich mentioned a current goal of the Clinical Division is to collaborate more closely with the sections and, in particular, the Teaching Section.

Meetings

WorldPharma2010 (WP2010) preliminary results

Dr. Kim Brøsen, President of WorldPharma2010, stated that the financial results from the congress were expected from International Conference Service A/S (ICS) in November. Dr. Ruegg inquired if ICS would have the records audited, which Dr. Brøsen believed was the case. Despite the usual challenges associated with large meetings, Dr. Brøsen was pleased with the outcome, having met the attendance expectations set in 2002. He felt there would be some nominal profit for IUPHAR.

Dr. Thürmann described the draft of a survey she and Dr. Donald Birkett had developed to ascertain how WP2010 participants viewed the joint basic and clinical congress. The Executive Committee recommended the document be reduced to a brief questionnaire that could be posted on a free survey website. The survey website address will be embedded in an e-mail to be distributed to the WP2010 participants. The results will be collated and analyzed and the results shared with the Executive Committee and the organizing committees for the 2014 and 2018 congresses.

It was agreed that Dr. Brøsen will prepare an analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats associated with WP2010 to be presented with the final congress report during the 2011 Executive Committee meeting. The results will also be shared with the organizers of the 2014 and 2018 congresses.

The Executive Committee felt there should be more publicity in conjunction with future congresses, including press releases and advertisements in high visibility journals. Hiring a professional press agent to ensure effective coverage was advocated. Symposia covering high profile topics in medicine could be opened to the general public to increase awareness of IUPHAR and how the organization benefits mankind.

World Congress of Pharmacology 2014 (WCP2014) Status Update

Dr. Douglas Oliver reported the organizers of WCP2014 are developing African contacts to ensure high levels of regional participation in the meeting. In addition to the traditional bursaries required by IUPHAR, they are creating a sponsorship program in which individuals and societies may underwrite the

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travel expense of African pharmacologists who otherwise would not be able to attend the congress. Dr. Oliver announced the Hong Kong Society of Pharmacology was the first IUPHAR member society to volunteer their sponsorship in the new program. He asked for the endorsement of the Executive Committee to contact all IUPHAR member societies to invite their support of this initiative. Over the next few months Dr. Oliver will try to identify a matching donor to leverage the contributions from IUPHAR member societies. Once a matching donor is found the Secretary-General's office will send an invitation to middle and high income member societies to sponsor an African pharmacologist to attend WCP2014. It was also suggested that clinical pharmacology societies that are not members of IUPHAR also be contacted as some may be willing to offer a one-time sponsorship.

The International Advisory Board for WCP2014 was established by the Executive Committee, with Dr. du Souich as chair. Drs. Brøsen, Enna, Graeme Henderson and Thürmann were also selected to serve. Per IUPHAR Statutes, the International Advisory Board shall collaborate with the congress organizing committee in determining the general form of the congress, the number and topics of the symposia, the congress lecturers, and other important matters pertaining to the organization of this event.

The 2018 World Congress of Pharmacology

Dr. Enna congratulated Dr. Masamitsu Iino and his colleagues on their successful bid to host the 2018 World Congress of Pharmacology in Kyoto.

The Finance Committee for the 2018 congress will be established by the Executive Committee after the officers of the 2018 World Congress organizing committee are named. Dr. Ruegg will chair this Finance Committee.

Concerns were expressed about allowing four years to pass between IUPHAR-sponsored meetings. While it was generally agreed that four years was appropriate for separating world congresses, many felt there should be an IUPHAR-sponsored meeting of some kind during this interval to help maintain IUPHAR in the consciousness of pharmacologists worldwide. Several ideas were discussed as to the format, purpose and location of such interim meetings. Dr. Enna summarized the goals of these interim meetings as being to:

- promulgate pharmacology
- assist the growth of member societies
- offer young scientists more opportunities to participate in international gatherings
- provide revenue for the Union

An *ad hoc* committee composed of Drs. Birkett, Brøsen, Kay Brune, and Enna, with Dr. du Souich as chair was established to identify and evaluate possible options for the interim meetings. This *ad hoc* group is to report its recommendations to the Executive Committee during the 2011 meeting.

Dr. du Souich described a recent meeting with the officers of the European Association for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics (EACPT) to explore ways to strengthen collaborations between it and IUPHAR. It was announced, that the Hungarian Society for Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology will host

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the 10th EACPT Congress. The congress president, Dr. Adam Vas, offered IUPHAR the opportunity to organize a basic science symposium. He indicated that he will send Dr. Enna more information about this opportunity.

Recommendations of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Sections/Clinical Division

Drs. du Souich and Birkett described the goal of the *ad hoc* committee on Sections/Clinical Division, established during the 2009 Executive Committee meeting, as being responsible for recommending ways to enhance communication and collaboration among the various IUPHAR sections, committees and the Clinical Division. One recommendation from this *ad hoc* committee was to change the statutes to give the Executive Committee sole authority to establish and dissolve sections. This modification of the statutes was approved by the delegates at the 2010 General Assembly.

Another recommendation made by this *ad hoc* committee was to centralize communication between and among the sections, Clinical Division and the Executive Committee. To achieve this objective, the *ad hoc* committee suggested that two members of the Executive Committee, one basic and one clinical, be assigned responsibility for monitoring, fostering and overseeing interactions among the sections and the division. Various mechanisms for sharing information among the sections and Clinical Division were discussed, including a ListServ and a brief monthly e-mail update or newsletter describing current activities of the various groups. The members felt it was important to solicit the opinions of the section chairs to ensure their needs are met. Drs. John Miners and Thürmann agreed to serve as the sections liaison and will report on their initial efforts at the 2011 meeting of the Executive Committee.

As an example of how centralized communication could be beneficial, Dr. du Souich described his recent interactions with Dr. Adrián Llerena of the University of Badajoz. Dr. Llerena has developed a Latin American network of clinical pharmacology groups to facilitate young investigator training. Dr. du Souich is exchanging curriculum descriptions with Dr. Llerena and felt that the IUPHAR Education Section and Clinical Division could establish a similar collaboration if there was an established procedure for maintaining communication between the groups.

After carefully reviewing past and current activities of IUPHAR sections and subcommittees, the *ad hoc* committee recommended the following sections be dissolved:

- Bioinformatics
- Drug Toxicology
- Safety Pharmacology
- Neuropsychopharmacology

The Executive Committee unanimously approved the motion to dissolve these four sections. However, it was agreed that should interest be shown in the future for any of these sections the issue would be revisited by the Executive Committee.

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The *ad hoc* committee recommended the following sections be maintained:

- Drug Metabolism Section (Post-meeting note: During their meeting in Copenhagen, the section members voted to change the name to Drug Metabolism and Drug Transport Section.)
- Gastrointestinal Pharmacology Section
- Natural Products Section
- Teaching Section (Post-meeting note: During their meeting in Copenhagen, the section members voted to change the name to Education Section.)

The *ad hoc* committee recommended the following subcommittees of the Clinical Division be elevated to sections:

- Pharmacogenomics & Pharmacogenetics Section
This section had lost vitality over the years so it was decided during the 2006 congress to have it report to the Clinical Division so it could receive appropriate mentoring and resources. Now that the chair, Dr. Ingolf Cascorbi, has brought the group back to full levels of activity, it is restored to regular section status.
- Pediatric Clinical Pharmacology Subcommittee
The subcommittee chair, Dr. Kalle Hoppu, formally applied to be converted to a section by submitting the required by-laws.

The Executive Committee unanimously approved the establishment of the Pediatric Clinical Pharmacology Section under the direction of Dr. Hoppu.

The *ad hoc* committee noted that the following subcommittee might be upgraded to a section pending receipt of required organization materials:

- Clinical Pharmacology in Less Developed Countries Subcommittee
Dr. du Souich discussed with the subcommittee chair, Dr. Lars L Gustafsson, the possibility of converting the subcommittee to a section. Dr. Gustafsson expressed interest in this proposition and will discuss the issue with the subcommittee members.

The *ad hoc* committee recommended changing the IUPHAR liaison to the World Health Organization (WHO) from a single person to a team of three. The current liaison, Dr. Folke Sjöqvist, indicated his willingness to continue in this capacity for a few more years but did not wish to complete a four-year term. The Executive Committee unanimously approved the recommendation to increase the WHO liaison representation from one to three individuals.

Dr. Enna polled the Executive Committee on whether efforts should be made to continue the IUPHAR Integrative and Organ System Pharmacology (IOSP) initiative. He informed the group that the current chair, Dr. David Bylund, is retiring. The members agreed the initiative had performed well and should be continued as a subcommittee under the oversight of the Education Section. Drs. Enna and Henderson will recruit a new chair. Another workshop is planned for Egypt. The “train the trainer” activities in Africa will become the responsibility of PharfA in conjunction with its effort to build capacity so the new chair of the IOSP

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subcommittee can focus solely on expanding the initiative to other parts of the world.

IUPHAR Website (www.iuphar.org) Proposals

Dr. Ruegg and Ms. Lynn LeCount summarized the two most recently submitted bids to establish a new IUPHAR website. As the bids received in the past were deemed too costly, they were never formally presented to the Executive Committee for consideration. There were various concerns about the latest proposals as well, thus it was decided that neither was acceptable in their present forms. The possibility of joining another pharmacology organization in developing two websites together to reduce costs was discussed. As the Executive Committee agreed that investment in a new website is important, it authorized the officers to select an appropriate vendor after solicitation of revised bids. Dr. Ruegg and Ms. LeCount will request revised bids for consideration by the officers.

IUPHAR Liaisons to Other Organizations

Dr. Enna summarized the 2006-2010 Executive Committee recommendations to the 2010-2014 Executive Committee for the IUPHAR liaisons to other organizations. All of the following appointments were unanimously approved by the Executive Committee:

- International Council for Science (ICSU): Sue Piper Duckles, USA
- ICSU Science for Health & Well-Being: Wim du Plooy, South Africa
- ICSU Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA): John Peters, UK
- World Health Organization (WHO): Folke Sjöqvist, Sweden, in conjunction with Gabrielle Hawksworth, UK, and Kalle Hoppu, Finland
- International Council for Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS): J.R. Haywood, USA
- International Council for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (ICMAP): Yongxiang Zhang, China
- International Union of Physiological Sciences (IUPS): Kay Brune, Germany
- International Union of Toxicology (IUTOX): John O. Miners, Australia
- International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC): Michael Spedding, France
- Pharmacology for Africa (PharfA): Douglas Oliver, South Africa

Chair and Composition of 2010-2014 Membership Committee

The Executive Committee approved the following individuals for appointment to the 2010-2014 IUPHAR Membership Committee:

Yu Huang, Asia
Karl Netter, Europe (Chair)
Regina Markus, Latin America (Vice Chair)

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Bernd Rosenkranz, Africa

The clinical representative from North America recommended by Dr. Netter could not serve so an alternate will be recruited.

Chair of 2010-2014 Nomenclature Committee (NC-IUPHAR)

The Executive Committee approved Dr. Michael Spedding of France as the chair of NC-IUPHAR.

Publication Agreement between the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET) and IUPHAR

Dr. Enna summarized the history and terms of the ASPET-IUPHAR agreement to publish NC-IUPHAR articles in *Pharmacological Reviews*. The current agreement expires in October 2011 but subject to an automatic six month renewal until either party chooses to terminate it with advanced notification. He noted that the British Pharmacological Society (BPS) may be willing to publish NC-IUPHAR articles in one of their journals in the event ASPET is not interested in renewing the agreement. Dr. Enna agreed to contact the Editor-in-Chief of *Pharmacological Reviews* to discuss whether ASPET is interested in continuing this association. Dr. Enna will report back about this matter during the 2011 Executive Committee meeting.

Application for IUPHAR membership from the Serbian Medical Association Section on Clinical Pharmacology

The Executive Committee unanimously approved full IUPHAR membership for the Serbian Medical Association Section on Clinical Pharmacology.

Mentoring Program for IUPHAR Societies

While all members of the Executive Committee agreed that in principle it is a good idea to encourage more established member societies to formally mentor newly formed societies, discussion revealed the logistics and etiquette of implementing such a program would be challenging. It was noted that in the past member societies have, on their own, established such relationships which have served the same purpose. Accordingly, it was decided not to formalize such a program.

Equipment Donation Clearinghouse

Dr. Enna described the idea of establishing a database of used and requested research equipment to help member societies acquire these items. The Executive Committee decided not to adopt this plan because of the costs associated with administering the program and of transporting, calibrating, and maintaining such equipment, especially in less developed countries. It was agreed that pharmaceutical firms and philanthropic organization would probably be unwilling to cover such costs given the current economic climate.

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ICSU Funding Application during 2012/13

Dr. Oliver asked if it would be possible to apply for an ICSU grant during the 2012/13 cycle to underwrite WCP2014 workshops. Dr. Enna noted that ICSU funded the IUPHAR Integrative and Organ Systems Pharmacology initiative in the 2009/10 cycle and NC-IUPHAR was planning to apply for funding for the Receptor Database during the 2010/11 cycle. While the Executive Committee doubted ICSU would be willing to fund a third IUPHAR-sponsored grant application over such a short period of time, it was agreed Dr. Oliver should make inquiries at the ICSU African Regional Office about this possibility given the interest ICSU has in supporting initiatives on that continent.

Future Executive Committee Meetings

Dr. Enna proposed that the 2011 Executive Committee meeting be held during the 84th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Pharmacological Society (JPS) in conjunction with the 11th South East Asian Western Pacific Regional Meeting of Pharmacologists (SEAWP-RMP) on March 22nd - 24th, 2011 in Yokohama, Japan. Dr. Iino is the president of the meeting and expressed his enthusiasm for having the IUPHAR Executive Committee attend the meeting. More information on this meeting will be distributed in the coming weeks.

Drs. Brune and du Souich encouraged the Executive Committee members to consider a similar strategy for selecting the 2012 or 2013 meeting and explore conferences being organized by IUPHAR member societies, particularly in South America and southeast Asia. Joint meetings of multiple IUPHAR member societies would be particularly desirable.

The 2014 Executive Committee meeting will be held in association with WCP2014 scheduled for July 13th-18th in Cape Town, South Africa.

Other Business / Closing Remarks

As no other business was brought to the attention of the Executive Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 14:25.