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IUPHAR Education Section – Annual Report to Executive Committee

November 2018

The Education Section of the International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (IUPHAR-Ed) has the mandate and responsibility to support pharmacology educators in fostering and promoting innovative teaching, learning and assessment of basic, clinical and translational pharmacology to higher education pharmacology students and wider audiences across the globe.

Executive Committee Changes

The 2018 Section General Assembly saw a number of changes to the Section Leadership group. Simon Maxwell, as past-Chair, gave excellent leadership over the last 4 years, culminating in a very successful Education Satellite meeting before the 18th World Congress of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (WCP2018) in Kyoto, Japan. This was achieved with the additional support and contribution of Shirra Moch (South Africa) as Deputy-Chair. We thank them for their commitment to the section over many years and hope they continue to be actively involved in IUPHAR-Ed.

At the General Assembly, the following were decided:

Chair: Elizabeth Davis (Australia)
Deputy Chair: Clare Guiding (Malaysia)
Secretary: Helen Kwanashie (Nigeria)
Treasurer: Robert Likic (Croatia)

General committee members: John Szarek (US), Paul White (Australia), Jamie Coleman (UK), Shira Moch (South Africa), Lynette Fernandes (Australia), Atsuro Miyata (Japan), Simon Maxwell (ex-officio past Chair)

IUPHAR-Ed Satellite Meeting

IUPHAR-Ed was pleased to be able to run another successful Pharmacology Education Satellite meeting in association with WCP2018. This satellite brought together thirty-nine pharmacology educators from nine countries to share ideas about innovative teaching and assessment. The plenary speakers were Emeritus Professor Osamu Matsuo (Japan) - *Integrated laboratory practice in basic sciences with active learning attitude* and Professor John Szarek (USA) - *Introducing the Pharmacology Education Project*. In the spirit of sharing ideas, there were twenty-two free communications and nine poster presentations. The satellite ran over two half days with time set aside for the IUPHAR-Ed section General Assembly and an enjoyable buffet dinner. The latter provided a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and establishing new networks. IUPHAR-Ed thanks the Japanese Pharmacological Society (JPS) and the Japanese Society of Clinical Pharmacology (JCPS) for their very generous financial support of this satellite and acknowledges the very great commitment of Professor Atsuro Miyata, who with the help of his colleague, Dr Yuki Kambe, took on the onerous role of local organiser, liaising between the international programme committee and the conference organisers.

IUPHAR-Ed Awards

An important initiative of IUPHAR-Ed is the presentation of awards that acknowledge those who have made important contributions to pharmacology education. The IUPHAR-Ed Teaching Excellence Award recognises outstanding pharmacologists who have made a sustained and significant contribution to education and/or training in pharmacology. The 2018 recipient of this award is Professor PK Rangachari (Canada). Chari has been a long time

supporter of IUPHAR-Ed and is recognised not only for his sustained excellence in teaching that promotes student engagement and effective learning, but also for his leadership in the enhancement of pharmacology education and his mentorship of younger academics. While Chari was not able to make it to the Japan meeting, he provided a video acceptance speech that was played at the awards ceremony. The IUPHAR-Ed outstanding Early Educator Award recognises an individual in the early stage of their teaching career, who has created novel teaching practices in response to a particular challenge to improve student learning outcomes. The 2018 award went to Dr Barb Kemp-Harper (Australia) for her project entitled *Using peer-assisted learning in a pharmacology undergraduate research program to enhance student engagement and performance*. IUPHAR-Ed congratulates both of these very worthy winners.

WCP2018

There were a number of education-related sessions during the main WCP2018 Congress. The congress began with a symposium - *European & Asian Training Initiatives to improve safe and effective use of medicines in modern healthcare*, followed later that day by a symposium introducing the IUPHAR Pharmacology Education Project - www.pharmacologyeducation.org. The following day there was a plenary by Simon Maxwell - *Prescribing Safety Assessment: Ensuring Competency of New Doctors to Use Medicines* and a symposium on *Interprofessional education (IPE): Educating a new generation of healthcare professionals to prescribe medications safely and effectively*.

IUPHAR Pharmacology Education Project

One of the outcomes of the IUPHAR-Ed general assembly was the in principle agreement that IUPHAR-Ed supports the Pharmacology Education Project (PEP), an open access education website - www.pharmacologyeducation.org. The PEP project has a number of key aims including: (i) to support students of pharmacology - whether they are studying science/biomedical science, medicine, pharmacy, nursing or other health professional courses, and (ii) to support the pharmacology education community that provides much of the teaching for these groups. The easily searchable website provides summaries of major topics in pharmacology and links to a range of teaching and learning resources and is expected to be particularly useful in resource-poor countries where the discipline of pharmacology is less well developed. The project is co-led by John Szarek (USA) and Simon Maxwell (UK) with input from an Editorial Board. The aims of the PEP project very much align with the objectives of IUPHAR-Ed and an important activity of IUPHAR-Ed could be to promote the website and encourage contributions from educators around the world.

IUPHAR-Ed Financial Position

At the time of the General Assembly, the balance of the IUPHAR-Ed account stood at €11,140. This balance has been relatively stable and will be used to cover any shortfalls from the satellite, as well as the prize for the outstanding Early Educator.

Future of IUPHAR-Ed

While the IUPHAR-Ed satellites to the World Congress of Pharmacology encourage the coming together of pharmacology educators every four years, the challenge still remains as to how we can keep in touch with members between these meetings and keep the momentum for collaboration going. An important aspect of this will be the updating of the section website. The use of web-based meetings, eg podcasts or webinars is something that could be explored, and there was some discussion of a stand-alone pharmacology education conference. All look forward to coming together again in Glasgow in 2022.

Associate Professor Elizabeth Davis

Chair, IUPHAR Education Section 2018-2022