

ASB. AEM 2005 Attendees

P.H. Berrif

Philip W. Kukul

Mary Beilby

Pierre Moens

Andrew Nymott

Emel Mahomudally

Frances Saparito

Louise Brown

Cecily Oakley

Ben Corry

Warwick Hillier

Paul Smith

Leigh Fischer

Jacqui Gulbis

IAIN M'CONNELL

Taira Vora

Adelle Coster

Cipho Curcio

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Australian Society for Biophysics, held at Rydges Lakeside Hotel, Canberra at 2.45 p.m. on Friday 30th September 2005

Present: The President, Boris Martinac was in the Chair and there were eighteen members of the Society in attendance (signed list on opposite page)

Apologies: Brett Hambly, Hans Coster

Confirmation of minutes of the 2004 meeting: moved Peter Barry / seconded Adelle Coster

Business arising from Minutes:

Report on *Australian Academy of Science and National Committee for Biomedical Sciences* –and future Representation on. This was dealt with in the President's Report.

IUPAB Meeting in Australia in 2014? The consensus of the meeting was that we move ahead on this. Pitch at the 2008 Long Beach Meeting for the 2014 IUPAB meeting to be held in Australia needed to be prepared as soon as possible. Executive to move on the matter, with power to co-opt.

President's Report: The President delivered the following report to the meeting. "I would like to thank Stefan Broer, Shin-Ho Chung, Louise Tierney, Nicole Beard and Paul Smith for putting together this excellent conference. I would also like to thank David Adams, a current President of the AuPS, for his input, collegiality and enthusiasm he invested into this joint conference. Also my special thanks go to David Davey and Adelle Coster who did an outstanding job with the registration and abstract submission to the websites of both Societies.

Furthermore, I would like to thank Alex Hope, Brett Humbley, Adelle Coster and Cyril Curtin for comprising the Bob Robertson and Young Biophysicist Award. My special thanks go to the late Peter Gage, who was a member of this year BRA Committee and whose untimely death brought great sadness to all of us. I would just to like to add that I was hoping to see him at this conference, which was not meant to be. As all of us, I will greatly miss his presence at the annual meetings of our society. My thanks go also to Frances Separovic, Louise Brown and Shin-Ho Chung who helped in assessing this year's Student Awards. Congratulations to this year successful recipients of all the awards.

As you are all aware, our periodic newsletter is being e-mailed out in two-monthly intervals, with the next newsletter being due in October shortly after this Meeting. Please consider submitting any news that may be of interest to our members. Also, please consider submitting any interesting images from your own work that could be included on the ASB website.

Now I would like to bring to your attention a few matters of concern to our Society.

1. Australian Academy of Science and National Committee for Biomedical Sciences

The NCBMS comprises previously separate National Committees for Biological and Biomedical disciplines including Biophysics. Earlier this year I was asked by Philip Kuchel, a current Chairman of the NCBMS, to be the representative for Biophysics. The NCBMS has at least one meeting a year. This year the meeting was held on 24 August 2005 (10.30am - 3.15 pm) in Ian Potter House in Canberra. One of the items of the agenda was **Lindau meeting of Nobel Laureates**. Philip was an honoured guest at the meeting with the delegates from Australia. After Philip provided a summary of his visit the NCBMS discussed the selection procedure for future Lindau recipients and the need for a process to be in place for 2006 selection. The consensus was that the Lindau recipients should be called the 'Australian Lindau Scholars' and that nominations are limited to students in the last year of their PhD. The call for nominations will occur at the end of each year and selection of candidates is to be completed by March. The Committee felt that the Lindau meeting needs to be sold as a major national science promotion activity with students being ambassadors for science. Therefore, Lindau publicity is important. The Academy will inform the relevant Societies and University Research Offices and individual supervisors could encourage suitable applicants to apply. The procedure would include interviews of selected applicants. The nominating institutes are expected to pay travel costs for the student to be interviewed in Canberra. The Lindau Foundation will pay accommodation and registration costs of the selected student(s) for the Lindau meeting. In summary, the Academy will call for nominations from each institute via Dean of Post Graduate Studies. Information about the scholarships will be on the Academy web site, which will provide links to the Lindau web site. The Academy will advise the Dean of post graduate studies about the number of students finally nominated for selection. Information is returned to the Academy. The relevant committee will decide on three members to interview potential scholars, selected from a short list of 20 (decided by the whole committee). The selection of scholars will be made by the interview panel. The selection criteria will be based on the Lindau criteria, with some modifications.

2. IUPAB in Montpellier 2005 and IUPAB in Australia 2014

The Academy continues to pay the ASB subscription to IUPAB.

I would like to say a few words about the conference this year. I was invited to participate in one of the symposia at the IUPAB in Montpellier, which gave me the opportunity to attend the IUPAB AGM and to talk to representatives of Biophysical Societies of several other countries. At the AGM it was decided that the next IUPAB meeting in 2008 will take place in Long Beach, California and the 2011 in Beijing, China. Cris dos Remedios, the Australian member of the IUPAB Executive Council, put forward the proposal that IUPAB in 2014 is organised in Australia. If we all agree on this proposal, we will have to start soon preparing for promoting Australia as a site for the 2014 Conference. I suggest that we discuss this matter later under General Business.

3. Agreement on the scientific exchange between the ASB and JBS

In June 2005 Professor Shin'ichi Ishiwata, current President of JBS, and I signed the agreement between the Japanese Biophysics Society (JBS) and the ASB, which has the purpose to strengthen the relationship between ABS and JBS in the future. According to the agreement a member of each Society is eligible to participate in the annual meeting of the other Society at the member rate. This Agreement will initially be valid for five years. After the five-year period the agreement will be

renewed indefinitely provided neither Society wishes to terminate it. I sincerely hope that the scientific exchange between our societies will go beyond attending the annual meetings of each society and that will help to foster collaborations and student and young scientists exchange between Japan and Australia. The next JBS Meeting will take place in Sapporo on November 23-25, 2005.

4. Time and Place of the Next ASB Meeting in 2006

There was a proposal that the next ASB Meeting in 2006 be again a joint meeting with AuPS in Melbourne. An alternative would be to have the 2006 ASB Meeting as a satellite to ComBio 2006 in Brisbane. Taking into account that some of our members may be reluctant to have another joint meeting for a third time in succession I would suggest that we discuss this matter later under General Business.

As a final word, I would like to remind anyone, who is planning to go to the US Biophysical Society Meeting next year in Salt Lake City, that the deadline for Abstracts is October 2, 2005.”

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer, Adelle Coster, reported that the current membership stood at 137, including 16 students and 7 retirees. Philip Kuchel pointed out that overseas members paid half subscription; also, 3-year student membership was possible. Her full report for the 2004-2005 financial year is attached.

Peter Barry moved vote of thanks for Adelle’s contribution as Treasurer. Carried with acclaim. The report was adopted on the motion of Frances Separovic, seconded Paul Smith.

Election of Office Bearers:

There being no other nominations the following office bearers were elected for 2006.

President (2004-6)

Prof Boris Martinac
School of Biomedical Sciences
University of Queensland

Vice-President (President Elect)

A/Prof Brett Hambly
Pathology Department University of Sydney

Secretary

Dr Cyril Curtain
School of Physics, Monash University

Treasurer

Dr Adelle Coster
Department of Applied Mathematics
School of Mathematics, University of New South Wales
mailto:A.Coster@unsw.edu.au

Immediate Past President (co-opted to Executive)

Emeritus Prof Peter Barry
Dept of Physiology and Pharmacology
School of Medical Sciences
The University of New South Wales

ASB Public Officer (ex officio)

Prof Frances Separovic

School of Chemistry
Bio21 Institute
University of Melbourne

State/Regional Representatives

Australian Capital Territory

Prof Angela Dulhunty
Muscle Research Group
JCSMR, Australian National University

New South Wales

Dr Pierre Moens
School of Biological, Biomedical
The University of New England, Armadale

New Zealand

Dr Geoffrey Barnes
Institute of Fundamental Sciences
Massey University

Queensland

Prof Christa Critchley
Department of Botany
The University of Queensland

South Australia

Dr David Saint
Physiology Department
University of Adelaide

Tasmania

Dr Ian A Newman
School of Mathematics and Physics
University of Tasmania

Victoria

Dr David Keizer
NMR Facility Manager Physiology
Bio21 Molecular Science &
Biotechnology Institute
The University of Melbourne

Western Australia

Dr Livia C. Hool
School of Biomedical and Chemical Sciences
The University of Western Australia

Motions of which notice had been given:

- i) *That this meeting endorses the proposals for joint ASB/AuPS meetings at the places and times resolved upon at the joint meeting of the societies.*

Moved C. C. Curtain, Adelle Coster

In the discussion that followed the Secretary, Cyril Curtain, suggested that we need to have them in a city where both societies have strong overlapping memberships. Other comments were that our meetings needed to have a bigger range of biophysics and this

where joint sessions with other societies help. We should also avoid having two meetings in a row. The motion was carried.

- ii) *That we award Honorary Membership of the Australian Society for Biophysics to Professor Alex B. Hope, and that this would be an honorary life membership of the society.* Moved P. Barry, Cyril Curtain.

The motion to elect Alex Hope as the first Honorary Member of the Society was carried unanimously with acclaim.

General Business:

Pierre Moens reported that a 2007 Fluorescence Workshop was planned and Cyril Curtain reported that a proposal to run a satellite symposium on metals, membranes and neuroscience at the July 2007 Melbourne Meeting of the International Brain Organization had been put forward to the IBRO Committee. The meeting supported both proposals in principle.

The time and venue for the 2006 scientific meeting was discussed. Although there was a proposal that the next ASB Meeting be again a joint meeting with AuPS in Melbourne or alternatively to have the 2006 ASB Meeting as a satellite to ComBio 2006 in Brisbane, it was felt undesirable by those present to have two joint meetings in a row. It was therefore recommended that the executive plan for a stand alone meeting in Sydney in late November-early December 2006.

The question of student only functions at meetings was discussed. Cecily Oakley reported that the ice-breaker held in conjunction with the current meeting had been a great success. There was a suggestion from the floor that student dinner tickets be heavily discounted to encourage attendance. However, Cecily felt that students-only functions gave students a chance to mix and "let their hair down" in the absence of their supervisors. The organising committee for the Sydney meeting should take these remarks into consideration.

The Meeting closed at 4.05 p.m.