

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ENZYMOLOGY

Minutes of ISE General Business Meeting Held in Padova, Italy

Thursday 28th October 2004, commencing at 17.30 h

Present: Mario Plebani (Chair and President), and seven other members.

1) Minutes of Previous Meeting

In light of the fact that the General Business Meeting of the Society convened for Hamamatsu, Japan, on Saturday 19th October 2002 did not attract the required quorum and could not proceed, the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on Friday 18th October 2002, in the same location as published on the Website of the Society and approved by the Board at its meeting in Los Angeles on Monday 26th July, were accepted as a true record of the transactions undertaken on behalf of the Society.

2) Amendment to Constitution

The following change under Section 4.2 Life Membership was unanimously approved:

All Life Members are required to provide notification of change of address (postal and e-mail) to the Secretary, failing which the privileges of membership will lapse. Any Life Member may resign from active membership by notifying the Secretary to this effect.

In light of the total number of listed members who had responded to repeated enquiries from the Secretary over the past 4 years (91 by e-mail and 12 by letter), the attendance represented more than the 5% of Active Membership that the Board (in the absence of a relevant stipulation in the Constitution) had previously determined as the quorum necessary to sustain a General Business Meeting.

3) President's Report

Dr. Plebani circulated copies of the Minutes of the Board Meeting held in Los Angeles, CA on Monday 26th July 2004 to serve as an Agenda for the present meeting and as a record of business undertaken by the Board on behalf of the Society. These Minutes will be posted on the website of the Society.

- a) Election of Board: Dr Plebani reported the steps that had been taken to secure recommendations from the Nominating Committee and further nominations from the Membership, all of which followed the requirements of the Constitution. Those present expressed satisfaction with the composition of the Board and with the manner of its nomination, which did not call for an election as such.
- b) Membership Issues: At the time of the Hamamatsu meeting, documentation was available on only 51 of the 403 persons nominally on the Society's list of Life members. Since then, only one new member has joined. In the interval, the statistics have been modified as follows:

Life Members With Known e- Mail Addresses:

Total 123 (of which 91 have responded to mail and 32 have not)

Life Members With Postal Addresses Only:

Total 324 (of which 12 have responded to mail and the remainder not). Notification of death was received for 9 members, and four resigned. 100 letters were returned because the person was no longer at that address.

In light of the efforts over many years to remedy this situation (See Item 2c, Minutes of LA Board Meeting), it was resolved to post on the website an alphabetical list of " Missing Members " by country, with an appeal for information as to their present postal and/or e-mail address. This announcement will carry a disclaimer of responsibility on the part of the Society for any member for whom the information is not forthcoming within 3 months of posting the announcement.

Associate Members

This category, established outside the Constitution for a trial period of 4 years at the General Business Meeting in Naples in 2004, had generated only 21 names, and had not shown any tangible benefit to the Society. It was resolved not to renew this option, but instead to create a new category of Associate Member; the rights and privileges will be defined in the future, but it will be restricted to persons less than 40 years old and will carry a reduced subscription, in line with a similar category in other Societies.

- c) Liaison With Other Societies: Please refer to Item 2d in Minutes of LA Board Meeting. Presently, the following links to other Websites have been built into that of the Society: IFCC, IUBMB, EXPASY, Swissprot, PROWL, EC ENZYME, BRENDA, Advanced Biochemistry and Enzymology Lecture Notes by J.E. Wampler, MEROPS, Serine Proteases, CancerDegradome.org
- d) Enzymes Meet Proteomics: This one-day Symposium dedicated to the memory of Professor Angelo Burlina and co-sponsored by ISE, will take place in Padova on the following day (29th October). There will be 11 individual speakers, and 350 persons have registered. The meeting has been well rated in terms of CE Credits. The papers presented will be published collectively, possibly together with other from a meeting to take place in Bari, in a Special Issue of *Clinica Chimica Acta* with Dr. Plebani as Guest Editor. He will ensure that, as with similar publications based on its cosponsorship, the logo of the Society will appear on the cover of the journal issue. He welcomed Dr. Goldberg's offer to prepare an account of the Meeting for the Newsletter.

4) Treasurer's Report

Details providing the status of the Society's accounts are provided in Item 4 of the Minutes of LA Board Meeting.

- a) Transfer of Accounts to Toronto: The total funds of the Society in US Dollars have now been transferred from Citibank New York to Toronto Dominion Bank under the auspices of MD Management (the financial arm of the Ontario Medical Association) who will make no charge for their services. A considerable saving will occur by virtue of the fact that Canadian

Law does not require an external professional audit beyond that provided by MD Management. There will be a significant annual saving to the Society that will be partially reduced by a tax liability between 15 - 20% of income. All cheques will require the joint signature of Drs Diamandis and Goldberg. An Investment Plan is under development and, when formulated, it will be circulated to the Board for approval.

An offer by Prof. Salvatore to look into the possible advantages of holding the account in Italy was noted.

- b) Subscription: This will remain for the present at \$60 for two years and \$300 for Life Membership.

5) Scientific Meetings

- a) Hamamatsu and New York Meetings: See Item 5a of the Minutes of LA Board Meeting.
- b) Meeting in Rome, Italy, October 11 2005: Dr Plebani stated that he had entered into negotiations with a group of Italian Societies in the field of Laboratory Medicine planning to hold a large joint meeting in Rome during the second week of October 2005, with a view to having the Society take responsibility for one scientific session (possibly over one half-day). A theme linking enzymes with Microbiology was under discussion. This might involve a contribution by the Society towards the cost of running the session that would be limited to \$10,000. The statutory Board Meeting for 2005 would be held in conjunction with that Meeting. Approval in principle was granted, with the details being left to Dr Plebani and the Board.
- c) Future Meetings: See Item 5c of the Minutes of LA Board Meeting. Discussion continued on this theme during which a number of proposals were put forward. Dr Goldberg agreed to explore the possibility of organising and sponsoring a one-day Symposium to form part of the core programme of the next IUBMB Congress, and Dr D. Basso will look into a similar collaboration with the International Society of Pancreatology.

6) Website

Thanks were expressed to Dr I. Bromberg for his operation of this site.

7) Newsletter

Dr Goldberg reported that Elsevier had declined to continue publication of the Society's Newsletter since the " blue pages " section had been discontinued. He would remain responsible for the dissemination of news and information to the membership through the website. In view of his status as a member of the Editorial Board of Clinica Chimica Acta, Dr Plebani will approach Dr Alan Wu, the senior editor of the journal, in an attempt to have the ISE Newsletter reinstated in CCA.

8) Other Business

- a) Expenses: The arrangements outlined in Item 8a of the Minutes of the LA Board Meeting were approved.

- b) Future of Society: The discussion under Item 8b of the Minutes of the LA Board Meeting was noted. Dr Diamandis was encouraged to proceed with the development of the proposed slide-show for exhibition at future meetings in which the Society is involved.

The Meeting adjourned at 18.55 h.