



International Society for Enzymology (ISE)

<http://www.ISEnzymology.org>

Minutes of General Business Meeting, Friday, 8th May, 1998

McLeod Auditorium, Medical Sciences Building, 1 Kings' College Circle, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1A8

1. Apologies

These were received from Professors Donald Moss, Francesco Salvatore and Morton K. Schwartz. The last-named had attended the Board Meeting two days earlier.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the General Meeting held at Robinson College, Cambridge, UK on 14th July, 1996, which had been previously published in the Newsletter, were adopted without correction.

3. President's Report

a) Board Membership:

Currently the Board comprises the following Officers:

- *President*, Prof. David M. Goldberg
- *Vice-President*, Prof. Franco Salvatore
- *Treasurer and ex-President*, Prof. Morton Schwartz
- *Secretary*, Prof. Mario Plebani
- *Councilor*, Prof. Gerard Ailhaud.

The first four officers above, having taken office on January 1, 1996, will retain these positions until January 1, 2000. The last-named was elected to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Dr. Cees van der Heiden effective January 1, 1998, and his term will continue until January 1, 2002. At a membership of five persons, the Board is two below the maximum permissible number, but is considered to be optimal for the efficient administration of the Society at the present time.

b) *Newsletter: Clinica Chimica Acta* has generously agreed to provide space for the publication of our Newsletter in accordance with previous arrangements. One hundred off-prints are provided without charge, covering about half our requirements for distribution to the membership. Since Cambridge, there have been three issues of the Newsletter, sufficient to keep the membership informed about major developments within the Society.

c) *International Congress for Clinical Enzymology, Cambridge, July, 1996*: A Final Report on this Congress had been presented by Dr. G.A. Maguire. After payment of all expenses a cheque for pounds sterling 4,040.00 had been sent to the Treasurer for the benefit of ISE. Seven papers selected from the Poster Presentations at the Congress were published in *The European Journal of Laboratory Medicine*, 5: 125-150, 1997 under the editorship of G.A. Maguire and D.M. Goldberg. Nine papers selected from the Invited Presentations at the Symposium: Laboratory Markers of Myocardial Injury were published in *Clinica Chimica Acta*, 272: 1-100, 1998 under the Editorship of G.A. Maguire and C.P. Price. From the point of view of its scientific impact, social congeniality, financial outcome and contributions to

the literature, the Congress was an unqualified success.

Warm felicitations are due to Dr. G.A. Maguire and Prof. C.P. Price for their hard work and administrative skills. In recognition of their important contributions, Drs. David Halsall and Shirley Thompson were created Life Members of ISE as a gift of the Society.

d) *Enzymes, Receptors, and Drugs in Obesity and Atherosclerosis*: With one day to go, the Conference jointly organized by ISE and the Canadian Society for Atherosclerosis, Thrombosis and Vascular Biology was proving to be an unquestionable scientific success:

i) *Prizes* – The Canadian Society for Atherosclerosis, Thrombosis and Vascular Biology had nominated Dr. Lars Sjostrom of Sweden as the *Dan Roncari Memorial Lecturer*. Because of financial uncertainty, this Society did not proceed with the Awards in the names of John Henry Wilkinson and John King.

ii) *Sponsorships* - A total of \$143,900 had been received in industrial support and seed money from the two co-organizing Societies. Projected costs (see below) are estimated at \$193,350 leaving a deficit of \$49,450. Subtracting from this the currently known registration income leaves a final projected shortfall of \$11,330. This should prove to be a "worst-case scenario" since, during the last six weeks, concerted efforts to cut the budget and substitute volunteer work for commercial services had been quite successful. The final outcome will not be known for several weeks.

Projected Financial Outcome

Scientific Program:	\$ 85,050
Auditorium:	\$ 7,800
Registration:	\$ 9,250
Printing & Publicity:	\$ 39,250
Administration:	\$ 12,750
Meals & Refreshments:	\$ 39,250
Total:	\$193,350
Sponsorships:	\$143,900
Deficit:	\$ 49,450
Registration Income:	\$ 38,120
Final Shortfall:	\$ 11,330

iii) *Publications* – The Final Program containing extended Abstracts, references, biography and a photograph for each speaker was the work of Dr. I.L. Bromberg and elicited very favourable comment. This material together with the Poster Abstracts that could not be included because of so many late entries (but which were distributed independently) will appear in the October issue of *Clinical Biochemistry* under the joint Editorship of Drs. I.L. Bromberg and D.M. Goldberg. *Clinica Chimica Acta* has agreed to publish the texts of the Invited Lecturers in a Special Issue under the Joint Editorship of Drs.

I.L. Bromberg, M. Werner and D.M. Goldberg. Thus, the Society stands to gain considerable scientific credibility from this event.

This Report was adopted unanimously on the Motion of Prof. G. Ailhaud, seconded by Prof. M. Werner.

4. Treasurer's Report

This Report was presented by the President on behalf of Prof. M.K. Schwartz. Following a Meeting with Prof. M. Werner in New York City in October, 1997, arrangements had been made to open an account on behalf of the Society with Citibank, New York City, under the joint signatures of Professors Schwartz and Goldberg. Arrangements have been made to transfer the Swiss portfolio held at the Union Bank of Switzerland, Zurich, as well as cash accounts held with the latter Bank. The fixed term investments will be reviewed by an investment analyst for advice and further action. After expenditures for the previous year amounting to USD8,418.00, our total capital stands at USD129,430.63, together with a small sum in Italian currency held in the Secretary's account in Padua. Although the Society has enough funds to function for another 20 years at the current level, the failure to increase membership is a major obstacle to scientific as well as financial health.

The Report was adopted unanimously on the Motion of Dr. M. Plebani, seconded by Dr. M. Zaninotto.

5. Report of the Secretary

Dr. M. Plebani reported that since the Cambridge Meeting, the number of Life Members in the Society had risen from 157 to 180, and the number of fully subscribed ordinary Members from 7 to 13. While this progress is not dramatic, it is in the right direction. The strategy of issuing invitations to authors of important papers on enzymology appearing in the literature had not achieved good results, but efforts will continue. The Board is also active in considering reciprocal membership arrangements with a number of relevant Societies that would expand our nominal membership as well as setting up conditions for fruitful scientific collaborations.

The Secretary has also designed a revised letterhead and a new Membership Application Form, both of which were approved by the Board and will go into production.

The Report was adopted on the Motion of Dr. Paul Wolf and seconded by Dr. E.P. Diamandis.

6. Future Scientific Meetings

a) *Venice – June, 1999*: Dr. Plebani reported on his efforts to arrange this satellite meeting that will be held just prior to the IFCC-WorldLab Congress in Florence. He proposed that the meeting should be dedicated to the memory of Prof. Angelo Burlina. The main topics will be Proteases in Cancer and Other Diseases, and Enzymes in Molecular Biology. Dr. E.P. Diamandis is working together with Dr. Plebani on the scientific program. It is hoped to secure the Cini Foundation on the Island of San Giorgio Maggiore for this Meeting.

b) *Sorrento, Italy – May 27, 2000*: Prof. F. Salvatore, who was unable to attend, sent a fax outlining his progress in planning this meeting. A tentative First Announcement was circulated. The title will be Basic and Clinical Enzymology 2000. There

will be no financial obligations to the Society. A professional company, Emmezeta Congressi will undertake the organization and also raise the necessary finance on behalf of ISE who will receive 50% of any profit. The Meeting will be in association with CLINBIO 2000 to be held in Naples.

c) *Meeting in France*: Dr. G. Ailhaud undertook to look into this possibility for the early part of the new millennium.

7. Other Business

a) *Website* – The President drew attention to the success of the Website established to publicize the ERDOA Conference on the Internet. This was our most successful publicity to promote the Conference and attracted about 1,000 "hits" since its establishment, as well as enabling rapid processing of Abstracts, Biographies, other conference documents and allowing the speakers themselves and the organizers rapid access to essential information. He undertook to discuss the establishment of an ISE Website with Dr. Bromberg and to report the cost of doing so to the Board before further action.

b) *Society Prizes* – Despite the fact that we did not proceed with the Award of the Wilkinson and King Prizes on this occasion, Dr. Plebani proposed the institution of a Burlina Prize and undertook to come forward with a more detailed outline. The President pointed out that a weakness of the first two Prizes is that they have in the past been taken from the General Funds of the Society, no specific account being devoted to either.

c) *Life Membership* – The President proposed that in view of their outstanding work on behalf of this Conference, two key members of the Organizing Committee (Dr. I.L. Bromberg, Secretary; Dr. B.R. Hoffman, Registrar) be awarded Life Membership of the Society in conformity with similar awards at previous conferences. This was carried unanimously.

The Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

8. ERDOA Conference: An Update

The Proceedings of this Conference, including extended Abstracts and References of all invited lectures together with photographs and biographies of the speakers, together with Abstracts of all 42 Poster Presentations were published under the Joint Editorship of I.L. Bromberg and D.M. Goldberg in the October, 1998 issue of *Clinical Biochemistry* (Vol. 31, No. 7), pp. 557-608. Good progress is being made with the Special Issue of *Clinica Chimica Acta* that this comprise full papers based on about half the 29 invited lectures delivered at the Conference. It is expected that this will appear in the spring of 1999.

On the financial side, the Conference achieved a remarkable and unexpected success. The successful raising of further industrial support together with the success of our volunteer efforts enabled us to overcome the disappointingly low total registration of 212 persons distributed as follows: Canada 133; USA 39; Europe 32; Middle and Far East 6; Africa and South America 1 each. When the accounts were closed on 30th October, a profit of \$71,526 had been generated after repaying the loans from the two Sponsoring Societies. The sum of \$11,500 is being retained to cover expected publication costs, and \$35,400 has been forwarded to ISE.