

**Minutes of the General Business Meeting  
Held at Continental Hotel  
Naples, Italy  
Tuesday, 23rd May 2000  
commencing at 12.30 p.m.**

Present: Dr. F. Salvatore (Chair and President), together with 13 other members.

Regrets: Dr. G. Ailhaud, Dr. C.P. Price.

**1. Minutes of Meeting of Board, Venice, Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> May, 1999**

Because of the poor turnout for the General Business Meeting in Venice on Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> May, 1999, it had been agreed not to proceed with that meeting but instead to circulate the Minutes of the Board Meeting that had taken place the previous day (Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> May, 1999). This would serve as an official record of ISE business transacted in Venice, and it had been circulated to the entire membership as part of the Newsletter. These Minutes had been approved by the Board at its meeting in Naples on Monday, May 22, 2000.

**2. Business Arising**

(a) *Status of Incorporation:* This matter had been intensively investigated by Dr. M.K. Schwartz. The legal firm providing advice had prepared a drastically revised constitution which had been circulated to all members for consideration at the Business Meeting with the due notice required by the present Constitution. Dr. Goldberg had studied this document meticulously and was very concerned about a number of proposals that he deemed to be unworkable: for example, the requirement for a Business Meeting of the Society every year. Annual elections of Office bearers also seemed to be mandatory. Bearing in mind the low expectation of income in the foreseeable future, there was doubt about the wisdom of proceeding. It was agreed that Drs. Goldberg and Schwartz would compile a list of those changes proposed by the lawyers to ascer-

tain whether they were absolutely necessary, and to determine the minimum constitutional changes that would be legally required to qualify for incorporation.

(b) *Final Report on Venice Meeting:* Dr. Plebani circulated a final financial report which forms an Appendix to these Minutes and may be obtained by direct application to the Secretary. In brief, 149 million lira was received from 29 commercial sponsors; registration fees amounted to 22,600,000 lira, and the total expenses were 1,740,000.00 lira (approx.). This represented a small deficit that Dr. Plebani agreed to cover from profits of earlier congresses that he had organized. The total amount borne by ISE was 13,170,000 lira.

This report was unanimously adopted, and the membership felt that Dr. Plebani had done a remarkable job in putting on a top quality scientific meeting under very difficult financial circumstances. The cost to the Society was considered worthwhile given the impact of this meeting and its status as an IFCC satellite program.

It was gratifying to report that a complete volume of *Clinica Chimica Acta* had been published under the Editorship of Dr. Plebani incorporating many of the papers presented, while those dealing with diagnostic cardiology were independently published in *Clin Chem Lab Med*, Vol. 37, Parts 11 and 12, 1999.

A copy of this report is available from the Secretary upon request.

**3. Alterations to Constitution**

In light of the earlier decision not to proceed with incorporation pending clarification of the need for certain changes that would be very difficult to implement, the New Constitution was tabled. It can be re-considered at any time on a simple majority

vote of the Board. However, three new clauses of this Constitution were considered desirable at this time.

1. **Item 10, Meeting by Telephone.** The Board or a Committee of the Board may participate in a meeting of the Board or a Committee, by means of a telephone conference call or any other means of communication by which all persons participating in the meeting are able to hear each other.
2. **Item 12, Committees of the Board.** The Board may appoint one or more committees (other than the Nominating Committee and Constitution Committee, already designated) to examine specific issues related to the administration of the Society. Membership of such committees may include non-Board as well as Board members, but the Chair (to be appointed by the Board) will be a full Board member. Such committees will comprise up to 6 full members who may be nominated by the Board or proposed by the Chair with Board approval. The Board will also determine the terms of reference, tenure and duration of the Committee and its individual members, as well as its reporting responsibilities.
3. **Item 13, Compensation.** No member of the Board shall receive any fee, salary or remuneration for their services, but they may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred on Board business and upon presentation of receipts.

These changes were unanimously adopted.

#### 4. President's Report

This was presented by Dr. Goldberg as out-going President to cover events since the last Board and General Meetings in Venice last May.

(a) *Election of New Board:* This had proceeded smoothly. The Nominations Committee recommended a slate of candidates that was circulated to the membership with biographical details and a request for additional nominations. Since none were forthcoming by the deadline, the Board elected to take Office from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2000

comprised the following: President: Dr. Franco Salvatore (Naples); Vice-President: Dr. Mario Plebani (Padua); Secretary: Dr. E.P. Diamandis (Toronto); Treasurer: Dr. M.K. Schwartz (New York); Ex-President: Dr. D.M. Goldberg (Toronto); Councillors: Dr. C.P. Price (London), Dr. G. Ailhaud (Nice). This last position will fall vacant on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2002 and Dr. Ailhaud is not eligible for re-election.

Some correspondence had suggested an element of confusion about whether the new Board had in fact been elected but a Newsletter had been sent out making this announcement.

- (b) *Newsletter:* This was an essential instrument for maintaining contact with the membership. Its preparation was the responsibility of the ex-President, but during the past four years Dr. Schwartz had taken on the role of Treasurer and Dr. Goldberg had agreed to assume responsibility for the Newsletter. Over the past four years, 7 Newsletters have been sent out, four of which were published in *Clinica Chimica Acta*. Such publication helped to maintain a unique and permanent record of the activities of the Society as well as drawing its existence to the attention of a wide community of scientists. A difficulty concerns information where action is required before a given deadline. The speed of publication by Elsevier does not lend itself to the rapid dissemination of time-sensitive material to the membership. On the other hand, the Editor of the Journal (Dr. D.W. Moss) declined to publish Newsletters where such deadlines had expired prior to the date of publication. In such instances, Newsletters were prepared as photocopies and mailed to members rather than the CCA off-prints which, as it happens, involves a significant expense since only 50 copies are provided free to the Society. The issue of electronic mailing was briefly discussed, and was subsequently taken up once again (*vide infra*). Dr. Goldberg drew attention to another major problem: The negative response to requests to Board and other members of the Society for news items to be included.
- (c) *Future Meetings:* Dr. Goldberg reported that Dr. G. Ailhaud had reluctantly withdrawn his offer to organize a meeting of the Society in France in

2002 as no suitable organization could be identified as a joint sponsor, and the risks of proceeding with a stand-alone meeting were too great. The following proposals were considered:

- (i) Satellite Meeting Before or After Annual Meeting of AACC: This was not received with enthusiasm.
- (ii) Satellite Meeting with IFCC in Japan, 2002: Dr. Diamandis will try and identify a suitable Japanese contact.
- (iii) Satellite Meeting with European Congress of Clinical Chemistry, Prague, May 2001: A number of individuals had serious reservations about the wisdom of becoming involved in this meeting at short notice. Dr. Plebani agreed to look into this matter and to report back to the Board, but a deadline of September 1 was set for a final decision.

It became apparent that there was a need to develop a long-term strategy in the planning of future ISE meetings. For this purpose it was agreed to establish a Meetings Committee, chaired by Dr. Plebani, with membership restricted to individuals who are not members of the Board. The notion of having a member for each major country was considered cumbersome; it was recommended instead that the Committee should comprise the Chair and up to 6 other persons. A group of this size would be manageable, and input could be solicited by correspondence or other means from many more. Dr. Plebani will attempt to establish such a committee and will inform the Board of its composition. The report was adopted *nem con*.

## 5. Secretary's Report

Dr. Diamandis reported that the current membership of the Society stood at 450, of whom around 65% were Italians. He had taken great pains to develop an electronic database for as many members as possible and this work was still on-going. The application form had also been transcribed to electronic format.

Dr. Diamandis referred to a Memorandum that he had sent by e-mail to all Board Members incorporating the following proposals for re-organizing the Society:

- (a) A *Website* should be established. The address [www.enzymology.com](http://www.enzymology.com) was approved.
- (b) All *future communications* with members would take place electronically, apart from those who lacked e-mail facilities and who did have valid postal addresses. This will greatly cut down the cost of preparing and mailing documents such as Newsletters.
- (c) *Appointment of Director of Communications*: Dr. Diamandis proposed that such a position be created outwith the Board, and he put forward the name of Dr. I.L. Bromberg for the position. This idea was accepted in principle, but the terms of reference will have to be defined, and any communication sent out by such an individual would require the approval of the President.
- (d) *Expansion of Membership*: Dr. Diamandis proposed that invitations should be widely disseminated, through membership lists of other Societies, soliciting membership in ISE without cost, and that the Society should become subscription-free. This idea did not receive any support, but a compromise proposal was put forward by Dr. Goldberg with the support of Dr. Salvatore to the effect that for a 3-year trial period we should send out invitations along the lines envisaged by Dr. Diamandis for Corresponding Membership. This would be without cost. Such persons will have no voting rights, can not hold office, and would not be eligible for reduced registration at meetings of the Society. On the other hand they would be kept fully informed of the activities of the Society, having access to our website. They would receive Newsletters and they could attend Business Meetings as observers only. This idea was approved for a trial period terminating 31<sup>st</sup> December 2003. The arrangement would be somewhat informal, and would not involve at this juncture a change to the Constitution because of the trial nature of the arrangement, but if it proved to be successful, the Constitution could be altered accordingly.
- (e) *Commercial Sponsors*: It was felt that once the website was up and running, and if the drive for corresponding membership was successful, attempts should be made to reinstitute corporate

membership with privileges that would include website linkage.

This report was adopted *nem con.*

## 6. Treasurer's Report

Dr. M.K. Schwartz presented the financial summary covering the last 12 months. Over this period total assets had declined from USD149,380.00 to USD143,836.00 a decrease of USD5,543.00. USD36,099.00 was in a chequing account and USD107,736.00 in a 7-day account with Citibank, NY. Interest received over this period totalled USD4,755.00. Total ISE expenses incurred, as a consequence of the Venice meeting, were USD12,481.00. Other expenses included payment of lawyer's fees (USD1,220.00, and Income Tax USD 1,027.00). The full financial summary forms an *Appendix* to these Minutes that can be obtained on application to the Secretary.

Considerable discussion ensued. Dr. M. Werner challenged the high hotel bills incurred during the Venice Meeting, but was informed that although the individuals who benefited had requested much cheaper accommodation, this was not available at the time of the Congress.

Dr. P. Wolf suggested that the current account could still qualify for interest as well as chequing privileges simultaneously. Dr. Schwartz agreed to look into this possibility.

This Report was approved *nem con.*

## 7. Other Business

(a) *Free Membership for Invited Speakers:* Dr. Diamandis indicated that he has invited speakers at the previous three meetings of the Society to become members. All had agreed. Considerable skepticism was expressed about this initiative, since no one could recall any previous speakers who had on their own initiative registered for a subsequent meeting. However, it was agreed to offer membership without subscription for a 2-

year trial period to these previous speakers, with the policy being reviewed at the end of that period in light of the extent to which such members took an active part in the Society.

(b) *History of Society:* Dr. R. Rej suggested that it would be essential to develop such a document, particularly in the light of establishing a website. The idea was warmly accepted. Dr. Rej was asked whether he would be willing to take the first steps in establishing such a document.

(c) *Weaknesses of Society:* Dr. M. Werner felt that the Society was highly effective in discharging two of its basic mandates: the organization of meetings, and the publications of the ensuing Proceedings. Weaknesses included the deplorable lack of young investigators, together with the lack of commitment on the part of many senior members, even those who had agreed to take office on the Board. There was general agreement that these were problems for which no solution had ever been identified. Dr. Salvatore undertook to send a presidential letter to all members in the near future exhorting them to play a more active part in the affairs of the Society at all levels.

## 8. Vote of Thanks

Dr. Schwartz moved, and it was unanimously agreed, that we record our thanks to Dr. Salvatore for his organization of the current Congress. Thanks were also expressed to the outgoing President, Dr. D.M. Goldberg and it was hoped that Dr. Salvatore's term of office would bring great success to the Society as well as personal joy to the President.

The meeting terminated at 3:10 p.m.

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