



International Society for Enzymology (ISE)

**Minutes of Board Meeting Held in Padua, Italy, Wednesday 24th October, 2006,
Commencing at 10AM.**

Present: Mario Plebani (President and Chair)
Eleftherios P Diamandis (Vice-President and Treasurer)
Catherine Sturgeon (Secretary)
Daniel W Chan (Councillor)

Attending: David M Goldberg (Editor of Newsletter)

Apologies: Francesco Salvatore (Ex-President)

1. Minutes of Previous Meetings

- a) Meeting of Board, Rome, Italy, 11th October 2005
- b) General Business Meeting, Padua, Italy, 28th October 2004

These Minutes have been posted on the website of the Society (www.ISEnzymology.org) and were approved without change.

2. Business Arising From Minutes

- a) Upgrading of Website

This project, previously approved by the Board at a cost of \$CN 1,800, of which one-half has already been paid, is being undertaken by our webmaster, Mr Arun Karumanchiri, with input from Drs Goldberg and Diamandis. A Report prepared by Mr Karumanchiri was circulated, including a new design for the Home Page and a new Site Navigation Menu. Some pages, eg *Executive Board, Committees*, had been combined, and others, eg *What's New at this Web Site, What are PDF Files?* were deleted. The Board preferred the Home Page to include *About ISE* rather than *Announcements*, and expressed a desire to see the specific e-mail addresses of all office-bearers included. Current progress was considered satisfactory, and it was hoped that the further improvements in text and typography would enhance the value of the website.

- b) Links With Commercial Companies

Drs Chan and Diamandis agreed to pursue this matter once the website upgrade has been completed.

- c) Category of Associate (Junior) Members

It was agreed to take no action on this proposal.

d) Slide Show for Exhibition at Meetings

Dr Diamandis indicated that he was not willing to pursue this matter further.

3. President's Report

a) ISE Newsletter

Dr Plebani expressed satisfaction with the dissemination of information concerning the Society by means of this publication that is posted initially on our website, and is subsequently published in *Clinica Chimica Acta*. Two issues had appeared since our last meeting. The first included the Minutes of the Board Meeting in Rome, a synoptic account of the Symposium *Standardization in Clinical Enzymology* held in Rome, and a preliminary announcement about the current Padua meeting. The second included an obituary of Dr A. R. Henderson who had earned an international reputation for his work on enzymology, together with the agendas of the Board and General Business Meetings scheduled for Padua, as well as the complete scientific program for the Symposium *Enzymes: Old Molecules With New Clinical Applications*.

Dr Goldberg appealed to the Board for material that could be used to expand the Newsletter, such as: information about Honours and Awards, either personally or involving personalities in the field of Enzymology; reports of major advances that could be compiled under the heading *What's New in Enzymology?*; a bibliography of key papers that members might find informative. There is an urgent need to use the Newsletter and our Website to create resources that would enhance their utility and thereby increase the visibility of the Society.

b) Composition of Board

Dr Plebani pointed out that as currently constituted, the Board comprised two fewer than the statutory number allowed by the Constitution: the positions of Vice-President and Treasurer were combined, and the position for a second Councillor had been left vacant. These steps had been taken to reduce Board expenses, the major liability of the Society at a time when its income was minimal. Dr Goldberg had been invited to attend Board Meetings in his role as Editor of the Newsletter, being ineligible for Board membership for a period of two years after the conclusion of his term as Ex-President. However, this had now expired, and the President proposed that Dr Goldberg be co-opted to fill the vacant position of Councillor for the remaining tenure of the present Board, a move that would involve no additional cost to the Society. This was approved.

4. Treasurer's Report

Dr Diamandis presented a brief financial report at the Padua Meeting but they ISE Board requested more details.

5. Secretary's Report

Dr Sturgeon raised the question of the Society's current active membership. Based on previous responses to postal and e-mail enquiries sent out to all 403 names listed as members in 2004, this appears to be 103, all Life Members, for whom full postal addresses

are available. e-mail addresses are known for 91 of these. She will compile a list of these persons with the relevant details.

Ways of increasing the membership were discussed. Notwithstanding Item 2c above, and previous negative experience with a category of Corresponding Membership that was abandoned two years ago, it was resolved that all speakers and registrants at future meetings of ISE for a trial period should receive an invitation from the President to join the Society either as Full Members with payment of the subscription (currently \$30 per year payable for a minimum period of two years, or Life Membership at the rate of \$300), or as Non-Voting Members. The latter will have all the privileges of membership but would not be eligible to stand for office or to vote on matters affecting the Society, and their status will be reviewed after a period of 5 years. This will take effect with the present meeting, and Dr Plebani will issue such invitations to the speakers and registrants.

6. Report on Meetings

a) Standardization in Clinical Enzymology, Rome, 12th October 2005

Dr Plebani referred to the fact that this Symposium, forming part of the official program of the 37th National Congress of the Italian Society for Biological Chemistry, had attracted a satisfactory attendance and had been organized at no cost to ISE. A report on the Symposium had been published in the Newsletter of December 24th, 2005 (see *Clinica Chimica Acta* 2006:366:S1-S3 and ISE website), and extended abstracts of all presentations had been posted on the website. The Proceedings were not published in full.

b) International Conference on Laboratory Medicine, Padua, 24th-25th October 2006

This meeting, *Enzymes: Old Molecules with New Clinical Applications*, was due to start later in the afternoon. The Full Program had been published in the Newsletter that appeared in *Clinica Chimica Acta* at the beginning of the month, and on the website several months earlier. A registration of around 150 was expected. The Board, by postal vote (e-mail), had approved an allocation of \$10,000 from ISE funds towards the cost of the meeting. A full report will appear in the Newsletter and it is hoped to publish the Abstracts of all presentations. Selected papers from this meeting will form a Special Issue of *Clinica Chimica Acta* with Dr Plebani acting as Guest Editor. He was congratulated by the Board for having put together an excellent scientific program, and for the congenial arrangements made for accommodation and associated cultural events.

c) Liaison with AACC

Dr Chan reported that he had met with Dr Donald Young to explore the possibility of a free-standing meeting in USA jointly sponsored by the Proteomics Division of AACC (of which he is Chairman) and ISE, a venture that would call for significant financial input from the Society. An alternative would be to compete for a session forming part of the official program of the AACC National Meeting. If successful, all expenses would be paid by AACC. The first such opportunity would be the meeting scheduled for Washington DC in 2008. The Board favoured the latter proposal, and Dr Chan agreed to proceed accordingly. He also undertook to post information about ISE into the Newsletter and website of the Division and to examine other potential links between the two organizations.

d) Further Links With IUBMB

Dr Goldberg reviewed the correspondence that had been circulated to the Board concerning his discussions with the organizers of the Joint IUBMB-FEBS Conference on *Biochemistry of Cell Regulation* to be held in Athens, Greece from June 28 to July 3, 2008. This had led to a proposed one-day Satellite Symposium to be held at the University of Athens campus on Friday 27th June under the title *Enzymes in Cell Regulation: Disease Implications*. Dr Andreas Scorilas, with support from Prof Orestes Tsolas, had agreed to take care of the local administrative arrangements including liaison with IUBMB and FEBS, both being senior members of the parent organizations with responsibility for the main Conference. Dr Goldberg's original suggestion was that ISE would look after the cost of the Scientific Program, with 4 of the proposed 8 -10 speakers coming from the Board of ISE and the remainder being local experts (including Drs Scorilas and Tsolas), or drawn from scientists from other countries who were already committed to attendance at the main Conference. It was hoped that co-sponsorship might also be provided by one or more of the Greek national scientific organizations. Dr Goldberg envisaged the liability of the Society being limited to \$12,500 (including the cost of the Board speakers), with free publicity through the website and mailings of the main Conference. The on-site expenses were expected to be low, with the prospect of being easily covered by registration, and it was thought that the topic would be of great interest to those attending the Conference since, while relevant to the main theme, it did not overlap with any of the designated sessions.

A stumbling block had been the fact that, while agreeing to the proposal in general, the IUBMB-FEBS organizers seemed to require that all who attended the ISE Symposium should also register for the main Conference at a cost of >500 euros. A further proposal was submitted by Dr Scorilas and circulated at this meeting that appeared to circumvent this objection. It projected a Budget for on-site costs of 12,200 euros plus a management fee of 4,000 plus VAT, or 12% of the total revenues plus VAT. On the basis of early and late Registration Fees of 120 and 150 euros, respectively, with reductions for students, and a projected 100 registrants in each category, total income was estimated at 21,500 euros.

The Board still expressed concerns about this proposal, since ISE would still have to bear responsibility for the cost of speakers as outlined in Dr Goldberg's original outline. Before reaching a final decision, it required answers to the following questions:

1. Has IUBMB-FEBS withdrawn its insistence that all attendees must also register for the main Conference?
2. Is information available on the total number of registrants attending earlier IUBMB-FEBS conferences?
3. How many local scientists over and above those attending the main Conference can be realistically expected?

It is likely than unless satisfied that the maximum liability to ISE can be contained at the level envisaged in Dr Goldberg's original proposal, the Board will not proceed with this Symposium.

7. Other Business

Dr Diamandis spoke in favour of ISE developing a close relationship with other Societies devoted to more specialised aspects of Enzymology, such as the Kallikrein Society. This organization planned to hold an International Symposium of Kallikreins and Related Peptides in Santorini, Greece, October 16 – 18, 2007. The Board agreed that ISE will co-sponsor this meeting, and confirmed its previous agreement reached by e-mail authorising a grant of \$5,000 as its contribution.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 13.20 hours.