



# International Society for Enzymology (ISE)

## Newsletter, December 24, 2005

Editor: David M. Goldberg

---

### INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ENZYMOLOGY

#### Minutes of Board Meeting Held in Rome, Italy

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2005, commencing at 10.00 am.

**Present:** Mario Plebani ( President and Chair )  
Catherine Sturgeon ( Secretary )  
Daniel Chan ( Councillor )  
Francesco Salvatore ( Ex-President )

**Attending:** David Goldberg ( Editor of Newsletter )

**Apologies:** Eleftherios Diamandis ( Vice-President and Treasurer )

---

#### Minutes of Previous Board Meeting

The Minutes of the Board Meeting in Los Angeles, CA, held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2004, had been circulated, approved, and published as a Newsletter appearing on the website as well as in *Clinica Chimica Acta*.

#### *Business Arising ( Using Notation of Items in Previous Minutes )*

- 2b) The amendment to the Constitution approved by the Board had been ratified at the General Business Meeting Held In Padova, Italy, on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2004.
- 2c) No action has been taken concerning the proposal to develop a category of Associate Membership designed to attract younger members. The rights, privileges, and subscription issues remain to be defined.
- 4c) The Investment Plan agreed by the Board had been implemented.
- 5b) The Meeting held in Padova on Friday October 29 2004, *Enzymes Meet Proteomics*, had attracted a large audience and had been financially successful. A report on the Meeting had been published as a Newsletter in *Clinica Chimica Acta*, and had been posted on the website.
- 5c) The Half-Day meeting scheduled as part of the Thirty-Seventh Congress of the Italian Society for Biological Chemistry, organized by Mario Plebani, will take place tomorrow. A Report on the Meeting will be published in a future Newsletter.  
Dr Goldberg had earlier reported on his contacts with IUBMB. They expressed interest in the notion of ISE taking responsibility for a Session on Enzymes at their next Triennial Congress, but as this was scheduled for Kyoto, Japan, it was considered unwise to pursue this possibility in light

of the fact that the Society had sponsored a meeting in Japan as recently as 2002, and this had encountered many difficulties, including a rather small attendance.

It was disappointing to report that, despite the request that Board Members should come forward with proposals for joint meetings with other Societies with which they were involved, none had been received.

- 8b) No information had been received from Dr Diamandis concerning the Slide Show that he had agreed to develop as a means of encouraging interest in membership of ISE at future meetings.

## **2) President's Report**

### **a) Newsletters**

Dr Plebani distributed copies of the Newsletters that had been published in CCA and displayed on the website over the past year. He drew particular attention to the issue dealing with the late Professor Erich Kaiser and his role in the foundation of the Society, complimenting Dr Goldberg on the valuable historical documentation that this provided. Dr Goldberg stated that he would use similar occasions to bring the chronicle up to date, and expressed the hope that by the end of his tenure, a detailed and up-to-date account of the activities of the Society would have been provided to posterity. The generous help of Dr Alan Wu, Editor of the Journal, in providing space for the Newsletter in *Clinica Chimica Acta* was warmly acknowledged.

### **b) ISE Website**

The President indicated that since the last Board Meeting, Dr I Bromberg had resigned the role of Webmaster that he had undertaken since its establishment three years ago and that he had been performing without charge as a courtesy to the Society, of which he is a Life Member. It was not possible to recruit another member to take on this task, consequently Drs Diamandis and Goldberg had made an arrangement, approved by the President, that Mr Arun Karumanchiri, a former associate of Dr Diamandis who had established a commercial enterprise in this field, would assume the responsibilities of Webmaster at a very modest charge to the Society, and would assist in publishing the Newsletter. This arrangement had worked well. The reappointment of Mr Karumanchiri was now due. This was approved. Mr Karumanchiri had expressed the desire to upgrade the site, a procedure that could require some additional funds. The Board agreed that he should be invited to make proposals that could be considered for possible implementation.

### **c) Rome Meeting**

Dr Plebani provided further details of the Symposium *Standardization in Clinical Enzymology* that he had organized on behalf of the Society. It would comprise six presentations and would be chaired by Drs Salvatore and Goldberg. There was no cost to the Society other than expenses for the Board Meeting itself that would in any case cover the participation of the two Chairmen.

### **d) Membership Issues**

#### **i) Life Members**

The list of "Missing Members" had been posted on the website for more than 2 months, and no responses had been received from life members or their colleagues. It was decided to go no further with this project but to officially recognize the List of Members as that circulated prior to the General Meeting in Padova in October of 2004.

## **ii) Corporate Membership**

A discussion focused on the issue of Corporate Membership that was defined in the Constitution, and had attracted several important commercial companies in the first decade of the Society at an annual subscription of \$5,000. The consensus was that in the present economic climate and given the very limited activities of the Society at the present time, the chances of reviving this category were very slim, especially as there was not an attractive portfolio of benefits that the Society could offer to potential corporate members. An alternative proposal was put forward, namely, that certain companies in the field of enzymology should be approached to determine whether they would consider a link to our website, or the ability to post certain announcements, in return for some economic benefit to the Society. Dr Chan agreed to investigate this possibility. It was felt that Dr Diamandis should also be asked to help with this initiative.

## **3. Treasurer's Report**

Dr Diamandis, who had been unable to attend this meeting, had indicated to Dr Plebani that he would forward a Financial Report by fax or e-mail, but none had been received. The Board minuted its disappointment at being denied this important information and requested Dr Diamandis to prepare and circulate a report as soon as possible.

The Board confirmed the principle that a discretionary sum not to exceed \$500 should be available to Office-Bearers upon request to meet the cost of ongoing activities such as postage and telephone calls connected with their work on behalf of the Society. Specific receipts would not be required, and expenditure could be broadly justified on the basis of ongoing work or individual responsibilities. Such sums may be renewed from time to time with Board approval.

## **4) Future Meetings**

### **a) Padova, Italy, October 2006**

Dr Plebani proposed that a 2-day meeting be held under the auspices of ISE, possibly incorporating joint sessions with other Italian Societies, in Padova during the last week of October 2006. This was approved, with Friday 27<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> as the likely dates.

### **b) Liaison With AACC**

Dr Chan suggested a possible meeting in USA in 2007 to be held jointly with the Proteomics Division of AACC. This initiative was approved, and Dr Chan will report back on the results of his negotiations.

### **c) Further Links With IUBMB**

Because of the long lead time needed for involvement in International Meetings, Dr Goldberg asked for authorisation of discussions with IUBMB, and possibly with FEBS, to explore the possibility of the Society arranging one or more Sessions within the framework of the Triennial Congress to follow that to be held in Kyoto, or as part of a future European meeting. Approval was granted.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12.25 pm.

## Thirty-Seventh National Congress of the Italian Society for Biological Chemistry

On the occasion of the above Congress that was held at the Shangri La Corsetti Hotel, Rome ( EUR ), Italy, a Symposium entitled *Standardization in Clinical Enzymology* took place on the morning of Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October. It was sponsored by the International Society of Enzymology, organized by its President Dr Mario Plebani, and Chaired jointly by two former Presidents of the Society: Dr Franco Salvatore ( Naples, Italy ) and Dr David Goldberg ( Toronto, Canada ). The Symposium comprised five individual presentations.

The first, entitled *IFCC Reference Systems for Enzyme Standardization* was given by **Mauro Panteghini** ( Milan, Italy ), and focused on three main requirements: a) Extensively evaluated measurement procedures; b) Certified reference materials; c) A network of reference laboratories. The second, by **Carlo Franzini** ( Milan, Italy ), was entitled *State of Standardization in Enzymology*, and described results from a European pilot project. Country-specific overall CV values ranged from 4.9% to 10.8%; bias values ranged from +22% to -32%. These findings suggest that considerable improvement is needed. The third lecturer, also from Milan, Italy, was **Ferruccio Ceriotti**, whose subject was *Homogeneity of Reference Intervals and Decision Levels*. He drew

attention to the incongruity of the situation where, for 590 Italian laboratories, the male upper reference limits for ALT spanned a range from 29 to 83 U/L. IFCC has now established a committee to address this problem.

A view from Industry was offered by **R. Hinzmann** ( Norderstedt, Germany ) who spoke of the need to define the enzymes, the methods, and the reference laboratories upon which standardization was to be based, as well as the importance of gaining the acceptance of the clinical community for these procedures. The final talk, given by **Sandra Secchiero** ( Castelfranco Veneto, Italy ), returned to the theme of reference intervals, and presented several case studies based on experience from an External Quality Assessment Scheme. The high degree of variability due to different reagent kits and different instruments, as well as the danger of uncritically using reference intervals defined by manufacturers, were highlighted.

Extended ( but unedited ) abstracts based on these presentations were published in the Conference Program. They are available on the website of the Society ([www.ISEnzymology.org](http://www.ISEnzymology.org))

---

## ISE Meeting in Padova, Italy, October 24 – 5, 2006

Attention is drawn to the above meeting for which preliminary information is now available. It will begin on the afternoon of October 24 with a Symposium on *Enzymes in Neoplastic Diseases* co-ordinated by Drs D Chan, C Sturgeon and EP Diamandis. The morning of 25<sup>th</sup> October will be devoted to a Symposium on *Enzymes in Cardiovascular Diseases* co-ordinated by Dr Martina Zaninotto, and the afternoon to a Symposium on

*Enzymes in Gastrointestinal Diseases* co-ordinated by Dr Mario Plebani. Further details will be posted on the ISE website as they become available.

David M Goldberg

Editor  
ISE Newsletter