



International Society for Enzymology (ISE)

Newsletter, February 2005

Editor: David M. Goldberg

BIOGRAPHIES OF CURRENT ISE BOARD MEMBERS

Mario Plebani

Born in Vicenza (Veneto) in 1950, Mario Plebani graduated MD in 1975 from the University of Padua, and went on to specialize in Laboratory Medicine and Gastroenterology. His postdoctoral training was performed mainly at the Universities of Padua and Verona, together with a period in Boston at the Department of Laboratory Medicine at Harvard University. In 1994, he was appointed to the Chair of the Department of Laboratory Medicine at the University Hospital of Padua.



Research Interests

Dr Plebani's research has been largely devoted to the application of enzymes to clinical diagnosis, focusing initially on diseases of the gastrointestinal system, but more recently with an emphasis on cancer and heart disease; he has also turned his attention to molecular aspects of enzymology and their integration with gene expression. Quality Assurance has been one of his subsidiary interests, and he has promoted a series of International Conferences on this topic dedicated to his late mentor, Prof. Angelo Burlina, founder of the International Society of Enzymology and its first Vice-President. His work has been recognised by several prizes at International Meetings, including the John King Award of the International Society of Enzymology in 1990.

Publications and Offices

Already, Mario Plebani is co-author of more than 670 papers as well as 53 book chapters, and co-editor of 10 books. He is Associate Editor of Critical Reviews in Clinical Laboratory Sciences, and a member of the Editorial Boards of Clinica Chimica Acta and Clinical Biochemistry. His work in the organizing and promotion of international scientific meetings has won much acclaim; to date, he has served as chairperson or co-chair of no fewer than 16 such meetings. He was elected to the Board of the International Society of Enzymology for the

first time in 1996, becoming Vice-President in 2000 and President in 2004, a position that he will hold until 2008.

Eleftherios Diamandis

Born in Limassol on the island of Cyprus in 1952, Eleftherios Diamandis began his academic education at the University of Athens from which he graduated PhD in 1979 and MD in 1986, holding a teaching appointment between these two dates. After postdoctoral training at the University of Toronto, followed by a brief return to Athens, he joined the staff of the Department of Clinical Biochemistry at the former University as Assistant Professor and quickly worked his way through the ranks, becoming Head of the Section of Clinical Biochemistry (Department of Pathology) at Toronto's Mount Sinai Hospital, Head of the Division of Clinical Biochemistry in what was then the newly-formed Department of Laboratory Medicine at the University, and (in 1998) a Full Professor in that Department.



Research Interests

His primary academic training in Analytical Chemistry led him to focus initially on novel techniques that could be exploited for the measurement of clinically important constituents, notably time-resolved fluorescence, but these interests were subsequently channelled into efforts to improve the diagnosis and management of human cancer through the assay of molecular markers such as p53 and Prostate-Specific Antigen. The latter stimulated his extensive research into the Kallikrein family of proteases, in which he is an acknowledged World authority, having productively performed in this field over more than a decade a series of ground-breaking investigations employing the most sophisticated tools of molecular biology, resulting in the identification of several new genes and their enzymatic products. This work has led to numerous patents and gene-bank submissions. He has held a major or even a supreme role

in the organization of 10 International scientific meetings as well as many at the National level, including five editions of the Oak Ridge Conference. No fewer than 12 Prizes have been awarded to Dr Diamandis, many from the American Association for Clinical Chemistry and the Canadian Society of Clinical Chemists at the National and Divisional levels, as well as from the Clinical Ligand Society, the International Society of Oncodevelopmental Biology and Medicine, and the International Society of Enzymology. He has also delivered almost 100 Invited Lectures to Societies and Universities on three continents.

Publications and Offices

Already, the career list of Dr Diamandis numbers more than 300 original peer-reviewed scientific papers, 50 reviews, and 15 Book Chapters. He is also co-editor of two books. He serves as Associate Editor of Critical Reviews in Clinical Laboratory Sciences, and on the Editorial Boards of Clinical Chemistry, Clinical Biochemistry, Clinica Chimica Acta, Tumour Biology, Anticancer Research, and the International Journal of Biological Markers. In 2000, he was elected Secretary of the International Society of Enzymology, and he will serve as Vice-President and Treasurer until 2008.

Catherine M Sturgeon

Catherine Margaret Sturgeon was born in Durban, South Africa, and had her pre-University education in the United States (Ann Arbor, Michigan) before entering the University of Birmingham (UK) where she graduated BSc in 1971 and PhD in 1974.



Postdoctoral studies in the USA at the University of Miami School of Medicine (1974 - 76) and a Research Fellowship at the Department of Clinical Chemistry, University of Edinburgh (UK) from 1976, were followed by her appointment as Senior Biochemist at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh in 1989, with promotion to her present post of Clinical Scientist within the same institution in 1997. In 2000 she gained Membership of the Royal College of Pathologists. Since 2002, Dr Sturgeon has been Director of the UK National External Quality Assessment Schemes (Edinburgh), focusing upon Peptide Hormones, Pregnancy Testing and Tumor Markers.

Research Interests

Dr Sturgeon has made many contributions to the purification and standardization of Human Chorionic Gonadotropin and to the characterization of antibodies directed against the hormone. Her work on Tumour Markers led to her appointment as Vice - Chair of the

National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry's Panel on Laboratory Medical Practice Guidelines for Tumour Markers. Additionally, she serves on various committees established in this area by the National Council for Clinical Laboratory Standards, the Association of Clinical Biochemists (UK), the European Group on Tumour Markers, and the International Society for Oncodevelopmental Biology and Medicine.

Publications and Offices

Dr Sturgeon is the author of 63 papers, including invited reviews and original scientific publications. In addition to 50 Invited Lectures at institutions all over the globe, she has conducted several Workshops in Africa, South America and the Middle East on behalf of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Daniel C Chan

Daniel Chan was born in Xiamen, China in 1949. He obtained his Bachelor's degree in 1972 from the University of Oregon and his PhD in 1976 from the State University of New York at Buffalo. In 1977, he was appointed Assistant Professor of Pathology at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine at Baltimore, and progressed through the ranks to become a Full Professor in 1999, with cross-appointments in Oncology, Urology and Radiology. He also serves as Director of the Clinical Chemistry Division at the Johns Hopkins Hospital.



Research Interests

Dr Chan has focused his efforts on the development and application of proteomic and immunologic techniques to the diagnosis and management of human disease, particularly cancer, and has become internationally recognised for his contributions to the fields of immunoassay, tumor markers, and automation. He is widely sought as a lecturer at scientific conferences and academic institutions, numbering more than 120 such invitations, and has received seven awards from various committees of the American Association for Clinical Chemistry.

Publications and Offices

Author of 177 peer-reviewed scientific papers, 35 Book Chapters and Co-Editor of 6 books, Dr Chan has held a wide range of offices in various committees of the American Association for Clinical Chemistry at the National and Divisional levels, as well as in other organizations including the College of American

Pathologists, the National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry, and the National Council for Clinical Laboratory Standards. He serves on the Editorial Boards of several journals including Clinical Chemistry, Clinica Chimica Acta, Clinical Proteomics, the Journal of Clinical Immunoassay, and the International Journal of Biological Markers.

Franco Salvatore

Born in Naples in 1934, Franco Salvatore holds the Chair of Human Systematic Biochemistry at the School of Medicine, University of Naples Federico II. He undertook extensive postgraduate training as Visiting Scientist to many prestigious institutions outside Italy, including the Argonne National Laboratory and the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Illinois, the Department of Biochemistry at the University of California (Berkeley), the European Laboratory of Molecular Biology at Heidelberg (Germany), and the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology (Cambridge, UK), numbering among his collaborators the Nobel Laureates John Kendrew and Sidney Brenner .



Research Interests

After 20 years devoted to the metabolic biochemistry and enzymology of amino acids and sulfur-containing compounds, he turned his attention to the structure and

gene expression of human proteins, notably aldolase and glycerol - 3 - phosphate dehydrogenase. In particular, investigations on the human isoenzyme gene system of the aldolases has resulted in an extensive series of publications on gene expression (Aldolase A and C) and on human mutants of Aldolase B that are responsible for Hereditary Fructose Intolerance in man. His most recent gene studies have led to improved diagnosis and therapy for leukemias and solid tumours, and he established a Center for Genetic Engineering in Naples as well as playing a seminal role in the creation of the European Group for Clinical Molecular Biology.

Publications and Offices

Author of 400 papers, of which more than 200 represent peer-reviewed original scientific publications, and editor of 5 major books or treatises, Prof. Salvatore has had extensive editorial responsibilities, notably as Editor of Gene, and membership of the Editorial Boards of Clinica Chimica Acta , Advances in Clinical Chemistry, and the International Journal of Human Tumor Markers. He has held important offices in the Italian National Research Council, and has served terms as President of the Federation of Italian Biological Societies, the Italian Society of Biochemistry, and the Italian Society of Clinical Biochemistry. During his career, he has been eagerly sought as an adviser by various departments of the Italian Government, serving on no fewer than 17 important commissions on health, science, and education. His long association with the International Society of Enzymology culminated in his election as Vice-President in 1996 and President in 2000. He will serve on the present Board as Past-President until 2008.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ENZYMOLOGY

Minutes of Board Meeting Held in Los Angeles, CA

Monday 26th July 2004, commencing at 9.30 am.

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

Attending: David Goldberg (Editor of Newsletter)

1) Minutes of Previous Board Meeting

The Minutes of the Board Meeting in Hamamatsu, Japan, held on Friday 18th October, 2002, as published on the Website of the Society, were approved without change.

2) President's Report

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, as outlined in the previous Minutes. The persons listed above will thus serve in the named offices until 2008 or prior resignation.

- b) Review of Constitution: This revealed a requirement to clarify the status of Life Members, since there was no mechanism permitting their resignation and no waiver of the responsibility owed to them by the Society in circumstances where they could not be contacted. It was resolved to submit the following addition to the Constitution under 4.2. Life Membership for approval at the General Business Meeting in Padua in October:

“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”.

This will be immediately posted on the Website and sent to all members whose e-mail address is known.

- c) 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. The Board was requested individually to provide information on "missing members" from their own countries, but apart from eliciting the fact that several had deceased, no further addresses were obtained. It was resolved to make one final effort by posting on the Website the names and last known address of the "missing members" with a request to the entire membership to provide any relevant information to the Secretary.

At the General Business Meeting in Naples in 2000, it had been decided to create, outside the Constitution and for a trial period of 4 years, a new category designated Associate Member. This would be offered free of subscription to all who attended and spoke at the Scientific Meetings of the Society and to any others interested in this form of membership. Such persons would receive Newsletters and any other forms of publicity, as well as advanced notification of meetings which they were welcome to attend, but they would not be eligible for office or to vote in elections or at Business Meetings. Despite the efforts of Dr Diamandis, no such members have been enrolled. Several of the current Board spoke against the notion of inflating our membership with individuals who did not have a firm commitment to the Society, but there was a consensus that our most pressing need was to attract a cadre of young Scientists to rejuvenate the Society. To meet this, it was agreed 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, such as AACC.

- d) Liaison with Other Societies: This item was inserted partly in relation to Item 5.c. below and partly in response to the need to find new members for the Society. One activity widely practised in the past was the holding of scientific meetings jointly with other Societies. On other occasions, the Society had been the principle organizer of a Satellite Meeting associated with a major meeting of another Society or Federation of Societies. A third type of cooperation had taken the form of one or more scientific sessions organised by ISE within the framework of a major meeting promoted by a Society or Federation. One proposal was to seek help from cooperating Societies in circulating information about ISE and an Invitation to Membership through the lists of such societies.

Another was the insertion of links on the Websites of other Societies on a mutual basis. The names of various Societies in the fields of Proteolysis, Coagulation, Proteomics and Biological Markers were mentioned. A fuller list will be developed, based on a clear component of Enzymology within the sphere of interest of each Society and appropriate action will be taken, based on mutual discussion or correspondence.

- e) General Meeting in Padua: This has been fixed for 4.30 pm on Thursday 28th October. Notification and the Agenda (the same as for this meeting) has been posted on the Website and circulated to all members with known e-mail addresses. Following the Business Meeting, the Board will meet to review the situation and to deal with items carried forward from the present meeting.

3) Secretary's Report

There was no new business to report.

4) Treasurer's Report

Dr. Morton Schwartz attended for this item. He pointed out that he still had signing authority with Citibank NY, where the Society's accounts currently reside, and he will be able to issue cheques for expenses incurred by the present meeting, if necessary. He counselled against a formal annual audit, which was not justified by the level of financial activity, and was quite costly.

- a) Transfer of Accounts to Toronto: This had previously been agreed by e-mail communications, but was formally and unanimously confirmed to meet the requirements of the Canadian Banking Authority. The funds will be maintained in US

dollars under management by an Investment Company that acts for the Ontario Medical Association.

As Dr Diamandis is a member of this Association, there will be no management fee. All cheques will be issued on the joint signatures of Drs Diamandis and Goldberg. Some delay in the transfer of these funds from Citibank was experienced because of the need to resolve their status for purpose of Canadian Income Tax. The present situation is that the Company is satisfied that ISE is a bona fide scientific organization immune from taxation in Canada, but it wishes to have this status confirmed by a taxation expert, at a charge to the Society of \$50. Once this opinion has been obtained, it will then arrange the transfer with Citibank NY.

- b) Balance in Accounts: As of July 7th, there was a balance of \$118,955 in the Savings Account earning less than 1% per annum and \$6,713 in the Chequing Account. A charge of \$20 per month is currently levied on these accounts by Citibank. We have been informed that the proposed Canadian company will not charge for their services.
- c) Investment Plan: It has been agreed that to make better use of the Savings Account and to ensure a steady flow of capital that can be liquidated to meet ongoing expenses, the entire sum, after topping up the Current Account, will be invested in short-term securities maturing at different time-periods and with different interest coupons. This will ensure that the face value of the investments will always be recovered and the income should be higher than that available from regular savings accounts, at current rates. Dr Diamandis will develop a proposal to be submitted to the Board for approval.
- d) Subscription: It was agreed that for the present, the Annual Subscription will remain at \$30, payable at the rate of \$60 for two years, with Life Membership costing \$300.

5) Scientific Meetings

- a) Hamamatsu and New York Meetings: A full report of the first meeting, held in 2002, had appeared in the last Newsletter and had been posted on the Website. Nothing further had been received from Prof. Maekawa and the financial outcome was not known but, as the Society was not financially involved beyond the funds already provided, it was decided not to pursue the matter further. The details leading up to the cancellation of the New York City Meeting scheduled for 2003 had also been posted on the Website and it was deemed that no further action should be taken.

- b) Enzymes Meet Proteomics: This one-day meeting scheduled for Friday October 29, 2004 at Padua, Italy, and organized by Dr M Plebani, will be co-sponsored by ISE together with a number of other organizations. Three members of the Board will feature as Invited Speakers. The full program appears on the ISE Website, together with the Announcement and Agenda for the General Business Meeting of ISE to be held at 4.30 pm the previous day (Thursday October 28th).
- c) Future Meetings: Dr. Plebani announced that he was organizing a half-day meeting on enzymes (title to be decided) in Rome on October 11, 2005 and asked if the Society would consent to co-sponsor this event. It was unanimously agreed to do so and to announce this meeting on our Website, when details have been finalised.

Considerable discussion ensued about future meetings to be organized by ISE and many different views were expressed. All agreed that this was the principal *raison d'être* of the Society, without which it would be impossible to attract new members. They should be of high scientific quality, and, in the view of several, targeted especially at Young Investigators who should be given the opportunity to present their own work. It would be desirable to offer a number of Fellowships to such persons, to defray travel expenses. Our main dilemma is an inadequate membership base to allow us to organize independent meetings. This dictates the need to hold our meetings conjointly with other Societies, either as Satellites, as Sessions within a larger program or with the entire program being the responsibility of two or more organisations, one of which would be ISE. The poor attendance at recent Satellite Meetings held by the Society favoured the latter two options. The importance of audience numbers as a potential source of recruiting new members favoured large International Congresses in preference to smaller national meetings. Each member of the Board could exercise influence with other Societies with which they are involved, to achieve these objectives.

A number of meetings scheduled for 2005 were mentioned but evoked no enthusiasm, especially in light of the accepted reality that a planning period of 2 to 3 years is necessary to ensure success. It was resolved that each Board Member would access a calendar of events listing scientific meetings scheduled as far into the future as possible, in order to explore a potential role for ISE in those where an enzymology content is already inherent or might be welcome as a novel component of the program. All information will be circulated and discussed by e-mail preparatory to the drawing up of a coherent long-term plan at the Padua Meeting.

6) Website

Great satisfaction was expressed with the operation of this site by Dr Bromberg, to whom our thanks are recorded. Among suggestions for display of additional material, the following proposals were made:

1. Photographs and biographies of Past Presidents.
2. Website links to other Societies whose activities are related to enzymology.

7) Newsletter

Dr Goldberg, who was in attendance for this item, outlined his proposals for the next issue that will include the biographies and photographs of the present Board Members, together with an account of the present meeting. It was agreed that the latter may take the form of the present Minutes, following their approval in principle by e-mail; action will be taken to modify or exclude any items considered inappropriate. Information about prizes and awards to members, such as those made at the present AACC Meeting, will also be included. The Board was requested to bring any such information to his attention for future issues.

8) Other Business

- a) Expenses: Current rules allow the following to be paid from ISE funds to Members attending Board Meetings when no other source of funds is available:

- i) Economy air travel (cheapest available) and ground transportation including trains, buses and taxis on presentation of relevant receipts.
- ii) Hotel room (usually arranged by the Secretary or designated for all Board Members) for two nights (intracontinental travel) or four nights (intercontinental travel).
- iii) Per diem allowance of \$75 without receipts, or with receipts if greater. It was agreed that the same expenses will apply for the term of the present Board.

- b) Future of Society: This theme permeated the discussion throughout the meeting. The points made and the decisions reached are documented under the respective agenda items. The issue of a Journal was raised but abandoned in light of our earlier experience with Enzymologica Biologica Clinica (ENZYME) published by Karger, under the auspices of the Society, and similar experience suffered by the National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry in the sponsorship of a journal. Emphasis was placed on high-quality scientific meetings, as a means of attracting new members. For many years now, this has been a complete failure, despite the regular distribution of application forms to all those attending. It was proposed that an electronic slide-show be developed to "sell" the merits of ISE Membership, to be set up at any future meetings in which the Society is involved. Dr Diamandis agreed to take responsibility for this initiative.

The Meeting adjourned at 12.10 pm.

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 others 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 signatures 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 will 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 organizing 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.

AWARDS TO ISE MEMBERS

Two members of the Society were recognized for their achievements by the American Association for Clinical Chemistry (AACC) at its Annual Meeting in Los Angeles in July, 2005.

Dr Matthew M. McQueen received the AACC Award for Outstanding Contributions to Clinical Chemistry sponsored by Bayer HealthCare. Since 1987, Dr McQueen has been a Professor in the Department of Pathology at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, and is currently Director of the Hamilton Regional Laboratory Medicine Program. A graduate of the University of Glasgow, Scotland, where he received the degrees of MB,ChB and PhD, and a British Universities debating champion, he came to Canada in 1974. His initial position was at Dalhousie University, Halifax,

Nova Scotia, but he followed the famous injunction: "Go West, young man" and moved to Hamilton two years later, there terminating his occidental journey for the time being.

In Glasow, his PhD studies were carried out under the supervision of John King, a distinguished clinical enzymologist who had written the first single-authored major treatise on the subject and who was a founding member of the Society. They were focused on serum cholinesterase and its phenotypes, and set the scene for Dr McQueen's emergence as a major force in enzymology. Regrettably, "first loves" are not always the most durable, and his interests graduated to other areas of laboratory and clinical medicine to which he made important contributions: lipids and cardiovascular

disease; quality assurance; and laboratory management. His success as a clinician was crowned by the award of the Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians of Canada in 1981.

To assert that Matthew McQueen is the most internationally renowned Clinical Chemist that Canada has yet produced is to make a statement that is almost a platitude. Success in the international arena, however, followed a string of achievements at the national level that displayed his superb gifts in organization, communication, and the difficult task of simply getting on well with other colleagues. It fell to him to implement the introduction of SI Units within the Canadian Health Care System, a task he accomplished against all the odds, and so successfully, that Canada remains along with Scandinavia the country where the system is most comprehensively and most securely entrenched. With single-minded persistence, he was able to persuade opponents and skeptics to swallow this new form of medicine despite its unpleasant taste with the assurance that it was certain to do them a great deal of good. From 1983 to 1985 he served as President of the Canadian Society of Clinical Chemists (CSCC) and played a seminal role in the creation of the Canadian Academy of Clinical Biochemistry, subsequently becoming the Chair of its Board. In 1985 he received the Ames Award from CSCC, its highest honour, and the Canadian equivalent of the accolade now conferred by AACC.

Author of more than 140 scientific papers, Dr McQueen has delivered invited lectures in 45 countries as well as undertaking a nation-wide lecture tour of Canada; his most notable Travelling Lectureships have involved UK, South Africa and Hong Kong. His eminence on the international scene was recognized by his election to a series of offices within the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry (IFCC) over the period 1992 to 1999, initially as Treasurer, subsequently as Vice-President, and culminating in the Presidency itself. A more complete biography is published in *Clin Chem* 2004; 50:1279. One can end, tongue-in cheek, by stating that Dr McQueen may have forgotten Enzymology, but Enzymology will not forget him ! The Society is proud of his achievements and offers its warmest congratulations on this Award.

Dr Daniel C Chan, a member of the Board of ISE, received the Morton K. Schwartz Award for Significant Contributions in Cancer Research Diagnostics, sponsored by Bayer HealthCare and named after a former President of the Society. A brief biography of Dr Chan is included in the Profiles of the present Board Members in this Newsletter (on this website), and a more complete account of Dr Chan's accomplishments has been published in *Clin Chem* 2004;50:1285. Well done, Dan !