



Minutes of the 61st IUIS Council Meeting

Date: Friday, August 23rd, 2013; 13.30 – 15.00
Place: MiCo - Milan Congress Center, Room “Amber 8”

INVITED:

- Executive Committee 2013-2016 (elected at the 15th General Assembly on August 22, 2013)
- Council members 2013-2016 (elected at the 15th General Assembly on August 22, 2013):
Ahmed El-Gohary (Egypt), Willem Hanekom (ZA), Paola Castagnoli (SG), Wei He (China), Shigeo Koyasu (JP), Alan Baxter (AUS), Narinder Mehra (India), Olivier Boyer (France), Dieter Kabelitz (Germany), Winfried Pickl (A), David Gray (UK), Reina Mebius (Netherlands), Joao Santana-Silva (Brazil), Leopoldo Santos-Argumedo (Mexico), Jeffrey A. Frelinger (USA), Michael J.H. Ratcliffe (Canada).
- Committee chairs (non-voting)
- Regional Federations (non-voting)
- Liaisons and Affiliated organizations (non-voting)
- Jean-Loup Romet-Lemonne, IUIS Program Director
- Representatives of the 15th ICI 2013 in Milan - Luciano Adorini, Alberto Mantovani
- Representatives of the 16th ICI 2016 in Melbourne – José Villadangos, Ian Barr, Andrew Lew, Karine Bulger, Maria Rigas, Natalia Ferreira, Roslyn McLeod, Arinex
- IUIS Central Office secretary, Gerlinde Jahn

AGENDA:

1. Opening of the council meeting (Jorge Kalil)

The new President of IUIS Jorge Kalil opened the 61st Council meeting of IUIS.

2. Welcome and arrangement of the new Council

The President welcomed the new Vice President Alberto Mantovani and the new Council members.

The President also urged IUIS to develop new ideas and new actions. He emphasized international activities and better global visibility. In his view the main activities of IUIS are carried out in the Committees, which he wanted to push to new activities and into providing new recommendations and policies in their subject matters.

3. Finances: budget for the year 2014 (The Treasurer)

The IUIS Treasurer Nicholas King presented the forecast for finances in 2013 and the budget for 2014 (attachment). The predicted overall spending for 2013 was expected to be 343.355 USD (as compared to the budgeted expenditure 362.257 USD) yielding an overall estimated balance of -30.970 USD.

In the budget for 2014 the predicted total expenditure was 319.000 USD and balance 76 486 USD. The budget includes additions (5.000 USD) to budgets of the Education and the Gender Equality and Career Development Committees, as decided in Lima, Perú, 2012. The predicted income from the Milan meeting is 200.000 USD (including 50.000 USD from abstracts).



Discussion included questions about the safety and stability of assets in the Merrill-Lynch account. These were to be transferred to Julius Bär Bank in Austria. Shigeo Kobayashi asked about the membership fees that had been discussed in Lima. A proposal had been made to institute 3 levels for membership fees (for low-income, middle-income and high-income countries). Careful analysis and calculations of the effects of the proposed system vs. the existing two-tier system had been made. They indicated that the proposed system would have been unnecessarily complicated and subject to variations each year. Furthermore it would have led to increases in membership fees for some countries now in the low-income category, as well as to an overall decrease in the membership fee income to IUIS. Thus, the membership fee structure was kept as before: 2.75 USD/individual member for low-income countries and 9 USD/individual member for high-income countries. The funding of Committees raised also questions. It was suggested that their funding could be increased if they were active.

After discussion of points 4-9 (below) the Council unanimously approved the budget for 2014.

4. Committees' news and plans

It was suggested that the various committees could have joint meetings with each other. This could allow flow of information and ideas.

Alberto Mantovani was nominated as the ExCo member to further collaboration between the ExCo and Committees. He proposed that Committees could be in a position to gain sponsorship money themselves. (The point was discussed further after point 6, when Abul Abbas returned from giving a talk)

Abul Abbas wanted to raise 3 points:

1. Strengthening collaboration between FOCIS and IUIS and the ICI Congresses. As one example, he mentioned IUIS-sponsored meetings in FOCIS congresses. The two societies have good opportunities for partnering better in providing grants for education and for organising joint FOCI/IUIS courses.
2. Improve US participation in IUIS activities. AAI is acting currently relatively independently. Collaboration could provide synergy. He suggested that not only AAI but also FOCIS could propose a bid to organise an ICI meeting.
3. More emphasis needs to be put on education in developing countries. This needs to occur at a more strategic level (organising courses is just taking "taking the low level fruits"). Michelle Letarte pointed out the need to empower the locals, e.g. in Africa, to improve education. Alberto Mantovani suggested to use e.g. grant reviewing as a training process.

5. Sites and occasions of Council meetings in 2014 and 2015

It was decided that the next Council meeting would be held in Nairobi (December 30, 2014) in connection with the next FAIS congress, November 30-December 4, 2014 (president Tom Kariuki).

For 2015, the Council meeting has been suggested to be held in Medellín, Colombia in connection with the 11th ALAI meeting (September 8-12, 2015). Luis F García gave a presentation about ALAI, the meeting venue (Plaza Mayor) and arrangements including a preliminary program.

6. Congresses and meetings

15th ICI in Milan. Luciano Adorini reported that by now 5500 participants attended the current meeting, and possibly more people were still coming. He thanked IUIS and all who helped in the organisation. IUIS Council on its part thanked Luciano Adorini and the other organisers for a successful meeting.

Secretary General

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16th ICI in Melbourne 2016 (José Villadangos)

José Villadangos, the President of the forthcoming 16th ICI meeting in Melbourne, Australia, gave a presentation of the meeting venue and arrangements together with Roslyn MacLeod from Arinex, the local PCO. They emphasised partnership with IUIS and noted that it is important to understand the IUIS "brand". Arinex is known internationally in the field. It has a new IT system and abstract handling procedure.

Questions were raised about the International Scientific Committee, encouragement of participation of young scientists, gender issue and contribution from underdeveloped countries plus on educational aspects. The organisers promised to do their best to address any concerns. It was noted that according to the IUIS Constitution 4 IUIS Council members and at least 1 ExCo members need to be in the Int'l Committee. Abul Abbas suggested that the International Committee should meet physically with the local organisers to develop the program. It was also suggested that Gender & Career Committee should be included. In any case, the speakers' list should include attractive names, and the IUIS Council should be allowed to provide feedback of the planned program.

Also, a barbeque for speakers with students only was suggested.

17th ICI in Beijing 2019 (Xuetao Cao)

Not discussed here, because Xuetao Cao was not available. A presentation had been given in the GA meeting.

New IUIS meetings (smaller "in-between" meetings 2014, 2015). SG pointed out that it would be in the interest of IUIS to organise new types of meetings that would be focused on a subarea within immunology, like vaccines, reproductive immunology, clinical immunology, autoimmunity, immunological memory etc. Proposals for such meetings would be welcome. Because IUIS received excellent bids for the 2019 ICI congress, the bidders could be asked for their interest to organise meetings during years, when they would not clash with other major meetings. JK suggested that IUIS should make a blueprint of its plans, and prepare position papers on relevant and important issues, like e.g. vaccines and stem cell therapies.

7. Communication, website, programs (Jean-Loup Romet-Lemonne)

JLRL gave an account of his activities as a Program Manager from the past nearly 2 years. He had worked hard for increasing communication, providing material for the website, sending newsletters and assisting organisers of ICI in PR issues and in travel grants. He had frequent contact with the PCO for ICI in Milan (Triumph).

In general, it was hoped that the communication between the ExCo and the Council could be improved. One suggestion was to add information from the ExCo to the IUIS or Frontiers website.

8. IUIS administration in the future. A new PCO?

IUIS is registered and has its central office in Vienna, Austria. Gerlinde Jahn has served in the Vienna Medical Academy, the PCO for IUIS, for the last 6 years. Now she is retiring from this position, which has made IUIS to reconsider its need for a new PCO. Gerlinde Jahn has provided an excellent and comprehensive service for IUIS, which will be hard to replace. However, a search for a new Association Management Company (AMC/PCO) is ongoing and proposals from service providers have been invited.

The Council members shared their experiences from different PCOs and discussed issues related to taxing status and funding.

The IUIS ExCo will subsequently decide on the new PCO and inform the Council after a decision has been made.

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9. Strategies of IUIS (Jorge Kalil)

The new President of IUIS provided some strategic notes to the Council. He mentioned that the “heart” of IUIS is in the Committees – their work should be encouraged and activated. In promoting immunology the activities of the committees should get deeper into activities. Also, interactions between the Committees should be increased. JK supported the establishment of specific meetings “in-between” the ICI congresses and asked for suggestions as to topics.

The Clinical Committee could organise more courses related to its area. Course could be organised also in vaccination, adjuvants, standardisation (e.g. in flow cytometry). The IUIS could express more often its opinion in issues of general interest, like influenza vaccination. In this, connections with WHO are important.

SG added that communication among Council members should be increased and, if possible, a closed website for the Council members could be activated.

Olivera Finn suggested the addition of 1-3 new committees. These were suggested to be e.g. on vaccination or immunotherapy. A wish was to set up an independent committee on vaccines organising independent meetings.

The Council supported and thereby decided to found a new Committee on vaccines.

The question was raised, whether there are any rules for the committees.

Kendall Smith reminded that in case committees come up with recommendations, or other forms of publications they could be published in *Frontiers in Immunology*

Reinhold Schmidt proposed joint courses with FOCIS. For this 20.000 USD could be allocated from the Clinical immunology committee budget.

Wayne Hein indicated that VIC had already complied with the President’s request by organising courses and providing travel grants.

Rudi Valenta emphasized collaboration between clinical immunology and allergology, and cooperation with WAO.

JK thanked for the suggestions and pointed out that it is good to have many suggestions but one should not leave too many “loose ends”.

10. Other matters

No other matters were raised

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