

Helsinki, November 20, 2014

IUIS SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT 2014

Executive Committee and IUIS Offices

A new *Executive Committee* for IUIS for 2013-2016 was elected in the General Assembly meeting in Milan (August 22nd, 2013). The new ExCo includes Jorge Kalil (President, Sao Paulo, Brazil), Alberto Mantovani (Vice President, Milan, Italy), Stefan Kaufmann (Past President, Berlin, Germany), Nicholas King (Treasurer, Sydney, Australia) and Seppo Meri (Secretary General, Helsinki, Finland). The latter two were reelected for their second 3-year periods.

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The IUIS Central Office has moved from the Vienna Medical Academy (Vienna, Austria) to Berlin (c/o K.I.T Group). Our former assisting secretary, Magister Gerlinde Jahn retired from her post after having served successfully and in a devoted manner IUIS for several years. After careful considerations of several potential service provider candidates and many negotiations the K.I.T Group was selected as the AMC/PCO for IUIS. An agreement with the K.I.T Group was formally signed on March 28th, 2014. K.I.T. will thus act as the official organisation management service provider and PCO for IUIS. The Managing Director of K.I.T. is Ms. Jocelyne Mülli, and our closest focal point is Ms Sumiko Tanaka. The e-mail contacts to IUIS office at K.I.T. are iuis-central-office@kit-group.org and stanaka@kit-group.org. The street address of the headquarters of IUIS/K.I.T in Berlin is Kurfürstendamm 71, 10709, Berlin, Germany.

Through the new alliance with K.I.T. many new activities have been launched and initiated. Our initial experiences with K.I.T. have been very positive. We (the SG and ExCo) have had frequent contacts by e-mail, teleconferences and by visits to the Berlin headquarters. The services of K.I.T. include, among other things, e.g. taking care of daily activities of IUIS, keeping records of members, financial bookkeeping, organisation of meetings, acquiring sponsors, maintaining a website, helping in marketing and taking care of both internal and external relations and communication.

Meetings

The 60th and 61st IUIS Council meetings were held in Milan, Italy, 2013 before (22.8.2013) and after (23.8.2013) the 15th General Assembly (22.8.2013) meeting in connection with the ICI2013 Congress, respectively (see separate minutes of the meetings).

Planning for the ICI2016 meeting in Melbourne, Australia, to be organised by the Australasian Society for Immunology (ASI) has started. IUIS has expressed its wish to help and contribute to the program, and a role for the new PCO K.I.T. is also to be arranged principally in recruiting international sponsors and in handling meeting abstracts. Discussions in this direction have been ongoing and a draft for a formal agreement between IUIS and ASI has been prepared. Signing the agreement has been planned for the near future. Both the ICI2016 meeting in Melbourne and the planned ICI2019 meeting in Beijing are expected to become real showplaces for the global immunology community. In addition to the ICI meetings, IUIS has decided to be active in supporting and arranging smaller thematic or area-focused meetings during the years between the bigger ICI meetings. Such proposals have been made e.g. to the other bidders for the 2019 meeting from Germany, Greece and Russia.

The 62nd IUIS Council meeting will be held on November 30th in Nairobi, Kenya, in connection with the 9th African Immunology Congress organised by FAIS. The agendas have been sent to participants and will be available at the IUIS website (<http://www.iuisonline.org/>). The help provided by Sumiko Tanaka is a good indication of the efficient activity of K.I.T. The main theme of the forthcoming IUIS Council meeting will be to discuss functions and activities of the IUIS Committees and strategies of IUIS in general.

Education in immunology and IUIS promotion

The Secretary General has participated in several immunological training courses as a lecturer and as a promoter of IUIS activities. These have included courses in Sofia, Bulgaria 20-23.9.2013 (South-East European Immunology Symposium, SEEIS2013), Beijing, China 18-20.10.2013 (FIMSA meeting), Tehran, Iran 27-30.10.2014 (Iranian Society for Immunology meeting); Reykjavik, Iceland, 11-14.6.2014 (Scandinavian Society for Immunology meeting), Timisoara, Romania, 26-28.9 (SEEIS2014) and Complement Workshop in Rio de Janeiro 14-18.9.2014. Opportunities to present IUIS was provided at all these meetings. As an achievement, IUIS membership application was received from Montenegro, and the International Complement Society had decided to apply for affiliate

membership status at IUIS. The meetings also served as great opportunities for networking and providing training for young immunologists.

Communication

IUIS had a Program Manager (Jean-Loup Romet-Lemonne, New York) until the end of 2013 to promote IUIS and develop the existing website. After the recruitment of K.I.T. a revised website is being planned. This should include also working areas for developing documents and e.g. an electronic voting web tool for the IUIS Council and General Assembly.

With the help of K.I.T. several teleconferences using the Gotomeeting-platform have been organised. This has improved communication among the ExCo, between ExCo and K.I.T. and with selected target groups, like the *Frontiers in Immunology* journal.

Frontiers in Immunology (<http://www.frontiersin.org/immunology>) has progressed well and established its position as the main Open Access immunology journal. It is the official journal of IUIS. In 2013 the *Frontiers in Immunology* became a Nature journal to promote open access publishing. With the partnership with Nature Publishing Group the usage and visibility of the journal has increased. The journal did not get an impact factor in 2014 but is expected to get one in June, 2015. The journal brings some revenue to IUIS according to an agreement made in 2011. Currently, more than one paper a day, on the average, is being published by *Frontiers in Immunology*. In addition, for example, blogs and an IUIS position paper on the Ebola-virus were published in the journal. As before, the on-line journal and its website offer many possibilities for the immunological community.

IUIS is a member of the International Council for Science (ICSU). The liaison person from IUIS to ICSU has been Prof. Gilbert Faure. ICSU has been involved e.g. with handling of large datasets (CODATA) and issues related to climate change. IUIS has been participating in ICSU activities in meetings in Auckland, New Zealand (30.8-3.9.2014; Nick King) and New Delhi (via electronic voting).

IUIS has WHO as one of its affiliate organisations, and IUIS is a nongovernmental organisational (NGO) member of WHO. IUIS and WHO have been looking for a successor to our previous WHO Liaison Prof. Pascal Launois. The search is still ongoing. Reports on the collaborative activities and plans for future collaboration have been submitted to WHO. It is envisioned that the WHO collaboration could offer many unexploited opportunities for both parties especially in the fields of vaccination, other immune preventions, nomenclature, standardization and education.

New Members

The recently founded (2013) Malian Society for Immunology applied for membership in IUIS already in 2013, but, unfortunately, due to the loaded program in the General Assembly meeting in Milan the voting for membership got delayed. It is, however, on the agenda as soon as an electronic voting system has been set up by K.I.T. Another membership application has been received from the Montenegro Society for Immunology. In addition, the Algerian Society of Allergology and Clinical Immunology and countries in the Persian Gulf area have expressed their wishes to apply for IUIS membership, but no applications have been received yet.

Concluding remarks

Important events for IUIS during the period 2013-2014 have been the Milan ICI2013 Congress and the recruitment of the new AMC and PCO organisation K.I.T. to assist IUIS in its management. Thereby a new central office in Berlin has been opened and IUIS is getting continuous help in its multiple functions. The new set-up allows the development and expansion of IUIS activities. Special focuses in forthcoming period are to assist Committees in their important tasks, to facilitate organisation of smaller scale IUIS meetings on interesting topics and to increase the visibility of IUIS and publishing activity of its members.



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