

52nd Council meeting of IUIS Rio de Janeiro, 19 August 2007

Present

Luciano Adorini, Laurence Boumsell, Gérard Chaouat, Mohamed R. Daha, Gunnur Deniz, Alioune Dieye, Peter Doherty, Gaye Erten, Gilbert C. Faure, Olivera Finn, Jorge Kalil, Shigeo Koyasu, Michelle Letarte, José D. Lopes, Philippa Marrack, Narinder Mehra, Raj Mehra, Cornelis J.M. Melief, Masayuki Miyasaka, Jan Naessens, Marianna M. Newkirk, Christopher Parish, Sergio Romagnani, Christopher Rudd, Reinhold Schmidt, Yousuke Takahama, Kiyoshi Takatsu, Rudolf Valenta, R.A.W. van Lier, Dexian Zheng, Rolf M. Zinkernagel

1. Opening

Professor Zinkernagel (President of the IUIS) opens the meeting and welcomes all delegates, committee chairs, Federation representatives and liaison officers. He then thanks Prof. Jorge Kalil (President of the 13th IUIS congress in Rio) for taking excellent care of all guests and for the organization of the 13th ICI meeting. He apologizes that Sylvia Trittinger, because of family health reasons, can not be present at this council and at the other meetings of the IUIS. He wishes, together with all the delegates, much strength to Sylvia and her husband. Then he welcomes Mrs. Gerlinde Jahn from the Vienna Medical Academy (VMA) who replaces Sylvia at the meeting. Mrs. Jahn will also take over the IUIS Central Office starting October 2007.

2. Approval of the agenda

The chairman proposes to move item No. 5 (Treasurers report) directly after item No. 9. In addition concerning item No. 11, the summary of bids presented by Marianne Newkirk will take place after the presentation of the bids for the 2013 IUIS congress. All delegates approve the changes unanimously.

3. Minutes of the 51st council meeting (Dakar)

The chairman indicates that there is a mistake in the minutes concerning the dates for the 14th IUIS meeting that will be held in Kobe, Japan. This should be August 22-27 (Sunday-Friday), 2010.

For the rest no additional points are raised and the minutes are approved unanimously.

4. Presidents report

The president mentions that business of IUIS is running smoothly and that the help of Sylvia in this respect is well appreciated. Dr Finn makes a remark about the website of IUIS. Clearly this matter requires attention. It is proposed that the website should be updated and professional help is essential. There is need for a website coordinator with whom direct contact can take place. The president also mentions that the contacts with all local organizers of the Rio meeting has been very friendly and that he is happy to hear from Prof. Kalil that more than 4,000 delegates will attend the Rio meeting. He is especially pleased by the high scientific content of the meeting and he is delighted to see that many high quality

immunologists will be giving a presentation and have agreed to chair the sessions.

5. Secretary Generals Report

The secretary General has tabled his report earlier (see annex I).

6. Standing committee reports

A. Professor Sergio Romagnani, chairman of the Clinical Immunology Committee (see annex II) indicates that quite a sizable part of his budget was already committed for a number of activities and that therefore it was difficult for him to make a fast start with the committee activities. He tried to increase his budget by seeking additional support from different companies but was not successful. He raises the point that it is difficult to acquire funding for basic Immunology. Following discussions from different angles it is concluded that indeed it remains difficult to raise additional funds and that a personal approach remains the best one, and that we need personal commitment to get something done. Gilbert Faure raises the point that IUIS has decided earlier to discontinue its membership of ICSU. He argues that being a member of ICSU would give the French Society for Immunology (SFI) with more funds and therefore create more room for support of young investigators. This point will be discussed later in his report.

Another point that is raised is how to make “clinical Immunology” or other Immunological expertise more recognizable to others who are not involved with Immunology on a daily basis. Dr. Melief mentions that the Dutch Society for Immunology has clearly defined the aspects that are required to become a clinical immunologist of a more basic “medical immunologist”. In this regard Dr. R. Schmidt mentions that EFIS is putting much effort in generation of a curriculum for education of immunologists at the European level.

B. Education Committee Report (see annex 3).

Michelle Letarte indicates that this committee has been very active and that she would like to have an increase of the budget for the coming years. She is pleased with what has been achieved in the past period. However, to meet all the demands and requests for support, additional funds are required.

Reinhold Schmidt proposes that the committee contacts Prof. M. Kazatchkine from France who may be able to help. Also, maybe the committee should look in other possibilities for education by using teaching modules that are already available online.

C. Nomenclature committee (see annex 4).

This committee is very active and several reports on nomenclature have been finalized. One of the problems is to get these published in certain scientific journals. Several suggestions are made to overcome this problem. One of these being a direct approach of editors of a number of Immunology journals. Dr. Marrack is concerned about a number of details concerning the nomenclature of T-cell markers and genes. It is suggested that she contacts Laurence Bousnell separately to discuss these items in more detail. The nomenclature committee also would like to see an increase of their budget to finance several activities.

D. Quality assessment and standardization

Rudolf Valenta reports on the many activities of this committee (see annex 5) and indicates that a number of new subcommittees have been started up and that a number of older committees were closed down. The work is processing well and there is more and more collaboration with the nomenclature committee. He requests a raise in the budget for the coming years for the funding of additional activities.

E. Veterinary Immunology (annex 6)

Jan Naessens indicates that the committee is very active and that it organized a satellite symposium just before the 13th ICI meeting. This meeting was well attended. In this committee, scientists from different areas in veterinary Immunology work together. Because there are quite a number of animal species, work in this field requires reagents that are specific for the different species. Since there are, sometimes, only one or two experts in each field and since investigators retire or quit their field of research, there is a problem to retain or conserve reagents and knowledge. There seems to be no suitable solution for this problem. Overall Jan Naessens is content with the progress of the field and again more support from IUIS would be helpful.

8. **Federation reports**

A. ALAI: Jose Daniel Lopes reports that Alai is doing well and that he is very happy that the 13th ICI meeting is going to be a success. He is pleased with the collaboration with Jorge Kalil, president of the 13th ICI meeting. Some aspects dealing with transfer of funds from IUIS to the 13th ICI meeting were finally solved to satisfaction. The report was tabled (annex 7).

B. EFIS

Because Prof. Kaufmann is delayed, Dr. Reinhold Schmidt reports on the many activities of EFIS (see annex 8). It is clear that EFIS is very active and gets many things done in a dynamic way. Fortunately EFIS has secured a reasonable income from two journals. EFIS, and especially Dr. Kaufmann is a driving force in the organization of the Day of Immunology which is held every year now on or around the 29th of April. Since this date conflicts with a number of other important holiday type of activities worldwide a proposal from dr. P. Marrack concerning the date of this important activity is discussed. It is agreed that the DOI will be organized "on the day of 29 April or as close as possible to this date". The council unanimously agrees with this definition.

C. FAIS

Alioune Dieye, representative of FAIS, explains that the Dakar meeting held in 2006 with the council of IUIS being present there has given a major impulse to the field of Immunology in Africa. He hopes that members of IUIS will come more often to Africa to convey their knowledge to local investigators.

He regrets to mention that there are very few young and upcoming immunologists in Africa. Several other meetings next to the Dakar meeting, were organized with the help of the Education committee of IUIS, especially

the one held in Egypt recently was a great success. Alioune promises to send his written report soon and he would like to stress that Africa really needs help not only from IUIS but hopefully also from the Federations of IUIS as well.

D. FIMSA

Kyoshi Takatsu indicates that FIMSA is very happy that it has been selected to organize the 14th IUIS congress in Kobe. Masa Miyasaka is the secretary general of this congress. FIMSA is very active in organizing different teaching symposia like the one in India and more recently in Korea. FIMSA also organized several activities in the context of the DOI. This was not on 29/04 because this is a national holiday in Japan. A report (annex ...) was tabled. The next FIMSA meeting will be organized from October 17-20, 2008 in Taipei, Taiwan. It is expected that the 54th Council meeting of IUIS will take place at this meeting.

9. **Liaisons and affiliated organizations**

- A. WHO, Pascal Launois is not present, but has sent in his report in time (annex...)

Laurence Boumsell asks whether the WHO bulletin is still published. This bulletin was used in the past to publish the completed nomenclature reports. Moh Daha will contact Pascal about this point and then report back to Laurence.

- B. No contacts could be established with ISIP.

- C. ISDI is not represented at this meeting. Moh Daha will contact Chris Secombes after the RIO meeting.

- D. ISIR

Gerard Chaouat reports that ISIR is doing very well. There are several novel developments in this field (see annex...). He reminds the EXCO that ISIR would like to resolve the question about voting rights for ISIR soon. The EXCO will contact him soon about this matter.

- E. SMI

Hiroshi Kyono is not present. Moh Daha will contact him after the Rio meeting for a report.

- F. WAO

The World Allergy Organization (Michael Kaliner) is not represented at the council meeting. Moh Daha will soon contact Dr. Kaliner to discuss more in depth collaboration options.

Additionally Moh Daha will contact Rudolf Valenta for advise.

- G. No report was received from FOCIS. Moh Daha will contact David Hafler how to proceed.

10. **Archives**

Our archives are kept at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and we pay a nominal fee of 1,000 USD per year. Recently we considered to move the whole activity including the old and new archived material to the VMA. The total amount of material is very bulky and converting these into an electronic format does not seem to be sensible because of insecurity about the loss of information over time.

11. **Congresses**

- A. Jorge Kalil, president of the 13th IUIS congress, first welcomes all delegates to Rio and is looking forward to a successful congress. He expects more than 4,000 delegates from a large number of countries, including many young scientists from Latin America. There are over 400 speakers and chairpersons and approximately 38% are females. The opening ceremony will be on Tuesday, August 21, the Presidents dinner on Wednesday the 22nd, the Novartis prize on the 23rd. Most of these activities will be held at the conference venue so as to keep most delegates at the conferences. Prof. Zinkernagel thanks Jorge Kalil and his collaborators for their major efforts to organize the congress in Rio. It seems that the personal input of Jorge was essential to bring together such a good programme and to convince so many delegates to come to Rio.
- B. 14th IUIS congress in Kobe, August 22-27, Kobe, Japan
Masa Miyasaka, secretary general of this meeting, reports that preparations for this meeting are in full swing. The meeting will be held in the Kansai region in Kobe. He shows a plan of the conference site and explains that Kobe can be reached quite easily by air and high speed bullet train. There are many attractive sightseeing options in the region and he expects to be able to present delegates with an up to date scientific programme as well as with an attractive social activity plan. A point is raised about the participation of women in this congress and in the congress organization. Indeed the organizers recognize this point and they will see what they can do in the context of the Japanese situation. Possibly there is some room to engage the help of FIMSA in this regard.

11. **Treasurers report**

The expected income for the year 2007 is around 308,000 USD. The treasurer has budgeted a body of expenses for the year of approximately 250,000 USD. The question which is brought forward is why the treasurer has not decided to balance the budget so that income and expenses are within the same limits. Following an open and extensive discussion it is decided to spend as much of our income to finance the requested increases in expenses by the various committees. The treasurer agrees with this suggestion, however she would advise to keep some room and have a buffer of about 5 % for incidental expenses. Following this agreement the treasurer prepares two budgets, namely one that staggers income and expenses over three years (until the 14th IUIS congress) and one that spends as much funds in 2007 (plan B) and therefore allows less financial room for 2008 and 2009. Following discussion the council agrees that plan B is the right one. This budget shows a expense target of 276,715 USD vs a projected income of 308,388 USD.

Another point that is reported by the treasurer is that the 2006 statement of income and expenditure has been reviewed by Jupiter, an auditing firm in Vienna. The books have been found to be in accordance with legal requirements (annex, included).

Finally the treasurer mentions that the budget for the year 2008 will be discussed in the new council that will convene on Wednesday August 23 at 4 pm at the Sheraton Barra.

12. Presentations of bids for the 15th IUIS congress in 2013

In total 3 bids have been received by the IUIS office. These bids are from the Italian Society for Immunology, the Dutch Society for Immunology and the Turkish Society for Immunology. All the three sites and venues have been site-visited by an IUIS committee consisting of Marianne Newkirk and Catherine Fridman.

First, all three bids are presented by representatives of the three societies, respectively followed by a discussion. No major points are raised. Then Marianne Newkirk presents the findings of the site visit committee. She mentions that the three bids all are good to excellent, with some differences in accessibility of the venues and the balance between scientific and social options. Following discussion the three bids are subjected to a vote by the council. There are potentially 21 voting members in the council. Six members are absent. From the remaining 15 members 9 vote in favour of Italy, 4 in favour of the Netherlands and 2 in favour of Turkey. Therefore the council agrees to suggest to the General assembly (that will be held on Monday August 20) to agree or disagree with the proposal to let the Italian society for Immunology organize the 15th IUIS congress in Rome.

13. Review of General assembly business

- A. Election of officers (not applicable)
- B. Election of councilors. There are 18 proposed candidates and 16 can be elected by the GA. Ballot forms are ready.
- C. Election of vice president. Two candidates have volunteered to stand for election. These are Prof. S. Kaufmann and Prof. T. Honjo.
- D. Approval of venue for 2013.
See above.

14. Time and venue of 53rd council meeting

Sheraton Barra, Wednesday 23 August, 2007 at 4.00 pm.

15. Any other business

- A. The budget for income and expenses for the year 2008 will be discussed in the 53rd council meeting.
- B. Possible sites for the 54th council meeting are:
Taipei 2008, Vienna (invitation by Rudolf Valento) or possibly Istanbul. A decision will be taken at the 53rd council meeting.
- C. At the end of the meeting Prof. Zinkernagel thanks all delegates for their constructive discussion and for the helpful suggestions. He closes the meeting at 4.30 PM and invites all participants for an informal dinner later in the evening.

M.R. Daha

Leiden, 30 August 30 2007