M I N U T E S

14th General Assembly
Kobe, Japan

Date: Sunday, August 22, 2010; 10.00-14.00 hrs
Location: Portopia Hotel, room “Waraku”


Gerlinde Jahn (IUIS central office)

1. President’s introductory remarks

The President, Peter Doherty, opens the meeting and welcomes all delegates of the GA. He explains that this forum is the most important forum of IUIS where all member societies are represented. This GA will be active until the next ICI meeting in 2013 that will be held in Rome.

2. President’s Report

The President mentions that this is his last meeting that he chairs as President and that he will be succeeded by Prof. Kaufmann after the elections at the meeting. In the past 3 years much progress has been made and IUIS is going soon in a more professional mode. We are in the process to hire a new CEO and to boost the income of IUIS. Negotiations are underway to participate in a new e-journal. He explains the agenda of the meeting and mentions that there will be elections for the positions of Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary General. Also, a new Council will be elected. This means a fresh start for IUIS for the coming three years. More details of the President’s report had been sent to all delegates earlier. The President thanks his fellow exec members for the friendly cooperation in the past period and wishes them the best.

3. Secretary General’s Report:

A full report of the SG had been sent earlier to all delegates. Mohamed Daha first starts to explain the organizational structure of IUIS to the delegates because quite a number of them are new in the GA. He stresses the point that staying in contact with the GA members is of utmost importance for IUIS because this is needed for the dissemination of all information via e-mail. Also, for major decisions the GA members will be contacted via e-mail. Therefore it is essential that changes in
address, e-mail or telephone is sent in time to our general secretariat in Vienna where Mrs. Gerlinde Jahn manages the day to day activities of IUIS. This central point in the organization has served IUIS well in the recent past period. He goes further to explain that the Council is the next forum of importance in IUIS. This forum is elected by the GA and consists of 16 representatives, preferably from all regions of the world, meets at least once a year and mostly at the venue of one of the federation meetings. The Council is responsible for the progress in IUIS on all matters including education, clinical immunology, contact with member societies and other immunology oriented organizations. The Council proposes to the Executive Board of IUIS in which direction changes or novel directions are required for the optimal functioning of IUIS.

Then finally, the Executive Board, which consists of 5 elected members, takes care of the day to day management of the diverse activities of IUIS.

In the past three years, thus after the 13th IUIS meeting in Rio, much has been achieved as can be read from the SG’s report. Soon a CEO will be hired and to increase financial income an e-journal will be started together with the company Frontiers situated in Lausanne, Switzerland. Since this is the last meeting for the SG, Moh Daha thanks his colleague exec members for their friendly cooperation in the period since 2002 when he took up office as SG. He thanks Sylvia Trittinger with whom he started his SG work and then continued later with Gerlinde Jahn. With both of them much work for IUIS was done.

He goes on to thank Margarida Carneiro who together with our office in Vienna re-shaped the website of IUIS. He feels that further improvements of our website and some logistical matters concerning communication are still required but he is optimistic that this should be achievable in the coming three years.

4. Treasurer’s Report:
Marianna Newkirk has managed the financial business of IUIS in the last 6 years and again has prepared a balance of income and expenses. The balance for 2010 is positive and our annual budget is around 350,000 USD of which a major part is spent for educational activities. The different committees of IUIS that perform most of the work in IUIS also receive a modest budget. There is strong need to improve the income of IUIS and she hopes that having a CEO and an e-journal may be helpful in this regard.

IUIS has a healthy portfolio of investment at Merrill Lynch of approximately 350,000 USD. In contrast to earlier years the Council feels confident with this account in USD. Her report was sent earlier to the GA members.

Finally, she thanks her colleagues in the GA, all councillors and committee members for the friendly collaboration in the past years. She remains available for questions from the incoming Treasurer after the elections today.

5. Report on Congresses:
Shigeo Koyasu reports on behalf of the organization of the 14th ICI in Kobe. The meeting will start this afternoon at 5 PM with a lecture of David Baltimore followed by a reception. A total of more than 6,000 delegates are expected. He welcomes all delegates to the meeting. He hopes for a meeting with many scientific highlights and trusts that the delegates will find the meeting exciting. The president, Peter Doherty, thanks Shigeo and his colleagues for being the host to the IUIS delegates at this meeting and wishes the JSI and its members all the best and looks forward to a great meeting as well.
Then Luciano Adorini reports on the 15th ICI meeting that will be held in Rome in three years time from now. The scheduling of the scientific programme has already started. Decisions about a number of satellite meetings have been taken and a start is made with the social programme as well. He is confident that the meeting in Rome is going to be an exciting one.

Peter Doherty thanks Luciano for the update and looks forward to hear more about further developments.

6. Bids and outcome for the 16th ICI (Melbourne)

After presentation of their bid in the Council on the 21st of August the President reports that the Council would favour strongly to hold the 16th ICI in Melbourne. Then Moh Daha reports on the findings of the site visit, conducted by Paola Castagnoli and himself, in early July 2010. Their written report is very positive about Mebourne as the site for the 16th ICI meeting. All aspects including the congress venue, the location relative the city center and distance from the airport are very favourable.

Then Jose Villadangos, on behalf of the ASI, presents the bid to the GA followed by discussion and voting. The vote to have the 16th ICI in Melbourne is 73 in favour with 2 abstentions.

Now the ExCo of IUlS will engage in a contract agreement with the local organizers for further definition of the contours and content of the meeting. In addition the ExCo agrees to send a letter to officially confirm Melbourne as the site for the 16th ICI. This ICI meeting, as requested by IUlS, will be held in late August 2010.

7. Elections of officers (ExCo)

There are 3 positions for election of new candidates. Two for each office. First each candidate is asked to present her-/himself in about 3 minutes to the GA. Their CV’s had been sent to the GA members earlier.

For the position of Vice-President, Oliveira Finn and Jorge Kalil are the candidates. Jorge Kalil receives 37 votes and Olja Finn 32, meaning that Jorge Kalil will be the next Vice-President of IUlS.

For the position of Secretary General, Gunnur Deniz and Seppo Meri receive 5 and 66 votes respectively meaning that Seppo Meri will be the next Secretary General of IUlS.

A decision for the position of Treasurer following the vote in the GA reveals that Nicholas King is favoured with 43 votes over Narinder Mehra who receives 28 votes.

With this election procedure completed the new Executive Committee of IUlS will consist of:

Kaufmann Stefan E.H., Germany - President
Kalil Jorge, Brazil - Vice-President
Meri Seppo, Finland - Secretary General
King Nicholas, Australia - Treasurer
Doherty Peter C., Australia - Past President
8. Election of Council members
A ballot list consisting of councillors who can be re-elected and of other nominated persons has been prepared and distributed to all those who have a voting right. In order to have a reasonable global distribution of councillors the ExCo suggests that each delegate votes at least on one candidate from each of the five regions of IUIS. A total of 16 votes can be cast by each representative.

Following the counting of votes the following councillors are elected (in alphabetical order):
Boyer Olivier, France
Cao Xuetao, China
Carneiro Margarida, Portugal
Dieye Alioune, Senegal
El-Gohary Ahmed, Egypt
Erdei Anna, Hungary
Frelinger Jeffrey, USA
Koyasu Shigeo, Japan
Lopes Daniel, Brazil
Mantovani Alberto, Italy
Ratcliffe Michael, Canada
Riera Clelia Maria, Argentina
Ronchese Franca, New Zealand
Rudd Christopher, UK
Schmidt Reinhold, Germany
Van Lier René, Netherlands

9. Any other business
This General Assembly is the last GA meeting of a number of ExCo members, namely Rolf Zinkernagel, Marianna Newkirk and Mohamed Daha. As a token of appreciation each of them receives a small gift on behalf of IUIS from the President. Each of them, in a short speech, thanks their colleagues for a wonderful time that they spent as officers of IUIS. After this short ceremony, the new President, Prof. Stefan Kaufmann, closes the meeting and thanks all delegates for their contributions to the meeting. He looks forward to stay in touch with all delegates over the coming period being by e-mail or during meetings of the immunological community.

He mentions that the 57th council meeting with all freshly elected councillors will take place on Wednesday the 25th of August in room IKUTA at the Portopia hotel. Then he closes the gathering.

Leiden, 31 August 2010.