

# **55th IUIS Council Meeting**

## **Sharm El-Sheik, Egypt**

**Date: Sunday, November 8, 2009; 08.30 – 15.00 hrs.**

**Location: Pyramisa Hotel Conference Center –Hatchepsut Room**

### **Invited:**

- Council Members 2007-2010 (voting)
- Executive Board (voting)
- Committee Chairs (non-voting)
- Representatives of Regional Federations (non-voting)
- Liaisons and Affiliated Organizations (non-voting)
- Observers nominated by member societies (non-voting)
- Webmanager Dr. Carneiro (non-voting)
- Facilitator Dr. Nicholas Pesch (non-voting)

### **Present:**

Peter Doherty, Moh Daha, Marianna Newkirk, Rolf Zinkernagel, Gilbert Faure, Olivera Finn, Michelle Letarte, Margarida Carneiro, Ahmed El-Gohary, Anna Erdei, Nicholas King, Sergio Romagnani, Clelia Riera, Jorge Kalil, Laurence Boumsell, Dexian Zheng, Wayne Hein, Gerard Chaouat, Rudolf Valenta, Seppo Meri, Reinhold Schmidt, Elopy N. Sibanda, Luciano Adorini, Willem Hanekom, Shigeo Koyasu, Janusz Marcinkiewicz, Jose Villadangos, Paulo Santos, Gerlinde Jahn.

**Excused:** Chris Rudd, Chris Parish, Helen Chapel, Stefan Kaufmann, Alioune Dieye, David Hafler, Pascal Launois, Sondes Makni, Kiyoshi Takatsu, Flavio Salazar Onfray, Catherine Sautes-Fridman, Val Smith, Rene A.W. van Lier.

### **Agenda:**

#### **1. Welcome and opening remarks**

Peter Doherty, president of the IUIS, welcomes all delegates and thanks our host, Prof. Ahmed El-Gohary, for his kind invitation to IUIS to hold its council meeting in Sharm El-Sheik and to contribute scientifically to the 7<sup>th</sup> FAIS meeting.

#### **2. Minutes of the 54<sup>th</sup> council meeting, Taipei 2008**

##### **a) Approval of the minutes**

The minutes of the 55<sup>th</sup> council meeting that was held in Taipei were accepted without comments.

##### **b) Business arising from minutes:**

No specific points are raised concerning other business than is already listed in the agenda. The president proposes to move item number 5, treasurer's report, to a later stage of the meeting. All agree.

#### **3. President's report (Peter Doherty)**

The president has prepared a report and this was sent earlier to all members of the council. He mentions that a number of changes are expected in the executive board of IUIS. In the first place, the president and the vice-president will compile a list of potential candidates for the post of incoming president. Further, both, the treasurer (Marianna Newkirk) and the Secretary General (Moh Daha) have indicated that they have served for reasonably long periods in the council / executive and that their positions will be open for replacement at the next council meeting in Kobe.

Further, the president indicates that the council is still looking in the best options to start an e-journal. It is clear that more funds are required to achieve the various goals of IUIS.

#### **4. Secretary General's report (Moh Daha)**

The Secretary General, Moh Daha, has tabled his report as well. He highlights the work done by our central secretariat in Vienna and the excellent performance of Margarida Carneiro in improving the website of IUIS and her ongoing efforts to finalize this further. There is still room for further improvement and the help of council members remains essential in this regard.

The membership of IUIS in ICSU was brought to a conclusion and Gilbert Faure has agreed to do this job at least until the next meeting in Kobe. Prof. Zinkernagel hopes that Gilbert is willing to continue with this assignment also after the Kobe meeting.

#### **5. Treasurer's report (Marianna Newkirk)**

Moved to a later stage of the meeting.

#### **6. IUIS Website (Margarida Carneiro)**

The report of Margarida has been distributed as well. She is happy doing the work of refurbishing and improving the site of IUIS. She mentions that, once all sections of the different committees are complete, we then may want to approach different companies to have their logo placed on the site for a certain fee. This would be a way to generate additional income for IUIS. Together with Marianna Newkirk she will draft a letter that then will finally be sent to a number of companies. Reinhold Schmidt has a recent list of companies that he is willing to share with IUIS for this purpose. In order to ensure that the website is complete a motion was tabled by M Newkirk that no funds would be released to committees or regional societies unless the basic information about the composition of the committees / regional societies along with a brief mission statement was provided to M. Carneiro for the website. This motion was adopted by all Council members. M. Newkirk, will check with M Carneiro to ensure that the information for the website is complete prior to approving any expenditure.

#### **7. Standing committee reports**

##### **• Clinical Immunology (Sergio Romagnani)**

Prof. Romagnani explains that it is difficult to create a niche in the competing world of clinical immunology because several clinically oriented societies are already taking their share in having the attention of pharmaceutical companies in terms of sponsoring.

The point remains that findings in basic immunology are used by these clinical specialties that they are not motivated to share their financial benefits for basic immunology.

The committee has a budget but in the year of 2009 not all the financial room was accommodated because of lack of applications for financial support for meetings.

After a frank discussion it was decided that the clinical immunology committee should remain in place. A committee of IUIS consisting of a number of persons including Reinhold Schmidt, Helen Chapel and others should redefine the major goals and future actions of the committee and present a novel plan to the EXEC and council before the end of 2009.

##### **• Education (Michelle Letarte)**

This committee is doing an excellent job in supporting education, both, in basic immunology and clinical immunology in the broadest sense. Although its budget has been increased in the recent past there is still a shortage of funds. The committee has a full portfolio for the coming year.

Discussions about a possible merger with the CIC were concluded in a friendly fashion and as indicated above both committees will carry on with their activities and additionally look for better cooperation in the direct future.

##### **• Nomenclature (Laurence Bournsell)**

The various activities and achievements of this committee were summarized by Laurence Bournsell. These were sent earlier to all council and other members of the meeting.

An essential point is to bring the results and agreements on nomenclature to the attention of journal editors and future authors of immunological manuscripts. It was agreed that we will notify editors of all

immunology journals about the reports on nomenclature from the nomenclature committee. For this purpose a draft letter meant for editors and a contact list of editors will be drawn up by the Laurence and sent to the SG of IUIS who then will first contact as many editors as possible and then send them the letter so that a link can be provided by each journal to the site of IUIS where potential authors can take notice of the most recent nomenclature on their field of work.

• Quality assessment and standardization (Rudolf Valenta)

The reports of this committee were sent earlier to all meeting members. Rudi Valenta gives a short summary of these activities and indicates that there are three additional subcommittees that he would like to establish. These are:

Subcommittee for Immunological Diagnosis; Subcommittee of Immunotherapy; Subcommittee for complement.

The council agrees with his proposals so that Rudi can now implement the activities of these subcommittees and get going with this part of the work as well.

• Veterinary Immunology (Wayne Hein)

Wayne Hein's report was received as well. The committee is content with the different activities that are going on and is looking forward to the next ICI meeting in Kobe.

• IUIS primary immune deficiency expert committee (Helen Chapel)

An extensive report was received earlier. Unfortunately, Dr. Helen Chapel had to leave earlier and Reinhold Schmidt, on behalf of her, reports that there are three special activities that are planned for the coming period. The committee would be grateful when it could be supported financially by IUIS. These activities are: publishing of the new PID classification in the Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology; the new ICD classification to ensure that primary immune deficiencies are depicted in a sufficient manner in this international classification; regular workshops organized by the PID expert committee.

## 8. Federation reports

• ALAI

On behalf of Dr. Flavio Salazar Onfray, president of ALAI, Clelia Riera reports that Dr. Salazar was not able to attend the council meeting because of overlapping activities. She gives a short summary of the activities of ALAI (please see report).

• EFIS (Catherine Fridman)

Prof Fridman was not able to attend the council meeting. She was elected recently as president of EFIS. Prof. Anna Erdei reports on her behalf that EFIS is very active on different fields, especially on education, and spends a major part of its budget on this subject next to providing bursaries to young investigators. EFIS is fortunate to have a substantial income from two journals. In the report of EFIS, the various activities of EFIS are summarized in a comprehensive fashion.

• FAIS (Ahmed El-Gohary)

The council is a guest of FAIS and Prof. El-Gohari again welcomes all members of the council and others who are present in Sharm El-Sheik. He is happy that so many of those present have agreed to give lectures at the 7<sup>th</sup> FAIS meeting in Sharm El-Sheik. He summarizes the ongoing activities of FAIS and again asks attention for the difficulties that FAIS is facing because of the financial situation of the different African states. Clearly, there is need for better electronic communication and the education of key scientists who are willing to educate the next generation of scientists in the African region.

Later in the meeting, Prof. Elopy Sibanda mentions that FAIS would like to organize an ICI meeting in South Africa but he thinks that 2016 would be too early. Hopefully there will be a chance for FAIS in 2019.

• FIMSA (Nicholas King)

A report from FIMSA was received earlier and distributed by e-mail to all involved with the council meeting. Dr. King indicated that FIMSA is doing well and would strongly be interested to submit a bid for the 2016 ICI meeting. He mentioned that Dr. Jose Villadangos was going to present a bid later in the council meeting.

• North American Federation of Immunology (Olivera Finn)

This item was listed on the agenda by the SG (Moh Daha) without pre-consultation with Prof. Finn. Prof. Finn mentioned that there is no official North American Federation and that the relationship in this hemisphere, like in other regions, is very cordial. One of the questions was whether the AAI would be interested to submit a bid for an ICI meeting in the US. This is not the case for the time being.

## 9. Liaisons and affiliated organizations

• WHO (Pascal Launois, report presented by M. Daha)

Moh Daha mentions that the collaboration with WHO is good and that a long term collaboration has been agreed for the period until 2011. There is need for further integration of the educational activities of IUIS and that of WHO. Moh Daha will contact Pascal Launois soon to discuss additional details for more collaboration. The report of Pascal was sent to IUIS earlier and distributed to the council members before the meeting.

• ISIP (no contact)

• ISDCI (Val Smith, was emailed prior to the council meeting)

• ISIR (Gérard Chaouat)

Prof. Chaouat is excited about the results obtained by his committee. His report was received earlier. Gerard indicated that he may be succeeded in a while by another representative on behalf of ISIR because he has reached his retirement and would like to reduce his work load. He mentions that he greatly appreciates the interactions with many IUIS representatives.

• ICSU (Gilbert Faure)

As mentioned above, Gilbert has been assigned as representative of IUIS in ICSU. This means that he has to scrutinize a large number of documents that are sent by ICSU to IUIS. This is a major undertaking and the audience agrees fully that Gilbert is doing an excellent job on behalf of IUIS. The council hopes that he is willing to continue taking care of this demanding task.

• SMI (Richard Blumberg, no response)

• WAO (Walter Canonica, no response)

Moh Daha mentions that he has tried to contact Dr. Canonica following a suggestion of Dr. Valenta, however, he did not receive a reply back from Dr. Canonica. Dr. Valenta mentioned another set of names of persons (namely Jan Loetvall, Nikos Papadopolous) who may be more accessible and willing to collaborate with IUIS.

• FOCIS (David Hafler)

Dr. Hafler has accepted a number of novel assignments in his field of work and therefore was not able to attend the council meeting. Moh Daha explains that FOCIS is strongly interested to submit a bid to organize an ICI meeting in the near future. Because FOCIS is not a regular member of IUIS or a federation the constitution of IUIS does not allow IUIS do accept a bid from FOCIS. Therefore the question arises whether IUIS would be willing to make an exception for FOCIS or to amend its constitution for this purpose. The council is not in favour for either procedure. Moh Daha will convey this decision to FOCIS.

There are ongoing discussions between FOCIS and IUIS to set up a new e-journal. Previously it was agreed that the EXEC would explore options for an e-journal by IUIS alone but all agree that it would be much better to set up a journal in collaboration with FOCIS. Moh Daha will keep the discussions going and he hopes that an agreement can be reached soon.

## 10. Archives

No novel points.

## 11. IUIS Central Office

The activities of the IUIS central secretariat were reported in the report of the Secretary General.

## 12. New IUIS members 2008

Tunisia per 7.5.2008 – 90 members; Gambia per 27.5.2008 – 34members;  
Estonia per 18.12.2008 – 67 members; Singapore per 18.6.2009 – 461 members.  
At present there are no new applications pending.

## 13. Congresses

### • 14<sup>th</sup> IUIS congress, Kobe – Japan 2010 (Shigeo Koyasu)

Dr. Kayasu explains the state of affairs concerning the next ICI meeting in Kobe. All plans are in place as well as the abstract submission site. The abstract fee will remain as agreed in the contract signed between IUIS and JSI. Because the USD has lost ground in the recent period as compared to the Euro, IUIS is expected to collect less per abstract than it has agreed to pay in Euro's to the VMA that is handling the abstracts for this meeting. IUIS has to accept the difference and hopes to compensate this loss from the income that it will receive from the JSI per fully registered delegate. The council feels that IUIS should pay sufficient attention in the future to this and other points that are related to fluctuations in certain currencies.

Dr. Koyasu also mentions that a teaching day will be organized for young investigators. Additionally, various activities to capture the attention of the general public for immunology will be in place. Internet access is available but whether it will be free is dependent on additional sponsoring.

### • 15<sup>th</sup> IUIS congress, Rome 2013 (Luciano Adorini)

Prof. Luciano Adorini provides additional explanation on the site and logistical affairs for this meeting. The 2013 ICI will be held in the new Fiera in Rome. This location can be reached directly by train shuttle from the airport and is on the same line as the train going to the centre. The congress facilities are excellent and brand new with full wireless access and other relevant features. In the meantime a number of large meetings have taken place in this center and therefore no difficulties should be expected in logistical terms.

### • Call for 16<sup>th</sup> IUIS congress 2016 (bids?)

The IUIS expects one serious bid at the moment and possibly a second one from South Africa. The deadline for bids according to the bylaws is December 31, 2009.

The council is happy that Prof. Jose Villadangos is present to give insight in the bid from the Australasian Society. The plan is to host the 2016 ICI meeting in Melbourne. From the power point presentation given by Dr. Villadangos it is clear that the congress facilities are of excellent quality and that the congress site can be reached easily from the airport. The location is near the center of Melbourne and safe. The council is eager to receive an official bid later this year.

## 14. Time and venue 56<sup>th</sup> and 57<sup>th</sup> council meetings (Kobe, Japan)

The ICI meeting in Kobe will take place late August 2010 in the KANSAI area.

The EXEC will meet on Friday, August 20, 2010.

The 56<sup>th</sup> Council meeting will be on Saturday, August 21, 2010. The Council dinner will be in the evening of the same day.

The General Assembly will take place on Sunday, August 22, 2010, and the 57<sup>th</sup> newly elected council will meet during lunch on Wednesday, August 25, 2010.

## 15. Treasurers report

Dr. Marianna Newkirk presents the audited accounts for 2008. The auditor made several constructive comments on the budgeting, given that separate accounts in Euro and USD are maintained.

The 2009 budget had previously been approved except some minor points (facilitator's costs). The income of dues runs according to schedule except that a few societies will require additional reminding letters. On non-congress years the collection of dues is always lower. Only societies who pay dues can have representatives on the General Assembly.

Our Merrill Lynch account is back to about 360,000 USD and it is expected to increase further in the coming period. In the mean time, after a lot of administrative troubles, the signing authorities on behalf of IUIS are Marianna Newkirk and Stefan Kaufmann.

The treasurer expects that in relation to the abstract handling for the ICI 2010 meeting a loss of about 16,000 USD will occur, however, she expects that this will be compensated by a positive outcome from the registered delegates. She expects an income of approximately 120.000 USD and hopefully a bit more.

Because the next meeting of the council will take place in August 2010, Dr. Newkirk presents an overview of the 2010 budget. The proposed budget was approved.

## **16. Any other business and closing**

Although a final report from the discussions that were held under the guidance of Mr. Pesch is not available yet, the council feels it urgent that a number of actions are taken. These concern two items, namely the internal communication within IUIS and pushing forward to recruit a CEO to drive IUIS into a future with more income from sponsoring.

### *Internal communication:*

As was clear from the discussions on Saturday, the council feels that it does not receive sufficient information from the EXEC over the year between the two council meetings. Peter Doherty explains that most of the work of IUIS is distributed to the several committees of IUIS and that the EXEC mainly receives information on progress at certain times of the year. The EXEC has been involved with activities for the future like the setting up of a new e-journal. Although this has not resulted in firm decisions the EXEC expects that it is on the right track.

After a frank discussion it is agreed to compile all activities and results reached over a certain period in (bi)monthly reports. This will mean that all committees will be reminded by our central secretariat to send a report about progress that has been reached over a certain period. These will be bundled by the SG in a comprehensive report and emailed to all involved in the work of IUIS. As a matter of fact, this activity will be one of the first that will be initiated and from here on we hope to take additional actions.

### *Official IUIS CEO*

The council is prepared to spend a substantial amount of its Merrill Lynch assets for this purpose. It is expected that a knowledgeable CEO will easily cost around 80,000 to 100, 000 USD on a full time basis. The proposal is to start with a CEO on a part time basis and on short term contracts.

Suggestions to find a CEO with a 0.4 FTE input would seem to be best to start with. The idea is that after a certain period the successful CEO should be able to raise his/her own fees next to substantial additional sponsoring for IUIS.

The Council is fully prepared to take the risk as it feels that otherwise no progress will be made in a positive direction. Therefore it is agreed to push ahead and prepare a job description for a CEO. Moh Daha will make a draft and send it around for suggestions. After that the letter will be sent to all IUIS member societies so that they can suggest names for potential candidates. This strategy served us well earlier in the case of our website. The thought would be to take a final decision on a definite candidate within 6 months.

Points added to these minutes by Moh Daha on personal title without consultation in the EXEC or Council:

1. A budget plan will have to be prepared by the treasurer.
2. A decision where the CEO will have his/her office has to be decided later. May be this will have additional financial consequences next to the costs for a separate operational budget.
3. I feel that the CEO should initially be in the same location as the SG so as to reach a good synchronisation of the work load and plans on a daily basis, especially in the beginning. In the light of possible changes in the members of the EXEC a decision should take this in account as well.

Leiden, November 2009  
Mohamed R. Daha