

BUSINESS MEETING OF THE 9TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD  
AT PORTSMOUTH POLYTECHNIC APRIL 2ND 1985

AGENDA

1. Minutes
2. Matters arising
3. Chairmans report
4. Treasurers report
5. Elections
6. AOB

1. Minutes

The minutes of the previous A.G.M. meeting were circulated, agreed with one amendment and signed as correct.

2. Matters arising

a) Workshops

As Dr's Parry and Arlett had not received any enquiries concerning a workshop on in vitro mammalian mutation, it was decided to shelve plans for a further workshop for the time being.

b) Accreditation

It was anticipated that the Indicative List would be published by the end of this calendar year.

3. Chairmans Report

a) Next meetings

The next annual meeting will be held at Manchester on April 14th-16th 1986. There will be two symposia, the first will be concerned with mammalian germ cell cytogenetics, the second with the development and impact of recombinant DNA techniques on mutagenicity studies. There will be a joint British Photobiology Society/DNA Repair Network meeting at Manchester immediately following the UKEMS meeting.

The 1987 meeting will be held at the Univeristy of Bath and the local organiser will be Dr Colin Soper.

The 1988 meeting may be held at the University of York, however, this has yet to be confirmed.

b) Collaborative studies

Publication of the Second Collaborative Trial had been delayed at the printers, although the galley proofs had been corrected. Publication was expected by early Summer 1985.

Following an independant meeting of interested parties at ICI, Central Toxicology Laboratories, in January 1985, it was proposed that a new study be set up to investigate aspects of various in vitro mammalian mutation systems. It was recognized that there needed to be clear formulation of the aims and strategy of this proposed study. In addition it was accepted that there were advantages if the study became broadened to a full UKEMS collaborative study. It was agreed that a subcommittee of the main UKEMS committee should be set up to liaise with the organisers on objectives, protocols etc.

### c) Guidelines

The two guideline books published by the UKEMS have been well received and sales are continuing (see Treasurers report). The Chairman of the guidelines subcommittee, Mr Brian Dean, had stepped down from this post and Dr David Kirkland has become the new Chairman. Mr Dean was thanked for his very effective service in this capacity. It is likely that the next guideline book would be devoted to the application of statistics to data generated from a variety of mutagenicity test systems. Suggestions for future topics include techniques for population monitoring and methods for analysis of complex mixtures, eg. smoke condensates, for mutagens.

### d) The Journal

Dr Parry had raised the idea of an official journal of the UKEMS in committee 18 months ago. It was felt that the UKEMS is an active society and had already made a valuable contribution to the field. Therefore the time was right to consider a publication to represent the work of the Society. In addition Mutation Research was becoming very expensive and publication times very slow. There is also no forum to air current and controversial issues. Therefore a Journal subcommittee was formed to investigate the implications of the UKEMS publishing such a journal, or whether an outside publisher should be sought. The subcommittee concluded that in terms of demands on time, the financial risk involved and the complexity of such an enterprise, an external publisher was the best option. Several offers were received and finally a proposal from IRL Press Ltd. was regarded as the most attractive and was pursued. The journal is to be called 'Mutagenesis' and will be a sister journal to 'Carcinogenesis'. It will be issued bimonthly.

The Editorial Board will be drawn mainly from the UK but there will also be international representation from North America, Europe, Australasia and Japan. Dr Jim Parry will be the Executive Editor, Dr Stan Venitt will be the Associate Editor and Dr John Heddle will be the North American Editor.

The terms of the contract between IRL and the UKEMS were still under discussion. However, it is anticipated that the journal will not make a net profit until after its fifth year. IRL will meet all losses during this period. When the journal becomes profitable, it is proposed to divide the profit on a 50/50 basis between IRL and UKEMS. It is anticipated that the journal will be of great financial benefit to the Society in the long term.

A pilot issue should be available for the International meeting in Stockholm in June 1985. The first issue will be launched in January 1986. There was a call for high quality papers from Dr Parry for the first and subsequent issues. Papers for the first issue should be received by September 1985.

Following this report there was some discussion of the information given pertaining to the journal. Dr Roy Forster enquired whether members of the Editorial Board would be rotated on a 3 year basis as for officers of the society. In addition the question was raised concerning how changes in the composition of the Editorial Board would be brought about. Dr Venitt replied that it had been agreed in committee that Dr Parry should serve for a minimum of 5 years to give continuity in the critical years after the journal is launched. The other members of the Board will be judged on performance in refereeing etc. Selection to the Board will be made by the UKEMS committee and the Executive Editor. IRL will not be involved in this process.

Dr Forster raised his concern that although the journal will be the Society's journal, there appears to be no constitutional mechanism to allow ordinary members to influence editorial matters, the selection of the Editorial Board and its overseas members. Dr Kilbey replied that members have their say through the members of the UKEMS committee they have elected. If

there is dissatisfaction with the committee the membership have the ultimate right to vote out the existing committee and elect a new one.

Dr David Pratt asked members to support their committee and Editorial Board in establishing the journal which is in fact a business venture. The journal will need a large circulation to become profitable and overseas members of the Board to give local advice and help to attract paper's from the relevant countries.

Dr Arlett pointed out that the contract with IRL was not yet signed and consideration of various points was continuing. It was likely that the Editorial Board will change little in the first five years but after this time there would be changes in the composition of the Board at possibly three yearly intervals.

Dr Carl Martin felt that the proposal to issue the journal bimonthly should be reviewed as early as possible, as a monthly issue creates a better impression.

Dr Arlett mentioned that 6 pages per issue will be available for Society business.

#### 4. Treasurers Report

The treasurer circulated the statement of accounts for 1984-1985. There was a slight drop in the balance over the period. In the previous statement the donations from the Liverpool meeting appeared (£2500), whilst most of the costs of this meeting appeared on the current statement. The number of members stood at 152 (134 full members, 13 student members, 4 honorary members and 1 paid at the old rate). There had been 21 new members and 6 new student members. A total of 40 1984 members had not rejoined at the time of the meeting. A reminder would be sent out in May 1985.

Part II of the guidelines has been well received, and about 50% of the people who have bought Part II have also bought Part I as well. At the time of the meeting there was a clear profit of £207.64 to the Society on the combined sales.

The HSE had provided £600 toward production costs of the book of the 2nd collaborative study. Most of this had been accounted for in the preparation of manuscripts and expenses connected with meetings with the publishers (Macmillans). The Treasurer had also paid £1070 for the production of the camera-ready copy. The society was subsequently reimbursed by Macmillans in March 1985.

From April 1985 bank deposit accounts will be taxed at source. Therefore the Treasurer had opened a National Savings Investment Account as this will not be taxed at source and also allows withdrawals at one months notice.

The Treasurer pointed out that the remaining unsold copies of the guideline books form an asset of the society, having a sale value of £2870.10 (not immediately realisable income).

Dr Pratt proposed that the statement of account be accepted, this was seconded by Dr Anton Alldrick. This was accepted unanimously by the meeting. The Treasurer was thanked for her hard and effective work in preparing the accounts.

#### 5. Elections

A nomination had been received for Mr Brian Dean to be elected as Vice-Chairman. No other nominations had been received so there was no election. The term of office for Vice-chairman (who is also Chairman-Elect) will normally be for 2 years followed by 2 years as Chairman. However, as Dr Kilbey finishes his term of office in April 1986, in this instance, Mr Dean will serve only one year as Vice-Chairman.

6. AOB

- 1) Professor Beardmore, of the University College of Swansea had kindly agreed for the 'Permanent Office of the UKEMS' to be sited in the Genetics Department.
- 2) The Secretary gave notice of a symposium concerning 'The Detection and Relief of Pain in Animals' from the British Veterinary Association Animal Welfare Foundation to be held on April 16th 1985.

Brian Mulvey