

REVISED MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF UKEMS

Held at University of Sheffield Medical School,
Wednesday, 17 April, 1991 (FOR APPROVAL AT 1992 AGM)

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING 22 JULY, 1990 (UNIVERSITY OF YORK).

These were held to be a true record and were proposed by Robin Fielder, seconded by Leigh Henderson.

2. MATTERS ARISING

2.1 Accreditation

There had been much talk on this issue and a highly confused situation had arisen throughout the year. This has been clarified and the membership has been circulated with a summary of recommendations from the executive committee in an earlier newsletter. It was assumed that everyone had read this and the executive committee had produced a set of simplified proposals for the membership to vote on. These were discussed and voted on in turn as follows:

a)- society directory. It was explained that UKEMS needs a society directory which would list the names, addresses, tel/fax numbers of all members. This would be circulated to all members and would be updated every two years or so. There had been suggestions to incorporate this with the EMS listing in the US. A better proposal was to produce an international EMS directory by combining all available directories, including the Japanese society. There used to be an EEMS directory. David Tweats, as current EEMS concillor will investigate the situation at the EEMS council meeting in Prague in August. The UKEMS directory was formally proposed by Anton Alldrick, seconded by John Asquith. The proposal was carried unanimously. It was agreed that the executive committee would initiate a directory as soon as possible.

b)- control of membership. It is usual for most societies to exercise some control over who joins and remains a member. In the case of UKEMS this could have beneficial effects in vetting new members and restricting unwanted ones, eg animal liberationists. All current members would be covered by a grandfather clause. All new members would have to be proposed by an existing member of UKEMS. There was some discussion concerning who would take on the responsibility for admission of members. What would happen in the case where a proposed membership was in question - would this require voting at an AGM? It was suggested that the process would be monitored by the secretary who would ensure that names and necessary documents would be presented to the executive committee meetings for ratification. In the meantime, temporary membership could be granted. The secretary would circulate new names regularly and maintain/update the listing. In the short-term the secretary will produce drafts of application forms for approval by the executive committee. The adoption of a vetting procedure for membership was formally proposed by Stan Venitt, seconded by Jane Cole. This was carried unanimously by a vote.

c)- current UKEMS/IBiol accreditation list. The background to the genesis of this listing, especially the need for accreditation of genetic toxicologists in Europe, with 1992 not far off, was outlined and discussed. Massive confusion had been generated over the acceptability of personal qualifications outside the UK. The issues had been debated at great length by the executive committee. It has been agreed that the need for qualifications has to be a personal decision, since most academic qualifications are likely to be accepted. Whilst UKEMS can advise on and organise special courses in genetic toxicology it should not play any direct role in the process of accreditation. An EEC list of recognised qualifications exists and details of this will be circulated in a future newsletter. It is not considered that the existing indicative listing will influence acceptability of any individual more than that individual's personal qualifications. The list has been around for several years now. It is not well publicised and is out of date. It is unlikely to have real significance in any legal sense with regard to job prospects or security and the executive committee recommends that it be abandoned. Moreover, the proposed directory and vetting of members will help to ratify those genetic toxicologists who join UKEMS. The president ran over the options, carefully explaining the consequences of maintaining and rejecting the accreditation list. More especially, keeping the accreditation list will mean either joining the IBiol for an annual fee or not joining but paying £35 to be allowed to be re-entered on the list, followed by an annual fee of £10 to be kept on the list. Obviously, if the list is abandoned, members are free to join the Institute as anyone else can. The abandoning of the accreditation list was formerly proposed by Jim Parry, seconded by John Asquith and voted on. There was one against, 2 abstentions and the rest for. The proposal was, therefore, adopted. The British Toxicology Society is going through the same process of deciding whether to adopt an accreditation list. The official BTS committee view is that it is unnecessary, although it is worthwhile to seek accreditation in Europe. The BTS is to vote on the issue at its next AGM.

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

Thanks were extended to all who had made the effort to attend this AGM, especially to debate the central issue of corporate identity and the accreditation issue. The President concentrated on the following topics:

a)- Last year's EEMS meeting, acting as the UKEMS annual meeting for 1990, was a great success and congratulations were due to everyone concerned, especially David Kirkland.

b)- It has been a very active year since York. The enzyme inducer working party was established and has reported with its chairman, Barry Elliott, giving a summary of its recommendations at this meeting, to be published in *Mutagenesis*. A second working party has been convened in collaboration with the BTS. This is under the chairmanship of Robin Fielder and has the brief to discuss dosing in short term *in vivo* genotoxicity assays. It is considering whether death as an end point can be substituted by clinical signs of toxicity to establish upper dose limits. Very lively discussion has taken place at several meetings and a review of the literature indicates that more work may have to be undertaken before any

definite recommendations can be made. A report is expected to be made to the society in the near future.

c)- The statistics guidelines book is selling very well and is already making money for the society, although actual figures are not available at the moment.

d)- The revision of Part II of the guidelines (supplementary assays) was making good progress. Some of the original chapters have been omitted. It should be a useful volume with updated and new chapters covering germ cell cytogenetics, DNA binding/adducts, dominant lethal assays and liver UDS *in vivo*. First drafts are expecting in the near future with a meeting of the steering committee in the autumn. A publication in early 1992 is anticipated.

e)- The Industrial Genetic Toxicology Discussion Group (IGDG) has had a very active year. The chairperson of the IGDG has been a member of the executive committee. This has worked well and helped to avoid any major clashes, especially with regard to topics for UKEMS and IDGD meetings. One fear is that the society should not spend all its time developing/validating new methodology. There should still be an interest in issues of testing. This role has been fulfilled by IGDG which has acted as a forum for the discussion of a very wide range of important topics. The 1990 accounts for the IGDG are attached for the record.

f)- The society is also organizing a workshop on statistics. This has arisen from the guidelines book and is designed to stimulate discussion between authors of the chapters, contributing statisticians and others who have to implement and interpret assay data and statistical tests. David Smith is organising this event which is to be held at the University of Kent (30 Sept - 4 October, 1991). There are 40 places available and already much interest from the UK and overseas is being shown. Full details have been circulated and members are urged to consider attending.

g)- Much discussion has been taking place on the revised EEMS constitution which members will be aware of from previous UKEMS and EEMS newsletters. David Tweats (current EEMS concillor) has summarised the debate and its outcome and this will be circulated to the membership in a newsletter.

h)- The situation with regard to the need to register the use of TA102 under the genetic manipulation HSE regulations is near to being resolved. Members will be notified of the outcome and any official requirements.

i)- At the last two executive committee meetings, the issue of the future of the society, its identity and role, its ability to respond to new ideas and initiatives and its ability to attract new members, especially students, have all been debated. The balance between industry and academia/government institutes also has been discussed. The need to revitalise meetings by encouraging proffered papers and collaborating with other societies on joint, exciting programmes should be considered. Training and the provision of workshops in new applied areas, such as Molecular Biology/DNA repair are also worthy of discussion. The problems of regulating chemicals and the possibilities of acting as consultants on regulatory issues are

examples of future society activities. There are also many issues that require organised debate and collaborative trials. Liver specificity to non-genotoxic carcinogens and the induction of small L5178Y mouse lymphoma cell colonies are but two examples. It has been decided to establish a working party of 4-5 individuals with a balance between the different membership groups. The president will convene the group with a brief to consider the above aspects and to report to next year's AGM. This exercise is timely since this will be the society's first attempt in over 10 years to have a good look at itself.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer ran through the accounts (attached). At the beginning of the year the opening balance was £13.5K. The closing balance of £10.5K indicates a loss of £3K over the year. Income from members subs (240) was £1150. There have been some problems with the increase in subs, some members being late in notifying banks of the increase. Against this were outgoings, being EEMS subs and registration with the Biological Council. There was also sponsorship of 7 students to attend the York EEMS meeting (£700). The Swansea workshop on the DHSS guidelines produced £250 income but there were travelling expenses for speakers. £63 in sales for the Part II guidelines book had been received, with £21 being expended in postage. The major outgoings were £4800 in mailing the guidelines books to members. £434 had been received in royalties for the statistics guidelines book and we should recoup all expenditure on this publication, including the costs for mail shots and advertising. Some subs were still outstanding and there was the cost of mailing 4 copies of Mutagenesis abroad. Income was received also from interest on deposit and National Savings accounts. The treasurer has decided to close the latter account, since there are difficulties in maintaining it, mainly due to access. The provision of free books to members by the society was discussed as this is a major outgoing. It was decided to continue with the practice as no-one seemed violently against the idea and it was informative and an important 'perk' of membership. The accounts were formally proposed as acceptable to the society by Stan Venitt and this was seconded by Leigh Henderson. The vote was unanimous.

5. MUTAGENESIS EDITOR'S REPORT

It is predicted that, by the end of 1991, there will be ca 400 total subscribers. This is one year behind the original business plan. The publishers (IRL/OUP) seem perfectly happy with the situation and feel that this is realistic in the current financial climate. It is estimated that the journal is just about breaking even. In about 5 years time it should start making a profit for the society. One major objective is to improve the quality of papers. In the beginning there was a deliberate policy to have a low %rejection rate. This has, however, been raised progressively from 13 to 17 to 20 to 24% (the last figure being for 1990). In 1989 2% of manuscripts were returned for revision. In 1991 this figure will be reduced to 1%. So don't worry if your asked for a revision. The journal is to have more pages and a reduced time between acceptance and publication. There are no plans to publish monthly until a target of 800 subscribers has been attained. There are only 26 subscribers in Japan and this is paralleled by a low submission rate

examples of future society activities. There are also many issues that require organised debate and collaborative trials. Liver specificity to non-genotoxic carcinogens and the induction of small L5178Y mouse lymphoma cell colonies are but two examples. It has been decided to establish a working party of 4-5 individuals with a balance between the different membership groups. The president will convene the group with a brief to consider the above aspects and to report to next year's AGM. This exercise is timely since this will be the society's first attempt in over 10 years to have a good look at itself.

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in that country. Members are urged to encourage contacts in Japan to subscribe and to submit manuscripts. The Japanese are using mainly Mutation Research and Carcinogenesis at the moment. The need for an editorial office and the suitability of the current editors in Japan are under discussion.

There are 20 abstracts from UKEMS members of papers given at the York EEMS which are not in Mutation Research. This was due to a misunderstanding with Frits Sobels. Mutagenesis will publish any such abstract together with those for the Sheffield UKEMS meeting, if you inform the editor.

John Asquith asked about plans for subscriptions for the journal from individuals/organizations in third world countries. The executive committee is discussing the possibility of purchasing a number of copies from the publishers at membership rates for this purpose. The editor indicated that he had not received a single request from Eastern Europe. He suggested that supporting letters might persuade industry to sponsor specific issues.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The secretary announced the dates and venues of several other meetings, including the EEMS in Prague, reminding members that Status (Petersfield) were handling this. The statistics workshop was also highlighted. Everyone was reminded that full details were available, if members had not received them in mailings.

It was explained that, due to general apathy and the potential large costs, the idea of a society logo, for example on a 'T' shirt, was to be dropped for now. This subject may surface again when advertising of the society is discussed by a working party.

There being no other competent business, members were thanked for attending and the meeting was closed.

UKEMS

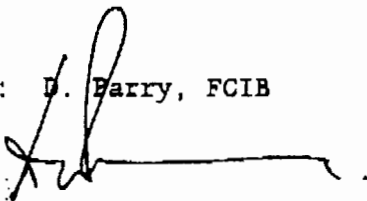
THE UNITED KINGDOM
ENVIRONMENTAL MUTAGEN SOCIETY
(The United Kingdom Branch of the
European Environmental Mutagen Society)

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, 1991

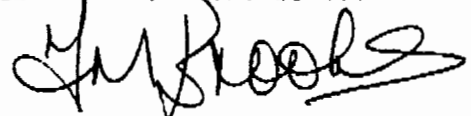
	<u>Credit</u>	<u>Debit</u>
Balance at 1.1.91.	£10,520.13	
<u>Subscriptions</u>		
UKEMS	2,173.00	5.00
EEMS		568.78
Biological Council		82.00
<u>Meetings</u>		
EEMS, York	2,722.64	
UKEMS, Sheffield		1,524.95
UKEMS, Swansea		1,000.00
Alternative to S9		401.00
Dose setting		67.50
Aneuploidy		174.60
UKEMS Committee		223.04
<u>Guidelines</u>		
UKEMS II meetings	1,600.00	1,160.13
HSE grant		
Royalties - UKEMS I	964.43	
Stats	494.11	
<u>Mailings/Postage</u>		119.78
<u>Adverts/Mailshots</u>	135.00	
<u>Mutagenesis Subscriptions</u>		384.00
<u>Interest</u>		
Deposit Account	86.92	
National Savings Investment Account	1,035.09	
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	£19,731.32	5,710.78
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Deposit Account	2,829.87	
Current Account	895.04	
N.S.I.A.	10,295.63	

Closing balance at 31.12.91.	£14,020.54	

Audited by: D. Barry, FCIB



Treasurer: T.M. Brooks



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