

MINUTES OF UKEMS AGM HELD THURSDAY 6 JULY, 1995, AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

(revised)

1. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 12 JULY, 1994 AT UNIVERSITY OF HERTFORDSHIRE

The section in paragraph 5 of item 2 incorrectly refers to the Secretary's term of office ending in July, 1995. It was agreed that this section will be changed to July, 1996, and the minutes were formally accepted as a true record, pending this alteration.

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT (David Tweats)

I hope that you are all enjoying this year's annual meeting and that we have provided you with a scientific programme that is varied, interesting and relevant. I should like to compliment Jerry Styles and his team on behalf of us for the excellent local organisation.

Next year's annual meeting will be held at the University of Birmingham from July 15 - 17; the local organiser will be Kevin Chipman. The experiment of moving our meetings to July has been partially successful in that attendance has increased by some 10% in both the past two years. At the 1996 annual meeting there will be symposia on 'Cellular Responses to DNA Damage, Endogenous versus Exogenous Genotoxicity' and 'Regulation of Promutagen Metabolism.' There will also be an evening workshop on 'New Technologies'. As in recent years, we shall be having a keynote lecture from an eminent geneticist, hopefully a big name in the field.

The meeting and AGM planned for 1997 will be rather different. The world conference on mutagenesis (the 'International Conference on Environmental Mutagens', ICEM) will be held in Toulouse from 7 - 14 of September. The UKEMS, with the British Toxicology Society (BTS), will be holding an official satellite meeting to the ICEM from September 14 - 16, entitled 'New Rodent Models for Genetic and Target Organ Toxicity.' The co-organisers for this meeting are John Ashby (UKEMS) and Diane Benford (BTS), and it is to be held at the University of Kent at Canterbury. Many eminent speakers have been identified for this meeting, and it should prove to be a memorable event in the history of the society. The 1998 meeting will be held at the University of York, where the local organiser will be Colin Garner. Due to booking constraints, this meeting is also likely to be held in September, instead of the alternative of very late in July.

Although our membership has been steadily increasing in recent years, attendance at the annual meetings has, until recently, been declining. The committee has been very keen to reverse this trend. Efforts have been made to ensure the relevance of scientific programmes, in particular to appeal to our academic

members. Also, a more rigorous advertising programme has begun, and this will continue. A UKEMS home page will be appearing shortly on the Internet to extend this advertising, by reaching as many people as we can. Through an initiative from our VicePresident, Colin Garner, it is likely that a new sub-section of the UKEMS will be formed which will be a discussion group with a special interest in Molecular Epidemiology. There is no focus for this research area in the UK, and such a group would be an exciting addition to the activities of the society. Colin has circulated a questionnaire to gauge interest, and has received approximately 50 positive replies, which is sufficient encouragement to proceed. A small steering committee is to be formed to bring this group into existence, rather along the lines of the IGG.

As I said at the beginning of the meeting, we are very keen to increase our membership, in particular our student members. The advantages of students in joining the society are clear; membership is free, the best presentation by a student at one of our meetings is rewarded by provision of expenses to attend the next EEMS meeting, qualification for bursaries (up to 10) to attend UKEMS meetings, with other benefits such as reduced registration. We exhort academic supervisors to encourage their students to join the society, and to display UKEMS posters and other advertising material in their departments.

Also of interest to academic researchers and to industrial colleagues with research programmes, is the fact that the Health & Safety Executive has outlined a framework for developing HSE-sponsored research in the future, relating to chemical mutagenesis and carcinogenesis. Five areas of interest have been identified: test methods, mechanisms and extrapolations, workplace studies, risk assessment and risk perception. HSE will be releasing further details later, but UKEMS has been very encouraged by the executive's interest in genotoxicity, and by its funding of collaborative trials over several years. On this subject, the UKEMS, in conjunction with the Industrial Genotoxicity Group (IGG), is supporting a collaborative trial on the 'comet' assay, details of which will be discussed in the final session tomorrow. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend this discussion.

Turning to individuals, it is a pleasure to acknowledge that Jim Parry has become President of the EEMS, with Barry Elliott as EEMS secretary (to be co-opted onto the Committee in this position). I should also like to thank outgoing members of the committee, David Gatehouse and Barry Elliott for their worthwhile contributions, and also to say a special thanks to Terry Brooks, our outgoing Treasurer, who has served us with distinction for six years. Sadly, both Terry and Barry are unable to be here due to illness, and we send them our best wishes. In the last newsletter I paid tribute to Lotte Auerbach, as we have done again at this meeting, and to Felix Romagna. Sadly, I have to add Colin Soper to this list, as he died in November last year. Colin was a personal friend and

former colleague, who arranged two successful UKEMS meetings at Bath in the early years of the society. He will be greatly missed.

Next year we shall be looking for several new committee members including a Vice-President and a secretary. Bob Combes will be writing in September for nominations for the latter post.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT (Terry Brooks)

In the absence of the Treasurer, the Secretary discussed the financial statement (attached to the minutes). The closing balance of £15,040 at 1 Jan 1995, compares with £12,066 at the same time for 1994, however, the EEMS subscriptions (ca £1,000) have yet to be paid. Under the credit column, the entry of £1,073.98 (for ICEM, Melbourne) is the money recovered by David Kirkland from the Melbourne Harmonisation Workshop. In addition, £3,688.33 was returned from the Hatfield meeting, which represents repaid deposits and sponsorship which carries over for the future. Under the debit heading, £2,225.45 represents the deposit for the accommodation at the Hatfield meeting, which had to be paid in advance. The item for £41.50 (Royalties: Supplementary Tests) represents the cost of two extra guidelines books which were not received by two society members. The donation of £250 was towards a wheelchair for a UKEMS member who contracted multiple sclerosis last year (the total cost of the chair was ca £1,400). As at 29 June, 1995 there were 156 fully paid up members. Some members are still paying only £5 by bankers order. Members are asked to check their instructions for bank payment of their subscriptions. The £291.25 interest is not a very big return for the amount invested, and Kevin Adams as new Treasurer is to investigate the possibility of opening a new investment account with an improved level of interest. [Formal acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Steve Dean and seconded by Colin Garner. There was unanimous acceptance].

4. MUTAGENESIS EDITOR'S REPORT (Jim Parry)

This is attached to the minutes. The following extra notes were made. Bill Morgan has several candidates for the vacant associate editorship in North America. Dr Sofuni is doing an excellent job with approximately 10 papers accepted by the Japanese office. The Japanese in vivo micronucleus study is being published in the journal. These manuscripts are comparable in standard to other papers. The appointment of Bill Morgan has proved to be a very good one, with some 25 - 30 papers likely to be accepted by the N. American office this year. This means that about 100 manuscripts per annum overall are being received with an approximate rejection rate of 20%. The impact factor for Mutagenesis has risen to 2.35, which just exceeds that for Environmental and Molecular Mutagenesis now, and is above the value for Mutation Research. This is very good news and should encourage OUP to make more investment in advertising the journal. At present there are

about 400 subscribers, but 600 should be aimed for, especially by targeting more pharmaceutical companies. A deal has been negotiated with OUP for reduced colour printing fees of £200, which will help to increase the number of molecular cytogenetics papers submitted.

5. IGG CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT (Leigh Henderson)

The major meeting this year comprised discussion on the use of transgenic animals as well as an update on the germ cell and comet collaborative trials, each with a limited number of laboratories involved. With respect to the comet assay, the technology required, as well as the sensitivity of the assay and its ability to detect apoptosis, were covered. Much work is required to optimise the technology. The next meeting is scheduled for the end of November, at which there will be a session on the applications of biotechnology and gene therapy to genetic toxicology. Also, there will be a discussion on data interpretation, particularly with respect to the use of historical controls. In April, 1996 there is to be a joint one and a half day meeting with the IVTS (In Vitro Toxicology Society) in Brighton to include a session on the use of early markers for neurotoxicity, as well as stress-gene induction. In addition, there will be a teaching symposium. Other topics will include new alternatives to the Salmonella tester strains - *in vitro* transgenic cell assays for gene mutation, an overview of other applications, mutational spectra, and the use of strains with recombinant DNA for studying drug metabolism and chemical activation. With the changes at Wellcome, the venue for the regular meetings has been moved back to the Royal Society of Medicine. Unfortunately, this will mean an increase in registration fees, and the arrangements will be reviewed after 18 months, when other venues will be considered.

6. AOB

6.1 'Emeritus' members of UKEMS (change to constitution)

At last year's AGM (minute 8.1) it was stated that the committee wished to re-name 'Honorary Members' of UKEMS as 'Emeritus Members'. As any such alteration would require an amendment to the society constitution, it has to receive membership approval. In view of concerns that the term 'emeritus' is used for retired individuals, it was agreed that the Secretary would investigate further, and also should discuss the matter with at least one honorary member

6.2 Register of genetic toxicologists

At last year's AGM (minute 8.3), the committee agreed to establish a working party to investigate the situation with regard to resurrecting the UKEMS/IoB register of genetic toxicologists. A working party was constituted (Diana Anderson - representing IoB, David Kirkland - former UKEMS President, and David Tweats - UKEMS President), and this

agreed that the existing indicative list, held at the IoB, should be formally closed, and that UKEMS does not pursue its own accreditation scheme. Instead, it was recommended that UKEMS members who wish to join an accreditation scheme for toxicologists should apply to BTS/IoB register. It should be noted that there is a £25 registration charge. In the meantime, several senior members of UKEMS should test this route by applying under the scheme and their experiences will be reported to the membership at the 1995 AGM. In one case, application has been successful, and in another case the outcome is awaited. It would seem, therefore, that genetic toxicology is a wide enough discipline within toxicology in general for eligibility under the BTS scheme, despite earlier concerns. Interested members should contact the IoB Membership Department (20 - 22 Queensberry Place, London, SW7 2DZ) for an application form. Related to accreditation, members of UKEMS who were fully paid up for 1994, should now be listed in the joint environmental mutagen societies directory, produced by the American EMS. This will be distributed in the next newsletter. Future editions will contain e-mail addresses.

Another accreditation scheme, EurBiol, had been launched recently by the IoB. The idea is to provide a qualification for all biologists working within Europe, and accredited by relevant professional bodies in individual countries. The IoB is administering this for the UK and costs to join the scheme are: application fee - £22.50 and registration fee - £75.00, making a total of £97.50. This amount will cover a period of 5 years.

6.3 UKEMS Young Scientists Award

The UKEMS committee is considering the establishment of a young scientist award. This is designed to foster, encourage and recognize outstanding achievements in, and contributions to, the field of environmental mutagenesis and genetic toxicology by young scientists who are members of the society. Each nominee must have been a UKEMS member for at least one year before the date of the nomination. It is hoped that this initiative will encourage membership of the society by students and postdoctoral scientists working both within and outside academia, and interest in the award, together with publicity should encourage older members of the society to take more of an interest in new developments and the needs and wishes of the younger generation. The award will officially be known as 'The UKEMS Young Scientists Award' for any scientist age 35 yrs, or younger, at the time of the nomination. A nominations procedure will be established, and the Secretary shall be responsible for administering the award, and there will be an award committee. The award shall consist of a suitable UKEMS medal, which should not cost too much, together with a cheque for £250. Seedcorn money has been donated by Unilever to initiate the award. The recipient will be expected to deliver a keynote lecture at the respective UKEMS annual scientific meeting, and it will be a

condition of the award that the recipient writes a review on the lecture for publication in Mutagenesis, pending usual peer approval. The awardee will receive expenses for attending the meeting. Further details will be distributed in the next newsletter.

6.4 New committee members (elections)

The results of committee elections were as follows:

Treasurer post: only one nomination, Kevin Adams (Huntingdon Research Centre) - elected. For two vacant posts of committee member: 3 nominations with votes in parentheses: Valerie McKelvey-Martin (48), Andrew Collins (39) and Ian Mitchell (49). Valerie McKelvey-Martin and Ian Mitchell were duly elected.

The UKEMS Committee for 1995/96, therefore, is as follows:

David Tweats	President
Colin Garner	Vice-President
Bob Combes	Secretary
Kevin Adams	Treasurer
Jim Parry	Mutagenesis Editor, EEMS Councillor
Barry Elliott	EEMS Secretary (co-opted)
Leigh Henderson	IGG Chairperson
Valerie McKelvey Martin	Committee Member
Ian Mitchell	Committee Member
Stan Venitt	Committee Member
Kevin Chipman	Local Meeting Organiser (co-opted)

*Mutagenesis update for the UKEMS Committee Meeting
July 1995*

1. Editorial Board

The following Editorial Board changes became effective on 1st. January 1995:-

Alain Sarasin for Ethel Moustacchi
Michael Fenech for Donald MacPhee

Bernie Kunz (Associate Editor for North America) is moving to Australia: a new AE will therefore need to be appointed.

2. Manuscript Submission Summary

1995

Total number of manuscripts received	= 46 (as of 26/6/95. c/f 40 at this date 1994)
Accepted	= 12
Rejected	= 5
In Progress	= 27

1994

Total number of manuscripts received	= 88
Accepted	= 64
Rejected	= 15 (19%)
In Progress	= 9

1993

Total number of manuscripts received	= 94
Accepted	= 70
Rejected	= 19 (21%)
In Progress	= 5

3. Subscriptions

Paid subscriptions to date	= 376 (more expected)
total at end of 1994	= 395

4. North American and Japanese Editorial Offices

Number of papers accepted NA Office	1994 = 17; 1995 = 12
Number of papers accepted 1994-5 by Japanese Office	1994 = 3; 1995 = 5

5. Colour Print Charges

6. Disk Submission

The majority of our manuscripts are now submitted on disk. The cost savings thus produced should enable us to reduce the cost of colour printing.



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

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

	<u>Credit</u>	<u>Debit</u>
	£	£
Balance at 1.1.94	12,066.52	
<u>Subscriptions</u>		
UKEMS	2,212.00	
EEMS		1,560.09
Institute of Biology		100.00
<u>Meetings</u>		
UKEMS, Hatfield	3,688.33	2,225.45
ICEM, Melbourne	1,073.98	
UKEMS Committee		147.83
Sec. expenses at IOB		151.30
<u>Guidelines</u>		
Royalties: Suppl. tests	363.94	41.50
Basic mut. tests	67.35	
Stats:	46.62	
<u>Mailing/Postage</u>		293.75
<u>Donation</u> (wheelchair for S. Blowers, BIBRA)		250.00
<u>Interest</u> - HICA	291.25	
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	19,809.99	4,769.92
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Closing balance at 1.1.95	15,040.07	
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Audited by : D L Parry, FCIB

Treasurer: T M Brooks