

UKEMS AGM AT UNIVERSITY OF KENT HELD 16 SEPTEMBER 1997

1. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 16 JULY, 1996 AT UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

No amendments to the minutes were suggested at the meeting, but as members had had little time to read them it was decided to circulate these in the September Newsletter and accept them subject to anyone having comments Friday October 10 1997.

This was proposed by Michael Green and seconded by Ian Mitchell.

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Membership currently stands at 293 which is a marked increase over the 211 members we had at the end of last year. Of these we have 32 student members, an increase over 25 in 1996. Of the total UKEMS membership, 105 are also members of MEG.

The main issue for discussion was the recommendation to increase UKEMS member subscription rates from £10 to £20, the first rise in 5 years. It is clear that at the present level, subscriptions do not cover the costs of running the society, particularly since £5 goes straight to EEMS. The committee therefore decided to formally recommend the increase described. It was pointed out by Bob Combes that we now had the additional revenue from Mutagenesis and that it could be argued not to alter subscriptions. However, it was still felt by the committee that even £20 was a relatively modest sum compared to that required by several other societies. The Treasurer agreed to reinvestigate the possibility of introducing a direct debit facility which would be easier and cheaper to manage. It was also pointed out that, at the moment, when officers are industry-based, they rarely ask UKEMS for photocopying and postage charges incurred by them for mailings etc. This could easily amount to in excess of £1,000 for both Treasurer and Secretary and these expenses would have to be covered if these were academics.

Following the debate, Jim Parry proposed that the society accept the recommendation of the committee to increase subscriptions and this was seconded by John Ashby. Of the 32 members present, 31 voted in favour and there was one abstention so the motion was carried.

It was clear from our appeals for Sustaining members that some of our non-UK members' own companies were already supporting their own national society. We do have two UKEMS Sustaining members but we would very much encourage others to help the society in this way.

The official MEG chairperson's report appears later on but the Autumn meeting takes place on 19 November 1997 in London. The previous one day meeting in London and two day meeting in York were both attended by about 60 delegates. We are keen to encourage European participation in this and all our meetings. For interest, the society's mission

John Ashby
7 April 1998

statement is as follows: The Group exists to promote a multi-disciplinary approach to population-based molecular studies of environmental causes of human disease. There were two one-day IGG meetings and more information appears later in the IGG chairperson's report.

The President wished to express thanks to the other members of the committee for their support and to Steve Dean for helping to arrange committee meetings and preparing the regular Newsletter. On the subject of committees, the meetings subcommittee will be meeting in Coleraine to start discussions on the content and arrangements for the 1999 Annual Meeting.

Finally, it was confirmed that the Millennium meeting will take place in Swansea and that ½-day contributions will be arranged for both IGG and MEG. Members are invited to suggest who might be asked to participate as a very eminent keynote speaker.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

The 1996 accounts (attached) have been audited but we will need a copy signed by the auditor and approved by the Treasurer. The opening balance stood at £12,282.07 and this time the main debit item relates to the meeting at Birmingham where there was more than £2.3K shortfall due to high speaker's costs. However, this has been offset by a refund of £1,750 early in 1997. Payments to EEMS for membership were less than in 1996 due to the favourable exchange rate. The overall picture of gradually dwindling funds has recently changed for several reasons. The increased subscription rate will attract about £2.5K in increased income as there are currently 293 members, compared with 211 last year. Many of these have joined as a result of interest in the MEG. The most significant event has been the first year of income from the new Mutagenesis agreement which brought in over £11K, £2K of which will be set aside for student or young scientist's bursaries to attend meetings.

The accounts were proposed for acceptance subject to final signatures by David Phillips and this was seconded by Barry Elliot.

4. MUTAGENESIS EDITOR'S REPORT

At the end of 1996 there were a total of 411 subscriptions to Mutagenesis + 100 gratis. As of September, for 1997 there were 399 subscriptions and 95 gratis. Furthermore, the Japanese EMS intends to buy a block of 49 copies and the editor expressed thanks to David Kirkland for pursuing the idea of a Japanese editorial office. The society has 20 gratis copies at its disposal and the latest beneficiaries will be the winner of the Young Scientist award and the newest UKEMS Fellow, Jane Cole. There are some new developments with the intention to appoint another US editor to look after a "technical tips" section and all editors have been reminded to encourage review papers. The Journal will be going on-line in 1998, probably for a small supplementary payment of £5-10 for current subscribers. The on-line version will allow the presentation of full colour plates and the full database section, all at no extra charge, and a hot link to the OUP database. For Institutional subscribers there will be an access code

which can be used by everyone. Downloads do not infringe copyright if the user subscribes to the journal. It was asked whether or not back issues would be available and it seems that the past 5 years, being in electronic format anyway, should be easy to make available.

The final remark was made by the President who formally wished to thank Jim Parry on behalf of the committee for his hard work over the past years in making Mutagenesis the success it is.

5. IGG CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT (given by Peter Jenkinson)

There have been some changes to the IGG committee. Eryl Jones retired as secretary and James Mackay and Steve Dean completed their terms as ordinary committee members. They were replaced by Julie Clements, Nick Edwards and Mike Freemantle, and Robert Rees was appointed as the new secretary. On behalf of the group the chairperson thanked James, Steve and Eryl for their contribution to the continued success and viability of the IGG.

There have been two meetings since the last UKEMS AGM. The first was on December 18 1996 at the Royal Society of Medicine. The morning session dealt with problems and innovations in bacterial mutation assays and the afternoon was spent discussing the implications of the new testing strategy and the acceptance of data. This involved a panel discussion featuring Andrew Smith (HSE), Robin Fielder (DoH) and Lutz Muller (BAM). On May 16 1997 we tried out a new venue, the White House Hotel in London. The morning session considered regulatory and scientific aspects of aneuploidy whereas the afternoon concentrated on practical aspects of aneuploidy testing. The venue was considered to be acceptable with the exception of the projector which failed repeatedly. There will be a second meeting this year in November or December, probably entitled "frontier technologies".

Finally, for the IGG accounts, the balance as of June 17, 1997 was £1,600.90.

6. MEG CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Some comments appeared in the UKEMS President's report. The MEG has formally adopted a constitution and elected a committee consisting of Peter Farmer (Treasurer), Alan Boobis, Anne Daly (Secretary), Sheila Bingham, David Forman and Colin Garner (President). The committee have decided to keep to a format of holding twice-yearly one-day meetings. The next one, at ICRF in London, will hopefully stimulate interest in membership from the host institute. The question of MEG's relationship with UKEMS was raised by David Tweats and Colin Garner explained that there would certainly be some sort of affiliation but that the precise relationship was to be debated at the next UKEMS committee meeting.

7. AOB

7.1 *Sustaining Members*

The President thanked both Covance Laboratories Ltd and SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals for their support in becoming sustaining members and asked David

Kirkland and Ian Mitchell to accept the official UKEMS Certificates on behalf of their Companies. It is hoped that these will be proudly displayed for visitors to admire.

7.2 Subscriptions

At the committee meeting earlier that day, it was suggested that the society make more efforts to encourage membership. One approach is to identify Universities and other institutes where UKEMS members might arrange a recruitment drive, targeted at third year undergraduates and postgraduate students. UKEMS would make up to £50 available for a wine and cheese reception. Any members who have suggestions for appropriate venues are requested to contact a member of the committee. Indeed, any other ideas for increasing membership will be very welcome.

7.3 Committee Elections and request for Nominations

At next year's AGM, Michael Green will succeed Colin Garner as President and both Valerie McKelvie-Martin and Ian Mitchell will complete their 3 year terms of office. We will thus be seeking nominations for two ordinary members and a Vice-President, and nomination forms and further details will be circulated in the September Newsletter. The present committee is as follows:

Colin Garner	(President; MEG Chairperson; 1996-98)
Michael Green	(Vice-President; 1996-98)
Steve Dean	(Secretary; 1996-99)
Kevin Adams	(Treasurer; 1995-98)
Jim Parry	(Editor of Mutagenesis; 1995-2000; EEMS Councillor; 95-97)
Peter Jenkinson	(IGG Chairperson; 1996-98)
Barry Elliott	(EEMS Secretary; 1995-97)
Valerie McKelvey- Martin	(Committee member; 1995-98)
Ian Mitchell	(Committee member; 1995-98)
David Phillips	(Committee member; 1996-99)

A reminder was issued for nominations for the 1998 Young Scientist award and nomination forms would also appear in the September Newsletter.

Clarification was requested by David Kirkland as to eligibility for the Fritz Sobels award. This is distinct from the Mutation Research award since the former is for European scientists only whereas the latter has no such restrictions. The EEMS national representatives are expected to make the nominations for the Fritz Sobels award and, following consultation with the committee, Jim Parry will be nominating Colin Garner.

7.4 York 1998

A final reminder was made that the next UKEMS meeting will be in York on 6-8 April and that with such a good programme we hope that it will be well attended.



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

**UKEMS - Receipts and Payments Account
Year Ending 31 December 1996**

RECEIPTS

UKEMS Subscriptions		2043.00
Royalties CUP		
Basic Mutagenicity Tests	44.94	
Statistical Methods	60.69	105.63
Advertising		250.00
Interest received		257.06
		2655.69

PAYMENTS

EEMS Membership Fees	1224.22	
IoB Affiliation Fee	77.00	
UKEMS 1996 Birmingham - speakers costs	2252.85	
UKEMS 1996 student bursary	163.00	
UKEMS Young Scientist trophy	492.50	
UKEMS Young Scientist award	456.00	
Committee expenses	829.87	
T Hermine attendance at EEMS annual meeting	862.99	
MEG seed corn	250.00	
Brochures	112.80	
Data Protection Registrar	75.00	
Accounts	50.00	
Bank charges	85.24	
		6931.47

PAYMENTS IN EXCESS OF RECEIPTS **4275.78**

Balance as at 1 January 1996 **12282.07**
Balance as at 31 December 1996 **8006.29**

K. Adams - Treasurer UKEMS

M. Gregson

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Mutagenesis update for the Editorial Board Meeting Toulouse, September 1997

1. Manuscript Submission Summary

1997

Total number of manuscripts received	= 71 (as of 2/9/97)
Accepted	= 26
Rejected	= 15 (36%)
In Progress	= 32

1996

Total number of manuscripts received	= 90
Accepted	= 61
Rejected	= 23 (27%)
In Progress	= 6

1995

Total number of manuscripts received	= 88
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2. Subscriptions

Total subscriptions to date	= 399 + 95 gratis
Total subscriptions at end of 1996	= 411 + 100 gratis
Total subscriptions at end of 1995	= 384
Total subscriptions at end of 1994	= 395

3. Report from the Japanese Editorial Office

4. Report from the North American Editorial Office

5. Report from OUP

6. AOB

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