

UKEMS: MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH

2 JULY 2002

1. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 3 JULY, 2001 AT UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM

The minutes were reviewed and agreed by the membership. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Andrew Collins and seconded by David Dixon and subsequently they were signed by the President as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President began the 25th anniversary AGM by reading the objectives of the society, he suggested that the society has succeeded on a global basis by meeting its objectives, particularly in its efforts on research and regulatory issues. He noted that this was a collective achievement by all the members of the society and he looks forward to the next 25 years. The UKEMS accommodates different sectors of the field, such as MEG and IGG and these groups are integral to the function and output of the society. Perhaps other sub-groups could be considered in the future such as proteomics and genomics for example. The continued success of the society depends very much on its young scientists and the committee has tried to encourage them with practical help such as the 18 bursaries awarded for this meeting. The President reminded the membership of the need for us all to encourage young scientists to join the UKEMS and to be active in participation. The President was pleased to see the number of posters present at the Plymouth meeting from our younger members.

The society journal, Mutagenesis, is pivotal to the society and he encouraged the membership to maintain the flow of reviews and papers. He made a plea to those members that had not yet provided their email address to do so and also noted that the website is to be upgraded. Constructive suggestions should be forwarded to Peter Jenkinson. He then presented a list of the past officers and fellows of the society and made a wish for the success of the society to continue for the next 25 years and beyond.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer presented the accounts for 2002 and the main points were as follows:

- The UKEMS Membership 2002 stands at 9 Fellows, 188 Full Members and 50 Student Members making a total of 247.
- The Financial status (as of June 1, 2002) was £47,457.74 in the Lloyds TSB account and £27,336.61 in the CAF Gold account, making a total of £74,794.35
- The society now has 9 Sustaining Members, i.e.,

AstraZeneca, Covance, GlaxoSmithKline, Huntingdon Life Sciences, Kinetic Imaging, Perspective Instruments, Research Toxicology Centre, SafePharm Laboratories, Syngenta CTL

D. M. Vaughan & Co. have reviewed the society accounts for 2001 and have confirmed that they comply with Scottish Charity law. Anthony emphasised that the society has funds available for students' bursaries etc. S Dean proposed that the financial accounts be accepted and this was seconded by K Adams. B Coombes commented that the society had a lot of money and what were the committee's plans to make use of it. A Lynch replied that suggestions are welcome for uses beyond those of supporting meetings, speakers at meetings

and students, etc. M Green advised prudence. D Kirkland commented on the reduced subscriptions to EEMS and AL confirmed that this was the result of his review of the membership list and that this had also reduced the fees paid to the IOB.

4. MUTAGENESIS EDITOR'S REPORT

David Phillips told the meeting that he was proud to take over the job of editor of Mutagenesis and acknowledged the tremendous contribution made by his predecessor, Jim Parry. He informed the meeting that he had appointed Rosemary Wilkinson as his part-time editorial assistant and that the email address for the journal editorial office was mutagen@icr.ac.uk.

He presented the figures for the journal for 2001 (Jim's final year as editor) and said that he was pleased with the efforts of the reviewers and editorial board. His aim is to provide the first decision to the author within 4 weeks and this target has often been bettered and actual performance figures will be available next year. David then presented the circulation data provided by OUP. He informed the membership that personal subscriptions will remain the same for next year at £84 whereas ordinary subscriptions will increase by 6%. The journal is now fully electronic and institutions can subscribe for online access and the cost for this has increased by 50% and this may provide further income for the society. R Coombes noted that the impact factor for 2001 (1.538) had dropped from that of 2000. David said that it was about the same as Mutation Res. Pink (~1.6) and noted that prestige factors exclude reviews and Mutagenesis performed well in this measure. 2004 will be the first year to show any effect of his actions as editor. He informed the membership of the special issue planned for the end of the year to celebrate the 25 years of the society. J Parry asked whether David had had any success in changing our listing in current contents from genetics to toxicology and David replied that ISI are reluctant to change.

5. IGG CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Julie Clements reported to the membership about the previous Autumn meeting on the subject of the COMET assay organised by Brian Burlinson and the fact that there had been no spring meeting because of the IGG session as part of the UKEMS meeting. The committee was currently discussing ideas for the topic of the next December meeting. The IGG finances are satisfactory with a balance of approximately £2000. Vacancies on the committee had been filled by Mike Kelly, Jim Harvey and Eian Massey. Alison Wolfreys had taken over from Gill Clare as the secretary and Jim Harvey had replaced Brian Burlinson as Treasurer.

6. MEG CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chris Wild reported that at the AGM held in London on 3rd December 2001 the following new officers were elected: **Chairperson:** Professor Chris Wild, Molecular Epidemiology Unit, School of Medicine, University of Leeds, **Treasurer:** Dr Lesley Rushton, MRC Institute for Environment and Health, University of Leicester, **Secretary:** Professor David Phillips, Institute of Cancer Research, Sutton, other committee members: Ann Daly (Newcastle), Peter Farmer (Leicester), Sheila Bingham (Cambridge). The groups finances were reported as healthy, having a balance of approximately £3500.

Recent Meetings included the MEG Winter meeting that was held on 3rd December 2001 at the Scientific Societies Lecture Theatre, London. The topic was "Epidemiology and diet-related disease" and it had attracted ~80-85 registrants. A plenary lecture was given on "Increasing and decreasing risk of colorectal cancer: genes and diet" by Dr John Potter supported by the Cancer Research Campaign. Other talks were given by Drs Bingham, Elliot, Mathers and Shuker.

Future meetings include the MEG-organised session on “DNA Repair and Disease Susceptibility” at this 25th Anniversary UKEMS Meeting and the Winter Meeting at the University of Leeds, 10th December 2002 and entitled “Early Life Exposures and Disease”. The speakers are Prof. Frederica Perera (Columbia University, USA) sponsored by Cancer Research UK; Prof. Mel Greaves (London) sponsored by the Leukaemia Research Fund, Dr Pat Doyle (London) and Prof. Andrew Prentice (London). It had been decided to postpone the BACR/UKEMS MEG Conference, 18-21 September 2002 in Cumbria. UKEMS is a sponsor of the international AACR/MEG meeting on “Molecular and Genetic Epidemiology of Cancer” to be held in Hawaii on 18th-23rd January 2003. UKEMS/MEG will organise a session on Molecular Epidemiology of Cancer at the forthcoming EEMS meeting in Aberdeen, August 24th-28th 2003.

Other news included the fact that the School of Medicine, University of Leeds has been awarded a Marie Curie Training Site in Molecular Epidemiology. Also that the MEG aims to strengthen links with MEG groups in other European countries and examine again the possibility of a joint conference with BACR along the lines of the Cumbria meeting held in Sept 2000.

7. COMMITTEE ELECTION AND APPROVAL BY AGM

The AGM gave majority approval of the nomination of Ian Mitchell as Vice President, there being a single abstention.

8. UKEMS Fellows

The President presented a certificate conferring fellowship of the society to David Kirkland. He said that David had made an eminent contribution to the field and is respected by scientists and regulators worldwide. He also presented certificates to Jim Parry, John Ashby and Bryn Bridges, all of whom had been made fellows in the past but had not previously been presented with their certificates.

9. ABERDEEN 2003

Andrew Collins told the membership that more information about the EEMS meeting in Aberdeen would be provided on the following day.

10. NEWSLETTER

The new secretary, Peter Jenkinson, informed the membership of his intention to circulate future issues of the newsletter by email. Consequently it was important for all members who wished to continue to receive copies of the newsletter to provide their email address to the membership secretary. B Coombes queried the security aspects and it was confirmed that the email membership list would be in the sole possession of the Membership Secretary.

11. AOB

B Elliot thanked Steve Dean for his sterling efforts during his 6-year stint as the society secretary and then made a presentation to Steve of a gift as thank you from all of the members. The President then handed over to Andrew Collins who thanked Barry for all his efforts over the past 2 years.