

**UKEMS:MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF
NORTHUMBRIA, NEWCASTLE**

16TH JUNE 2008

**1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 3RD JULY 2007, AT THE UNIVERSITY OF
CARDIFF.**

The Minutes were reviewed and no corrections or changes were required so they were agreed by the membership.

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Steve Dean opened by remarking what a good year it had been for UKEMS. The previous years meeting in Cardiff had been a success, apart from the financial aspects. The money in the accounts continues to grow and there are frequent debates about how best to use the money. Steve informed the audience that the UKEMS Masters course had been successfully transferred to the University of Surrey and thanked the efforts of Jim and Liz Parry and Shirley Price. The numbers of students attending the course are growing and Jim has been asked to produce a text book as support reading material; several UKEMS members have been asked for contributions. Steve then congratulated Karen Brown for winning the 2007 EEMS Young Scientist of the Year Award and Alan Lehman for being presented with the Fritz Sobel award (2007). In addition David Kirkland had been elected the EEMS Vice President, so overall it had been a very successful year for the British in Europe. Steve was now stepping down as President after having given over 25 years of service to the UKEMS Committee and he finished by saying he had thoroughly enjoyed that time and that both he and Peter Jenkinson would be available for help in the future.

3. TREASURERS REPORT

Christine Mason started by thanking HLS for funding her attendance at the meeting now that she has retired. She then presented the audited accounts for 2007 (see page 6 and 7) and the main points were as follows:

The UKEMS membership (2008) stands at 11 Fellows, 193 Full Members and 138 Student Members, making a total of 342. There are currently 10 Sustaining Members with Sequani recently having been welcomed back. The others are: AstraZeneca, Covance, GlaxoSmithKline, Huntingdon Life Sciences, SafePharm Laboratories, Unilever, Perceptive Instruments, Pfizer and Gentrionix. The Treasurer thanked all Sustaining Members for their continued support. The total balance in the UKEMS accounts is slightly higher than the previous year but will be similar after outstanding payments are made. Christine pointed out that the registered address had been changed from Swansea University to that of the registered office in Edinburgh, which gives the Society a Scottish address. This is appropriate considering UKEMS is registered as a charity in Scotland.

Christine explained that there had been a large increase in the number of student bursaries awarded during 2007 compared to 2006 and that the biggest expense was the Cardiff meeting, which was subsidised by ~£25,000. Steve Dean pointed out that future meetings will inevitably be more expensive than they used to be due to University venues increasing the costs and the need to use conference organisers.

Steve Dean proposed that the accounts be accepted and Diana Anderson seconded the motion; the accounts were accepted unanimously.

Christine described how OUP had made an error in collecting the subscription fees electronically and had automatically applied an increase of 5%. When this was realised it was decided that it was too late to refund the additional £1 to each member as the administration costs involved would be far too great. Christine did say however, that if anyone wanted their £1 back she would provide a refund.

A discussion then followed regarding whether the subscription fee should be increased. It was appreciated that although the society is currently very well off financially, if the income from Mutagenesis declined in the future the fees may have to be increased substantially, which could come as a shock to members. It was also recognised that compared to other Societies the current subscription fee of £20 is rather low. Ian Mitchell proposed that we vote in the increase to £21 retrospectively and suggested a new fee of £25 as a reasonable rate. Christine asked for a vote and no one wanted the fee to remain at £20; the majority agreed to a new fee of £25. Robert Durward then proposed the increase, Phil Clay seconded the motion and a new fee of £25 was approved.

The issue of whether UKEMS wants to continue subsidising conference costs was then debated. Presently, registration fees are kept to around £150, which for a 4 day conference is very low; it was suggested that perhaps charging in the region of £300-350 would be a more realistic fee. Ewan Booth commented that whilst he had no objection to subsidising meetings, perhaps £25,000 per conference is excessive. Others remarked that having a higher registration fee may exclude many academics and junior industry people from attending. Generally it was felt that the over spend should be covered by both a small increase in the registration fee and a subsidy from UKEMS. Christine suggested we increase the registration fee to £250 and see how this affects attendance figures. The likely subsidy could be estimated for the upcoming Leeds meeting based on this rate and considered by the committee. A show of hands revealed general agreement with this suggestion.

4. MUTAGENESIS EDITOR'S REPORT

David Phillips reported that financially Mutagenesis is in a healthy state. All the trends are in the right direction and things look very positive. Submission of manuscripts is up ~20% on the same time last year and more mechanism based papers are getting published, which is good. The impact factors for 2007 have not yet been announced but there has been a slow upward trend and David predicted that the impact factor may increase slightly. He described how work is continuing to increase the profile of the journal and said download figures had increased rapidly in the last 2 years, such that three times as many papers are now being viewed. This is largely down to Mutagenesis being part of consortia and greater accessibility in third world countries, which won't continue forever.

David pointed out that free copies of the Comet Workshop Mutagenesis Special Issue were given out in the delegate bags and were also received by everyone who attended the Comet workshop. He thanked Valerie McKelvey-Martin for being Guest Editor for this edition and said that future Special Issues were currently under consideration.

He explained how abstracts from relevant meetings could be reproduced on-line in Mutagenesis and some have already been published. David thanked Julia Jeans and her replacement at OUP, Phil Bishop, for their efforts as well as everyone who had reviewed Mutagenesis manuscripts over the past year.

5. IGG CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

In the absence of Mick Fellows, Ewan Booth relayed the IGG report as a powerpoint presentation. The report is summarised below:

Committee

Mick Fellows, chairman, AstraZeneca

Andrew Scott, secretary, Unilever

Jon Howe, treasurer, GSK

Carol Beevers, ordinary member, Covance

Ewan Booth, ordinary member, Syngenta

Phil Clay, ordinary member, Consultant

Fiona Spence, ordinary member, Pfizer

Accounts

The IGG account stands at £1,377. As the November 2007 meeting ran at a loss, we will be increasing meeting registration fees to £90 for UKEMS members and £100 non-members. If following this years meeting our balance has not improved, we may have to request funding from UKEMS.

Highlights

Autumn meeting 2007: "Genotoxicity testing – a changing regulatory environment", Wed 28th Nov, RSM.

- Featured an overview of current test strategies, implications of REACH for genetic toxicology, a genetic toxicology perspective from the cosmetics industry, validation of new assays/ILSI initiatives.*
- Well attended with over 100 delegates. Good feedback was received.*

Future activities

- *Symposium at UKEMS 2008, Newcastle "Advances in Regulatory Genetic Toxicity Testing".*
- *Autumn 2008: IGG Annual Meeting, 26th November, "Genotoxicology – Extrapolations from molecules to man"*
Preliminary programme:
 - The role of in silico prediction systems.*
 - Application of the Threshold of Toxicological Concern to Genotoxicology Risk Assessment.*
 - The existence of low-dose thresholds for genotoxic carcinogens*
 - Colipa-funded activities at Covance looking at improvements to the in vitro test battery*
 - Genotoxicity of Topoisomerase II inhibitors*
 - Genotoxicity and risk assessment of Reactive Oxygen Species generating chemicals*
 - Update on historical data collection activity*
- *Historical control data collection*

The IGG is still in the process of collecting historical control data from regulatory genotoxicity tests. If any labs still want to contribute please contact a committee member.

- *Continuing support for development/acceptance of OECD in vitro Micronucleus Test Guideline 487.*
 - *Guideline ratified April 2008*
 - *USA will still not accept proposed toxicity measures*
 - *With the lead of David Kirkland, several European labs have agreed to test reference agents to prove population doubling or relative increase in cell numbers are appropriate measures.*
 - *USA experts initially rejected Europe's suggested list of reference chemicals. The USA has now been challenged to come up with their own list.*
 - *It is hoped that work on this will be completed in 2008.*

Update: OECD in vitro Micronucleus Test Guideline 487

Guideline was ratified at this years OECD meeting. However, the USA will not accept population doubling or relative increase in cell numbers as toxicity measures in the absence of CytoB. They wish to continue using relative cell counts. With the lead of David Kirkland, several European labs have agreed to test reference agents to prove population doubling or relative increase in cell numbers are appropriate measures. USA experts initially rejected Europe's suggested list of reference chemicals. The USA has now been challenged to come up with their own list. It is still hoped that work on this will be completed in 2008.

6. MEG CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

In the Chairman's absence Mike Routledge presented the MEG Report.

Mike described how MEG is running smoothly and how they had an excellent meeting last year with 80 delegates attending. He also acknowledged the successful MEG Symposium earlier that morning chaired by John Hesketh and Alison Dunning and advertised the MEG Winter meeting, which this year is going to be held in Barcelona (12th December).

7. GSN CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

No report was received or presented.

8. UKEMS QUALIFICATIONS, CURRENT STATUS AND FUTURE PLANS

Jim Parry was unable to attend due to illness and Peter Jenkinson expressed best wishes for his recovery on behalf of everyone present. Peter briefly reported that the course (and associated funds) had been successfully transferred from Swansea to the University of Surrey and thanked all those UKEMS members who give lectures on the course.

9. LEEDS 2009

Dr Mike Routledge briefly outlined the Programme for the 2009 UKEMS meeting in Leeds. Planning is going well and the scientific programme is virtually finalised. Further details would be available on the UKEMS website in the near future. The conference will run from the 12th -15th July 2009.

10. ELECTION RESULTS FOR VICE PRESIDENT

There had been two nominations for the new Vice President, Anthony Lynch and David Phillips. After a well supported election David received the most votes by a narrow margin. The audience was asked to ratify the election result and there were no objections therefore David was congratulated as the new Vice President.

11. PROPOSAL TO ELECT TWO NEW UKEMS FELLOWS

Two UKEMS members, Professor David Tweats and Dr Barry Elliott had been nominated for consideration as UKEMS Fellows. The UKEMS committee strongly supported these nominations, which were approved by the AGM with all voting in favour. Neither David Tweats nor Barry Elliot was present to receive their certificates so these would be mailed to them. Peter Jenkinson then took the opportunity to point out the important role of UKEMS Fellows within the Society.

12. AOB

Steve Dean handed over the Presidency to Peter Farmer, who said he had a tough act to follow. Peter thanked both Steve and Peter Jenkinson, who was also ending his term as Secretary, for their tremendous work over the years. Peter commented that UKEMS was running very well and he planned to continue to try and help young scientists and improve links with other societies.

Peter B Farmer

**Schedule of expenditure
for the year ended 31 December 2007**

Expenditure	2007		2006	
	£	£	£	£
Charitable activities				
Student bursaries to attend UKEMS meetings	6,479		2,655	
Travel bursaries to attend international meetings	2,284		2,438	
Warwick Conference Bursaries	-		3,795	
Young scientist award and medal	1,224		415	
Poster prize	200		100	
Mutagenesis editorial expense	4,500		4,000	
Website costs	601		250	
GSN Sponsorship	2,000		2,000	
General expenses	122		1,443	
Sponsorship of Swansea MSC	5,000		-	
Sponsorship of EEMS Prague	-		850	
Sponsorship of MEG	3,758		4,000	
EEMS Subscriptions	3,105		1,000	
Biosciences federation membership	375		375	
Warwick meeting expenses	-		1,402	
Cardiff meeting expenses	54,830		-	
	<u> </u>	84,478	<u> </u>	24,723
Governance Costs				
Independent examiner's fee	1,045		1,293	
Bank charges	146		21	
Committee expenses	908		530	
	<u> </u>	2,099	<u> </u>	1,844
Total expenditure		<u>86,577</u>		<u>26,567</u>

**Detailed income and expenditure account
for the year ended 31 December 2007**

	2007		2006	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Voluntary Income				
UKEMS subscriptions	1,725		2,847	
Sustaining members	4,750		4,750	
	<u> </u>	6,475	<u> </u>	7,597
Investment income				
Interest received	2,824		2,234	
	<u> </u>	2,824	<u> </u>	2,234
Income from charitable activities				
Surplus on Publishing Mutagenesis	44,769		37,847	
UKEMS Conference Cardiff	30,601		-	
	<u> </u>	75,370	<u> </u>	37,847
Other incoming resources				
Sponsorship for poster session	-		500	
Book Sale	25		-	
	<u> </u>	25	<u> </u>	500
Total income		<u>84,694</u>		<u>48,178</u>
Total expenditure		<u>(86,577)</u>		<u>(26,567)</u>
Net (deficit)/surplus for the year		<u>(1,883)</u>		<u>21,611</u>