

MINUTES OF UKEMS AGM, UNIVERSITY OF SURREY
30 MARCH, 1993

1. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 25 MARCH, 1992,**
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, SWANSEA.

These were accepted as a true record, except for a small change (the first section 8 should read 7.3).

2. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Given by David Tweats (Vice President) due to the unavoidable absence of the President

The guidelines Part II revision is progressing well and is with the sub-editor who has not, so far, found many problems. We are on course for publication by CUP this summer. Margaret Fox has indicated her wish to stand down from the chair of the guidelines steering committee once the current book is complete. Consequently she also stands down from the UKEMS committee. In the light of international efforts to achieve harmonisation of regulations, it has been agreed that the steering committee will be disbanded for the time being. If a need for any future guidelines books is perceived, the committee will be resurrected. We thank Margaret Fox for her work on the subcommittee and on the committee.

All UKEMS members should now have received a copy of the membership directory, if you have not, our secretary, Bob Combes, has some extra copies. As agreed previously, the names and addresses of UKEMS members are to be published as an appendix to the American EMS directory. We believe that this is issued annually. This year our telephone and fax numbers are not included, but will be in subsequent issues. The EEMS directory has not seen the light of day yet.

As you will notice in the statement of accounts, the society donated £1000 in support of the recent ICEM meeting in Melbourne, following an appeal from the organisers.

In order to promote the society and its activities, a publicity subcommittee has been convened. A leaflet has been produced, which contains information on our aims, the benefits of membership, details of the journal Mutagenesis and our other publications and an application to join. This has been distributed at several conferences already and has been successful in that a significant number of new applications has been received as a result. An updated version will be produced for use at future conferences.

Also the publicity subcommittee has identified certain link members at various organisations who have agreed to help ensure the society has a high profile and this has led to increased membership also. Our current membership is ca 280.

The society is investigating the idea of sustaining or corporate members, as happens in the EMS. Corporate members could benefit from increased publicity in return for financial support.

Further debate has taken place regarding collaborative trials. Last evening the comet assay group felt the need to get together. At the same time, at the committee meeting it was considered worthwhile for participating labs getting together in a UK workshop to help define a common protocol and then possibly to mount a trial to answer some of the questions raised yesterday by Ray Tice. Jane Cole and Michael Green were suggested as possible organisers.

With regard to the EEMS, of which we are the UK section, there has been concern over a proliferation of applications to join from countries which have fragmented (eg Yugoslavia). We are suggesting that such countries should be entitled to join and be represented on council if they attain a certain membership size (eg 20 individuals). The nature of EEMS meetings is changing in that there will be an alternation of traditional conferences with workshops. The latter will be shorter, less expensive and more attractive and relevant for delegates from former eastern bloc countries. Thus Barcelona this year will be a normal meeting whereas there will be a workshop in Poland in 1994.

At yesterday's committee meeting, we confirmed that studentships are available for students to attend our annual meetings. Only one was taken up for this meeting. Academic supervisors are encouraged to apply to the president for next year's meeting (one studentship per supervisor). In addition, it has been agreed to provide up to 5 daily registrations for students to attend the 17th International Congress on Genetics to be held in Birmingham 15 - 21 August this year. Supervisors are asked to apply in writing to the secretary, Bob Combes, who, with the treasurer Terry Brooks, will consider them. Preference will be given to students presenting an abstract or where it can be shown that attendance will bring significant benefit to the student. At this conference, UKEMS is running a workshop entitled 'Gene Manipulation and Genetic Toxicology'. Ray Tennant will be giving an overview and there will be presentations by John Ashby, Steve Dean and Jim Parry.

We thank Diane Benford and her assistants for organising our current meeting so well. We have had about 100 registrants which is down on previous years, at a time when the membership has increased. We shall be sending a questionnaire to members to see why people have not attended. The recession and clashes with other meetings are possible reasons.

Our next annual meeting in 1994 will be held at the University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield from July 11 - 13. The new timing for the annual meetings will be assessed in the light of the experience from next year. The results of the voting were: 21 in favour of the change and 6 against, not exactly a large poll! The programme is likely to include interactive workshops on the new technologies such as the comet assay that we have had here. There will be symposia on tumour suppressor genes, germ cell mutagenesis and tumours of the endocrine, neuroendocrine and CNS, plus contributed papers and poster sessions. We are investigating the possibility of meetings for 1995 and 1996 to be held in Birmingham and Nottingham respectively.

Our thanks also go to Jane Cole who leaves the committee this year. She is to be replaced by Stan Venitt who was the only nominee for the post of committee member. Bob Combes has agreed to remain as secretary, there were no other nominations for the post.

3 TREASURER'S REPORT

A copy of the audited accounts for 1992 was circulated (see attached). The closing balance is £16K which is up on the previous year by £2K, due mainly to the profits from the Swansea 1992 meeting. Thanks were extended to Jim Parry for his efforts in bringing this about. Also the increased membership was causing greater income from subs. Outgoings include travel expenses for the editorial board on the revised Part II guidelines book. Other items were an HSE grant via Liz Gibby and 3 copies of Mutagenesis sent *free gratis* to eastern europe, 1 copy to Brazil and another to Columbia. The destinations of the european copies were unknown but thanks have been received and the current EEMS councillor will supply names and addresses to the editor (JMP). This was felt important so that those that really needed the journal were actually getting it.

The National Savings account and the othe accounts no longer exist and all the money has been transferred to a high interest cheque account. Funds were available to support several more studentships for attending meetings and it was a pity that only one request was forthcoming for the Surrey meeting.

Jane Cole proposed that the accounts be accepted, this was seconded by Leigh Henderson and agreed unanimously.

4. MUTAGENESIS EDITOR'S REPORT

Subscriptions were up on last year pro rata (400 in 1992, and 359 as at 24 March, 1993) and the number should reach ca 430 by the year end, a healthy total. There has been a substantial increase in UKEMS members subs in the first part of the year (27 between Jan and March, compared with 14 for the same period last year). The high quality of the journal has been maintained. John Heddle plans to retire towards the end of 1993 and this is significant as we need to have a replacement N American editor by Jan 1994. An editorial board meeting is planned for this year but in the meantime suggestions were welcome. Bill Morgan a radiation geneticist from University of California had been suggested to JMP already. JMP is to discuss this suggestion with DJK. Sheldon Wolfe was another possibility also there may be a case for having someone from the NTP. There are no meaningful data regarding regional sales, but there is a big increase in Japanese papers, especially due to the efforts of Motoi Ishidate. Sofuni, the new Japanese editor, seems very keen to raise the profile of the journal in Japan and we can anticipate better sales there. With the new editorial office in Japan this means that there are 3 editorial offices throughout the world now. Despite these encouraging increases in interest, there is still an enormous deficit as ca 500 total subs (equivalent to ca £40K) are required to pay this off. This is critical to any decision to go monthly and any such decision will be need to consider our ability to afford any such change.

5. EEMS NEWS

Six nominations for young scientist award were submitted to the relevant committee, the UK one being Helen Tinwell. It has just been announced that Helen has been voted to receive the award and the society offers its congratulations to her.

6. IGG CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

(Given by Leigh Henderson on behalf of Mike O'Donovan).

This year there was a meeting on 'In vivo tests other than the bone marrow' and it was clear from this that assays such as skin micronucleus and stomach UDS were not working properly. There are a restricted number of alternative methods available. A couple of other talks, a plasmid assay (Colin Garner) and restriction site mutagenesis (Jim Parry) providing insights into exciting new technologies. Other topics to be covered in the future include 'Practical Experience with Genotoxicology

Assays'; 'Harmonisation' (an update on the harmonisation workshop held at Melbourne) for the June meeting. The December meeting will cover all aspects of automation. Other potential subjects are the results of the cell cycle kinetics and *in vitro* micronucleus collaborative trials showing a high degree of interlaboratory variation, to be organised by Leigh Henderson as topics for discussion at the June meeting. The one day format is to be retained for meetings and venues other than the Royal Society of Medicine are being investigated due to financial problems. One possibility is the Welcome building nearby Euston station. The advantage is the lack of a fee and lunches are reasonable @ £8.

Compilation of data for the collaborative trials is at an early stage. J Mackay is analysing the *in vitro* micronucleus information and it is clear that a cytocentrifuge is essential for the assay. The prime motive for the trial is to assess the assay as an alternative to metaphase analysis. Currently it looks as though no-one has a protocol that is more rapid than the latter, conventional approach and nobody is using it as a viable alternative, but it may be a possibility in the future and all the data need to be analysed before firm conclusions can be made. The results of the trial will be reported in due course. Errol Jones has data on dose levels used *in vitro* in the UK and is in the process of collating the information will be archived and summarised in Mutagenesis. Peter Jenkinson is still writing a paper for the journal on the results of discussions on testing volatiles which formed the subject of a previous meeting. Steve Dean has been circulating a copy of the Japanese MMS reports to each IGG member organisation. It is intended that items will be identified for a future collaboration with the Japanese society.

7. AOB

The secretary gave information on some forthcoming meetings. One of these was the Barcelona meeting and some information obtained from a travel agent was given. Those present requested that the secretary should attempt to produce a travel package.

Jim Parry indicated that next year (28 - 30 March) the Genetical Society is holding a symposium on a number of subjects of interest to genetic toxicologists, including: chromosome stability (centromeres, telomeres, sensitive sites) and DNA repair. Colin Arlett mentioned that the European Commission is to hold a meeting on the effects of the depletion of the ozone layer. UKEMS should be notified officially when details are announced formally.

DJ Kirkland

20 July 1994.

UKEMS

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

President:

Dr D J Kirkland
Hazleton Microtest
Otley Road
Harrogate
North Yorkshire
HG3 1PY
0423 500011



Secretary:

Dr R D Combes
School of Maths and Sciences
LSU College of Higher Education
The Avenue
Southampton
Hants, SO9 5HB
0703 228761

Treasurer:

Dr T M Brooks
Shell Research Limited
Sittingbourne Research Centre
Sittingbourne
Kent
ME9 8AG
0795 424444

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, 1992

| | <u>Credit</u> | <u>Debit</u> |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| Balance at 1.1.92. | £14,020-54 | |
| <u>Subscriptions</u> | | |
| UKEMS | 2,511-00 | 69-00 |
| EEMS | | 682-56 |
| Data Protection Register | | 75-00 |
| Mutagenesis | | 325-00 |
| <u>Meetings</u> | | |
| UKEMS, Swansea | 2,840-47 | 214-95 |
| EEMS, Berlin (Sponsorship) | | 799-66 |
| ICEM Donation | | 1,000-00 |
| UKEMS Committee | | 175-35 |
| <u>Guidelines</u> | | |
| UKEMS II | | 651-18 |
| HSE grant | 500-00 | |
| Royalties - UKEMS I | 202-17 | |
| Stats | 143-61 | |
| <u>Mailings/Postage</u> | | 484-90 |
| <u>Adverts/Mailshots/Directory</u> | 60-00 | 423-54 |
| <u>Gifts</u> | | 129-00 |
| <u>Bank expenses</u> | | 15-00 |
| <u>Interest</u> | | |
| HICA | 31-36 | |
| Deposit Account | 52-42 | |
| National Savings Investment Account | 870-08 | |
| | ----- | ----- |
| | 21,231-65 | 5,045-14 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| HICA | 5,020-80 | |
| NSIA | 11,165-71 | |
| Closing balance at 31.12.92. | £16,186-51 | |
| Audited by: D. Parry, FCIB |  | Treasurer:  T.M. Brooks |

Permanent Office: Department of Genetics, University College of Swansea,
Singleton Park, Swansea SA2 8PP. Tel: 0792-205200