

UKEMS

MINUTES OF AGM AT UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM

3 JULY 2001

1. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 4 JULY, 2000 AT UNIVERSITY OF WALES SWANSEA

Some minor typographical amendments were identified at the meeting and the Secretary asked members to report any other suggested changes within 2 weeks. These will be amended and the minutes then sent to the president for signing as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

This was proposed by Peter Jenkinson and seconded by Andrew Collins.

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President began by explaining how the Society has been endeavouring to use its funds for the benefit of the members. One way has been to pay the expenses for some exceptional scientists from abroad to speak at UKEMS, IGG and MEG meetings. The other major contribution has been through bursaries. We have two UKEMS members involved in the IAEMS home-stay programme (Japan) for whom UKEMS will pay travel expenses a third in receipt of an ad hoc award, and additional 5 young scientists who received a bursary to attend the current UKEMS meeting.

Next year's annual meeting will be at Plymouth, but Awadhesh Jha was unable to come to Nottingham. In 2003 we will host the EEMS at Aberdeen, and Andrew Collins is leading the way with this.

We have a UK candidate for EEMS President this year, and all UKEMS members are encouraged to vote in the forthcoming ballot.

The committee was disappointed in the poor response to a call for nominations for the committee which was sent in the March Newsletter, and we wish to encourage members to come forward and participate in the committee. Further to this, all members are encouraged to promote the society and its aims, within their own institution and outside, in order to avoid the risk of UKEMS becoming introverted.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer presented the accounts for 2000 (attached). Anthony Lynch is currently trying to reorganise the membership list, and the membership was asked again to reply to the recent survey. We now have 7 (soon to be 8) sustaining members. Mutagenesis receipts were down from £14k in 1999 to £8k, due to one-off costs relating to the setting-up of electronic publishing. The secretarial costs were for the assistance of Jenny Duckmanton, and the conference expenses

were in support of the Swansea meeting. However, we have received some £5k from Jim Parry as the “profit” from this meeting. The CAF accounts have been a much better investment than Lloyds, with about £900 of interest on £25k invested for only a few months. Bob Combes asked what the overall balance was, and Kevin Adams reported it to be around £60k.

S Dean proposed that the accounts be accepted, and this was seconded by Mike O’Donovan.

Finally, the President expressed the Society’s thanks to Kevin for 6 years of service as Treasurer, a particularly difficult and demanding job. The AGM showed its appreciation in the usual way, and UKEMS will be presenting Kevin with a golfing trolley as a sign of its gratitude.

4. MUTAGENESIS EDITOR’S REPORT

Jim Parry confirmed that the decision of OUP to move to electronic publishing did cost the society £6k last year, but we are anticipating that the income will be closer to £11k from this year. We believe the difference could be recovered from pay-per-view revenues, as non-subscribers can obtain a full paper for £3.72, though we are not sure how this service could affect personal subscriptions. For example, 23 individual papers would be the same cost as a one-year subscription. Jim will be contacting OUP for clarification.

There will be no increase in page numbers but the annual subscription charges will increase by the level of inflation. We are expecting in the region of 400-450 subscriptions for 2001, and it was again emphasised that reviews do help the impact factor. That for Mutagenesis is now up to 2.3, but note that Mutation Research Reviews has an IF of 3.8.

OUP is intending to allow the inclusion of Mutagenesis on Bell & Howell databases, which they hope will increase the availability of the Journal in US Schools and Colleges, though it was not clear how much additional pay-per-view income this would generate.

Finally, Jim wished David Phillips, who takes over from him at the end of the year, the very best of luck.

The report was proposed to the AGM by Colin Arlett and seconded by Brian Burlinson.

5. IGG CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

IGG had 80-90 attending the in vitro micronucleus meeting, and a report is in preparation. In May, the meeting on Better Experiments was held at the Stansted Hilton, which worked well as an alternative venue. The AGM there voted to change the constitutional requirement to have at least 4 committee members from manufacturing industries, since the recent spate of mergers has led to complications. The aim, however, is still to maintain diversity. Gill Clare is to remain as Secretary and there have been 4 nominations for 2 vacant committee positions, so a ballot will be arranged. Financially the balance stands at around £3.5k.

6. MEG CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

There was no spring meeting this year due to venue problems, though the membership and finances remain stable. Last year's winter meeting was a success overall despite the problems with the railways which prevented several from attending. The AGM will take place at the winter meeting on 3 December, at the Scientific Societies lecture theatre in London. The topic will be "Epidemiology and Biomarkers of diet-related disease", and 1 or 2 key overseas speakers have been identified, for which Sponsorship or UKEMS assistance may be requested. For next year, another joint meeting with BACR is being planned, from 18-22 September 2002, again at Windermere as before and along the lines of a Gordon Conference. The topic will be "Molecules and Markers in Cancer Epidemiology", and UKEMS has agreed to contribute up to £1000 to sponsor overseas speakers.

7. COMMITTEE ELECTION AND APPROVAL BY AGM

The AGM gave unanimous approval of the nomination of Peter Jenkinson as Secretary Elect. Acceptance was proposed by Brian Burlinson and seconded by Eian Massey.

In the light of having received no nominations for the two available Ordinary Committee positions, Steve Dean presented a proposal that Ordinary Members could be eligible for a second consecutive term of office, something that would require a Constitutional change. However, there were several members who objected to this, feeling that it was essential to bring in new "blood" frequently, in order to keep new ideas coming and involve more members in decision making. Thus the AGM almost unanimously voted to reject the proposal. Jim Parry then suggested two names, Martin Brinkworth and Liz Martin, as two established members who might contribute well as Committee Members. Jim formally proposed Martin Brinkworth, and he was seconded by Ian Mitchell. Liz was proposed by Bob Combes and seconded by David Phillips. Thus the AGM welcomed two new committee members.

8. Plymouth 2002

In the absence of Awadhesh Jha, the President confirmed that this meeting would run from 30 June to 3 July, and that there would be sessions organised by both MEG and IGG. This was because UKEMS would be 25 years old in 2002, and we want to make this a special meeting. Any ideas on how to mark this occasion should be communicated to the committee, and a request will be placed in the Newsletter.

