

MINUTES OF UKEMS AGM HELD 12 JULY, 1994 AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HERTFORDSHIRE

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

These were accepted as a true record.

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The last year has seen mixed fortunes for the society. On a sad note, there has been the loss of three eminent figures in genetics research: Frits Sobels, Margaret Fox and Charlotte Auerbach. There was a slight error in an announcement given earlier in the meeting. Although this year the keynote lecture was dedicated to the memory of Margaret Fox, this will not be permanent and in future years there will be other dedicatees. For example, in 1995, the keynote lecture will be in memory of Charlotte Auerbach. Of concern is the comparatively low attendance at meetings. Thus, at Hatfield there are 110 registrants, equivalent to ca 90 non-speakers, which is low compared with some previous years. Whilst this phenomenon is by no means unique to UKEMS, the committee has been addressing the issue in a variety of ways. Membership numbers are slightly lower this year, compared with previous years, with an increase in non-payment of subscriptions. This may have been exacerbated by pressure to pay them early in 1993, in order to qualify for a free copy of the Guidelines book. Memorable events for the society include the EEMS Junior Scientist Award to Helen Tinwell, the election of Jim Parry to the Vice-Presidency of the EEMS, the continuing success of the guidelines books, and the agreement reached with the EEMS/EMS for publication of the UKEMS membership directory with those of the other societies. Also, UKEMS responded separately and via the IoB to the government White Paper on Science and Technology, eliciting a constructive and complimentary reply.

Other activities include supporting the Geotoxicology conference to be held at Oxford in the autumn, a joint involvement with the IGG in a workshop on the Comet assay, and an increasingly active role in IoB affairs, through the Secretary becoming the IoB liaison contact and his attendance at meetings of the affiliated societies forum and other relevant IoB committees. As a result of such activities, UKEMS has been asked to nominate 3 members to serve on an IoB working party on 'women in Biology'. Anyone interested should contact the Secretary.

Two main themes have occupied members of the society over the past year. Firstly, with respect to harmonisation of

regulatory guidelines, and the President was personally delighted with the impact that various recommendations are having. These were agreed in a workshop at the Melbourne international conference. Also, much progress was being achieved in the field of pharmaceuticals testing, and David Tweats is chairman of the genotoxicity recommendations of the International Conference on Harmonisation (ICH). Secondly efforts are being made to improve the scientific image of the society, by seeking advice from a number of academic contacts. Several of these have been very constructive. As a result there is an attempt to hold meetings with a reduced emphasis on testing and an increased focus on more basic mechanisms of mutagenesis and carcinogenesis. This particular meeting represents an attempt to start this process. There is a need to formulate scientific meeting programmes earlier to facilitate advertising and issuing of preliminary announcements in journals. To this end, we have planned the next three meetings already. The 1995 meeting will be held from 5 - 7 July at Leicester; the 1996 meeting is scheduled for 15 - 17 July at Birmingham, and the 1997 meeting is being organised jointly with the BTS, as a satellite to the next international conference (being held at Toulouse). Our suggestion for the scientific theme: 'In vivo Genotoxicity Assays, New Directions' has been accepted by the organising committee of the international conference. The satellite is scheduled for 14 - 16 Sept, 1997 at Canterbury. John Ashby has agreed to be President of the meeting, which will have input from the BTS.

This year we have instituted keynote lectures at annual scientific meetings. To ensure that these continue, funding was sought, and Glaxo, Zeneca and Hazleton have agreed to act as sponsors for a 3 year period. Other sources will be approached thereafter. A separate fund is to be established to enable us to attract eminent speakers.

Two items require membership approval. Firstly, Jim Parry, as Vice-President of the EEMS is permitted under the EEMS constitution to select his secretary. Barry Elliott has accepted an invitation to fulfil this role and the UKEMS committee supports this, and now seeks endorsement from the membership. [no questions or objections being raised from the floor, this was agreed formally]. Secondly, Bob Combes' term of office will terminate this time in two years (July, 1996). In the past there has been the practice that the new secretary shadows on the committee for a year. This needs to be formalised by electing the new secretary 9 months ahead. This will entail seeking nominations in September, and going to ballot, if necessary, in October, to enable attendance at a committee meeting before the end of the year. As a small alteration to the UKEMS constitution will be required a formal proposal has to be voted on.

The proposal is: to elect the incoming secretary during the year preceding that in which he/she formally takes up office, and that the duration of the post will be for three years from the date of taking up office. [This was proposed by David Kirkland, seconded by David Tweats and carried by a majority (36 in favour with 1 abstention)].

Thanks are due to all those organisations which have supported this meeting, especially during these difficult financial times. Also, thanks are due to the Conference Office at the University of Hatfield, and to David Tweats and his colleagues for organising the meeting so well. Lastly, every member will be receiving the EEMS directory with the Christmas newsletter.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

The accounts are attached. We started 1993 with £16,000 and ended up with £12,000. Income from subs was £2,400, but the number of full members is down to 185. A large proportion of this income goes to the EEMS (@ 16 guilders), and the next payment is due shortly. Those who have not paid will be getting a reminder, and non-payment will mean no receipt of the membership directory. Last year, those paying by 31 March received the guidelines book on supplementary tests. Major items of expenditure include £300 sponsorship of 5 Mutagenesis copies; £500 sponsorship of the Geotoxicology meeting at Oxford in September, 1994; production and distribution of new society advertising leaflets and other mailshots (£286), although £80 was recovered from advertising. Two students were sponsored to attend the EEMS meeting in Barcelona (£670). The £100 to the IoB is for affiliated status. The society advertising leaflets have gone into every non-members conference pack at the Hatfield meeting; the new membership listing for the EMS directory will cost ca £400, although in future this cost will be borne by the EEMS. Current costs were £50 for the UKEMS supplement to the EMS directory and £354 for copies of the full EMS directory. Other expenditure included a donation for the World Wildlife fund (£50) in memory of Margaret Fox, and secretary's expenses (£39) mainly for attendance at IoB affiliated forum meetings and meetings of IoB committees as UKEMS representative. Also, there was a loss of £951 on the 1993 Surrey meeting, due to travelling expenses for speakers. With regard to the guidelines books, the main expenditure (£2,757) was in the production and distribution of the supplementary testing book, but this was offset by receipt of £275 in royalties from the other guidelines books. [The accounts were proposed by Barry Elliott and seconded by Eian Massey. There was unanimous acceptance].

4. MUTAGENESIS EDITOR'S REPORT

This was read out by the Secretary. A status report, has been received from Sofuni, the new Japanese editor in charge of the newly established editorial office in Tokyo. So far this year, of 7 manuscripts received, 3 were rejected, 3 accepted and 1 is being processed. Sofuni invariably uses overseas referees and is experiencing problems with slow responses. Some Japanese manuscripts still are being sent to Jim Parry direct. Interest in the journal is beginning to increase out there, and Sofuni is making an effort to advertise Mutagenesis at various society meetings in Japan. The Japanese office costs UKEMS very little as there is considerable subsidy within Japan itself. Bill Morgan, the new editor for North America, has so far received 9 manuscripts, with 4 having been processed for publication. Current statistics for the journal are: 27% rejection rate (compared with 23% previously, but the current figure is still low); time to acceptance of 3.5 months and 4 months for publication. Subscriptions for 1993 were 408 with 385 so far for 1994. The number of UK submissions for the early part of 1994 showed a decline. About 30% of manuscript submissions are derived from academic laboratories. Other statistics for the journal are attached.

5 IGG CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Dr Nusser from Germany gave a presentation on automation of the micronucleus assay and flow cytometry at the meeting in April. It was concluded that these techniques were not ready for implementation in routine testing, as customisation for different chemicals is required. There was a nice presentation on FISH, which appears to be a very promising technique. Other aspects of automation were covered at the December meeting including the Ames test, as well as aspects of structure-activity, particularly expert systems and their ability to predict the NTP rodent data. Following on from the latter, contact has been established with LHASA at the University of Leeds and IGG is to assist with reviewing the structure-activity database being used to produce mutagenicity rules for the expert system DEREK. The collaborative trial on cell cycle times in cytogenetics is complete and is being written up. Results from nine UK laboratories have shown that there is no need for the longer sampling times, and the data need to be presented to the OECD, so as to influence the new guidelines. The results of recent IGG elections are as follows: Leigh Henderson is Chairperson (and therefore rejoins the UKEMS committee in this capacity); Phil Wilcox is Treasurer; Eryl Jones is Secretary and Robert Rees has joined the committee. The next meeting is scheduled for 3 November at the Wellcome building again, at which there will be a

workshop on practical aspects of mammalian cell cytogenetics and gene mutation assays.

6 NEW VICE-PRESIDENT

This post is the only one open for renewal this year. As only one nomination had been received, no ballot was required and Colin Garner is the new Vice-President.

7. EEMS NEWS

Jim Parry as EEMS Vice-President will act as UKEMS councillor and Leigh Henderson has stepped down. This arrangement will continue during Jim Parry's term as President.

8. AOB

8.1 'Emeritus' members of UKEMS

To be in line with other societies, the committee is proposing to rename 'honorary' members as 'emeritus' members. This will be discussed at the next AGM.

8.2 Forthcoming meetings

The Secretary distributed a list, which will be incorporated in the next newsletter. The dates of the 1995 meeting at Leicester had altered since producing the list, and confirmed as 5 - 7 July.

8.3 Possible re-instatement of Register of Genetic Toxicologists

This item had been resurrected in response to a letter from Diana Anderson, indicating new moves by the IoB with regard to accredited status. The BTS has followed this route. The committee has agreed that a small working party will consider the advantages.

The incoming President, David Tweats, proposed a vote of thanks to David Kirkland for his term of office and his long and very active association with the UKEMS committee.

There being no other business, the meeting closed.

DJ Tweats 6/7/95

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Total number of subscriptions for 1993 = 408

Total number to date (7/7/94) = 385

Breakdown:

UK	73
Europe	124
North America	151
Japan	19
Rest of World	18

These totals exclude the gratis copies sent to Editor, Copyright Libraries etc. the total number of gratis copies sent out this year is 66.

PAGE BUDGETS/ SUBSCRIPTION PRICES.

The following page budgets and subscription prices have been agreed:

Page Budgets.

1993 Actual	1994 Budget	1995 Budget
596	598	598

Subscription Prices

1994 prices in brackets

	£ UK/Europe	\$ Rest of World
Institutions	195 (175)	320 (295)
EMS/UKEMS/EEMS	65 (60)	120 (110)

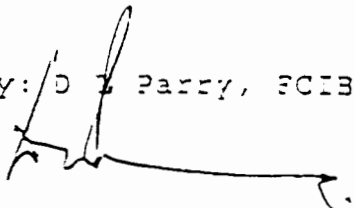
UKEMS

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

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 1993

	<u>Credit</u>	<u>Debit</u>
	£	£
Balance at 1.1.93	16,136.51	
<u>Subscriptions</u>		
UKEMS	2,450.00	
EEMS		1,138.56
Institute of Biology		100.00
Mutagenesis		300.00
<u>Meetings</u>		
UKEMS, Surrey		951.70
EEMS, Barcelona (Sponsorship)		670.00
UKEMS Committee		104.28
Sec. Expenses (IOB, OUP)		39.40
School of Geog., Oxford		500.00
<u>Guidelines</u>		
Suppl. Tests		2,757.02
Royalties: Basic Mut. Tests	140.76	
: Stats	134.40	
<u>Mailing/Postage</u>		
		151.70
<u>Adverts/Mailshots/Leaflets</u>		
	80.00	235.20
<u>Directory - UKEMS</u>		
EMS		50.00
		354.41
<u>Donation (WWF)</u>		
		50.00
<u>Interest - NSIA</u>		
HICA	107.06	
	421.16	
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	19,529.89	7,453.37
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Closing balance at 1.1.94	£12,066.52	
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Audited by: D J Parry, FCIB.



Treasurer: T M Brooks



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