

Minutes of the SSIEM Annual General Meeting

Held on 3rd September 2008 at 12.45 p.m. in Lisbon, Portugal

1. Apologies for absence

One official apology was received from Dr. Anne Greene.

Cornelis Jakobs asked to memorize the colleagues who had sadly passed away during the last year. Those present stood in silence for a minute to show their respect.

James Leonard reported briefly about the current health status of Phil Lee.

2. Previous minutes

These were received and confirmed as a true record before being signed by Cornelis Jakobs.

3. Matters Arising

There were no particular matters arising not covered elsewhere.

4. Publications report

Johannes Zschocke reported:

In 2007 we introduced "themed issues" in addition to the cherished SSIEM/ICIEM conference issues, and we are very pleased that issue 4/2007, on neonatal screening, has attracted widespread interest. We also started a series about "IEM in adults" which will continue in the future. The 1st and 3rd issues in 2008 contained a series of articles on current developments with regard to the "classical" organic aciduria MMA. Further plans for 2008 are a special "Garrod Issue" (issue 5/2008) containing articles related to the "Garrod Day" presentations at the SSIEM Annual Meeting in Lisboa, as well as the Komrower lecture, and a themed issue on "BH4 and PKU" (issue 6/2008), containing articles arising from the "International Conference on Tetrahydrobiopterin, PKU, and NOS" that took place in St. Moritz-Champf er, Switzerland in March 2008.

The number of submissions to JIMD in 2007 increased by about 40 % compared to 2006. There were a total of 310 manuscripts including 103 original articles, 106 case/short reports, 13 reviews, 3 metabolic dissertations, 5 Metabolic Images and 30 others. In addition there were 19 articles derived from the SSIEM symposium in Hamburg and 31 articles for the special Neonatal Screening Issue. Submitted articles in 2007 came from 46 different countries, compared to 37 different countries in 2006. Most articles were from the USA (14%), United Kingdom (8 %), Italy and the Netherlands (7.4 % each), France (5.5 %), Germany and Japan (5.1 % each), Spain and Turkey (4.2 % each) and Austria (3.2 %).

Further efforts have been made to keep the review process as short as possible, and we are happy that we have been able to reduce the time from submission to the first decision further from 41 days in 2006 to 36 days in 2006. Of the 310 articles submitted in 2007, 161 were accepted (52%). The number of accepted and printed articles thus increased from 103 in 2006 to 161 in 2007.

We continue to welcome interesting material for the "Extras" section. Any comments, announcements or metabolic news can be published in this section. In particular, think of writing an obituary for JIMD if you learn of the death of an SSIEM member or other person related to inborn errors of metabolism. Our former colleagues deserve to be remembered in print.

Last but not least we would especially thank all Communicating Editors who have added invaluable expertise and a lot of time and effort in the assessment of manuscripts!

5. ETAC

John Walter, ETAC chair, reported about the 1st training day (SSIEM Academy) which took place in Lisbon on September 1st, 2008. Two courses were organized: 1) 1 Day Training Course in Inherited Metabolic Disease for Laboratory Workers (ca. 30 participants) and 2) 1 Day Training Course in Inherited Metabolic Disease for Clinicians (ca. 40 participants). The first feedback was good and for 2009 the 2nd course is planned together with ERNDIM (because of ICIEM 2009). It has been suggested that the next courses should be better advertised.

6. Honorary Treasurer's report

Maureen Cleary presented the financial position of SSIEM for the financial year 2007. There was an increase in subscriptions received and a 24% increase in Income from Investments. Overall the net number of members continues to increase. As at 31 December 2007 there were 1,090 names on the database.

Under the contract with the publishers of the JIMD we now receive a share of the Royalties; in 2007 Council was pleased to receive £46,129 for 2006 after deducting the costs of running the Editorial Office. For further detail of income and expenditure members are referred to the AGM report. Total amount in accumulative fund increased in 2007, by £32,309.

The Council proposes that the annual subscription should remain at £70 (70 GB pounds) for 2009.

Although the reserves appear substantial, Council believes we should maintain such reserves in order to cover the eventuality of a major disaster with an Annual Symposium and also running costs of the Society for 12 months.

During the past 10 years the membership of the Society has more than doubled. A lot of the legal and accounting work has been carried out by the Assistant to the Honorary Treasurer who has advised Council that he wishes to retire after finalising the accounts for 2009. Council has discussed the future requirements of the Society and believes we should set up a Secretariat to run the affairs of the Society, perhaps in conjunction with other Societies. Further details of these plans will include an estimate of costs and it is possible that subscriptions will be increased over the next few years to support these developments.

7. Secretary's Report

This was distributed with the Notice of Annual General Meeting 2008.

8. Website report

Nenad Blau summarised the statistics relating to use of the website. Feedback is positive. The main users are USA followed by UK.

9. Future meetings

The two bids received by the SSIEM council were evaluated and the council propose Birmingham for the 2012 SSIEM Annual meeting and Barcelona for the 2013 ICIEM conference. Both proposals were accepted in globo.

10. IOC report (ICIEM – San Diego 2009)

There will be a presentation on the progress of the ICIEM meeting in San Diego 2009 on Friday by Jerry Vockly (chairman IOC)

11. Council officers/Election of Council Members

Cornelis Jakobs outlined the need for new members on Council resulting from the resignation of the secretarial duties due to ill health of Philip Lee and the planned leave overseas of our treasurer Dr Maureen Cleary.

The following personnel will be proposed at the AGM:

Council proposed Jim Bonham as the new honorary treasurer. He was already treasurer of the SSIEM in the past and will take over this responsibility for the next three years. Jim accepted the invitation. Peter Clayton accepted the invitation to join the Council (instead of Phil Lee). Marjorie Dixon was proposed as a new member of the council and will represent dieticians working in the field of metabolic disorders.

Jim Bonham, Peter Clayton, and Marjorie Dixon were unanimously elected onto Council by members present.

Many thanks were expressed to Maureen Cleary and Philip Lee for there important contribution to the Society in the past

12. Corresponding Members

Jutta Gartner presented the results of a questionnaire sent out to Corresponding Members (total 26 representatives). Only 18/26 replies were received but these provided useful information about their local societies.

13. President for 2010

Tungay Coskun will host the 2010 Annual SSIEM meeting in Istanbul and was proposed to be the president in 2010. This was agreed unanimously.

14. Any other business

None

15. Election of Auditors

Accepted by members present.

Nenad Blau

Honorary Secretary a.I., SSIEM

September 2008