

Minutes of the
Annual General Meeting
Held at the O'Reilly Hall
University College, Dublin,
Ireland
On
Thursday 5th September 2002
at 12.00

Chairman: Dr John Walter
Honorary Secretary: Dr Mick Henderson

1. Apologies for absence

Mr U Caruso

Dr R Chalmers

Dr C Dionisi-Vici

Dr. Jörn Oliver Sass

2. Minutes of the previous AGM, 6th September 2001

These were accepted as a true record.

3. Matters arising from the previous minutes

2001.5 Dr Henderson gave an account of progress to date with the joint ERNDIM/SSIEM laboratory database. Dr Fowler and Dr Henderson had produced a table listing all analytes, including enzymes and mutations. Neil Hamilton has made progress in converting this into a web searchable database that links an enquiry to a detailed set of information about the laboratories that can offer the service. A demonstration version was brought to the meeting.

2001.13 Dr Walter explained the success which Prof Leonard had had in promoting the needs of metabolic medicine within the European Union. Metabolic medicine is now officially recognised as a sub-specialty by CESPI (? no). The SSIEM will be playing a leading role in organising training programmes and accrediting training centres. The inaugural meeting of the training committee was held during the SSIEM annual meeting in Dublin.

4. Honorary Treasurer's report

Dr Shortland presented his report which had been previously circulated with the notice of the AGM.

- Dr Shortland explained the need to hold a contingency reserve of £250,000 against the possible liability of the costs of one annual meeting. The Society does not insure against disaster and would have to bear the costs if a meeting had to be cancelled at short notice. This would need to be set down in detail as part of a formal risk assessment for the UK Charity Commission under new rules that came into effect this year.
- Dr Shortland thanked Malcolm Heron, on behalf of all the officers of Council, for his continued support over the past year.

5. Annual Subscription 2003

Dr Shortland requested approval to increase the annual subscription for members to £70 for the year to come. The motion was proposed by Prof J Leonard and seconded by Dr Anne Green. It was passed by majority vote.

6. Honorary Secretary's report

Dr Henderson presented his report which had been previously circulated with the notice of the AGM.

- Council have made the process of venue selection for future meetings a more open and democratic process. Bids were invited to host the 2008 meeting. Advertisements were placed in both editions of the Newsletter. Three bids were received from Barcelona, Lisbon and Naples. These were reviewed by the council and corresponding members meeting. Lisbon was chosen as the favoured option largely on the grounds that there has not been an SSIEM meeting in Portugal before.

7. Publications report

Dr Besley presented his report which had been previously circulated with the notice of the AGM.

- The Journal can now be accessed on-line through the SSIEM website. It is password protected. This will be changed each year. All members whose subscriptions are up to date will receive notice of new passwords.

8. Web report

Mr Neil Hamilton gave this report.

- There were 558 electronic abstract submissions for this year's annual meeting. The vast majority within 2 or three days of the deadline, 22nd April. 349 were accepted, 93 were duplicates. Neil thanked the administrative staff of the Child Health Department at Newcastle for all their efficient help in processing this large number of papers.
- Improvements to the members services area of the website were highlighted. There is now a document library with minutes of the council meetings and final reports of previous annual meetings. Also, there is a copy of the Merck Index.

9. Council officers

Dr Jane Collins and Prof Kim Bartlett retired from Council this year. They were both thanked for their contributions to the Society. Prof Bartlett will continue to be responsible for the website. No nominations for their replacements have been received.

The following Council members were re-elected unopposed for a second 3 year term Prof Cornelis Jakobs, Dr Mick Henderson (Hon Secretary), Dr John Walter (Chairman).

10. Replacement of retiring corresponding members

Prof Fumio Endo has been nominated by the Japanese Society to replace Prof Eto as corresponding member for Japan.

11. President for 2002-2003

It was proposed that Prof Bridget Wilcken should be President for the following year and this was agreed by the meeting.

12. Election of Auditors

It was proposed by Dr Shortland that HLB Kidson should be re-elected as auditors. This was seconded by Dr Besley and agreed by the meeting.

13. Any other business

A change to the constitution was proposed that would limit the number of Council members to 12. This was proposed by Prof J Leonard and seconded by Prof B Wilken. The motion was carried unopposed.

14. Date and time of next meeting

Wednesday 3rd September 2003 at 12.00 in Brisbane (to be confirmed)