

Minutes of the
Annual General Meeting
Held at the
Convention and Exhibition Centre,
Brisbane, Australia
On
Thursday 4th September 2003
at 12.00

Chairman: Dr John Walter
Honorary Secretary: Dr Mick Henderson

1. Apologies for absence

Prof MA Blankenstein
Mr U Caruso
Dr A Green
Dr EA Kvittingen
Prof U Langenbeck
Prof K Ullrich

2. Minutes of the previous AGM, 5th September 2002

These were accepted as a true record.

3. Matters arising from the previous minutes

2002.3 Dr Henderson gave a brief report of progress with the joint ERNDIM SSIEM laboratory database. The initial version was nearing completion. Participating laboratory directors will receive instruction within a month to review and edit their entries on-line. After two months the site will be made available for public enquiry.

4. Training

Dr Walter gave an account of progress with ETAC, the education and training committee chaired by Prof James Leonard. A training syllabus had been drawn up and was available on the website. Accreditation of training centres was about to proceed with two visits to Germany, Frankfurt and Mainz. An application form for accreditation was being completed and will soon be available on the website. Discussions between the SSIEM and the SIMD have been initiated in an attempt to create uniformity of standards across Europe and the USA.

5. Honorary Treasurer's report

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

6. Annual Subscription 2003

Dr Shortland suggested that there was no need to raise the membership subscription this year. This was accepted by the meeting.

7. Honorary Secretary's report

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

Prof Pollitt asked the meeting to consider the wisdom of continuing to assign numbers to the annual meetings given that the international meetings were in a different series. A majority, by show of hands, were in favour of discontinuing the numbers after next year's meeting in Amsterdam.

8. Publications report

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

One of the principal points being the proposal to reduce the number of editions of the Journal from eight to six per annum. There were no objections.

9. Web report

Mr Neil Hamilton gave this report.

Although this year's meeting was not organised by the SSIEM the organisers had requested help with the processing of abstracts. There were 536 electronic abstract submissions for this year's meeting. Those accepted for presentation were published in a supplement to the JIMD.

10. Council officers

Prof Kurt Ullrich has completed two terms of office and had therefore retired from council. Dr Walter thanked him for the support that he had given council over the last six years.

Dr Graham Shortland had completed three years as Hon treasurer and was prepared to undertake a further term of office. His re-election was proposed by Prof James Leonard and seconded by Dr Jim Bonham and agreed by the meeting.

Prof B Fowler proposed the election of Dr EliAnne Kvittingen to Council. This was seconded by Dr M Henderson and accepted by the meeting.

11. Replacement of retiring corresponding members

The following had completed six years as corresponding members and were thanked by Dr Walter for their service to the Society: Dr Orly Elpeleg, Prof Roberto Giugliani and Dr Suzanne Schweitzer. They are to be replaced by Dr Stanley Korman, Prof Moacir Wajner and Prof Hans-Georg Koch respectively.

12. President for 2003-2004

The question of who will take the office of President had not yet been decided by the Dutch Society. (Now agreed to be Prof Cornelis Jakobs)

13. Election of Auditors

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

14. Any other business

Dr Jim McGill gave an obituary for Prof David Danks, founder of The Murdoch Institute in Australia, who died earlier this year.

15. Date and time of next meeting

Wednesday 1st September 2004 in Amsterdam (to be confirmed)