

Minutes of the  
**Annual General Meeting**

Held at the  
Maison de la Chimie  
Paris, France  
Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2005

Chairman: Prof Cornelis Jakobs  
Honorary Secretary: Dr Mick Henderson

**1. Apologies for absence**

Prof R A Chalmers

**2. Minutes of the previous AGM, 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2004**

These were accepted as a true record.

**3. Matters arising from the previous minutes**

There were no matters that were not covered by the agenda.

**4. Publications report**

Dr Guy Besley presented his report, which had been previously circulated with the notice of the AGM. He explained that he would be stepping down as Editor in Chief this year. A business proposal from Prof Georg Hoffman and Dr. Johannes Zschocke has been accepted by Council and was put to the membership for approval. Prof Hoffman and Dr. Zschocke (chief-editors) and Prof. Mike Gibson and Dr Gary Brown (editors) circulated a Draft model of the proposed new format and content for The Journal. Dr. Zschocke gave a brief presentation explaining the plan to create an editorial office lead by a professional manager. Their key objectives are to improve the impact factor and add more news to increase the attraction of browsing in the Journal. The proposals include a new more comprehensive contract with Springer, the publishers.

The meeting gave its endorsement to the proposals and the new Editorial team will be given a 5 year contract to run the Journal.

Dr Besley was thanked for his the tremendous commitment that he has given to the Journal over 15 years.

**5. ICIEM – Structure and organisation**

Prof Jakobs explained the position that had been discussed and agreed by Council and Corresponding Members. Namely that the composition of the IOC must reflect the membership of the major supporting societies and must be transparent and democratic. To this end it was proposed that the IOC be comprised of two nominated members of each of the major societies and should not include other members on historic grounds. This was agreed by the meeting. In addition leading members of the SIMD (Prof. Jerry Vockley) and ASIMD (Prof. Bridget Wilcken) who were present stated that those two societies fully supported this position. Prof Jakobs felt that progress to reform had been slow within the IOC. He stated that the next course of action was to write to the other major Societies and invite them to nominate 2 members each to sit on a reformed IOC. In the case that the views of the Society be ignored then the SSIEM would withdraw from the IOC and would organize its own meetings again every year.

The members present gave overwhelming support to this action by a show of hands.

**6. ETAC (Education Training and Advisory Committee)**

Dr John Walter explained the recent work of ETAC and described the visit earlier this year to Prague.

**7. Honorary Treasurer's report**

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

#### **8. Annual Subscription 2005**

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

#### **9. Honorary Secretary's report**

Dr Mick Henderson presented his report, which had been previously circulated with the notice of the AGM. In addition he drew member's attention to three Exchange Grants that had been given this year and encouraged members to consider applying for help to visit other institutions in the year to come. Full details of the scheme are posted on the website.

Dr Mick Henderson stood down as secretary having completed 2 terms of office. He was thanked for the commitment that he has put into this job. In turn Dr Henderson thanked Mr Malcolm Heron for the extremely useful support that he has provided.

#### **10. Website report**

The contract for maintaining the website has now been awarded to BlackCat Websites. A new site has been created by three Council members, Prof Nenad Blau, Dr Philip Lee and Mr Ubaldo Caruso. The features of the new site were demonstrated by Prof Blau. He made an appeal to the membership to make use of the site and contribute material.

#### **11. Council officers**

Dr Henderson retired as a council members at this meeting. A proposal to elect Prof Jutta Gartner was received from Mr Caruso, this was seconded by Dr Lee and endorsed by the meeting.

Dr Besley has completed his term of office but will be co-opted to remain for one further year as an ordinary member of Council.

#### **12. Replacement of retiring corresponding members**

The following have completed two terms of office and will stand down:

Elizabeth Holme Sweden, Gerard Berry USA, Jiri Zeman Czech, Ewa Pronicka Poland, Jim McGill Australia, Robinson Canada, Georges Van den Berghe Belgium.

They will be replaced by:

AM Lund, Denmark, Piero Rinaldo USA, Pavel Martasek Czech Republic, Jolanta Sykut-Cegielska Poland, Janice Fletcher Australia, Grant Mitchell Canada.

Departing members were thanked for their contributions to The Society by Prof Jakobs.

#### **13. President for 2005-2006**

Since there will be no SSIEM meeting in 2006 there will be no honorary President in the year ahead.

#### **14. Election of Auditors**

It was proposed by Dr Bonham that Baker Tilly should be re-elected as auditors. This was seconded by Dr Lee and agreed by the meeting.

#### **15. Any other business**

Council reconsidered this position with regard to clinical guidelines as was agreed at last year's AGM. However after much discussion it was firmly of the view that the international nature of the Society makes it difficult to endorse or prepare guidelines that would be universally acceptable.

#### **16. Date and time of next meeting**

September 2006 in Tokyo (date to be confirmed)