
Minutes of the 44th Canadian Society of Biochemistry, Molecular and Cellular Biology Annual General Meeting

**Nottawasaga Inn, Alliston, Ontario, Saturday, June 2, 2001, 4:00 p.m.
Chair: Dr. Frances Sharom, President CSBMCB**

Approval of Agenda.

The agenda was approved as circulated on a motion from Dr. B. Waygood, seconded by Dr. H. Schachter

Approval of Minutes of the 43rd AGM Minutes (Published in the 2000 BULLETIN).

The minutes of the 43 annual general meeting were approved after a motion from Dr B Waygood was received by the Chair.

This motion was seconded by Dr. P. Lewis
CARRIED

Business Arising from the Minutes.

There was no business arising from these minutes.

President's Report.

a) Alliston Meeting

Dr. Sharom made a number of comments dealing with the Alliston Meeting. As this was the first Independent General meeting the Society has undertaken, Dr. Sharom stated a great deal of effort was made in its planning and organization by the combined efforts of Dr. Peter Davies, who coordinated the meeting and did a superb job in fund raising, Dr. Peter Lewis, who was responsible for organizing the scientific programme, Dr. Reinhart Reithmeier, who looked after the physical aspects of the meeting venue, Mrs. Anna Vanek, who was responsible for administration, and Dr. Sharom who was involved in every aspect of the meeting. Although there was a minor glitch in the first session with the AV system, the meeting appears to be a success from the comments received, however, the final appraisal must await further feedback. The Meeting was oversubscribed, with 230 registrants, 80 Society members, 60 non Society members, 60 Postdoctoral and graduate students, and 30 exhibitors.

The meeting which was opened by the IUBMB Jubilee Lecture presented by Dr. Peer Bork from Heidelberg, has been structured around five symposia with 19 speakers, three workshops, three CSBMCB award lectures and 80 poster presentations.

The experience and success of the Alliston Meeting hopefully will set a standard for future Society AGMs.

b) Membership Recruitment.

Dr. Sharom stated that the Society is still in a challenging situation with regard to membership numbers. Despite signing up 35 new members at the conference registration Web site, our overall numbers are down, primarily because large numbers of long-standing members are not renewing their membership. This probably represents simple forgetfulness, rather than an active decision to leave the Society.

E-mailed dues reminders, with web-based credit card payment for membership renewals, might prevent these losses and this avenue is now being investigated. The Society is only reaching a fraction of potential members.

With new university faculty hiring, and an untapped industrial sector, it should be possible to enlarge our membership ranks significantly. Although the Executive is dealing with a number of solutions, Dr. Sharom encouraged the membership to actively recruit their colleagues to join the Society and to submit suggestions on how to improve the Society's profile in order to stimulate new membership. As for reasons for membership, Dr. Sharom stressed a number of benefits: effective science lobbying which affects Federal and Provincial grant funding, a discounted registration fee for Society-sponsored meetings, graduate and post-doctoral travel grant stipends and journal discounts.

c) Contract with CFBS.

Dr. Sharom stated the contract has now been signed with CFBS which provides for the Society's participation in CFBS's lobbying and science policy. These activities are primarily focussed in Ottawa, but at the Society's urging may be expanded to the provincial levels as well, especially in Ontario.

This contract, which is negotiated annually, calls for a payment of \$40 per Regular Society Member and is subject to cancellation by either party, has been extended to 2002.

d) Society's Web Page.

Dr. Sharom reported that with Dr. Uwe Oehler's assistance she will continue to maintain the Society's current Web Page. The Web page will be updated and outdated material removed. She stated that the employment section on the Web was fairly active. Dr. Sharom suggested one way to increase the web page's visibility and make it more of a "two-way street", was to make the Society's Web page available to people seeking employment by making it possible for them to post their resumes as .pdf files. She stated that she would inform our students and PDF members of this feature. It has been decided to charge commercial firms \$500 to establish a permanent link on the web page and \$250 for an employment advertisement. Work still needs to be done on the French language versions of many of the more permanent parts of the web page and Dr. Sharom offered that assistance from our Francophone Members would be appreciated!

e) Future Society Meetings.

Based on the Society's Membership numbers and limited resources, it has been decided by the Society's Executive that the Society should only hold one meeting annually. Furthermore, this meeting will be held on a three-year rotation cycle, alternating with venues in Banff, Quebec and another site in central Canada preferably in Ontario. This would afford an opportunity for various geographical groups to organize one of these meetings on their own scientific interests.

Next year's AGM will be held in at the Banff Centre, Banff, Alberta, from March 21 - 24. The 2003 Meeting will be held in conjunction with the XIX IUBMB Congress in Toronto, and the 2004 meeting will be in Quebec.

The organization for the Banff Meeting "Membrane Proteins in Health and Disease" is well

in hand. The web page (www.csbmcb.ca/2002meeting) will be opened in the next few weeks. The Organizing Committee for this meeting include Drs. J. Casey, C. Cass, L. Fliegel, M. Michalak, B. Lemire, J. Young, X. Chen, C. Cheeseman, R. Reithmeier and F. Sharom. Satellite meetings, topics for which have not been decided, have been scheduled be held prior to the main meeting, Wednesday evening and all day Thursday.

As a result of managerial problems encountered with the last Winternational Meeting, the Executive has decided that the Society will be responsible for the budget of all future meetings. This now means that the Society will negotiate and sign all contracts relating to Society meetings.

f) Negotiations with ASBMB.

Dr. Sharom reported that she has been trying to negotiate a reciprocal membership with the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. This matter is now in the hands of ASBMB's Executive awaiting their action. The proposal entails a 20% membership fee discount for Society members who wish to join the other Society.

g) Support of Student Activities.

Dr. Sharom indicated that the Society has allocated \$2,000 annually to support undergraduate and graduate student activities in universities across Canada. Four \$500 grants are available upon student request to underwrite various activities that fall under the Society's scientific interests. This has not been a very active programme and Dr. Sharom asked the Membership to make this information known in their constituencies.

Past President's Report

a) CFBS Ottawa Lobby

Dr. Davies represented the Society at the May 16 and 17 CFBS science lobbying meetings held in Ottawa. He stated that he participated in seven meetings that were held with various advisors and policy maker in key Government Ministries. In general, the Federal Government seems committed to increasing funding for research. However, it appears that Provincial-Federal cooperation is a big impasse that has to be overcome. For example, whereas the CFI program has been successful at leveraging matching funding, the CRC initiative has not encouraged the Provinces to follow suit. The feeling is that any money the Fed's channel to

relieve funding of universities will give the Provinces an excuse to cut their contributions. Thus, although there is general support for indirect costs for research, there is no clear agreement on how this relief should be applied. CIHR is very concerned about their "hand-to-mouth" budget situation. Expansion of their programmes has put them in a precarious situation of making huge future commitments three, four or five years from now, when the reality is that they obtain their funds on an annual basis. This is one reason why this year they are putting so much money (\$37m) into one-year programmes. The question of overhead payment to universities and institutions was addressed. Which governmental jurisdiction, Federal or Provincial, should be responsible for this funding? Will this programme be Instituted to the detriment of research funding to the scientific community?

Dr. Davies suggested that the Society strike a subcommittee to explore the ramifications of this matter.

b) Sponsorship of Alliston Meeting.

Dr. Davies reported that he had been very successful in raising funds for the Alliston Meeting. Approximately \$80,000 has been raised from governmental and non-governmental granting bodies, pharmaceutical houses, scientific supply companies, universities and scientific societies to support the Meeting's scientific programme, travel awards, social events and the Society's web page. He asked meeting attendees to thank and make welcome the exhibitors, and encouraged them to visit the commercial exhibits.

c) Poster Competition.

The Student Poster Session, presented Friday, June 1, had 42 poster presentations, 38 of which were from students and four from Principal Investigators. Of the 38 student presentations, 29 elected to compete for the two Roche Diagnostics Poster Awards. Dr. Waygood, Saskatoon, headed an adjudication committee (Dr. G. Cote, Queen's; Dr. G. Flynn, Queen's; Dr. F. Keeley, Toronto; Dr. C. Lazure, IRMC; Dr. D. Litchfield, Western Ontario; Dr. N. Martin Queen's; Dr. L. McIntosh, UBC; Dr. D. Rose, Toronto; Dr. H. Vogel, Calgary; and Dr. S. Withers, UBC) for these awards. Mr. Tudor Moldoveanu, Queen's University and Mr. Peter Kavsak, University of Toronto were the recipients of the Roche Diagnostics Poster Awards.

The PDF Poster Session was held this after-

noon (Saturday, June 2) with 36 poster presentations, 13 by PDFs, 22 from PI's and one from a grad student. Eight PDFs entered the CSBMCB poster competition to contest for the two awarded prizes. These posters were adjudicated by a committee headed by Dr. H. Duckworth, Manitoba; included Dr. H S Chan, Toronto; Dr. E. Pai, Toronto; and Dr. D. Wishart, Alberta. Dr. Denis Daigle, McMaster University and Dr. Laurie Graham, Queen's University were judged to be the presenters of the best posters.

Vice-President's Report

Dr. Browder had no report

Treasurer's Report

a) 2000 and 2001 Budget

Dr. Palmer circulated his financial statement for the year 2000. He reported that the Society's income for 2000 was \$82,956.06 and its expenses totalled \$70,580.29 resulting in a balance of \$12,375.77. The market value of our Special Fund at year's end was \$326, 778.82. The total assets of the Society, which included the BULLETIN Editor's computer (\$1,190), were \$340,344.59. The financial statement for the first five months of 2001 showed an inflow of \$211,571.37 and expenses of \$23,217.24. The reason for this excess cash was attributed to the yet to be disbursed funds committed in support of the Society's Alliston Meeting. Dr. Palmer then referred to the summary that he prepared on the financial status of the Alliston Meeting. Since there has not been an update on the budget which was presented at the February 3 Executive Board meeting, Dr. Palmer stated that it is difficult to get a definite fix on the bottom line for this meeting. To date, he stated \$172,250.73 has been received for payment for hotel and meeting registrations, and funds from Dr. Davies' solicitation efforts and \$33,217.24 has been paid out.

Dr. Schachter moved "That the 2000 year budget be approved."

This motion was seconded by Dr. Browder.

CARRIED

b) Special Fund.

Dr. Palmer reported that the Special Fund was performing well considering the downturn in the stock market. As of May 31 the Special Fund stood at \$323,646.16.

c) Membership Fees 2002

Dr. Palmer reviewed the membership enrolment trends since 1994. There was an increase

in membership during the first five months of 2001. This he attributed to the differential registration fees instituted for Society Members for the Alliston Meeting. The current membership stands at 395 Regular members, 135 Student Members, 60 Postdoctoral Members and 70 Emeritus Members. Dr. Palmer suggested that membership fees for 2002 be increased to \$100 from the current \$95, \$40 of which are forwarded to CFBS as our contribution to national scientific lobbying.

After discussing this matter, Dr. Palmer moved "That Membership Fees for 2002 be increased to \$100".

Dr. Lewis seconded this motion.

CARRIED

d) Using credit cards for membership payment on the Web.

Dr. Palmer brought up the matter of implementing membership fee payment by credit card. Having had good success with Web registration and fee payment for the Alliston Meeting, it was decided to explore the financial implications of having Management Meeting Services take on this responsibility. Dr. Sharom volunteered to contact MMS and get a cost for their services for both doing the registration for the 2002 Banff Meeting as well as membership fee payment using the Web.

Secretary Report

a) BULLETIN

It has been decided to publish the BULLETIN in the Fall after the AGM instead of the Spring so that it will reflect more recent activities of the Society instead of matters which are a year old.

b) Ballot Report

Dr. Tustanoff reported that Dr. David Andrews, Department of Biochemistry, McMaster University, was elected to the Office of Vice-President. As there were two Councillor resignations, Dr. Turner and Dr. Bouvier, four Councillors had to be elected this year. Dr. Joe Casey, Department of Physiology, University of Alberta, and Dr. Bruce Waygood, Department of Biochemistry, University of Saskatchewan, were elected to a three-year term and Dr. Claude Lazure, Clinical Research Institute of Montreal, and Dr. David Litchfield, Department of Biochemistry, University of Western Ontario,

were elected to a two-year term to replace the two Councillors who had resigned. There were 174 ballots cast.

c) Society Awards.

2001 Dr. Tustanoff announced that Dr. Ford Doolittle, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Dalhousie University, is the recipient of the 2001 Roche Diagnostics Prize for Biomolecular and Cellular Research and that Dr. Natalie C.J. Strynadka, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of British Columbia, will receive the 2001 CSBMCB's Merck Frosst Award. The competition for both awards was very keen reflecting the high calibre of the nominations.

Merck Frosst-CSBMCB \$750 travel stipends were awarded to five students who attended the 2001 Winternational meeting which was held at Mont Ste Anne, Quebec. They were Ms. Kazuko Miyakawa, National Institute of Bioscience & Human Technology, Ibaraki, Japan; Dr. Diana Bellovino, Istituto Nazionale de Ricerca per gli Alimenti e la Nutrizione, Rome, Italy; Ms. Edith D. Wong, Section of Molecular and Cellular Biology, University of California, Davis; Ms. LaShaunda King, Department of Medical Chemistry and Pharmacology, University of Illinois at Chicago; and Mr. Julian Guttman, Department of Anatomy, University of British Columbia.

Mr. Roberto Botelho, Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto was the recipient of the Roche Diagnostics Poster Award.

There were 19 travel stipends allocated to students and postdoctoral fellows to attend the Alliston Meeting - eight \$750 Merck Frosst CSBMCB Travel Awards, four \$375 Merck Frosst CSBMCB Travel Awards, three \$750 Perkin Elmer Post-doctoral Travel Awards, and four NANUC Post-doctoral Travel Awards. The \$750 awards were given to students who resided outside of Ontario.

d) IUBMB Toronto 2003 Congress Update

Dr. Lewis reported that the XIX IUBMB/PABMB 2003 Congress Planning Committee met in Toronto on April 27 and a copy of their unapproved minutes were received by the Society Secretary. The first announcement brochure will shortly be distributed. A series of 11 Satellite meetings have been proposed, along with a preliminary list of Plenary lecturers. Dr. Bridger has withdrawn as the Chair of the fundraising committee and a

replacement must be found immediately since there has been little if any activity within this portfolio.

Dr. Palmer, who is in charge of the 2003 Young Scientist Congress Programme, filed his report on the Birmingham Young Scientist meeting along with a preliminary budget of \$261,000 for the Toronto Young Scientist Programme. A number of housekeeping matters were discussed.

On behalf of the Society, Dr. Tustanoff reported that he submitted an application to the NRC International Conference Revolving Loan Fund for \$25,000, the sum the Society pledged to support the 2003 IUBMB Congress in Toronto. This money will be used instead of Society funds and will have to be repaid only if the Toronto Congress does not generate a sufficient profit to cover this sum. The loan application was discussed at the NRC's Ciset meeting and was approved.

e) Dr. Alastair Matheson

It is with regret that the Society has lost a long-standing supporter of our Society. Dr. Alastair Matheson, who was President and member of the Executive Board of our Society from 1979 to 1981, passed away on May 18. Dr. Matheson graduated from the University of Toronto and worked for a number of years in Ottawa at the National Research Council. He was appointed Chair of Biochemistry at the University of Victoria and subsequently Dean of Science. Al established an international reputation for his work on ribosomal proteins and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 1984. Dr. Matheson was a great friend of Canadian Science and a warm and generous colleague.

f) Report on the 2001 11th Winternational Meeting.

Dr. David B. Williams reported that the 11th Winternational Meeting "Dynamics of Intracellular Organelles and Molecular Machines" was held at Mont Ste. Anne, Quebec, from Feb. 8-11, 2001. The Symposium was very successful in its goal to be a truly international meeting, attracting scientists from Japan, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, France, the United Kingdom, Finland, and the U.S.A. There were 30 speakers (17 Canadian) and 108 attendees for a total of 148 participants. Seven sessions over three days encompassed the following topics: Endoplasmic Reticulum; Protein Folding & Degradation; Protein Machines and Organelle Dynamics; Diseases Associated with Protein Folding & Trafficking; Nucleus; Mitochondria,

Peroxisomes & Chloroplasts; and a session to discuss the concept of a Canadian Molecular Biology Organization modelled on EMBO. In addition, 58 posters were presented in two separate poster sessions.

g) 18th IUBMB Birmingham Congress

The Society sent three delegates, Dr. Peter Lewis, Dr. Fred Palmer and Dr. Joel Weiner, to represent the Society at the General Assembly of 18th International Congress of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology which was held on July 16-20, in Birmingham England. Of the three nominations that our Society submitted through NRC for election to the IUBMB Executive Committee, two were successful. Dr. Peter Dolphin, Department of Biochemistry, Dalhousie University, was elected to the post of Treasurer for a six-year period, and Dr. Joel Weiner was elected to chair the IUBMB Nominating Committee. Dr. Michel Chretien's nomination to the position of President-Elect was not successful. The increase in IUBMB unit subscription levy to \$500, which is paid by NRC, was approved making Canada's annual contribution \$8000.

As our Society is hosting the 19th IUBMB Congress in Toronto in 2003, a number of presentations and activities took place at the Birmingham Congress. Dr. Peter Lewis, Chair of the Toronto LOC, made a presentation to the IUBMB Executive Committee on the status of the Toronto meeting. Dr. Joel Weiner, the President of the Toronto Congress, made two slide presentations, one to the General Assembly and one at the closing ceremony of the Congress. NRC publicized the Toronto meeting, having set up a booth in the Congress Exhibition area where various material was handed out. In addition the Toronto IUBMB Congress Organizing Committee, with the financial help of Tourism Toronto, held a reception in the Birmingham Council House for all national delegates, meeting organizers and Canadians attending the Congress. Dr. Palmer was invited to participate in the Congress's Young Scientist Travel Fellowship Symposium Programme which took place prior to the Birmingham Congress, as he will be organizing this programme in 2003 in Toronto.

h) Society Directory

Dr. Tustanoff suggested that since our Membership Directory is no longer current, the Board should consider issuing an electronic version. The

cost of printing and mailing a hard copy of the Directory, which is out-of-date as soon as it comes off the press, is excessively expensive. It should be possible to have Members update their Directory information directly on our Web page and keep it current. The Board was in agreement with this proposal and Dr. Sharom, along with Dr. Palmer, will look into this matter.

Other Reports

There were no reports.

New Business

No matters were brought up.

Change of Chair

Dr. Leon Browder assumed the Chair as President of the Society. Dr. Browder expressed both his and the Society's gratitude to Dr. Frances Sharom

for her unflinching devotion, leadership and timeless hours of hard work spent on behalf of the Society during her tenure as President.

Approval of Signing Officers for 2001-2002.

Dr. Davies moved that the President, Treasurer and Secretary be appointed the signing Officers for the Society for the period 2001-2002.

This motion was seconded by Dr. Waygood.
CARRIED

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned after the Chair received a motion from Dr. Baker which was seconded by Dr. Palmer.

CARRIED

IUBMB
XIX

International Congress of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
Congrès international de biochimie et de biologie moléculaire

Toronto, Canada July/juillet 20-24, 2003

Under the auspices of the International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology / Sous les auspices de l'Union internationale de biochimie et de biologie moléculaire (IUBMB)

Sponsored by: Canadian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular & Cellular Biology (CSBMCB), Pan-American Association for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (PABMB) and the National Research Council (NRC)
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