
Minutes of the 47th Canadian Society of Biochemistry, Molecular and Cellular Biology Annual General Meeting

Fairmont Hotel, Mont Tremblant, Quebec

Saturday, May 29, 2004, 5:30 pm

Chair: Dr. John Orłowski, President, CSBMCB

751. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as circulated on a motion from Dr. Andrews which was seconded by Dr. Tustanoff.

752. Approval of Minutes of the 45th AGM

Three corrections were noted. The word “only” was removed from line 2, paragraph 3 on page 3; “notice” was added after “short” on line 2, paragraph 4, page 3; “She” was replaced by “Dr. Andrews” on line 2, paragraph 3 on page 4 (paragraph on Membership Recruitment Strategies).

753. Business Arising from the Minutes

It was noted that any business arising from the minutes of the last AGM would be discussed under other agenda items.

754. President's Report

1. CSBMCB/HUPO/IUBMB 2003 Congress Update

One of the outstanding issues following last year's CSBMCB Annual General Meeting held jointly with the HUPO/IUBMB Congress in Montreal (Oct. 8-11, 2003) was the Society's obligation to repay the National Research Council (NRC) Conference Services the \$25,000 that they lent the Society in 2000 to cover the Society's contribution to the Toronto Congress. It was hoped initially that the Society would recoup this seed money from the profits generated from the Toronto IUBMB Congress. However, following the cancel-

lation of the Toronto congress because of the SARS outbreak and the large financial losses incurred by NRC, the NRC initially refused to transfer the \$25,000 that the Society originally subscribed to the IUBMB Toronto Congress to the HUPO/IUBMB organization in Montreal. In essence, the NRC wanted CSBMCB to repay the \$25,000 loan as a way of recovering some of their losses, while at the same time the HUPO/IUBMB organization was still expecting CSBMCB to contribute \$25,000 to the resuscitated Montreal Congress. This saddled the Society with an inequitable financial liability of \$50,000.

However, after extensive negotiations between NRC and the Society (thanks to the considerable efforts of Past-President David Andrews), this matter has been satisfactorily resolved in favour of the Society. NRC has agreed to transfer the \$25,000 commitment to HUPO. While the exact profits generated from the HUPO/IUBMB Congress have yet to be resolved, initial estimates project a recovery of ~80% of our original contribution (i.e., a \$5000 loss).

2. 47th AGM 2004 (Mont Tremblant, QC)

The enrolment for the 47th AGM has been very positive, with approximately 120 registrants. Several commercial booths were also sold. The scientific program consists of 27 speakers from across Canada, the United States and Europe, and 47 poster presentations.

Dr. Terry Hébert did an excellent job in organizing the program and in raising approximately \$65,000 from corporate and government sponsors; \$18,000

of which was available for student and postdoctoral travel awards. There were 23 students/postdocs who were eligible to receive an award, allowing the Society to raise the stipend for "local" individuals from \$375 to \$600, and for "distant" individuals from \$750 to \$1200. In addition, awards for best posters by graduate students were presented: 3 were sponsored by Roche Diagnostics and 2 were sponsored by CSBMCB (\$250 each).

Copies of the LINK Issue 2 were handed out as well as registration forms for new memberships. It is important to promote the Society, especially during the times of the poster sessions, and to this end members of the Society's Executive encouraged and cajoled students/postdocs and independent investigators to become members and get involved.

Dr. Orłowski also reminded everyone that Dr. Andrews was able to convince MBI Fermentas to underwrite the cost of a T-shirt Society promotion campaign. MBI Fermentas supplied 300 T shirts which have a Society design emblazoned on the front side of the shirt with Fermentas' logo on the back. Half of these were given to registered members present at the 2003 CSBMCB/HUPO/IUBMB Meeting, with the remainder distributed at the 2004 Mount Tremblant meeting.

During the final Banquet, presentations were made to Dr. Terry Hebert for his exceptional efforts in organizing the Mont Tremblant meeting. A gift and a plaque were presented to Dr. Tustanoff who retired as Secretary after 12 years of diligent service to the Society, and Dr. David Andrews who served as Vice-President, President and Past-President. Finally, a plaque was presented to Bruce Waygood who retired after serving 3 years as a councillor.

3. 48th AGM (2005 Banff)

Dr. Richard Wozniak (Department of Cell Biology, University of Alberta) will be serving as Chair of the organizing committee for the Society's 2005 annual scientific meeting in Banff, Alberta and has prepared a preliminary program. The meeting is entitled "Cellular Dynamics" and will be held at the Banff Conference Centre (Alberta) between March 16-20th. The scientific programme is com-

pleted with gender balanced speakers from Europe, United States and Canada. Efforts have been made to have representative speakers from the biotechnology industry on the programme to discuss the latest in scientific hardware and applications. The meeting will open Wednesday evening with a keynote address given by Nobel Laureate Dr. Gunter Blobel.

There will be seven sessions on: (1) Nuclear Structure; (2) Organelle Inheritance; (3) Imaging Technologies; (4) Protein Folding; (5) mRNA localization; (6) Organelles of the Secretory Pathway; (7) Systems Approaches to Cell Biology. To date, approximately 30 speakers have confirmed their attendance, with 5 pending.

The cost for single occupancy plus meals for 3 full days is \$608 plus registration charges: \$420 for members, \$500 for non-members and \$350 for students and postdoctoral fellows.

The maximum number of attendees will be limited to 225.

Dr. Wozniak has presented a preliminary budget with the Society contributing \$5,000 in seed money. To date, \$5000 has been collected from the University of Alberta Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry. Some letters have already been sent to potential corporate sponsors, with more to be sent shortly.

There will also be space for commercial booths at the meeting for which Dr. Wozniak suggested there would be a \$2,000 charge.

Posters will be prepared both in English and in French to advertise the meeting and these will be sent to all university and institutional departments of biochemistry, molecular biology, genetics and cell biology in Canada. In addition, registration forms, the preliminary scientific programme and meeting information will be prepared and sent to Mrs. Antonious at the CFBS office for posting on the Society's web page.

Negotiations were underway with the Canadian Genetic Society to "piggy back" our meeting with theirs so that there will be one day overlap between both meetings. For that day, a common

session will be planned to the mutual interest of both Societies.

Dr. Orłowski reported that the CFBS initiative to act as sponsors and meeting coordinators for various scientific organizations such as CSBMCB under the umbrella called "Northern Lights Conferences" seems to have drifted from its original intent. It now seems that the CFBS will simply be running their Annual Meeting under the title of "Northern Lights".

4. 49th AGM (2006)

To be held in Ontario. Topics are being solicited.

5. Joint Meetings with other Societies

On behalf of the Society, Dr. Mike Walsh (U. Calgary) is spearheading an effort to explore the possibility of having joint meetings with the British Biochemical Society.

6. Communication

Web Site: A significant effort has gone into increasing our visibility with our membership and the broader scientific community in Canada. At the forefront of this change was a major overhaul in the maintenance and management of the CSBMCB Web site. In the past, the Web site was managed largely in-house; however the upkeep of the site suffered due to the annual turnover of Board members responsible for this task. To create some stability, we have now taken advantage of new contractual services offered by CFBS (Ms. Wafaa Antonious) to maintain our Web site and perform book keeping services for the Society. The services include an Email List Server so that we can rapidly communicate with our membership, and the invoicing and processing of membership applications over the internet using a secure server. This new arrangement will also facilitate the management of registrations for our Annual Meetings. Our Web site contains notices of upcoming meetings and special events, as well as a poster board for employment opportunities! Ms. Antonious has also been extremely helpful in assisting our Treasurer Dr. Duronio in arranging a thorough audit of our finances with a registered chartered accountant. So far the service provided has been very satisfactory and the Board has agreed to con-

tinue with this arrangement. It was also decided to extend the lobbying contract with CFBS for another year.

The Link: Another initiative was the first publication of our Society's bilingual newsletter The Link which appeared in October (Issue1) and the second issue being released in time for this meeting. In order to keep the impetus rolling behind "the Link", Dr. Orłowski asked the Board and Society members to pitch in behind Caren and either submit or encourage articles for publication. Articles for the next Link should be submitted by June 30th. This is intended as a community newsletter, so your valued input regarding the content is most welcome! I encourage you to send in short news & views articles regarding research accomplishments of your colleagues, upcoming conferences of interest, or opinion pieces on science advocacy and policy in Canada. The plan is to publish on a quarterly basis. Accolades go to Dr. David Andrews who spearheaded this project from concept to design, and Dr. Caren Helbing who did a marvelous job of editing and producing the first issue (send articles to Caren at: chelbing@uvic.ca).

7. Membership Recruitment Strategies:

Dr. Penn has been very active in setting up and implementing new strategies in membership recruitment. The plan is to setup a series of regional CSBMCB volunteers from across the country to serve as representatives of the Society in terms of recruiting new members and distributing hard-copy materials sent out by the Society.

8. The CSBMCB Board

It was with some sadness and trepidation that we bid farewell to a long-standing Board member Dr. Eugene Tustanoff who has served diligently as Secretary for the past 12 years. Dr. Tustanoff has been an adept manager and an invaluable source of information about Society's affairs, and will be a hard act to follow. Also stepping down after 3 years of valued contributions is Dr. David Andrews, who served as Vice-President/President/Past-President, and Councillor Dr. Bruce Waygood. Thankfully, we have been able to recruit enthusiastic individuals to fill the void. Dr. Albert

Clark (Queen's U.) is joining us as Secretary and Dr. David Thomas (U. Alberta) was elected as Vice-President. Joe Casey will be assuming the position of President commencing July 1st. Also joining us as councillors are Dev Mangroo (U. Guelph) and Eric Brown (McMaster U.)

9. Advocacy and Lobbying

Lobbying the federal government for increased and stable funding is an ongoing priority of CSBMCB. While in past years we have been successful in accessing the decision makers in Ottawa, our efforts this year were stymied by the upheaval on the Hill as few politicians were in a listening mood while the Liberal leadership game was afoot followed by federal elections. After these events are resolved, we intend to pick up where we left off. The upcoming election will certainly be a good time to bring our issues to the forefront of the political debate. We are continuing to voice our concerns in a unified manner through our association with CFBS and through a new CFBS initiative called the **Leaders' Forum**.

During the past 4 months, Dr. Bruce Sells, CFBS Executive Director, has been part of the steering committee and the smaller working group charged with the responsibility of organizing the Forum. The purpose of the Leaders' Forum is to initiate dialogue that will lead to development of a comprehensive and integrated vision for health research in Canada. This vision will assist leaders in the health research community to identify a common direction for advocacy efforts and at the same time demonstrate whether or not we have the capacities, (e.g. Infrastructure, human capital), to achieve our vision. The Forum will also provide an opportunity to develop messages and advocacy strategies that are consistent with the evolving strategy and can be used immediately with the new federal government. It will also assist health research leaders in identifying common messages and strategies.

The Leaders' forum will also provide to the Government advice about the importance that the health community places on working collaboratively to develop solutions to the most pressing issues affecting the advancement of the national health research effort.

At the moment efforts are being made to (1) Establish the list of invitees from across Canada (2) identify a consultant to write a brief summarizing where we are currently and possible partnerships that are missing and (3) establishing a Program Framework. The forum is scheduled to take place in Ottawa for late September. It is expected that there will be a 100 invited participant from the research community."

To facilitate the formation of this initiative, the Society has contributed \$2000 dollars. Other Societies (CPS) have also contributed monetarily to create the Leaders Forum. An issue of utmost concern is the dire financial situation of the CIHR. We will continue to emphasize the necessity of more funding and greater flexibility in training programs for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows.

In closing, CSBMCB remains a vibrant organization that speaks on behalf of the biochemistry, molecular and cellular biological communities in Canada. We warmly welcome all ideas to make this organization a more effective voice for your interests!

It was moved by Dr. Tustanoff and seconded by Dr. Andrews that the President's Report be received.

CARRIED

755. Past President's Report

Dr. Andrew's report on HUPO was covered in discussion during the President's Report (Item 754). He reported briefly on the upcoming CFBS Northern Lights Conference in Vancouver.

756. Vice-President's Report

Dr. Casey began his report by thanking Dr. Orłowski for his term as President of CSBMCB.

Dr. Casey reported on his activities related to advocacy for the CSBMCB community. He sees it important that our voices be amplified and that we're "at the table" with other groups.

Dr. Casey requested that CSBMCB donate \$150 to Canadians for Health Research.

He discussed renewal of the relationship of CSBMCB with CFBS.

Receipt of Dr. Casey's report was moved by Dr. Duronio and seconded by Dr. Penn.

CARRIED

757. Treasurer's Report

Dr. Duronio began his report by asking that the work of the retiring Treasurer Dr. Fred Palmer be recognized in the minutes and that he be thanked for his contributions to CSBMCB.

A detailed written Financial Report was circulated by Dr. Duronio. This report included statements to December 31, 2003 and an Auditor's Report (a copy of this report will be filed with the minutes of this meeting).

758. Secretary's Report

Dr. Tustanoff noted Dr. Palmer's dedication to CSBMCB adding to the Societies' appreciation of Dr. Palmer's contributions to CSBMCB. Note: Dr. Tustanoff's contributions to the Society were recognized at the Conference Dinner.

759. Councillors' Reports

Dr. Penn led discussion on activities to recruit new members for the Society. These included getting representatives at each of the institutions. Communications should be both via email and paper copy. There is a need to update the "Join Us" pamphlet. We must all work to make people constantly aware of the Society.

There will be drives to recruit faculty during June and students and post-doctoral fellows during September.

Receipt of Dr. Penn's report was moved by Dr. Penn and seconded by Dr. Casey.

CARRIED

760. New Business

I. Number of signatures required for nomination to the Board of Directors. It was moved by Dr. Casey, seconded by Dr. Andrews that the Constitution be amended to reduce to one the number of member's signatures required to nominate a person to the Board of Directors. Carried.

II. Bulletin 2003 and onwards.
No report available.

III. Web Site renovations. There was a brief discussion on the Web Site (also covered in President's report). The estimate for Steve Law to further develop it was \$3000. This would include a pass-word system.

IV. AGM for 2006
(See President's report)

V. PABMB – There had been no response from CSBMCB member Dr. Duckworth who had been asked at the last AGM to contact PABMB to ascertain the vitality of their organization. However, in the interim, a letter was received from Juan José Cazzulo, Chairman, PABMB (included with the Agenda) describing various steps being implemented by their Society to improve the management and effectiveness of their organization. After some discussion, it was felt that PABMB had made sufficient strides in the last several months to improve the operation of their Society. It was moved by Dr. Andrews and seconded by Dr. Casey that CSBMCB continue to maintain its relationship and membership with PABMB

CARRIED

761. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 19:00 p.m. on a motion from Dr. Andrews which was seconded by Dr. Casey.

CARRIED