



**The Canadian Society of  
Biochemistry, Molecular  
& Cellular Biology**

**La Société Canadienne de  
Biochimie, et de Biologie  
Moléculaire & Cellulaire**

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Canadian Society of Biochemistry, Molecular and Cellular Biology  
53<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting  
4:00 – 5:00 PM, Saturday, April 17, 2010  
MB Auditorium  
Banff Conference Centre  
Banff, Alberta  
**AGENDA**

1. Greetings from the President (David Williams)
2. Approval of agenda
3. Approval of the minutes of 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting in Niagara-on-the-Lake, June 2009
4. Business arising from the minutes
5. Advocacy – Deborah Gordon from Research Canada will address the members
6. Merger of Genetics Society of Canada with CSBMCB
7. Current and future meetings
8. Membership (Linda Penn)
9. Treasurer's Report (Vincent Duronio)
10. Board for 2010-2011
11. Introduction of Wafaa Antonious as new CSBMCB Administrator
12. Other business

## Minutes of the 53<sup>rd</sup> CSBMCB Annual General Meeting

### **Attendees:**

Linda Penn, David Andrews, John Orłowski, Jim Davie, James Coulton, Moira Glerum, Joel Weiner, Hans Vogel, Janet Wood, Christian Baron, Joe Casey, Sampath Loganathan, Tushare Jinadasa, Trevor Moraes, Jonathan Lytton, Susan Cole, Joe O'Neil, Jan Rainey, Nicole Nivillac, Laura Frost, Jean Pierre Perrault, Randy Johnston, Vince Duronio, Deborah Gordon, David Williams, Nicolas Touret, Reinhart Reithmeier, Emil Pai, Chris Cheesman, Michel Chretien, Wafaa Antonious

### **1. Greetings from the President -David Williams**

David Williams welcomed the attendees, acknowledged the efforts of Joe Casey in organizing the 2010 CSBMCB Banff meeting which was well attended. He acknowledged the role and efforts of the outgoing members of the Executive and welcomed the incoming members of the Executive of the CSBMCB.

### **2. Approval of the Agenda**

John Orłowski made a motion to approve the agenda of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting of the CSBMCB, motion seconded by David Andrews, all in favour, agenda approved.

### **3. Approval of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting Minutes, Niagara on the Lakes, June 2009**

Linda Penn put a motion forward to approve the minutes of the 52<sup>nd</sup> AGM, motion seconded by Laura Frost, all in favour, motion approved.

### **4. Business Arising from the Minutes**

David Williams stated that business arising will be incorporated in the items as they come along.

### **5. Advocacy – Deborah Gordon, President and CEO of Research Canada, addressing the membership**

David Williams invited Deborah Gordon from Research Canada to present to the CSBMCB members the advocacy activities undertaken by Research Canada and its partners.

### **Presentation of Deborah Gordon**

Ms. Gordon presented the mission of Research Canada (RC), philosophy and membership. She reported that membership has increased by 50 new members to over 80 Research Canada members in total. The membership is a broad based alliance which delivers a very high level of partnership and reaches out to other international health organizations. RC is acutely aware that health researchers are really challenged by the dwindling financial support for research. Granting councils have been awarded an

additional \$30M, but this does not cover inflationary costs. Research Canada is having a meeting with the federal government (esp. Industry Canada) to include academia in the comprehensive review of R & D spending.

Educating members of parliament: RC created a Health Research Caucus with representatives who will be ambassadors among legislators to educate them about the importance of health research. The Health Research Caucus has a new chair, Senator Wilbert Keon, and it held 4 events.

RC also organized 15 MP visits to members' institutions in 2008 & 2009. Ms. Gordon encouraged the CSBMCB membership to communicate with their members of parliament and invite them to visit their institution. RC conducted several public opinion polls. The polls indicate that Canadians are aware of the importance of health research. Canadians want to see more information about science and health in the media. Nearly nine out of ten Canadians report behavioural changes as a direct result of the media reports on health research. Scientists and the media need to improve their perceived utility.

The R7 Partnership consists of 7 National health organization: ACAHO, AFMC, BIOTECanda, HCCC, MEDEC, RX&D and RC. This partnership began in Fall 2008. In 2008 they submitted a "Stimulus Brief: Budget 2009". They invested in and conducted the "Canadians Go for Gold" poll.

An Action Plan on Health Research is being reviewed and developed, and a 5 year strategic plan will be developed in partnership with stakeholders at federal and provincial levels.

The main points of the Brief to the Finance Committee 2009:

Recommendation # 1: That the federal government increase base funding to the three granting councils and that over the next five years the base funding to CIHR become equivalent to 1 percent of total health spending in Canada.

Recommendation # 2: The establishment of a national task force including representatives from the academic, private and voluntary sectors to examine the feasibility of developing a robust research strategy that would inform and direct future policy regarding health research and health innovation in Canada.

*Discussion points:*

In response to questions, Ms. Gordon noted that government has two lists, a "must have" list and a "nice to have" list; research is on the nice to have list and is easily cut (or not increased) during times of fiscal stress.

Ms. Gordon also noted that RC is working with AUCC and different organizations in bringing them around the table with the federal government.

Ms. Gray encouraged the membership to meet with MPs inviting them to visit research institutions and educate them about research. A member noted a recent science policy conference and an initiative that organizes the Bacon and Eggheads meeting at parliament, which will enlist some grad students to find evidence to support return on investment in research.

Ms. Gray also noted that RC coordinates with CIHR and other funding agencies, but of course CIHR has to be careful since they are considered civil servants and RC is an advocacy organization. Much influence is achieved through who is giving the message as well, and sometimes the personal touch is crucial. RC always engages the media and individuals with that kind of expertise. There is no harm in organizing events to show the benefits of research.

#### **6. Merger with GSC - Attached**

David Williams summarised the merger proposal. GSC will bring resources in the amount of \$60,000. Also there should be an increase in general revenue through the increase in membership and also from the attendance of former GSC members at our meetings.

David moved the approval of the GSC-CSBMCB merger, seconded by John Orłowski, all in favour, no abstentions, motion approved.

#### **7. Current and Future Meetings**

Reinhart Reithmeyer reported that the CSBMCB has run successful meetings with more anticipated: 2011 will be in Mont Orford, Quebec, with the topic being RNA. The meeting in 2012 will be organized in Whistler, March 14 – 18, 2012, the topic being Epigenetics and Genome Stability. 2013 will be in Ontario. The topic has not been decided, but there was a suggestion for a Meeting on “Cellular Dynamics, Polarity and Cytoskeleton. 2014 might be back in Banff and focused on membrane proteins. 2015 will perhaps be in Halifax, NS and the topic might have a lipid focus. The current Banff meeting has been very successful.

#### **8. Membership – Linda Penn**

The society has seen an incredible revitalization. New members are coming on board. The CSBMCB Executive have been approaching members and non members to become representatives and approach others to join the society.

#### **9. Treasurer’s report – Vincent Duronio**

The finances of the Society are in a good state. The good financial position is due to a fund that started from the IUBMB meeting about 20 years ago. The fund is managed by BMO Nesbitt Burns and we kept 25% of the fund in cash. We have been able to run the operations of the society from the cash fund that is replenished by membership fees and annual conference net profit. We did not have to withdraw from the cash portion of the investment. The PENCE fund has been accounted for separately on our books. In terms of expenses, we paid the 2<sup>nd</sup> instalment for our new website: we spent over \$32,000 in total on the new website and paid \$5,000 in support of the Canadian Science Policy

Conference. We have received an additional \$18,000 from the PENCE royalty. We have lost the support of Merck Frosst and Roche Scientific for our annual awards. Despite losing their support the Society was able to support the awards on its own. The new website has had a positive impact on membership. The number of members who paid in 2008 was around 220; at the end of 2009 the membership increased to 330 paid members. In 2009, we had 34 new members, 270 renewing members and the rest are members who pay for 5 years. We have a fairly sizable membership when we count the students and post docs.

It was suggested in the board meeting that the secretary of the society be a signing authority on the books of the CSBMCB. Motion that the secretary of the CSBMCB be a co-signing authority, seconded by Joe Casey, all in favour, motion approved.

**10. Nominations and Election of board members for 2010 – 2011 – Laura Frost**

Laura Frost thanked David Williams for being an effective president and his hard work on the CSBMCB website. She thanked Albert Clark for being the society secretary for 7 years. She also thanked Reinhart for all his efforts. She thanked Vincent for doing a great job with the investment. She also thanked all the members who still sit on the board. Thanks also to John Glover who became the Bulletin editor and Jim Davie for his work on the CSBMCB Journal with the NRC Research Press. She also thanked Linda Penn for her efforts to increase the membership of the society and John Orłowski for staying on the CSBMCB board and his past services to the society.

She then made a motion to approve the nomination of Randy Johnston as Society Secretary and Jean Pierre Perrault as CSBMCB President.

Jean Pierre Perrault seconded the motion, all in favour, approved.

**11. Introduction of Wafaa Antonious as new CSBMCB Administrator – David Williams**

David thanked Wafaa for the work she has done in the short time she took over as the CSBMCB secretariat.

**12. Other Business**

No other business arose from the meeting.

**13. Adjournment**

David Andrews made a motion to adjourn, seconded by John Orłowski. Meeting adjourned.