

GENETICS SOCIETY OF CANADA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Saturday, June 7, 12:00 PM
EMSP Lecture Room, New Academic Building

Hugh Brock welcomed members to the meeting. In attendance: Barbara Spyropolous, Ross Hodgetts, Tom Grigliatti, John Bell, Shelagh Campbell, Vett Lloyd, Arthur Hilliker, Rama Singh, Joanne Hinks, Ellen Larson, Gillian Wu, Linda Bonen, Denise Clark, Derrick Rancourt, Carolyn Brown, Hugh Brock.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

Barbara Spyropolous moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Shelagh Campbell. Passed.

2. APPROVAL OF AGM MINUTES of 2002 as published in the Bulletin.

Moved by John Bell, seconded by Tom Grigliatti. Passed

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Hugh Brock).

3.1. Renaming of awards. The young scientist award is now named the Robert Haynes Young Scientist award. Hugh proposed that the Award of Excellence could be named after Bill Grant. and solicited other suggestions for names from the floor: Peter Moens was proposed by Art Hilliker. Moens was noted for his service as Journal editor, president of society, and continuing active, excellent! research. Bill Grant served as not only editor, but also did substantial additional work. He too was president, and continues as archivist. A further suggestion was to name it the Grant-Moens award.

Art Hilliker moved to name the Award of Excellence the Grant-Moens Award of Excellence. Seconded by Ross Hodgetts, carried unanimously. Hugh Brock will contact the individuals for their permission to so rename the award.

A second suggestion was to rename the PhD Thesis award after either Margaret Thompson or Lou Siminovitch. Strong support was presented for Dr. Thompson as a mentor, and no additional names were raised.

Barbara Spyropolous moved to rename the award to the Margaret Thompson PhD Thesis Award. Virginia Walker seconded. Motion carried. The new president, Virginia Walker will contact Dr. Thompson to obtain permission for this renaming of the award.

3.2 There is a deficit of ~ \$ 6 000 per year over the past few years (see Treasurer's report, below). One large expense that might be reduced is printing and mailing of the bulletin which could be reduced by electronic publication. One issue must be printed for the meeting, and therefore electronic publication would likely only save ~ 1/2 of the ~ \$5 000 annual cost. Some copies would need to be printed for libraries, and although current costs are not supposed to rise for lower numbers of copies, in the future they might. Options discussed included only offering an electronic version, having people pay for a printed version, asking people to check a box if they wanted a print version, asking for donations for the print version, soliciting advertising for the bulletin, or soliciting corporate sponsorship of the bulletin. While many societies are going to electronic publication, there was considerable support for the hardcopy providing a visibility for the society, and being more easily read and shared than an electronic version. It was noted that the Bulletin filled a unique niche in focussing upon Canadian research in genetics.

Barbara Spyropolous moved that a volunteer explore advertising, and in the meantime a 'tick box' be added to the yearly membership to specifically request a print version, and a separate

donation sheet would be added to facilitate tax-deductible donations to the Society. Seconded by Art Hilliker. Motion carried.

Art Hilliker volunteered to explore the options of advertising and sponsorship for both the Bulletin, and the GSC website (as apparently other societies are receiving substantial donations for advertising on their websites).

3.3 Art Hilliker presented opinions on NSERC reallocation exercise. These will be published separately in the Bulletin. While the concept of reallocation is reasonable, the approach seems flawed, and contrary to the basic goal of the Discovery Grants. The general trend has been to reallocate away from Life Sciences towards engineering, physics and chemistry. The NSERC is accepting the process directly, without overseeing, and thus the real location panel has extreme power, and seemed to be dominated by applied sciences. In particular Genetics and Cell Biology is such a rapidly changing field that generating proposals seems unfeasible, especially with a 10 page limit. As the next reallocation event is 5 years from now, there is time for input into the process. Virginia Walker will use the draft provided by Art Hilliker to create a submission from the GSC to NSERC.

3.4. & 3.5 Two proposals that will require constitutional changes.

3.4 It was proposed to change the term of president to 2 years from the current 1 year term as there is a substantial learning curve. While this was generally considered to be a good idea, there was discussion as to how to accommodate the Vice-president position (1 year versus 2 year term), and past-president position (1 year versus 2 years, or alternately eliminate the position). Consensus was that 6 years is too long a term, and that the position of past-president could be filled by any past-president. The new president, Virginia Walker will pursue this option according to the constitution of the society.

3.5 It was further proposed to pursue the option of changing the current composition of 3 Eastern and 3 Western director positions to have directors who are representatives of interest groups (examples including human, yeast, fly, worm, evolution, development, bioinformatics). This is seen as a way to better represent the current membership and perhaps attract new members. It was noted that the society needs to change, however, complexities of defining such subgroups and electing them with rotation will need to be addressed. This will likely require changes to the constitution concerning nominations which currently require 2 candidates. Again, the new president will pursue the option.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT (John Bell, Treasurer).

John Bell presented his treasurer's report. The balance is healthy, although each year is currently running a deficit. Income is predominantly from membership, and thus increasing membership should remain a priority. Expenses are operating costs, and see point 3.2 concerning bulletin costs. It was noted that other societies did not have as high business costs, and Hugh will explore the option of CFBS providing business management.

Tom Grigliatti moved to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded by Ellen Larson and passed unanimously. The auditors reported no concerns with the annual statement.

5. ANNUAL DUES.

Due to inexperience of the finance committee, fees listed this year were \$2 higher than those approved at last year's meeting. Tom Grigliatti moved to raise the fees this \$2 to keep the paperwork consistent. Seconded by Barbara Spyropolous, carried.

NEW FEES

Regular	45
Joint	55
Student	10

Art Hilliker volunteered to renegotiate with CFBS as they have changed the nature of their organization since the GSC made their last agreement.

6. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS.

Thanks were extended to this years auditors: Virginia Walker and Art Hilliker.

Volunteers for next years Auditors:

Ross Hodgetts & Art Hilliker

7. CFBS REPORT.

The 2004 CFBS 47th Annual Meeting will be held in Vancouver. Major themes are Cancer Cell Biology and Topics in Genetics and they are looking for a local organizing committee, but are unwilling to share profits from the meeting with our society.

In the past we have had a CFBS representative, and Linda Bonen volunteered to do this for the upcoming year.

8. GENOME REPORT (Peter Moens)

This is published in the Bulletin.

9. ELECTION REPORT (Secretary, Carolyn Brown)

Thanks were extended to the nominating committee for continuing to identify excellent slates of candidates, and to all candidates for their willingness to serve the society. Two new directors – Susan Varmuza for the East & Shelagh Campbell for the west, and a new Vice-President, Rama Singh were elected. The students elected a new representative, Joanne Hinks.

Barbara Spyropolous moved to destroy the ballots, Seconded by Tom Grigliatti and passed.

10. MEETING REPORT.

Denise Clark reported that there were 98 registered attendees at the Halifax meeting. The budget is in good shape, with perhaps \$2,000 revenue. The budget (\$22,000) has been handed on to Ellen Larson in preparation for next years meeting (see point 11). The local organizing committee has done a superb job, and included: Denise Clark (chair), Bob Lee, Vett Lloyd, Edna Stables, and Om Rajora.

11. FUTURE MEETINGS.

Next years meeting will be June 17th to 20th in Toronto. Ellen Larson is still recruiting her local organizing committee. They would hope to be able to generate profits, but significantly would like to attract new members for the society, and therefore welcome suggestions for the meeting (scientific program or otherwise). Virginia Walker has suggested a mammalian genetics symposium in honour of Dr. Margaret Thompson.

Hugh Brock has explored a joint meeting with CSBMCB (Canadian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Cell Biology) as originally suggested by Shiva Singh and Virginia Walker. This would be held March 16-20, 2005 and follow the CSBMCB model of a small stellar meeting.

The Banff Center can accommodate a joint meeting, with an auditoria maximum of ~300. The consensus was that Hugh should continue to explore this option.

12. STUDENT AWARDS.

Thanks were extended to the judges Denise Clark, Derrick Rancourt, Kabwe Nkongolo and Shelagh Campbell. The student poster award will be presented at the banquet, but the student talks are scheduled for Sunday morning, and thus will be presented at Sunday lunch.

12A. STUDENT REPORT.

Janel Dickin, the student representative was unable to attend the meeting.

13. NEW BUSINESS.

Vett Lloyd looked into establishing a directory of Genetic Training Programs in Canada, and discovered the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada has a very good page which will be made a link by Brian Golding (<http://ouaweb.aucc.ca/showdev.html>).

CHANGE OF OFFICERS. The GSC gavel was passed from Hugh Brock to the new president, Virginia Walker. Retiring members Derrick Rancourt and Kabwe Nkongolo were thanked for their efforts over the past 3 years.

14. ADJOURNMENT.

Barbara Spyropolous moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Ellen Larson and passed unanimously.