

Conference report

Preliminary report from the Toronto meeting of the International Glycoconjugate Organization

The biennial meeting of the International Glycoconjugate Organization (IGO) was held at the Sheraton Centre, Toronto, Canada on Sunday, June 30, 1991. The following members of the IGO and other observers were present at the meeting.

President: N. Sharon (Israel)

Past Presidents: E. A. Davidson (USA), J. Montreuil (France), R. Schauer (Germany)

National Representatives: M. C. Glick (USA), R. C. Hughes (UK), A. Kobata (Japan), J. Koscielak (Poland), W. Reutter (Germany), H. Schachter (Canada), J. F. G. Vliegthart (The Netherlands)

Observers: J. P. Carver (co-chairman of Glyco XI), K.-A. Karlsson (representing Sweden), J. Roth (representing Switzerland), S. Sonnino (representing Italy)

The following members were unable to attend the meeting: J. A. Cabezas (Spain), A. B. Foster (UK), J. Järnefelt (Finland), R. W. Jeanloz (USA), U. Lindahl (Sweden), B. Lindberg (Sweden), M. Monsigny (France), G. Tettamanti (Italy), T. Yamakawa (Japan), M. A. Chester (Sweden, Secretary of IGO).

Previous minutes

The minutes from the 1989 Jerusalem meeting had been circulated to the committee at the end of 1989. These were approved.

New members of IGO

The question of bringing in new members was again discussed and the general opinion was that a country needed a 'critical mass' before being invited to send a representative.

Report on the organization of the Toronto Symposium

H. Schachter reported that there were about 800 delegates attending the XIth Symposium. There were about 100

late registrants. At the time of the deadline (May 1, 1991) less than 500 people had registered.

Report on the organization of the 1993 Symposium

J. Koscielak announced his plans for the 1993 Symposium to be held in Cracow, Poland. Cracow has its own airport and is three hours by train from Warsaw.

Venue for the 1995 Symposium

Dr J. Paulson has offered to organize the International Symposium in Asilomar, California, in 1995. The IGO thanked Dr Paulson and accepted his offer, subject to the endorsement of the Executive Committee of the Society for Complex Carbohydrates (SCC). Later in the week, Dr Paulson agreed to organize the 1995 Symposium and this was accepted by the SCC. Dr Frederic Troy offered the Davis, California campus as a back-up in case Asilomar is not available.

Preliminary discussions regarding future Symposia

Switzerland and Japan are early contenders for the 1997 and 1999 Symposia, with The Netherlands showing an interest in organizing the meeting in 2001.

Miscellaneous

The Symposia receive welcome financial support from the International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (IUBMB, formerly IUB). J. F. G. Vliegthart reported that there were increasing demands by other interested groups on scarce IUBMB funds. The competition for funds is continually hardening and therefore challenging programmes and active and stimulating participation are needed.

The next meeting of the IGO will take place during the 1993 International Glycoconjugate Symposium in Cracow, Poland.

New President

At the end of the meeting N. Sharon became Past-President, H. Schachter became President and J Koscielak President-elect of the IGO.