

## MEETING REPORT

# Minutes of the International Glycoconjugate Executive Committee

*President (1995–1997):* M.C. Glick

*Secretary:* M.A. Chester

*Seattle, WA, USA, 22 August 1995*

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*The following members of the IGO and other observers were present at the meeting:*

*President (1993–95):* J. Koscielak (Poland).

*Past Presidents:* E.A. Davidson (USA), R.W. Jeanloz (USA), B. Lindberg (Sweden), H. Schachter (Canada), R. Schauer (Germany), N. Sharon (Israel).

*National Representatives:* P. Gleeson (Australia), M.C. Glick (USA), R.C. Hughes (UK), J.C. Jamieson (Canada), A. Kobata (Japan), U. Lindahl (Sweden), M. Monsigny (France), W. Reutter (Germany), J. Roth (Switzerland), G. Tettamanti (Italy), J.F.G. Vliegthart (The Netherlands).

*Observer:* S. Hakomori (USA)

*Secretary:* M.A. Chester (Sweden)

### Presidential remarks

Koscielak welcomed new members of IGO (Gleeson, Roth).

He also reported on the “Foundation for Glycobiology (Poland)”. This foundation administers the profit from the Kraków symposium. A small symposium had been organised in Poland. An initial loan had been made to S. Hakomori to cover some early costs incurred during the organisation of the Seattle symposium. This loan has now been repaid. Sharon proposed that any surplus money from a symposium should, if possible, be held and could be available as a loan to the organiser of the following symposium in order to cover initial organising expenditure (seconded by Jamieson and carried unanimously). The final budget of GLYCO XIII will be circulated to IGO members in due course.

### The future of the IGO

The structure and aims of IGO were discussed. Whilst there was no inclination to expand the scope of the IGO, it was indicated that §3(a) of the constitution<sup>1</sup> should be followed and advertised. It was proposed (Hughes, Davidson. Carried unanimously) that this would be published in Glycoconjugate Journal.

The IGO has indicated that a National Representative for China would be acceptable. This is under discussion with Prof. Huili Chen, Shanghai (Chairman, Glycoconjugate Research Group, Chinese Biochemical Society). Kobata and Chester will invite the Chinese Biochemical Society, through Prof. Chen, to make a nomination.

The IGO should not actively seek new members, but representatives of any country may approach the IGO, and subject to ratification may then appoint a representative. When a country's representative becomes Past-President, a new National Representative may be nominated. The initiative should not be taken by IGO.

### Report on the organisation of the Seattle Symposium

Koscielak thanked S. Hakomori (Chairman of the Organising committee) and Glick (President-Elect) for their efforts in organising GLYCO XIII.

Hakomori said that about 900 scientists had registered

<sup>1</sup>IGO CONSTITUTION §3(a) National Representatives

Each country having centres of activity in glycoconjugate (bio)chemistry may, after ratification by the International Glycoconjugate Organization, appoint one National Representative. Such a representative must be officially elected or designated by a responsible national (bio)chemical organisation of that country. Members who retire from active scientific work shall not be eligible to continue service as National Representatives.

for the symposium, of which about 100 were late registrants. This could result in a cash surplus.

He was pleased that all invited lecturers and chairmen were willing to attend the symposium.

### **Report on the organisation of the 1997 Symposium in Switzerland**

Roth had little to add to the information presented in Kraków. All participants in Seattle had received a first circular for GLYCO XIV in Zürich. The preliminary dates for the symposium given in Kraków have been changed. The symposium will now take place on September 7–13, 1997 for the following reasons:

- 1) the terms of the University have been changed;
- 2) the International Congress of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology will take place at the end of August 1997 in San Francisco; and
- 3) Prices are lower in September.

As mentioned previously the Symposium will take place at the University's new facilities in Zürich. Accommodation has already been reserved at all levels.

Schachter questioned the availability of a sufficiently large auditorium (Two rooms seating 600 were available. The main room in Seattle seated 800 but there were 900 registrants). Roth indicated that if necessary a large screen TV could be used in a second room.

Roth indicated that all participants in Zürich will have the possibility to receive the list of participants on floppy disk for a fee.

Koscielak mentioned he was proposing to organise a glycolipid satellite symposium immediately before GLYCO XIV.

### **Venue for the 1999 Symposium**

The suggestion made in Kraków was Japan. Kobata was willing to organise GLYCO XV if it was the wish of the IGO. This was confirmed. September was suggested by some IGO members as being a suitable time, although it

was pointed out that the Eurocarb meeting in Ireland was planned for the first week of September, 1999. Jeanloz commented that Eurocarb was created for those scientists *not* attending the International Symposia on Glycoconjugates. Davidson suggested that Kobata should choose the best date from the Japanese point of view, regardless of Eurocarb.

### **Preliminary discussion regarding future Symposia**

2001; The Netherlands/Germany. It was confirmed that a joint symposium was planned.

2003; Hughes indicated that A. Surolia would be interested in organising the Symposium in India, probably in Bangalore. Sharon mentioned that Italy had previously been mentioned as a venue. Tettamanti was still willing to explore the possibility. Hughes opposed organising two successive meetings in Europe and suggested India could precede Italy. Monsigny suggested Italy in 2005, preceded by either Australia or India in 2003. The discussion regarding India is rather premature as India currently has no IGO representative.

No consensus was reached for 2003/2005 and the matter was deferred until the next meeting.

### **Official journal/publication of abstracts**

The proofs of the abstract book must be checked carefully. Roth/Schachter will arrange this for GLYCO XIV.

Vliegthart proposed that the complete author index should be published as soon as possible in Glycoconjugate Journal. Schachter agreed (carried unanimously).<sup>2</sup>

### **Support from IUBMB**

Vliegthart reported that the symposium organiser applies to him for funds. He then passes the application on to IUBMB who then accept the application. S. Hakomori requested \$6000 and was given \$5000.

The meeting was then adjourned.

<sup>2</sup>The complete author index was published in vol. 12, issue 6 of Glycoconjugate Journal.