



International Regulatory Peptide Society (IRPS)

General Assembly Minutes: #001

Time: 11:00 – 12:15, September 25th, 2018

Venue: Atlantes Amphitheater, Princess Hotel

Congress: RegPep2018, Acapulco Diamante, Mexico

Presided by

RegPep2018's Co-Chairs: Dr. Lee Eiden and Dr. Limei Zhang

IRPS Acting Chair: Dr. David Vaudry

Attended by

More than 50% of RegPep2018 delegates were presented - room with 75% occupancy, through there were frequent entries and exits

[Resolution reached by 2018 IRPS General Assembly:](#)

The general membership of the International Regulatory Peptide Society (IRPS) will elect democratically a new IRPS Steering Committee that will be in charge of establishing the IRPS formally as a not-for-profit, rule-governed society.

Approved unanimously by straw poll on Sep. 25th, 2019, and endorsed via internet voting (68.3% of RegPep2018 delegates voted and 92.1% endorsed) and certificated by the Secretary General of the School of Medicine, UNAM, Oct. 18th, 2018

1. Agenda

1.1 Dr. Lee Eiden's presentation about general status of IRPS, its Statutes and introduction to the following 2 presentations.

1.2 Dr. Limei Zhang's presentation on behalf of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) on RegPep2018

1.3 Dr. David Vaudry's presentation as the Acting Chair of the Steering Committee of the IRPS

1.4 General issues and votes in case the General Assembly considers appropriate.

2. Presentation and speech of Dr. Lee Eiden, Chair of RegPep2018

Lee Eiden, as Chair of RegPep2018, described for those present the Statutes of the IRPS relevant to the General Assembly meeting, most especially i) that all registrants for RegPep2018 were, by their registration, members of the IRPS with membership in force until the 23rd RegPep meeting and extendable by registration for that meeting and ii) that the main mission of the IRPS was to continue the RegPep international symposia; that this mission was primarily the responsibility of the IRPS Steering Committee; and that new members of the Steering Committee can be nominated from amongst the membership-at-large of the IRPS, and would become members of the Steering Committee by vote of the general membership. Dr. Eiden encouraged all the RegPep2018 delegates presented in the General Assembly to read carefully the current Statutes of the Society and in particular, he cited the following articles through projecting them as slides:

Article II: Aims

"The International Regulatory Peptide Society" is a non-profit making organisation with the following aims: to promote scientific meetings devoted to all aspects of basic and clinical research on regulatory peptides; to establish Viktor Mutt lectureship and award and eventually other awards; to distribute scholarships and promote postgraduate education; to establish contacts and links with other organizations and institutions sharing close goals; to disseminate information about "The International Regulatory Peptide Society" activities; to collect funds in order to fulfil its scientific and social purposes.

Article V: Membership

Membership of the association is open to any person holding a PhD and/or MD graduated having an interest in regulatory peptides and related scientific subjects. Members will pay a contribution, the amount of which is proposed by the Steering Committee and approved by the general assembly. Participants to the biennial scientific meeting, "The International Symposium on Regulatory Peptides" will pay their contribution through a registration fee to the symposium. Any member may withdraw from the association at any time. The membership terminates automatically in the case of nonpayment of the contribution.

Article VII: Responsibilities of the Steering Committee

The governing body of the association is the Steering Committee. It is composed of 9-12 members approved by the general assembly. The Steering Committee has members of different nationalities and of different scientific fields to represent the international vocation of the association. Each member will serve a term of 6 years which may in exception be renewed for one additional period. In the event of an unexpected vacancy, the

Steering Committee will nominate a substitute but this substitution will require ratification by the General Assembly. The Steering Committee elects a President (chairman) and a Treasurer. The President chairs meetings of the Steering Committee. His responsible for writing minutes of Steering Committee and General Assembly meetings and any business report related to the activities of the association except financial reports. In the event of his absence, the President may nominate any Steering Committee member as his deputy, inheriting the same authority as he. The Treasurer is entrusted with the funds of the association, their collection, their safe keeping, and disbursement according to decisions of the Steering Committee.

Dr. Eiden finished his speech introducing Dr. Limei Zhang and Dr. David Vaudry to present the reports and current status of RegPep2018 and IRPS respectively.

3. Presentation of Dr. Limei Zhang, president of LOC and Co-Chair of RegPep2018

Dr. Zhang presented a rather detailed report of the RegPep2018 organization and the meeting general aspects, on behalf of the Local Organizer Committee and RegPep2018 Secretariat which included the financial report; the global aspects of RegPep2018. She also pointed out some challenges/problems encountered during the meeting organization. In particular, she explained the relationship between the meeting organizers and the current Steering Committee of the IRPS, the relationship between the meeting organizers and the hosting institution legal systems and administrative regulations. She finished her speech by presenting to the General Assembly one primary proposal and 2 secondary proposals. Her projected slides during the General Assembly are the following:

1st:

22nd International Symposium on Regulatory Peptides
Acapulco Diamante, September 22–25, 2018

RegPep2018

Biennial
Meeting

RegPep2018 organizing report submitted to General Assembly
of RegPep2018

Limei Zhang

*on behalf of Limei Zhang and Lee Eiden
President of LOC /Co-Chair and Chair of RegPep2018*

*on behalf of
Local Organizing Committee (LOC)*



Facultad de Medicina



2nd:

Local Organizing Committee (LOC)

*Limei Zhang (President of LOC, FM-UNAM)
Lee E. Eiden (Chair of RegPep2018, NIMH-IRP/NIH)
German Fajardo (Hon. Chair and Dean of FM, UNAM)*

*Raúl Aguilar Roblero (Institute of Cell Physiology, UNAM)
Gabriela Cesarman (National Institute of Cancerology)
Irene Durante (General Secretary of FM-UNAM)
Vito Salvador Hernández (FM, UNAM)
Diana Guizar (FM, UNAM)*

&

Luis Arturo Gonzalez Nava (Chief Administrative Officer, FM-UNAM)
Sergio Luis Gutierrez Mancilla (Chief Legal Officer, FM-UNAM)
Carlos Gonzalez (Administrator of Physiology Department, FM-UNAM)
Andrés Molina Torres-Arpi (Logistics Officer, LOC)

RegPep2018 Secretariat

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3rd:

Global aspects of RegPep2018

- *24 concurrent symposia*
- *Peptide Pioneers Roundtable*
- *Meet Editors-in-chief of 4 major journals luncheon*
 - *Poster competition and awardee Datablitz*
- *Attended by 220 registrants, scientists, scholars, medical doctors and students around the Globe.*
- *124 invited speakers from 22 countries of 6 continents*
 - *60 housing fellowships awarded*

4th:

Financial report

RegPep2018 Financial Status						Date	3/Oct/2018
(In Review)						Compiled by	Andres Molina
ACCOUNTS WITH THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF MEXICO (UNAM) AND NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (CONACYT)							
Concept	Income (MXN)	Income (USD)	Expenditure (MXN)	Expenditure (USD)	Running Total (MXN)	Contractual Exchange rate with Hotel USD->MXN	
Income							19.0761
Registrations		\$63,200.00		\$3,167.17	\$1,145,192.27		
CONACYT	\$300,000.00				\$1,445,192.27	EUR to USD	
General Secretary, Rector, UNAM	\$150,000.00				\$1,595,192.27	1.15	
General Secretary, Rector, UNAM	\$100,000.00				\$1,695,192.27		
UNAM Scientific Investigation Coordination	\$100,000.00				\$1,795,192.27		
School of Medicine	\$100,000.00				\$1,895,192.27	GBP to USD	
Inst. Fisiologia Celular	\$20,000.00				\$1,915,192.27	1.3	
Mexican Academy of Science (AMC) (paid directly to the hotel)	\$38,152.20				\$1,953,344.47		
Mexican Institutions Donations \$906,842.00					\$1,953,344.47		
International Brain Research Organization (IBRO, 3500 EUR)		\$4,025.00			\$2,030,125.77		
British Society for Neuroendocrinology (BSN) (2000, GBP)		\$2,600.00			\$2,079,723.63		
Frontiers in Neuroendocrine Science		\$4,000.00			\$2,156,028.03		
Amgen		\$5,000.00			\$2,251,408.53		
Elsevier / Peptide (3000 EUR)		\$3,450.00			\$2,317,221.08		
Journal of Neuroendocrinology/BSN (2000 GBP) Sept 3, 2018		\$2,806.00			\$2,370,748.61		
International Donations \$21,881.00 USD					\$2,370,748.61		
Total Income (UNAM/CONACYT)					\$2,370,748.61		
NIH/EU: \$30,000.00 (USD) payment for audiovisual and NIH attendants					\$2,370,748.61		
UNAM central administration waived the overhead fee (20%)					\$2,370,748.61		
					\$2,370,748.61		
					\$2,370,748.61		
Expenditures					\$2,370,748.61		
Hotel Contract 1			\$1,145,138.28		\$1,225,610.33	\$1,145,138.28	Hotel Contract 1
Hotel Contract 2 65%			\$688,863.50		\$536,746.83		Hotel Contract 2
Mexican Academy of Science (AMC)			\$38,152.20		\$498,594.63	\$1,059,790.00	
Plenary Flights				\$5,074.48	\$401,793.38		
Printings			\$54,032.80		\$347,760.58		
Registration Materials			\$31,098.81		\$316,661.77		
External Services			\$60,000.00		\$256,661.77		
					\$256,661.77	USD	
ESTIMATED TOTAL REGPEP2018 FUNDRAISING SURPLUS IN UNAM/CONACYT ACCOUNT					\$256,661.77	\$13,454.62	
HOTEL MASTER ACCOUNT							
Concept	Income (MXN)	Income (USD)	Expenditure (MXN)	Expenditure (USD)	Total Hotel (MXN)		
Payments to Hotel							
Hotel Contract 1	\$1,145,138.28				\$1,145,138.28		
Hotel Contract 2 65%	\$688,863.50				\$1,834,001.78		
Mexican Academy of Science (AMC)	\$38,152.20				\$1,872,153.98		
TOTAL Paid by LOC to Hotel					\$1,872,153.98		
					\$1,872,153.98		
Expenditures with Hotel					\$1,872,153.98		
Lodging			\$1,077,274.44		\$794,879.54		
Events and Meals			\$705,899.94		\$88,979.60		
					\$88,979.60	USD	
ESTIMATED TOTAL SURPLUS IN HOTEL MASTER ACCOUNT					\$88,979.60	\$4,664.45	
CASH							
Concepto	Income (MXN)	Income (USD)	Expenditure (MXN)	Expenditure (USD)	Total Hotel (MXN)		
Banquet Payments	14150	1372.413793			\$40,330.30		
Fireworks			35000		\$5,330.30		
Ground Transportation (STAFF MEMBERS) est.			6500		-\$1,169.70		
					-\$1,169.70	USD	
ESTIMATED CASH DEFICIT					-\$1,169.70	-\$61.32	

Limei Zhang emphasized a surplus of equivalent of \$13,454.62 in USD (approximate amount) is hold by the UNAM administration who had agreed to transfer to the legal IRPS if it is the case.

5th:

Relationship between the meeting organizers and the Steering Committee (SC) of the IRPS:

- Preamble on venue selection:

- RegPep2018 was originally scheduled in Washington DC, USA in RegPep2016's Steering Committee (SC) meeting, being Dr. Lee Eiden the President of LOC. Dr. Eiden applied for official duty to NIH and was warned that as an employee of the United States Government, he should do not take any fiduciary responsibility on behalf of the LOC. Several crucial difficulties, mainly the moral support of the IRPS SC for fundraising and time-resource limitation in order to establish a non-for-profit organization for fiduciary role, in the US, such as a 501c type of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) of USA, were encountered making the "Washington DC option" no longer feasible.
- Limei Zhang, a Fulbright Visiting Scholar to the National Institute of Mental Health (tenure 2016-2017), hosted by Dr. Eiden, suggested to move the venue to Mexico and to apply for moral support to the School of Medicine of the National Autonomous University to serve the role as non-for-profit organization for fundraising for RegPep2018. The proposal was first endorsed by the then-Chair of SC of IRPS Prof. Jens-Peter Goetze, in February 2017 and further endorsed by the majority of SC members in an email-based voting organized by Dr. David Vuadry, after being appointed as Acting Chair of the SC of IRPS consequent to the resignation of Prof. Goetze (May 2017).
- Limei Zhang was appointed to be the President of the Local Organizing Committee and co-chair of RegPep2018 on 16th August 2017 and Mexico's The Dean, Prof. German Fajardo agreed that the School of Medicine of the UNAM serves as the academic and legal host for the RegPep2018 organization and provided generous support of administrative infrastructures for fundraising.
- Hacienda de Cocoyoc plus Mexico City Palace of Medicine (UNAM) were selected to be the sites for RegPep2018 as the original venue approval. However, the devastating "Puebla earthquake of September 19th, 2017" damaged the programmed venues for RegPep2018. After a careful consideration and site-visit, the RegPep2018 venue was chosen to be the Princess Hotel, Mundo Imperial, in Acapulco Diamante.
- We did not receive any further support, guidance nor information for dissemination for RegPep2018 from the IRPS-SC further their approval of the venue change. Dr. Zhang testified that she was not informed that IRPS had neither legal personality nor a bank account, she only found this out a few months later of having assumed the president of the LOC role, whilst desperately trying to find resources to book the venue.
- Private saving of 5000 USD from the LOC members' families was used for booking the venue with the group Mundo Imperial (Princess Hotel) which was only reimbursed 3 weeks before the RegPep2018 started (was kept 11 months as guarantee of the booking).

6th:

Relationship between the meeting organizers and the hosting institution's regulation and law system

- *The National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) accepted to be the nonprofit institution to host RegPep2018. To receive the donations and registration fees, a PayPal account for RegPep2018 was set from the Rectory of the UNAM and the UNAM Administrative Secretary General, Ing. Leopoldo Silva, authorized the waiver the 20% of*

administrative management fee as their support to our fundraising for RegPep2018. In addition to these actions, the UNAM authorities donated in excess of \$470,000 pesos, plus the full altruistic administrative and legal supports to make the meeting organization successful.

- In the practice, the administration was hesitant to make any contract and payment with the venue since the lawyers found the Non-Legal-Status of IRPS might incur administrative faults for **a decentralized governmental institution** such as the UNAM. Many days and nights of worries, anxiety and meetings and negotiations severely impaired the organizers peace of mind. The problems were eventually solved and the IRPS STATUTES was one of the firm support for our negotiations. The UNAM second contract payment only arrived to the hotel today (i.e. 25th Sept 2018, the day of the General Assembly).*

7th:

Relationship between the RegPep2018/IRPS and other Societies

- IBRO-LARC-FALAN and British Society of Neuroendocrinology (BSN) have supported financially our RegPep2018 LOC and were advertising our meeting in their websites.*
- We had visited several societies booths during the American Experimental Biology meeting (EB), San Diego, April 2017 and the FENS meeting, Berlin, July 2018, but our attempts to convince other Society's staff to allow us to put some of our RegPep2018 posters all failed, after they made consultations to their leadership. The reason was due to the no-legal status and non-membership of any professional society-federations of the IRPS.*

8th:

- Limei Zhang made an inquiry to IBRO Secretariat for a possible future membership application of the IRPS. This is the reply from IBRO is listed as follows:
"Dear Limei, mié 29/08, 08:56 a.m.
Thank you for your inquiry into IBRO membership. You are warmly welcome to apply for membership. The process is quite simple and straightforward. Please send me the following materials which I can then forward to our Executive Committee for final approval.
1. A formal letter requesting IBRO membership from the society
2. A list of the society's members
3. A copy of the society's Statutes and Bylaws
4. A list of the society's officers (President, Secretary General, etc.)
For more information about applying, please see: <http://ibro.org/membership-application/>
for membership dues: <http://ibro.org/membership-dues/>
for voting rights: <http://ibro.org/voting-rights/>
If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your interest in IBRO!
Best regards, Tasia*

*Tasia Asakawa
Director, Development and Communications
IBRO, International Brain Research Organization*

To conclude, Limei Zhang pointed out the unfair and unprofessional aspects of the current IRPS as a professional society and its self-perpetuated SC which had not been following the IRPS published Statutes in its website and the urgent need to elect new IRPS Steering Committee to allow it to become an effective support structure for the organizer of the next RegPep world conference.

9th:

Primary proposal

- *To renew the IRPS Steering Committee through democratic vote from the general membership to lead the reform of the society to a nonprofit, membership organization governed by rules, to be capable to receive payment and donation, to operate the future RegPep meetings with real participation of the society leadership.
(The candidate should state their intentions and committee to serve the community and their previous experiences)*

10th

Secondary proposals:

- To establishes “Emeritus” membership for past presidents of RegPep meetings.*
- To establishes “Young Investigator” lectureship.*
- To establishes “Andrew V. Schally” lifetime achievement lectureship.*

4. Presentation of Dr. David Vaudry, Acting Chair of the Steering Committee of the IRPS

Dr. Vaudry spoke to congratulate the local leadership and co-chairs of RegPep2018, for a successful RegPep2018. Dr. Vaudry then presented some resolutions from a “Board meeting of the IRPDS Steering Committee” held on the 22nd of September 2018, in the Princess hotel, room “Princesa Boardroom”.

The following slides were presented by Dr. David Vaudry.



RegPep2018



RegPep2018



Limei, Lee and colleagues



2018 IRPS General Assembly follows an IRPS Steering Committee which took place on September 22nd



Discussions -> Resolutions

Resolution 1: Board of IRPS Steering Committee

- David Vaudry will be the president of IRPS Steering Committee until 22nd International Symposium on Regulatory Peptides.
- He replaces Jens Peter Gotze since July 2017.
- Secretary & Treasurer have to be elected by Steering Committee in the coming weeks.



Board of IRPS Steering Committee

			Outgoing (1 each time)			
			2021	2023	2025	
1	Andrea	Vareo	UK			
2	Jon	Frangia	USA			
3	Nils	Wernig	Sweden			
4	Mario	Delgado	Spain			
5	Inge	Depoortere	Belgium			
6	Karl Heinz	Herzig	Finland			
7	Yvette	Tache	USA			
8	Seiji	Shioda	Japan			
9	David	Vaudry	France			
10	Chris	Pemberton	New Zealand			
11	Yuka	Gotze	Israel			
12	Silke	Feller	Hungary			
13	Jim	Collen	USA			
14	Simon	Zhang	Mexico			
15	Barbara	Kuffer	Austria			
16	Willy	Chow	China			
17						
18						

- 1/3 will be renewed every RegPep meeting
- Call for candidates for 2021- selection from SC (participation to date; gender balance; country distribution; balancing of areas of interest across regulatory peptides)

Resolution 2: Status of the IRPS

- We will make over the next 12 months an administrative reform for IRPS to become an official registered society
- Status
- Bank account
- Memberships...

IRPS role?

- Support organisation of RegPep meetings
- Promotes research on regulatory and bioactive peptides
- Federate all researchers working on regulatory and bioactive peptides - keep the link (newsletter, active website...)
- Support Young investigators and award established researchers working on reg & bioactive peptides (Viktor Mutt Award)
- Promotes research on regulatory / bioactive peptides and makes audible our research to institutions and industry
- Establish partnerships with compagnies to support meetings (Awards, YIA, Lectures)

Resolution 3:

22nd International Symposium on Regulatory Peptides will be organised in Japan in Spring 2021

**Proposal for
Joint Symposium of
22nd International Symposium on
Regulatory Peptides and
the 15th International Symposium
on VIP, PACAP and Related
Peptides**

Hitoshi Hashimoto
Osaka University, Japan

Possible Venue

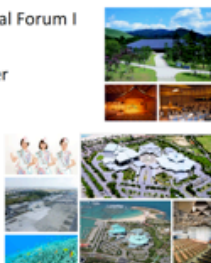
Nara Kasugano International Forum I

Okinawa Convention Center



Cherry blossom season in Nara
e.g., the first week in April, 2021.
Time for appearing cherry blossoms may
vary depending on the weather conditions.

Okinawa (subtropical weather)
e.g., the end of March, 2021.



To finish

Publish in special Issues of PEPTIDES, ANYAS and FRONTIERS for this meeting: Manuscripts due from December 31st 2018 (ANYAS) to February 2019 (PEPTIDES and FRONTIERS).

Have safe trip back home



Keep in touch through the IRPS and see you in Japan in spring 2021

5. General discussion

Limei Zhang took the microphone to point out that she was the person who arranged the logistics for the “board meeting” Dr. Vaudry mentioned and was present from the beginning to the end. She testified that 1) only three of the thirteen official members of the SC (3/13) were presented in person, i. e., Drs. Inge Depoortere, Ivette Tache, David Vaudry. Another 3 members, (3/13), Dr. Karl-Heize Herzig, Dr. Nils Wierup and Dr. Joseph Pisegna were connected via videoconference with poor connectivity. Of the 3 virtual participants, only Dr. Pisegna was officially registered to the RegPep2018 paying the fee, which was a compulsory requirement for being an active membership of the IRPS – a rule set by the current IRPS Statutes; 2) the “Resolutions of the Board meetings” are at least not true – there was a hot discussion about the how the society should be improved based on fair, transparent and professional rules, to continue the RegPep meeting worldwide. The meeting started at 12:00 noon and ended at 13:40 without reaching any conclusions.

Dr. Gareth Leng was allowed to take the floor to speak, from his perspective as past-President of an effective and flourishing scientific society, the British Society of Neuroendocrinology and Past-President of the International Neuroendocrinology Federation, in support of Dr. Zhang’s appeal to the general membership to move the IRPS in the direction of democratically appointed leadership and transparent financial record-keeping. The transcript of his speech is as follows:

Gareth Leng's speech during the general assembly of RegPep2018, 25th September, 2018, Princess Hotel Acapulco Diamante:

If I may make a few comments:

Of course, this has been a wonderful meeting and the way you have run this sessions has been exemplary. You have made it very transparent, exactly the organization and the funding details, and setting a precedent for a rule driven organization of the society.

I have to say that some of the things that I have heard here today have concerned me deeply. The most obvious concern is the lack of a bank account and the lack of a handover of money from the last meeting. Obviously, it is the responsibility of the steering committee and it has more responsibility to audit the expenses of the previous meeting. I hope that in the meeting not only will you present the details of the current meeting but also explain the outcome of the previous meeting. It is the responsibility of the steering committee to do.

The second thing that deeply concerns me, though, is that of a large steering committee very few of them are here. A steering committee is not a honorific position and has responsibilities, and deep responsibilities for the meeting itself. And I would urge you to make it very clear for any new steering committee of the obligations that come with it. The obligations, obviously, are what hasn't, apparently, been the case of the previous steering committee. The next steering committee will have an obligation for the next meeting in Japan and undertake the promise of registering, attend and support their labs (groups) to come. And if they are not willing to make that obligation, I don't see they should have any place in the running of the society.

So, I do congratulate you Limei on setting out very clearly the kind of ground rules for a properly run society. The kind of ground rules that will engage the community in the long term support of the functions and inventions of the society.

Thanks.

Dr. Zhang concluded the meeting with a call for a straw vote to have an official democratic election for members of the IRPS Steering Committee to lead the reform of the IRPS, which was, by show of hands, unanimous for this outcome. Dr. Zhang then asked personally to Drs. David Vaudry, Illana Gozes, Erika Pinter, who had initially raised their hands to be against, but then Dr. Gozes took the microphone and clarified that she wanted a democratic election through internet. Dr. Zhang then made a question individually to Drs. Gozes, Vaudry and Pinter: “Do you agree to elect the IRPS Steering Committee by democratic election from all of the membership through internet?” - one by one spoke “I agree”.

The General Assembly concluded at 12:15 and the Special Neuroscience lecture continued.

A group photo of the RegPep2018 delegates was taken after the closing ceremony.

The official documents on the internet endorsement the General Assembly resolution and the election of the Steering committee are attached to this minutes.

N.B. This General Assembly minutes is prepared by Limei Zhang and Lee Eiden backed on the full video recording of the Assembly which is available in the Secretariat of the IRPS (contacts: Dr. Limei Zhang and Dr. Lee Eiden, secretariat@irps-regpep.org, limei@unam.mx, eidenl@nih.gov) for any person who is interested to review.