

IRPS Council Meeting minutes (Oct. 8, 2020, 14:00 - 15:00 GMT) (accepted and approved by Council Oct. 30-31, 2020)

Chair of the meeting: Lee E. Eiden (Co-President of IRPS)

Present: Limei Zhang
Lee E. Eiden
Ruud M. Buijs
Andrew Gundlach
Duan Chen
André Mecawi
Andrés Quintanar-Stephano
Vito S. Hernández
Valery Grinevich
Sushil Mahata
Mary Lee

Absent: Laura Vivas
Helene Castel

1. Report on IRPS general issues after last Council meeting on Aug. 10th, 2020 (Limei Zhang, co-president reported):

- Official affiliation of IRPS to International Neuroendocrine Federation (INF) (August 2019): formal communications from both President (Bob Millar) and Secretary General (Yoichi Ueta). Both IRPS co-presidents now form part of INF Governing Council.
- Official affiliation of IRPS to IBRO, Sept 2020: application approved during last IBRO Governing Council meeting at World Congress, Daegu, Korea. Both IRPS co-presidents now form part of IBRO Governing Council.
- Invitation and acceptance of [16 Distinguished Members](#) (DM) nominated during last council meeting.
- Legal dispute with past acting president of IRPS and associated group and its outcome: the IRPS trademark is now unique to IRPS and protected (ongoing legal arrangement).
- [RegPep2020](#) preparation, calls, Program Committee organization, pre-final program and logistics, grant applications and registration received and further business regarding cancellation of RegPep2020 and postponement to 2022.
- Council members may propose additional DM candidates as per procedure indicated in the Statutes.
- It will be necessary to draft new by-laws to better define officer positions. (Point raised by LEE: it may be worthwhile to consider electing a Secretary General as a specific Executive Body position, to provide more continuity in conducting IRPS matters than is allowed by President's position, which is linked to a specific RegPep meeting chairmanship).

- The postponement of RegPep2020 until 2022 means there is no in-person General Assembly until 2022, to allow the election of a new President-elect. IRPS Council decided to call a 2020 Councilor election for six positions to be held during the first week of January 2021, after the membership renewal/joining process for biennial 2020-2022 period.
- LZ proposed that Andrew Gundlach, as a longtime ISN councilor make suggestions on the committee organization to formalize our committee assignments.
- It was agreed that all councilors who want to serve in a given committee should send self-nomination to chair or be a member of that committee, including previous experience and specific commitment for participation via email to secretariat/Lee/Limei, before 15th Nov. 2020. However, it may be sensible to establish the committees after this year's election.
- Formal update on RegPep2020 organization, logistics and postponement by LZ: University rector suspended UNAM activities, so the meeting could not go forward. Official cancellation in June; Mundo Imperial negotiations—Mundo Imperial has retained a deposit for next meeting in 2022 (N.B. see detailed Treasurer's report, below).

2. Financial status (Vito Hernández, Treasurer):

- Vito Hernández, the IRPS Treasurer, presented a detailed financial status statement in a pptx presentation which will be posted on IRPS website, "membership space" (login codes will be issued soon to confirmed members).
- In summary, we currently have \$7867 USD in a bank account established in Mexico to keep monies between meetings, also to finance other IRPS activities.
- VH noted that there is a need for professional support to assist with the preparation of the fiscal report to Mexican IRS and an estimate for this will be made during discussion at next Council meeting when the Fundraising and Financial Committees are established.

3. Website (acting webmaster: Vito Hernández)

- Vito Hernández is currently the webmaster of www.regpep.org while Andrés Molina is the webmaster of regpep2020.unam.mx. VH delivered a detailed activity report and hopes that when the committees are formed, there will be more updates, online discussion and ideas and suggestions to improve the website.

4. Membership (general Council discussion)

- A formal call for membership (renewal and new members) will be drafted by the co-presidents and sent to all the 2018 membership and all the RegPep2020 confirmed speakers, and will also be posted on www.regpep.org with an invitation to self-nominate as a candidate for IRPS Councilor 2020-2024 and to participate in the election. A 50% discount of corresponding fees was proposed by VH and LZ and was approved.
- Online election system, with transparency and efficacy will be initially designed by Andrés Molina and approved by the council.

5. Current status and promotion of Regpep2020 Special Issue of Journal of

Neuroendocrinology (Ruud Buijs, President-elect and lead guest editor for SI, reported):

JNE is our Society's official journal, so full support of the SI by Council, DMs, and others is requested. The SI is currently open for receipt of submissions.

Deadline for submission of SI contributions is end of Nov 2020. RB informed the Council that nine authors/groups have already expressed their intention to submit manuscripts before the deadline.

5. Lee Eiden reported on INF Council meeting

- At recent council meeting of our umbrella federation, the International Neuroendocrine Federation (INF), the INF announced the transition to new leadership:
 - President: Bob Millar > Vincent Prevot
 - General Secretary: Yoichi Ueta > Aimin Bao
- Reports from ICN 2018 LOC president: Denise Belsham
- Financial report from the treasurer: Bill Armstrong
- Masterclass series book report: Mike Ludwig
- ICN 2022 (July) meeting main organizer made a preliminary program report: Suzanne Dickson.
- IRPS submitted society short report (by Lee Eiden) and was delivered to the Secretary General and the President.

8. General issues and schedule for the next meeting in approximately thirty days. Two items on next meeting's agenda will be the election of new councilors, which in turn requires the formal establishment of the membership so that votes for new councilors can be collected. When the IRPS council 2020-2022 is officially formed (with 6 newly elected councilors) we should establish the committees swiftly.