

INTERNATIONAL REGULATORY PEPTIDE SOCIETY

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Acta

The IRPS General Assembly: Plenary Session (hybrid) Date: 2022-08-05 Time: 09:00 - 10:00 GMT+1 Location: Cottrell lecture theater University of Stirling, Stirling, Scotland, UK

Zoom link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85495295013?pwd=dTJwb2V4bXBUSVE3QW1Hb2dhOVdO

<u>Zz09</u>

President of the Plenary Session: Presidents of the IRPS: **Past Presidents of the IRPS**: **Treasurer of the IRPS**: Francesco Ferraguti Limei Zhang Lee E. Eiden Mario A. Zetter-Salmón

IRPS membership attendees:

- 1. Norshahida Abu Samah
- 2. Greti Aguilera
- 3. Youssef Anouar
- 4. Dana Bakalar
- 5. Rafael Barrio
- 6. Tays Camilo
- 7. Duan Chen
- 8. Thomas Cunningham
- 9. Joanna Dabrowska
- 10. Luis De Lecea
- 11. Geert de Vries
- 12. Arpad Dobolyi
- 13. Lee E. Eiden
- 14. Ghadir Elsamad
- 15. Francesco Ferraguti

- 16. George Fink (v)
- 17. John Furness
- 18. Sebastian Furness
- 19. Ki Goosens
- 20. Andrew Gundlach
- 21. Marie Habart
- 22. Vito S. Hernández 23. Oscar Hernández-
- Pérez
- 24. Sunny Z. Jiang
- 25. Gil Levkowitz
- 26. Panjiao Lin
- 27. Julian Mercer (v)
- 28. David Murphy
- 29. Quentin Pittman
- 30. Andres Quintanar-Stephano

Agenda

- 31. Mitchell Ringuet
- 32. Esther Sabban
- 33. Patrick Sexton
- 34. Javier Stern
- 35. Ryiochi Teruyama
- 36. Tim Viney
- 37. Alan Watts
- 38. William Wisden
- 39. Wenqin Xu
- 40. Chun-Xia Yi
- 41. Ueta Yoichi (v)
- 42. Mario A. Zetter-Salmon
- 43. Limei Zhang
- 44. Chun-Mei Zhao

1. Declaration of quorum and Appointment, by general acclaim, of a person to act as President of the Plenary Session 2022 of the IRPS General Assembly. The Plenary Session President will then conduct the business of the General Assembly.

Based on the IRPS Statutes, Art. VII, sec. 4, the Extraordinary Assembly was installed at 09:10 (GMT+1) with 44 members of the IRPS present (Appendix I). According to the local law for *Associación Civil* (civil association), where the IRPS is incorporated, a member of the General Assembly (GA) shall preside a given plenary session (PS). **Dr. Francesco Ferraguti** was selected as the President of the Plenary Session of the GA, with his consent as well as from the attendees. Dr. Ferraguti accepted to preside over the meeting.

2. Presentation of IRPS President Report, Limei Zhang

Dr. Limei Zhang, the IRPS President, was invited by Dr. Ferraguti to present the *President Report 2021-2022*. The following slides and narrative constitute the report of the IRPS President.



IRPS current executive committee elected during the General Assembly 2021.08.23

President: Limei Zhang (México)

Past President: Lee E. Eiden (USA)

President elect: Robert P. Millar (South Africa)

Secretary General: Esther L. Sabban (USA)

Treasurer: Mario A. Zetter-Salmón (México)

IRPS legal representatives (Apoderados Legales)

Limei Zhang and Vito Hernández

Some history

For members not familiar with the early as well as past history of the IRPS, we offer the following informal introduction. The IRPS sprang from a series of informal international meetings among leaders in regulatory peptide biology and chemistry during the years leading up to 1977, when Guillemin and Schally received the Nobel Prize for structural elucidation of the hypophysiotropic hormones LH-RH, TRH and somatostatin, along with Rosayn Yalow for development of the radioimmunoassay technique. Realizing that regulatory peptides would be a critical part of the landscape of medical science for the foreseeable future, Daniel Fourmy created the Society with a simple mission statement-to hold a RegPep meeting biennially-and Statutes that describe how to do this in an open and democratic way that would value new ideas, and new participants, accelerating progress in the field.

In 2018, at RegPep2018 in Acapulco, Mexico, the membership in General Assembly reaffirmed the intent of the original Statutes of the IRPS by voting to hold election for IRPS Councilors, the governing body of the IRPS, with self-nominations arising directly from the general membership. As a result, twelve Councilors were chosen and took their places on Council at the end of 2018, and immediately began the legal incorporation and application of non-for-profit status of the IRPS.

History of meetings: 1976 - 2022			
1976-1994 International Symposium of Gastrointestinal Hormones	1995-2021 International Symposium on Regulatory Peptides		
1 st Asilomar (USA, 1976) 2 nd Beito (Norway, 1978) 3 rd Cambridge (UK, 1980) 4 th Stockholm (Sweden, 1982) 5 th Rochester (USA, 1984) 6 th Vancouver (Canada, 1986) 7 th Shizuoka (Japan, 1988) 8 th Timmerndorfer Strand (Germany, 1990) 9 th Leuven (Belgium 1992) 10 th Santa Barbara (USA, 1994)	11 th Copenhagen (Denmark, 1996) 12 th Mackinac Island (USA, 1998) 13 th Cairns (Australia, 2000) 14 th Boston (USA, 2002) 15 th Toulouse (France, 2004) 16 th Hakone (Japan, 2006) 17 th Santa Bárbara (USA,2009) 18 th Belfast (Ireland, 2010) 19 th Copenhagen (Denmark, 2012) 20 th Kyoto (Japan, 2014) 21 st Rouen (France, 2016) 22 nd Acapulco (Mexico, 2018)		
	23 rd Acapulco (Mexico, 2020+1) 24 th Stirling (UK, 2022)		

• IRPS third councilor election was carried out during the first semester of 2022. The election call was made by the council 2020-2022 and was coordinated by Dr. Mario Zetter and Dr. Lee Eiden, two executive committee members who did not nominate to stand for election, and was supervised by IRPS Distinguished Members, Dr. George Fink and Dr. John Furness, as invigilators.



- The IRPS council, in its meeting 2021-5, held on October 18th, 2021, approved the motion made by the President to hold the 24th International Symposium on Regulatory Peptides (RegPep24) at the University of Stirling, Stirling, Scotland, UK, on August 1-5, 2022, with the Executive Committee to be the organizers, led by the President, Dr. Limei Zhang, and Dr. Lee E. Eiden, the Past President, to lead the Program committee.
- Legal contract with University of Stirling Venues was signed in late November, 2021.



- Three site inspections were made by the President, Dr. Limei Zhang, accompanied by Dr. Hernán Barrio (active member of IRPS, from University of Edinburgh). Dr. Bob Millar, the President elect of the IRPS, accompanied the President in one of the site visits, when the two Presidents visited the University of Stirling (UoS) VC office and academic connection was established followed by several writing communications.
- The UoS awarded tax exemption status to the RegPep24, after official application recognizing the nonprofit status of IRPS.
- Applications for sponsorship were made by the President with participations of Executive committee members to 1) Tianqiao & Chrissy Chen Institute (TCCI, an US registered Charity), 2) Journal of Neuroendocrinology/British

Society of Neuroendocrinology, 3) International Brain Research Organization (IBRO), 4) International Society of Neurochemistry (made by Dr. Vito Hernández) and 5) The Physiological Society (PhySoc). All were successful, although PhySoc, only endorsed RegPep24 without monetary sponsorship.



Dr. Ferraguti, President of the Plenary Session of the GA, called for a vote at this stage to approve/disapprove the <u>presidential report of activities 2021-2022</u>, which was, by show of hands unanimously approved.

IRPS-relevant activities 2021 - 2022 (4/5): Potential new incorporation of the IRPS in the USA

• The President briefly explained, especially addressing the new members of the General Assembly, the legal status of the IRPS, the circumstance when the IRPS was incorporated in Mexico and the advantages and disadvantages. All members are warmly welcomed to consult with the Secretariat for questions about the documentation regarding the legal IRPS Constitutive Acta Notary deed, the Apostille from Mexican Civil authority, and tax exempt status awarded by Mexican fiscal authority (*Servicio de administración tributario, SAT-México*).

- The President mentioned that according to the Mexican law for nonprofit civil associations, a democratic election of the President and Treasurer is required, as well as to hold regular General Assembly Plenary Sessions, to be able to maintain the nonprofit registered charity status. The President and the Treasurer hold legal accountabilities, legally identified by the local authority, and are the "owners" of the "property" and the IRPS bank account. Hence, for every alternation of power, a new notary deed has to be signed and a new registration has to be performed.
- The above characteristics makes this international society's operation vulnerable.
- Since January 2022, when the IRPS legal incorporation completed 3 years, the Executive has had intense discussions about a new IRPS incorporation in another country, English speaking preferred, and preferentially operated by "trustees" or "board of Directors" scheme.
- Two proposals were raised in Janaury 2022: to incorporate in the USA (made by the Past President, Dr. Lee Eiden) or in the UK (made by Dr. Bob Millar, President elect)
- Dr. Millar withdrew the UK incorporation proposal in the next meeting of the Executive Committee, hence, the US incorporation proposal is the current one and it has been endorsed by the IRPS council.

A motion to accept this proposal was made by Dr. Ferraguti, seconded, and approved unanimously by show of hands by the Assembly.

IRPS-relevant activities 2021 - 2022 (5/5): Proposal of continuation of current Executive Committee until the completion of the new incorporation

• The President mentioned that under this extraordinary circumstance, the IRPS council has made a proposal to the GA to postpone election of the new Executive Committee until the completion of the IRPS - U.S. incorporation. The new elections should be called when the full delineation of the legal responsibilities and leadership duties of each office are clearly stated, based on the rules of operation associated with the new incorporation. It was proposed that the GA delegates the current Executive Committee and the legal representatives to lead the US incorporation and application for registered charity status in the coming months.

A motion to accept this proposal was made by Dr. Ferraguti, seconded, and approved unanimously by show of hands by the Assembly.

Resolution endorsed unanimously by the IRPS General Assembly:

The current Executive Committee will continue operating for the next period, and is in charge, by General Assembly delegation, to carry out the US incorporation as nonprofit registered charity (US IRS 501c3).

3. Presentation of IRPS Treasurer on Society's finance

Dr. Ferraguti invited Dr. Mario Zetter, the Treasurer of the IRPS to present the IRPS financial status.

The following constitutes the final report of the IRPS Treasurer. The budget was presented in *preliminary* form during the General Assembly, with the provision that a final budget would be provided within this *Acta*. The preliminary budget was accepted with 41 votes in favor and one abstention by the General Assembly.

**The acting President of the GA, Dr. Ferragutti, suggested during the preparation of this Acta, by writing to the IRPS Secretariat, to implement a rule that 2 active members of GA, not being part of the Council nor the Executive Committee, to audit each biennial treasury report. This suggestion has been accepted by the Secretariat who will implement this measure for this biennial report as soon as the remaining sponsorship for RegPep24 arrives.

Financial report

- The reported amounts are made using <u>approximate</u> USD as currency unit, to simplify the appreciation/assimilation of the IRPS finance. Approximate exchange rates <u>applied for this report</u>: 1 USD = 20 MXN, 1GBP=1.2 USD, hence the numbers are marked in grey since they are only the equivalent values.
- Bank transfer fees and currency exchange fees are included.
- The treasury keeps the detailed accountant records in its original currencies in IRPS Secretariat Google Drive and hard-copied of backing documents, invoices, receipts within the treasury.

IRPS finance 2022-08-18

Verified by the treasurer Mario Zetter, and the legal representatives Vito Hernandez and Limei Zhang

			August 19th, 2022
Income reported in USD: estimated currency exchange 1USD=20 MXN; 1 GBP = 1.2 USD			
1. Previous balance	MXN	GBP	USD
Institution/academic organizations		GDI	030
IRPS treasury balance after RegPep23 (August 23, 2021,			
treasury report)	\$363,178.00		\$18,158.9
IBRO/LARC support for RegPep23 (late arrival 20%, Sept.			
15, 2021)	\$13,794.00		\$689.7
INF trainee support for RegPep23 (remnant, Sept. 27, 2021) UNAM vice-rector for science support to RegPep23 (late	\$7,493.50		\$374.68
arrival) (Nov 18, 2021)	\$125,000.00		\$6,250.0
Total	\$509,465.50		\$25,473.28
2.Revenue for RegPep24			
• •			
2.1 Institution/academic organization			
Support from Chen Institute (Feb. 18, 2022)	\$127,459.50		\$6,372.9
Support from IBRO 80% (July 19, 2022)	\$195,979.20		\$9,798.9
Support from JNE/BSN (July 21, 2022)	\$139,677.71		\$6,983.89
Support from ISN 80% to ECR symposium (July 26, 2022)	\$101,926.43		\$5,096.33
Subtotal of 2.1	\$565,042.84		\$28,252.14
	MXN		Grey numbers are estimated in USD
2.2 From IDDC mombors /DocDon 24 data			estimated in USD
2.2 From IRPS members/RegPep24 deleg	ates/guests		
-RegPep24 related (multi-concept) and memberships dues: PayPal and wire transfer to Scotiabank MXN	\$46,118.71		\$2,305.94
-RegPep24 related (multi-concept) & memberships: PayPal	Ş+0,110.71		φ 2 ,303.3-
to Bank of America			\$15,224.90
-RegPep24 related & memberships: Scotiabank USD			\$3,157.7
-RegPep24 related to UoS Shop		£20,250	\$24,496.73
-RegPep24 related on-site cash received			
600GBP+50USD+50EURO			\$774.14
Subtotal of 2.2			\$45,959.42
Total Income ("2.1"+"2.2")			\$99,684.84

Disclosure (included in above revenue stream 2.2)

	GBP	Euro	USD (equivalent)	MXN
2.2.1 Membership income (partially obtained from Tax				
refund with consent of the delegates)*			\$5,800.00	I
2.2.2 Registration income			\$4,500.00	I
2.2.3 Accomodation and food payments			\$26,902.98	
2.2.4 Social event related fundraising				
- Speakers social event payments	£4,111.36		\$4,933.62	
- Speakers social event payments			\$226.82	\$4,536.48
- Delegates&guests Castle visit			€50 \$50.00	l i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i
- Delegates&guests Castle visit (79 x 25 GBP)	£1,975		\$2,370.00	l i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i
- Guest dinners (14 x 70 GBP)	£980		\$1,176.00	l i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i
Total social			\$8,756.44	
		Total	\$19,056.44	

3. Expenditures	MXN	USD	GBP
3.1 IRPS treasury payments for day-to-day operation			
Mexican Academy of Science: per the concept of 36			
month office usage within the Academy venue (Sept 6,			
2021, bank transfer)	\$60,000.00	\$3,000.00	
Bank managament fees (sept 2021-Aug2022)	\$5,845.60	\$292.28	
IBRO and INF 2021 dues		\$1,702.40	
<u>Regpep.org</u> website (expiration Aug 2025), Google			
domain (2019-2022), IRPS secretariat zoom account (Jan-			
Aug, 2022)		\$896.59	
Subtotal of "3.1"		\$5,891.27	

3.2 RegPep24 expenditures	
Pre-conference logistics/LOC travel and food expenses	
(only partially spported)	\$900.00
Printings and conference materials	\$2,635.18
RegPep24 cost at Stirling University Venues	\$42,368.43 £33,314.69
Music band	\$1,195.74
1 Car & 1 coach rental	\$1,368.75
Six transcontinental roundtrip tickets for plenaries/Chen	
Writer/ISN ECRs	\$8,554.47
Conference dinner and Stirling castle visit	\$8,618.88
Subtotal of "3.2"	\$65,641.4
Total expenditures ("3.1"+"3.2")	\$71,532.7
Current balance in IRPS bank account	\$28,152.1 :

Grants awarded by the RegPep24 LOC to RegPep24 delegates (already included in the above expenditure amount):

- Conference fee waivers for 56 invited speakers - plenaries and symposium speakers: \$14,000 USD (56 x \$250 USD)

- ISN sponsored ECR intercontinental travel: \$3700 (3 ECRs)
- ISN sponsored ECRs conference fees and delegate packages: \$3700 (5 ECRs)
- RegPep24 LOC grant to ECRs Data blitz presenter \$5390 USD
- Airfares for plenaries and Chen Writer: \$3400 USD
- Chen Writer conference fee and accommodation: \$1040 USD

Bank balances 2022.08.17 Scotia USD	MXN	USD \$2,999.03	
Scotia MXN	\$591 <i>,</i> 071.37	\$29,694.00	
Total balance 2022.08.17 (pending to reimburse 4256			
USD)		\$32,693.03	
			Grey: estimated value
Pending payment for reimbursements (ECRs and Chen Scholar) and SCH final balance (4030USD +226 USD)		\$4,256.00	I
Estimate pending income from sponsorship		\$3,800.00	1

4. Endorsement of IRPS Distinguished Member, Julian Mercer

• Past-President Lee Eiden introduced Professor Julian Mercer putting emphasis on his extensive contributions to IRPS. In particular, he cited Professor Mercer's accomplishments in "contributing to the fulfillment of the scientific missions of the members of the IRPS through scientific publication, particularly in bringing the IRPS into a sponsored relationship with Journal of Neuroendocrinology, in strengthening the peer review process for our Society's journal through the structuring of the editorial board of the journal, and in maintaining a critical yet supportive journal publication venue to facilitate career development among the membership of the IRPS".

A motion to vote to accept Professor Julian Mercer's IRPS Distinguished Member was made by Dr. Ferraguti, seconded, and unanimously approved by show of hands by the Assembly.

Acceptance words from Professor Julian Mercer is appended at the end of this Acta (Appendix II).

• Dr. Eiden also elaborated on the website, RegPep24.org, as a key location to send recently published articles and news. He invited all the participants to contribute either an original article or review article to the special issue of the Journal of Neuroendocrinology from this meeting. He indicated that abstracts should be submitted by the end of August and the full article by the end of the calendar year. He also explained that submission will not delay publication as after peer review and acceptance, the article will appear as "Early View" on the journal's website and not wait until completion of the special issues.

5. Presentation of leaders/venues for future RegPep meetings

Dr. André Mecawi was proposed as Chair of the local organizing committee for RegPep25, and Gil Levkowitz as Chair of the Program committee for RegPep25 during the IRPS extended council meeting held on August 4th, 2022. Dr. Mecawi was absent of the Plenary session of the GA, due to a medical emergency and may convey his acceptance of the local chair position at a future time, providing additional details about the venue of Sao Paulo Province, Brazil, for RegPep25.

No other issues were raised, and the General Assembly was adjourned at 10:00 local time (GMT+1).

Appendix I.

RegPep24 Group photo at River House, Stirling, Scotland, UK 2022.08.04

Stage of the Plenary Session of IRPS General Assembly, 2022.08.05 Cottrell lecture theatre, University of Stirling, Scotland, UK





Appendix II:

Professor Julian Mercer accepted the IRPS-Distinguished member award with the following words:

I am honoured to receive this Distinguished Membership of the IRPS, which reflects the close ties that have developed between the Society and the Journal of Neuroendocrinology over the last 3 to 4 years.

The first interaction that I was aware of came in 2018, when one of the JNE Senior Editors applied for funding support for what I think was the first Acapulco meeting. By the time of the 2018 ICN meeting in Toronto we knew the details of the new publishing contract for the Journal with our publisher, Wiley. In Toronto, we discussed with Senior Editors that the Trustees of the BSN, which owns the Journal, had agreed that the Editor of the Journal could have a significant budget to invest in support for meetings of relevance to the international neuroendocrine community. It was suggested to me in Toronto that the upcoming RegPep meeting would benefit from some further support, and we were able to provide this. This caused me to look in more detail at the RegPep meeting, and I saw that this was a meeting that was attended by many colleagues from across the international neuroendocrine community, including many colleagues who were members of the BSN and/or who regularly published in the Journal.

I had already identified that given that the large majority of papers published in the Journal were not from BSN members or from the UK, it was entirely appropriate that some of the revenue accruing to the BSN, generated by the publication of the Journal, should be invested in meetings with a real international flavour. The IRPS meeting, RegPep, seemed like a good fit.

Come 2020, I was in discussion with Limei over support for the planned meeting in Acapulco in the summer of that year. In the end, of course, events (and specifically COVID19) overtook us all and the meeting was postponed to 2021, but even before then it was obvious from speaking to Limei and Lee that they were, on behalf of IRPS, interested in more than just financial support, and we began to look at developing a long-term mutually-advantageous relationship between the Society and the Journal. On the one hand, this relationship has seen RegPep join my unofficial group of 'core' neuroendocrinology-related meetings that I would like to see supported regularly, while on the other, IRPS has adopted JNE as its official journal and Limei and Lee have navigated two Special Issues of review and original research articles through to completion – one published in 2021 and a second due out in the next month or two – with submissions to a third, based on this meeting, now open.

I have been delighted to see the funding provided by the Journal being used to support Early Career Researchers who gain so much from attending meetings such as RegPep.

Of course, it cannot be over-emphasised that the privileged and enviable position that I have found myself in in being able to promote JNE as one of the main supporters of recent RegPep meetings is founded on the work of the previous 4 Editors and their editorial teams – without the exemplary and visionary stewardship of Stafford Lightman, Gareth Leng, Julia Buckingham and Dave

Grattan, the Journal would not be able to generate the revenue to the BSN that it does, so I accept this Distinguished Membership award on their behalf as well. Further, there would be no journal without the support of authors throughout the world, for whom we endeavour to provide a highquality peer review process supported by our editorial board and our reviewers. Again, as most of the input into the peer review process comes from outwith the UK, supporting meetings such as RegPep is one way of putting something tangible back into the communication of neuroendocrinology at an international level.

As one of the two Editors of JNE, I am always looking for ways of broadening the author base of the Journal as we seek to make JNE as resilient as possible for the future. So, with this in mind, in addition to the Special Issues emanating from the RegPep meetings, I would like to encourage IRPS members to consider JNE as a destination for their future submissions outside the RegPep cycle, and this is something which I believe that Lee and Limei also have in mind for the future. In conclusion, I would like to again thank the IRPS Council for the award of Distinguished Membership, and I hope to take the current constructive dialogue between the Journal and the Society forward towards further mutual benefit during the remainder of my tenure as Editor-in Chief of the Fundamental and Mechanistic strand of the Journal.

Thank you!

RegPep24 Group photo at River House, Stirling, Scotland, UK 2022.08.04

