

**Minutes of the Business Meeting of the
Human Genome Variation Society, Inc.**

26th October 2004

5: 30 PM – 7:15 PM Quebec Room

The Fairmont Royal York

Toronto, Canada

The meeting was opened by Prof. Richard Cotton, President.

Members Present:

Auerbach Arleen
Beckman Jacques
Beroud Christophe
Brown Alastair
Christodoulou John
Compton John
Cotton Richard G. H.
den Dunnen Johan
Gottlieb Bruce
Greenblatt Marc
Hadjisavvas Andreas
Horaitis Rania
Minoshima Shinsei
Oetting William
Paalman Mark
Pang Chi Pui
Povey Sue
Scriver Charles
Talbot Jr. Conover
Telmer Cheryl

Non-Members Present:

Bean Colette
Beroud Gwenaelle
Day Ian
Gregg Silk
Hamroun Dalil
Rogan Peter
Scaringe Bill
Tabone Tania
Wooster Richard

1. Approval of Agenda – Presented by R. Cotton

No additions to agenda
Passed with no dissention

2. Minutes of the previous meeting for approval

No changes to minutes

Motion to accept minutes of 2003
Minutes passed with no dissention

3. Matters arising from the previous meeting

(a) Affiliation of HGVS with the Human Genome Organisation (HUGO)

Letters were sent to HUGO, official response received by HGVS. HGVS is now formally affiliated with HUGO.

(b) Affiliation with International Federation of Human Genetics Societies (IFHGS)

The HGVS is now formally affiliated with IFHGS.

(c) Connection between diagnostic laboratories and LSDBs.

There is a need to collect mutations from diagnostic labs. There has been a discussion with many people for several years however how are we going to do this? A simple scheme to induce people to take mutations from diagnostic labs and put them in to the public domain is needed and this should be publicised.

(d) Vote of the membership to decide if subscription of *Human Mutation* should remain mandatory or not.

Rania summarized the outcome of the vote.

Jacques Beckman stated that many people were able to access the journal online so membership dues of US\$50 without the journal are reasonable however US\$50 for both students and scientists is still very expensive especially since more than half of the members are European.

Bruce Gottlieb agreed that because the journal is available online it is not much of an incentive to join the Society. Other benefits should be made available to members. US\$50 with no incentives is too much to pay because our profile is so low. Whether US\$200 with the journal or US\$50 without the journal it is still too expensive since there are no incentives to join.

Arleen Auerbach stated that when the Society was founded and the journal was taken on we as HGVS are proud to have *Human Mutation* as the official Society journal and the

HGVS will still want to maintain ties with the journal. If dues are changed we need to be sure that the Society maintains *Human Mutation* as its official journal.

Colette Bean Senior Editor at Wiley who publish *Human Mutation* stated she is not sure if a discount on colour plate fees is maintained if the journal is a non-mandatory subscription but will check.

Sue Povey said that US\$200 (with the journal) is a very big disincentive to join as it is a very expensive Society to join.

Conover Talbot stated that people who have come to the HGVS booth at ASHG meetings say they would join the Society if dues were cheaper.

Arleen Auerbach stated that if one person in the lab joins the rest do not join as only one person needs the journal and it is too expensive for all of them to join, the same goes for a husband and wife team.

Dick Cotton suggested the Society give non-mandatory subscription of the journal and US\$50 dues a trial and see how it goes.

Christophe Beroud stated that in order to keep the same level of income the Society will need to increase the membership by 50%.

Jacques Beckman stated that all Societies have the same problem with dues and mandatory vs. non-mandatory subscription. People do not want a bulky journal.

Colette Bean suggested that Wiley obtain a price for an e-only subscription which may be cheaper.

Dick Cotton suggested the discussion be deferred until Wiley comes up with a price for e-only subscriptions.

Arleen Auerbach stated that the Society now receives \$100 from each US membership and \$64 from the rest of the world. If the Society is willing to cut its income to \$50 per member, then a charge of \$100 including an e-only mandatory subscription might be a good idea.

Marc Greenblatt said there should be 2 or 3 classes of membership e.g.

Full class \$200

No publication \$50

E-only within a range of \$50 -\$200 however Wiley needs to agree to this.

Alastair Brown suggested a simple membership fee and then an optional subscription fee should be the way to go or else it becomes too complicated.

Marc Greenblatt stated that the Society is willing to accept less income so it can boost its membership regardless of what class e.g. student and scientist.

Bruce Gottlieb asked that by lowering the dues to \$50 would 15 new members mean anything. He is concerned this reduction may substantially reduce the amount of money coming into the Society.

Rania Horaitis reported that the Society had a 25% increase in membership for 2004 despite the \$200 mandatory subscription dues.

Bill Oetting stated that if the Society chooses mandatory subscription can a reduced e- only price be obtained.

The Society has three options:

- (i) To keep the status quo
- (ii) 2 separate categories of membership
- (iii) 3 separate categories of membership

Marc Greenblatt stated that the US\$50 came out of the air and may not be the right figure. The current members may be happy to drop down but how many new members will join is what is really important.

Bruce Gottlieb proposed to set a non-mandatory level which will cover costs which is US\$75 except for students which is US\$50.

Motion to change 2006 Society dues for to US\$75 non-mandatory regular member and US\$50 non-mandatory student member.

Moved by Marc Greenblatt
2nd by John Christodoulou

All for except Christophe Beroud

(e) HGVS Committees

All members have the right to nominate themselves for any committee. Volunteers are now required for the Nomination Committee.

Peter Rogan volunteered for the Nomination Committee.
Ian Day also volunteered however he needs to join the Society to be on the Committee and will do so for 2005.

Gregg Silk suggested an Ethics Committee be formed as this may increase membership of the Society.

Motion to form an Ethics Committee

Moved by Bill Oetting
2nd by Peter Rogan

An email to all members will be sent to ask who would like to join the new Ethics Committee and any other committees.

(f) Use of Society pages in *Human Mutation*

Rania Horaitis reported that the two Society pages in *Human Mutation* have mostly been used ineffectively to advertise the Society. Recently nomenclature guidelines and a checklist were included as well as advertising for meetings and a page given to HUGO to advertise the Mutation Detection 2005 meeting.

If anyone has any ideas for the use of these pages, please send them to Rania.

4. President's Report – Presented by R. Cotton (report attached).

Richard Cotton gave a small presentation about the Society.

He stated that a few Board members have prepared a position paper for the Society to send to the American Journal of Medical Genetics as a Letter to the Editor and that soon when it is finished it will be sent around to all members for comment before it is submitted.

5. Treasurer's report – Presented by W. Oetting (report attached).

William Oetting reported that the Society is doing well. Money is consistently going into the account and expenditure is reasonable.

The balance of accounts for 2004 is positive.

Move to accept Treasurer's report
Moved by Christophe Beroud
2nd by Mark Paalman

Vote passed with no dissent.

6. Office & Membership report– Presented by R. Horaitis (report attached).

Rania Horaitis reported that the Society recorded a net growth of 25% in 2004.

7. Publication report – Presented by M. Paalman (report attached).

Wiley representative M. Paalman stated that *Human Mutation* had a stellar year with an impact factor that increased again in 2004. The journal keeps growing in relation to downloads and it is a well cited journal. Of the top 25 articles downloaded from Jan. 2003 to Sep. 2004, 14 of them were from the p53 special issue. The top download was downloaded almost 5000 times! The 2nd most downloaded article for the journal is the Peter Oefner dHPLC review which has been downloaded about 4000 times.

Wiley is working with Johan den Dunnen on ways to better present mutation nomenclature requirements to the authors. Every paper cannot be screened but since random screening began the quality has increased as more authors are becoming aware of the requirements, especially when they are asked to revise to use the correct nomenclature.

8. Election of council members, 3 places for election

Four positions on the Board were vacated and an election was held during October. The elected Board Members are: Arleen Auerbach (re-elected), Alastair Brown (re-elected), Bruce Gottlieb (new to Board), Mauno Vihinen (re-elected).

9. Meeting Format

It has been noted that the meetings in Los Angeles (Nov. 2003), Berlin (April 2004) and Toronto (Oct. 2004) attracted a very large number of abstracts including posters. What will happen if the numbers continue to increase? We cannot run the meeting longer than one day so people should think about what to do in future.

10. Any other business

(a) Vote to Amend Bylaws

Bill Oetting and Alastair Brown stated that the Bylaws have some typographical errors that need to be amended.

Motion to vote now to amend typographical errors on Bylaws.

Motioned by Bruce Gottlieb
2nd by Arleen Auerbach

Vote to amend typographical errors on Bylaws.

Vote passed with no dissention.

(b) Sponsored Lecture and Plaque at HGVS Meetings

Bill Oetting proposes that for the next Scientific and AGM an Invited Speaker should be invited to the meeting for a Special Lecture. The Society would provide travel, accommodation and incidental costs for the speaker to attend as well as a commemorative plaque. Once the lectures are started commercial money for a sponsor to fund such a speaker should be investigated. Around US\$1500 total is required.

Rania stated that this amount is not enough for a speaker outside North America. Thus a maximum amount of US\$2,500 should be available. The figure should be a fixed honorarium plus reimbursement as needed.

Motion to begin Invited Speakers for 2005 Salt Lake City meeting with \$2,500 max reimbursement and US\$250 honorarium.

Moved by Bill Oetting
2nd by Bruce Gottlieb

Everyone in favour

Passed with no dissention.

(d) Plenary Speaker 2004

Richard Wooster was thanked for agreeing to be a last-minute Plenary Speaker. He will be given an Honorarium of US\$250.

Meeting adjourned 7:15 PM

Signed by Richard G.H. Cotton as a correct record:

Date _____