

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

9th October 2006

5:00 PM – 6.30 PM

Melrose Room, The Hilton Riverside

New Orleans, LA, USA

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

Members Present:

Auerbach Arleen
Beroud Christophe
Brown Alastair
Compton John
Cotton Richard G. H.
Cuticchia A. Jamie
Den Dunnen Johan T,
Gottlieb Bruce
Greenblatt Marc
Hadjisavvas Andreas
Horaitis Rania
Lehvaslaiho Heikki
Liang Ping
Oetting William
Paalman Mark
Povey Sue
Talbot Jr. Conover

Non-Members Present:

Gregg Silk
Brooks Lisa
Bruford Elspeth
Hardman Lauren
Maglott Donna
Sherry Steve

1. Approval of Agenda – Presented by R. Cotton

No additions to agenda

2. Minutes of the previous meeting for approval

No changes to minutes

Motion to accept minutes of 2005

Moved by Bruce Gottlieb

2nd by Andreas Hadjisavvas

Minutes passed with no dissention

3. Matters arising from the previous meeting

(a) Incentives to join the Society

Discussion of possible incentives to entice new members to join the Society was made. It was suggested membership dues be reduced again and more students be enticed to join.

A more focused topic with a high profile speaker should help attract more people to the meetings and the meetings should be advertised well ahead.

It was suggested by Richard Cotton that the Society does not want a huge membership but a larger one than present is desired.

Arleen Auerbach stated that the meeting attendance seems to be shrinking each year, we do not need, 500 or 1000, but the Society does need to grow every year.

Bruce Gottlieb suggested that well known people that are going to the ASHG meeting be invited to the HGVS meeting and that should be made the focus of this meeting as that will raise our profile.

Richard Cotton suggested the organizing committee for the next meeting be Johan den Dunnen as the focus person and an office person to organise it.

(b) A symposium on "Pharmacogenomics" should be organised

Richard Cotton and Johan den Dunnen suggested the meeting held in Europe to entirely about the Human Variome Project or it be covered in a half a day at meetings.

Rania Horaitis stated that a suggested focus is good, and "clinical genetics" as a topic was suggested the Board meeting.

Bruce Gottlieb suggested "Pharmacogenomics" be the topic at the Montreal HUGO satellite meeting and "Clinical Genetics" be the focus for next year's at ASHG satellite meeting. He will organise something by January 2007 for the Montreal meeting.

(c) The HGVS should increase its presence amongst National Societies in Europe

It was widely agreed that the Society should increase its presence in Europe.

Johan den Dunnen suggested the Society expose itself more at the European Society of Human Genetics meetings.

(d) The Society should raise its profile

Richard Cotton and Marc Greenblatt suggested the society could raise its profile by having a very large meeting in San Diego and we need to promote that.

Richard Cotton suggested membership information sent to SNP meetings.

Bruce Gottlieb suggested the Society invite people high profile speakers to meetings.

Richard Cotton suggested an honorary plaque and a free membership for one year to the invited speakers.

(e) Develop a collaboration with HuGENet

Richard Cotton stated he would ask M. Khoury to email their people for memberships.

4. President's Report

Richard Cotton summarised the past year. The joint meeting with the HUGO Nomenclature Working Group in Helsinki was a great success there were 80 attendees who attended free of charge due to grant money that paid for the meeting. It was a good meeting and the invited speaker was very good.

He stated he was pleased with the impact factor of Human Mutation, and would like to thank Mark Paalman for his effort as we are now 3rd in our category.

Sue Povey said that the impact factor is now high enough to boast about!

Mark Paalman said that stickers are affixed to the journal and they are having an effect.

Richard Cotton went on to describe how the Human Variome Project relates to HGVS, how it grew out of members projects, and asked what the Society should do about related features. Johan den Dunnen suggested HGVS and HVP move in parallel and see what happens in a year or two.

Bruce Gottlieb suggested we put the two together as people may want to join the bandwagon.

5. Treasurer's Report

Bill Oetting explained that the Society is now officially a 501(c) 3 organization, i.e. we can be a tax write off, as the Society has been in existence long enough.

The new online processing of credit cards for memberships and meeting registrations is working well. The Society has two accounts, one in the United States to process credit cards etc, and a smaller one in Australia to be able to cash cheques and receive bank transfers.

The bank account has been rising on a regular based. If one high profile speaker to get high profile up is brought in it may increase. The Society financial status is good despite what appear to be losses in the statement. This is due to the fact that money from the New Orleans Meeting has not yet been deposited but some expenses have been paid.

An audit for both accounts will be performed by the next meeting in 2007 and is to be arranged by Rania Horaitis in Melbourne.

Tax reports were sent to the US tax office by Bill Oetting.

6. Office Report

Rania Horaitis presented the 2006 membership statistics. The Society attracted 20 new members this year however the total number of members has decreased from last year. The Society attracts new members but is not managing to keep them so there is no net increase. Six new memberships were made last week so they could come to the meeting at the reduced registration rate, if only they would rejoin in 2007.

Bruce Gottlieb again suggested that a good meeting can increase joining incentives.

Rania Horaitis stated that the LSDB lists were updated this year, the list now operates as a database of databases and is easier to handle as it became extremely difficult to keep up to date due to the explosion in the number of LSDBs. A paper about this was submitted to Nature Genetics and should be published soon.

The nomenclature pages were regularly updated by Johan den Dunnen; counters that were previously on the web pages have been lost but will be added again.

Rania stated that the two meetings a year were very successful and thanked all who helped organise them. She stated that the Society has a booth at the ASHG meeting; number 931.

There will be a joint Human Variome Project meeting with LSDB curators at 5pm Wed 11th French Garden Bar at the Hilton.

7. Publications Report

Mark Paalman discussed in full report in the handout. The impact factor increased to 7.9 and the journal is ranked 12th out of 124 journals, it has been a great journal at IF of 6 – 7 for 5 years. The high quality of articles means they are more highly cited, Rania Horaitis and Richard Cotton have kept invitations going any many Mutation Updates and Reviews have been invited. Anyone who can suggest a topic for Review articles should write to Rania Horaitis or Human Mutation directly with their suggestion.

Johan den Dunnen asked if subscriptions to the journal have increased. Mark Paalman answered he does not know and that Wiley is interested as the journal is being accessed. There are campaigns trying to package the journal with other journals.

8. Election of Council Members

Three Board members positions are due to expire on 31st December 2006. The individuals are:

- Christophe Beroud
- A. Jamie Cuticchia
- Convoer Talbot Jr.

All three are eligible to stand for re-election if they wish. The nomination committee is to contact them to ask if they wish to re-run for council.

The nomination committee is also to make a call to members at large by email to see if any other nominations are made. A paragraph about each individual should be submitted.

Nominations will close November 15th.

The Electronic Ballot will be sent December 1.

Closing of voting will be December 31.

A maximum of four (4) individuals may be voted for by each member. Members can choose to vote for one (1), two (2), three (3) or four (4) individuals. Any votes over four (4) will be deemed invalid.

9. Election of Office Bearers

A call for nominations for President-Elect will also be made at the time of Council Elections. The nomination committee will also propose and ask individuals for the election of President-Elect.

The nomination and election procedure will be the same as per the Council Elections in 8.

10. Other Business

- a) The Human Variome Project and its relationship to the HGVS
- b) Human Variome Project Meeting at HUGO's Human Genome Meeting

In summary:

- A symposium on "Pharmacogenomics" will be organized as a satellite of HUGO's Human Genome Meeting in Montreal on 31st May 2006.
- The HGVS should increase its presence amongst National Societies in Europe, Johan den Dunnen to hold a small HGVS meeting at the European Society of Human Genetics meeting in Nice, 2007.
- The Society should raise its profile, attracting high profile invited speakers to meetings may help.

Meeting adjourned 6:30 PM

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

Date _____