

Report on IAMBE Governing Council meetings on 26th Sept, 2013 at MEDICON, Seville.

Chair P. Hunter (standing in for IAMBE Council Chair, Roger Kamm, and Membership Cttee Chair, Bin He).

Secretary: Shoogo Ueno

The IAMBE General Council met at 9am (Council only) and at 7:30pm (open meeting) on Sept 26, 2013 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Membership Cttee Report

Council discussed and approved the IAMBE Fellowship selection process that has been instigated this year under the chairmanship of Bin He. The key points in the new protocol are: (i) Two letters of reference from IAMBE Fellows are required in addition to the nomination; (ii) A 2/3 majority of the 11 members of the Membership Cttee is needed for a candidate to be shortlisted for subsequent voting by the Fellows. (Note that successful election at this second stage requires 2/3 of the ballots received to be positive).

The following three points came up in the discussion at the open meeting:

(i) The rules need to clarify whether the '2/3 majority' of the Membership Cttee means 2/3 of the votes counted including abstentions or 2/3 of the votes counted excluding abstentions.

(ii) Given that abstentions are permitted for the voting by the Membership Cttee, a 'quorum' of non-abstaining votes needs to be established.

(iii) The Membership Cttee should be encouraged not to abstain, given that the members of this cttee are looking at the nominations in detail on behalf of the Fellowship.

The new protocols need to be included in the updated Bylaws with this point clarified.

2. IAMBE Early Career awards

IFMBE has 7 awards for senior members and students, but does not have an early career award. A \$5k award proposed by Peter Niederer to fill this gap was originally funded by his company and an award was made at the Munich World Congress but since the company is no longer able to provide the funds, a proposal was made to IFMBE to take over the funding of the award. The original proposal in fact included two awards, one being for a recipient in an under-developed country. IFMBE responded with a proposal to make four awards of \$3k each with the following conditions:

(i) The four awards are for applicants from the following four geographic regions: North America, Latin America, Europe & Africa, Asia-Pacific.

(ii) The application from a specified geographic region should be for work carried out in that region and the applicant should reside in that region at the time of submission.

(iii) At the time of submission, applicants should have a PhD awarded not more than 7 years previously.

(iv) Applications should be submitted 6 months prior to the IFMBE World Congress.

(v) The awards will be administered by IAMBE with an awards cttee that will also include the Chair of the IFMBE Awards Cttee.

(vi) The awardees will be asked to present a talk at the ensuing World Congress and asked to write a paper for submission to MBEC. The World Congress fees will be waived for the four awardees.

A show of hands at the meeting indicated unanimous support for this proposal. Subject to final confirmation of funding from IFMBE, a document should now be prepared to advertise the awards, with the above conditions, on the IAMBE website.

3. Website update

A report on the new IAMBE website (www.iambe-ifmbe.org), developed by Bin He, was presented. The bio's and photos of 2/3 of IAMBE Fellows are now on the website. A renewed effort is needed to gather the other 1/3. Thanks expressed to Bin for an excellent job.

4. An IAMBE white paper on the Future of Medical and Biological Engineering

A draft report entitled "Future directions of Medical and Biological Engineering" was written in 2009 by several IAMBE Fellows. A new section on Computational Physiology and the Physiome Project was added recently by P. Hunter. The desirability of further updating and enhancing this report was discussed. The general agreement was that having such a forward looking white paper would be a good idea and that it could lead to the following outcomes:

- (i) A review paper submitted to MBEC, with a condensed version possibly being submitted to Science, which would also raise the visibility of IFMBE.
- (ii) Working Groups could be formed to further develop and implement recommendations from the white paper – for example on matters of policy or proposed industry standards.
- (iii) Specialised conferences or special sessions at a future IFMBE World Congress might be proposed to further develop a theme.
- (iii) Grand Challenges could also be proposed, particularly in niche areas where IFMBE expertise was uniquely relevant, and for which IFMBE could contribute funding, ideally in collaboration with another international organisation like the WHO.

An action item from the discussion is to email IAMBE members to ask what they think the grand challenges are and what aspects of these challenges could be uniquely addressed by IFMBE.

5. Proposal on Biomedical Engineering in Developing Countries

A funding request by Prof Muhammad Zaman, of the Dept of Biomedical Engineering at Boston University, has been made to IFMBE to sponsor (i) the purchase of text books and lab equipment to teach BME courses in two African universities (Makerere University in Uganda and Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia), (ii) travel and other costs in training teachers from these countries, and (iii) the production of videos of recorded BME lectures by key staff at US and European universities. A paper submitted by Prof Zaman to IFMBE presents the many benefits that such sponsorship would achieve. Note that Prof Zaman is co-Director of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) program on BME education and practice.

This item will be discussed at the IFMBE AC meeting on Sept 28.

Peter Hunter. Sept 27, 2013.