

REPORT to Administrative Council IFMBE

Period: 2009-2012

Membership: Chair: Monique Frize; Vice Chair: Laura Poole-Warren, Members: Maria Siebes, Alicia El-Haj, Eleni Kaldoudi, Susana Llanusa, Jennifer Ayers, Miya Ishihara, Herbert Voigt

Overview of past activities:

1. Increasing the visibility of women within IFMBE:
Conference organizers of each official IFMBE event since 2010 were asked to consider provide visible roles for women with some being invited as Plenary and Keynote speakers, Chair of sessions. There should also be some women on committees and on the AC, Fellows, and awardees.
Results: Two women and sixteen men were invited as keynote speakers for WC2012 in Beijing. Some women were Chairs of sessions in MEDICON 2010, EMBEC 2011, and WC2012. There are still no women in the AC, but there are a few women on IFMBE committees.
2. The Newsletter has had a section for WiMBE information and news since the summer of 2010.
3. A database of women in biomedical engineering is being compiled.
4. We held a workshop on women in MBE at MEDICON with over 50 participants attending. There was a good discussion between participants and the panel (Maria Siebes, Eleni Kaldoudi, and Monique Frize).

In EMBEC 2011 in Budapest, a panel moderated by Herbert Voigt with the three speakers named above, as well as Kathleen Gaeredts from Belgium, had a good turnout and again a good discussion. The presentations complemented those done in Greece and all presentations from both events are on the website of IFMBE.
5. WiMBE joined INWES (International Network of Women Engineers and Scientists) in 2011.
6. The committee sent articles for the IFMBE News for every publication since the summer of 2010.
7. A workshop to assess current issues limiting the participation of women in engineering has been planned for the triennial conference in Beijing.

Future Plans:

1. For the period of 2012-2015: We plan to put develop the database of women experts in various fields and for different levels of roles. There will be a category for women who could be invited to give a keynote address, those who should be nominated for a Fellowship in the Federation's Academy; names will be collected of women who could be nominated for Council positions; for chairs of sessions, etc...

2. A network of contact persons from each affiliated Society will be created. We need the cooperation of the secretaries of the Societies for this project to be successful. With this network, we will attempt to assess the level of participation of women in respective countries and obtain names for the database mentioned in point 1 above.
3. We plan to organise a symposium on women in biomedical engineering for one IFMBE event per year. Details will be worked-out during the committee's meeting in Beijing.
4. Discuss how we might use social media to raise our profile and the profile of senior women in engineering. An example would be to create a blog on women in engineering. This could expand our impact and visibility.

Budget:

2012-2013: Meeting of committee and event in 2013: \$4000

2013-2014: Meeting of committee and event in 2014: \$4000

2014-2015: Meeting of committee and WC2015: \$9000

Total: \$17,000 for entire period. This includes a small support for committee members, a student assistant to help research material and populate the WimBE web page, and a networking lunch at the main event. This budget also includes annual membership in INWES and attendance at a regional event on women in science or engineering outside IFMBE (such as the one Maria Siebes attended in 2011 in Belgium).