

Report from Chair of CoS, for AC meeting September 19, 2020

The Council of Society Executive Board held several meetings by teleconference platforms, kindly arranged by Timo Jamsa. After the Cancun AC meeting, in 2019, we met on October 4 (annual CoS meeting in Cancun) and December 12; in 2020, we met on February 18 and 20, April 28, July 2, August 11, and September 8. We plan to hold the annual CoS meeting with our Affiliated Societies on October 17 (12 noon GMT) by zoom platform. Invitations will be sent shortly by RGRs.

Replacement of the North American RGR:

Dr. Gilda Barabino resigned as RGR (NA) in the spring because of her new position as President of Olin College. In the past (2018) with the passing of Herbert Voigt and Guillermo Avendano, the new appointments were decided by a discussion of the CoS Executive Board (EB) and approved by the President James Goh for Gilda Barabino for Herb and Eric Laciari for Guillermo. This was done through a skype meeting of the EB with RGRs and Secretary General KP Lin and President James Goh. In 2020, our EB decided to consult the NA region delegates and carry out an election to replace Dr Barabino. In view of the short term left in the mandate (one year) and the need for the work on the gender theme to be started, time was of the essence; all four NA Societies were consulted as to who were their current delegates, and whether they had a person they wanted to nominate for the RGR role. The process of nomination, voting and reporting was done by both the Vice-Chair (Timo Jamsa) and the Chair (M. Frize). There was only one nominee (Dr Janvier, from CMBES) and all delegates voted to accept this candidate. They were asked afterwards if they had minded the short time line for the election and all responded that it was fine and they were content with the results.

Activities of the EB of the CoS:

The RGRs circulated the ethics survey developed by Monique to societies. Seven responses provided a code of ethics. These are excellent examples that can help other societies to develop their code. Eight societies stated that they do not have a code but can use examples to develop one. One society (Hellenic) is developing one.

The new NA RGR, Marie-Ange Janvier, promptly consulted women from the WiMBE committee and developed a survey on the theme of Gender. The survey is ready to be distributed to our Societies.

Timo has been discussing issues about BME in LMI settings and will have a report in the near future; and Ichiro is looking into fellowships for young researchers. His report will follow shortly.

RGRs and I are preparing the Annual CoS meeting agenda and how we will proceed with a zoom meeting in October. Date and time: Saturday, October 17, 8-10 AM EDT. Invitations will be sent for CoS ordinary members by September 12. The Zoom meeting link to be sent for registered delegates only.

News from the Regions:

North America:

ACCE has regular webinars scheduled in their calendar. In 2020 ACCE Conference 2020 cancelled which usually occurs with AAMI set in June in New Orleans, LA (Covid related)

AAMI has regular webinars and is looking forward with ACCE for their next conference in June 4–7, 2021 | Charlotte, NC

Joint Conference of IEEE EMBS (IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society) and CMBES July 21-25, 2020 in Montreal was virtual conference. IEEE EMBS next conference to be held in Guadalajara, Mexico, July 26-30, 2021. The theme of the conference is “Changing Global Health Care in the Twenty-First Century”.

CMBES has a new executive that takes in effect in July 2020. Their next conference is in Vancouver, British Columbia – from May 11-13, 2021 (Pending Covid restrictions)

Latin America and Caribbean:

October 2-5, 2019, Cancun: VIII Latin-American Congress on BME and XLII National Conference on BME, Mexico; 2500 participants, 193 papers, 22 workshops.

March 4-6, 2020: Xxii Argentinian Congress on Bioeng. And XI Seminar on Clin Eng. In Uruguay; 400 participants, 284 papers, 6 workshops.

June 30-July 4, 2020: IV Latin American Summer School on BME in Colombia.

August 26-28, 2020: A Celebration of ten years beyond EMBC'10.

Europe and Africa:

September 26-28, 2019: MEDICON held in Coimbra, Portugal, including a memorial session for Niilo Saranummi. A regional CoS meeting was also held in Coimbra.

October 21-22, 2019: III ICEHTMC held in Rome, Italy.

Covid has led to several conference cancellations or postponements; EMBEC2020 in June is postponed to November 29-Dec 3, 2020 and will likely be a hybrid meeting.

Sep 18-20, 2020: NBC will be held in Reykjavik, Iceland, as an online meeting.

New Initiatives: EAMBES Task Force on Regulatory Affairs; and EAMBES Working Group on Medical Device Nomenclature.

Asia-Pacific

Report from Asian Pacific Working Group, Ichiro Sakuma, PhD (Japan Society for Medical and Biological Engineering)

1. Annual Meeting. Annual meeting of APWG was held from 16:00-19:00 JST on June 11th, 2020. Report from member societies will be shared by the members. It was decided that the 12th Asian Pacific Conference on Medical and Biological Engineering will be held in Shanghai, China in 2023.

2. 11th Asian Pacific Working Conference on Medical and Biological Engineering The number of participants both to JSMBE2020 and APCMBE2020 was 1347. The registration number with payment to APCMBE was 58. Since we allow the Japanese members of JSMBE registered to JSMBE2020 to participate in APCMBE2020, most of the Japanese members are considered to have registered through JSMBE2020. Based on the fact that there are several sessions having attendees with approximately a hundred, we can have approximately a few hundred participants in total. We organized 2 Special lectures, 3 organized sessions, and 66 paper submissions: 53 papers presentation. Proceedings: under editing: 40-42 papers will be included.

3. Others Each member society has conducted activities domestically to inspire medical and biological engineering in the Asian Pacific region. We will collaborate to support World Congress in 2021 in Singapore. The Young Investigator Networking Fellowship will be prepared for WC2021.