

Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution Council and Business Meetings, 2000

Council Meeting, 2000

1. *Call to order.*—The annual SMBE Council meeting was called to order at 2:15 PM, 17 June 2000, at Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut. Until the arrival of President Wen-Hsiung Li at 2:40 PM, Past-President Andrew Clark acted as chair. Also in attendance were Editor Simon Easteal, Treasurer Dick Hudson, and Secretary Marcy Uyenoyama. Lacking a quorum, Council confined its activities to procedural actions and discussion.

2. *Approval of minutes.*—The minutes of the 1999 Council and Business meetings, published in the December 1999 issue of MBE, were approved.

3. *Treasurer's report.*—Treasurer Dick Hudson summarized the financial state of the Society (see report) and presented a projection for the coming year.

Council again discussed the possibility of investing Society funds. Also discussed were the establishment of a committee to explore investment options and to compare expected returns to the approximately 5% we presently receive from certificates of deposit. Suggestions and volunteers would be solicited from Society members.

4. *Secretary's report.*—In the Secretary's report, Marcy Uyenoyama summarized the actions of the Council over the past year. Council has approved Simon Easteal's motion to maintain subscription fees for the coming year at current levels. Insurance coverage for the Editor against liabilities associated with publication of the journal has been continued.

MBE Online was launched on 24 February 2000, with all back issues available. Free access has been extended through June 2000. The website, managed by HighWire Press, Stanford University, will include both Society business, once considered for the SMBE website (managed by Allen Press), and online subscriptions and other functions associated with the journal.

Officers to be elected this year include President-Elect and Councillor. Past-President Andy Clark appointed Naruya Saitou, Caro-Beth Stewart, and Chung-I Wu to the nominations committee, later adding Secretary Marcy Uyenoyama (ex officio). Ballots will be sent to the membership after determination of the nominees.

Council has approved a proposal from John McDonald to hold the next annual meeting at the Georgia Center, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia during 7–11 July 2001.

SMBE members attending the 1999 Business Meeting in Brisbane proposed and voted to establish the Masatoshi Nei Lecture, to be delivered by the President at annual meetings. SMBE bylaws stipulate that, with the exception of measures passed by mail ballot, resolutions adopted by the general membership are not binding on

the Council. Council has approved the establishment of the Nei Lecture.

Dr. Irene Eckstrand of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences invited the Society to adopt a more active role on the evolution education committee that she chairs. Council has approved the appointment of Marta Wayne as SMBE representative for 2000–2001.

5. *Editor's report.*—Simon Easteal presented the report of the Editor (see report). Deputy Editor Stanley Sawyer, appointed to assist the Editor with aspects associated with electronic publication, joined the meeting. Among the issues raised were management of online submission and refereeing.

Other business.—Additional issues discussed by members of the Council in attendance included Wen-Hsiung Li's suggestion that the minimum number of Council members required for a quorum (presently six, or two-thirds of the Council) be reduced and that actions adopted by the general membership at annual meetings be binding on Council even without mail balloting. Mechanisms for generating revenue to support travel grants for contestants for the Fitch Prize, increasing the Fitch Prize award (currently \$500), and other activities were also discussed.

Presentation by Blackwell Science, Inc.—Representatives from Blackwell Science, Inc., presented a proposal to publish the journal. Significant differences between the proposed arrangement and the system currently in operation with Allen Press and HighWire include profit-sharing with Blackwell (rather than flat payment for services) and the possibility of including MBE in block sales of Blackwell titles to libraries and institutions. Simon Easteal, Dick Hudson, and Wen-Hsiung Li will continue discussions with Blackwell.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 PM.

Business Meeting, 2000

1. *Call to order:* President Wen-Hsiung Li called to order the annual SMBE Business meeting at 12:25 PM, 19 June 2000.

2. *Secretary's report:* Marcy Uyenoyama announced that the annual SMBE meeting in 2001 will be held at the University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia and that ballots for this year's election will be sent out soon. In the near future, the Society will conduct more business via the website, at which members will have access to various functions, including updating of postal and e-mail addresses, participation in discussions, and voting in elections.

3. *Treasurer's report:* Dick Hudson summarized the inflow, outflow, and current assets of the Society, noting expenses associated with taking the journal online.

4. *Editor's report:* Simon Easteal presented a synopsis of the Editor's report, indicating increases in memberships and in manuscripts received and pages

published. Some discussion was made of aspects of the proposal from Blackwell Science, Inc., to publish MBE. Dick Hudson noted that establishing a 50% profit-sharing partnership with Blackwell Science, Inc., would generate a deficit in at least the first two years, although Blackwell projects greater revenues after that time. Simon Easteal solicited advice and suggestions concerning the marketing of the journal. Opening discussions with editors of other Blackwell journals was recommended.

Other business: Wen-Hsiung Li invited advice and help in establishing a committee to advise the Council on options for investing Society funds.

Adjournment: Wen-Hsiung Li adjourned the meeting at 1:05 PM.

Addenda: Just before Wen-Hsiung Li's presentation of the Nei Lecture, Walter Fitch awarded the Walter M. Fitch Student Prize to Eric A. Gaucher for his presentation, "Functional analysis of proteins using covarion-based evolutionary approaches: Elongation factors." Eddie Holmes, David Penny, and Maryellen Ruvolo served as judges in the Fitch Prize competition.

Michael Clegg and Takashi Gojobori agreed to stand for election for President-Elect, and Howard Ochman and Shozo Yokoyama for Councillor.