

Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution (SMBE) Council and Business Meetings, 2008, Barcelona, Spain

Council Meeting

1. *Call to order.* – President Paul Sharp called the meeting to order at 9:50 AM on 5 June 2008. In attendance were President Paul Sharp, President-Elect Michael Lynch, Past-President Deborah Charlesworth, Secretary Jianzhi Zhang, Treasurer Marta Wayne, *Molecular Biology and Evolution (MBE)* Editor Marcy Uyenoyama, and Councillors Charles Aquadro, Laura Landweber, and Ziheng Yang. SMBE2009 conference organizer John Logsdon, *Genome Biology and Evolution (GBE)* prospective editors William Martin and Takashi Gojobori, Oxford University Press (OUP) representative Cathy Kennedy attended part of the meeting. The meeting began with Introductions.

2. *Approval of minutes.* – Council unanimously approved the minutes of the 2007 Council and Business meetings, published in the December 2007 issue of *MBE* and also available at <http://www.smbe.org/archive.htm> online.

3. *Editor's report.* – The *MBE* Editor gave a report on the health of the journal (see detailed Editor's report).

4. *Treasurer's report.* – Treasurer Marta Wayne summarized the financial state of the Society. Records indicate that the Society is in excellent financial health. (See detailed Treasurer's report).

5. *Secretary's report.* – Secretary Jianzhi Zhang reviewed Council actions over the preceding year. These notes, along with the meeting minutes, are summarized here:

Election of SMBE Officers: Past-President Deborah Charlesworth appointed a Nominations Committee to select candidates for the offices of President-Elect, Councillor, and Treasurer. Members of the nominations committee included Pekka Pamilo (Chair), Jennifer Wernegreen, Cedric Feschotte, Nora Besansky, Yoshio Tateno, and Jianzhi Zhang (*ex officio*). Secretary Jianzhi Zhang informed society members of the composition of the committee and invited suggestions for nominees. The candidates standing for the elections were Jody Hey (Rutgers University) and Norihiro Okada (Tokyo Institute of Technology) for President-Elect, Dan Graur (University of Houston) and Dmitri Petrov (Stanford University) for Councillor, and John Archibald (Dalhousie University) for Treasurer. The elections were conducted online from April 14 to May 16, at the OUP member-subscription site, where short biographies of the candidates were made available. In the final tally, Drs. Hey, Graur, and Archibald were elected to hold the offices of President-Elect (2009), Councillor (2009–2011), and Treasurer (2009–2011), respectively.

Report on 2008 SMBE Annual Meeting: The 16th annual meeting of SMBE was held 5–8 June, 2008, at Palau de Congressos de Barcelona (Catalonia, Spain). The meeting attracted 1072 delegates from over 40 countries in all continents. Student participation was very high, accounting for ~42% of all participants. The scientific program included 3 plenary lectures, 27 symposia with 200 contributed talks,

and more than 700 posters. The symposia were selected by the Scientific Committee from 34 proposals. The Walter Fitch Student Prize Competition received 188 applications. Eight contestants were selected and the final winner was Jean-François Gout from Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, France. In addition to supporting eight Fitch-Prize contestants for traveling to Barcelona, SMBE awarded 10 Postdoctoral Researcher Travel Awards and 10 Graduate Student Travel Awards. SMBE also gave 12 poster prizes (six for graduate students and six for postdoctoral fellows) and sponsored the Undergraduate Diversity Mentoring Program Awards (UDMPA). A full list of prize winners can be found at <http://www.smbe2008.com/awardwinners.htm>.

The meeting was supported by SMBE, Universitat de Barcelona (UB), Ministerio de Educación y Ciencia, Generalitat de Catalunya, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC), Genoma España, Redes Moleculares, Institut d'Estudis Catalans (IEC), Societat Catalana de Biologia (SCB), Barcelona Supercomputing Center (BSC), International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS) and Diversitas. In addition to the institutional support, Oxford University Press (OUP) provided significant financial and in-kind support. The meeting was also sponsored by Applied Biosystems, Roche, Wiley-Blackwell, Delphi Genetics, Antama, Royal Society Publishing, Bio-Rad, Eppendorf and La Caixa. The meeting organizers gratefully acknowledge these organizations because their contributions were essential to the success of the meeting. Members of the Organizing Committee are also grateful to members of the SMBE Council, members of the Scientific Committee, organizer of the 2007 annual meeting John Archibald, judges and mentors, and the Congress Secretariat (AOPC). Their hard work and support contributed to the success of SMBE 2008.

Future Annual Meetings: The presentation of the proposal for SMBE2009 (3–7 June 2009) in Iowa City, USA was given by John Logsdon of University of Iowa. Facilities as well as organizational plans were presented, along with maps of the site, general information about the locale, and the organizers' ideas for generating sponsorships for invited symposia presentations. The Council suggested that the meeting organizers investigate the potential of using webcams to broadcast some of the oral presentations so that the content of the meeting becomes accessible to a broader audience. President Paul Sharp presented on behalf of Manolo Gouy an update on the plan for the 2010 Society Meeting in Lyon, France, which now includes the potential of hosting up to 1100 attendees. President-Elect Michael Lynch informed the Council of a potential organizer of the 2011 Society Meeting in United States.

Financial Support for Attending Society Annual Meetings: Based on the current financial status of the society, Council approved the motion of providing up to US\$1000 for each associate editor of *MBE* to attend the 2009 annual meeting. Council also approved the motion to provide up to \$1000 per individual for a total of 30 graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to attend the 2009 annual meeting. The awardees should include approximately equal numbers of

graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. The support for 10 undergraduate students and 8 Fitch prize contestants to attend the annual conference will continue.

SMBE Webmaster: Sudhir Kumar has resigned from the post of Webmaster of the Society. Secretary Jianzhi Zhang will work with the web specialist Wayne Parkhurst to maintain the Society web pages.

SMBE Journal and Membership: A motion of an increase of 3% in US membership fee was approved by Council. Increase of membership fees in other currencies vary due to changes of exchange rates in the past year. To encourage open access publication in MBE, it was approved by Council that the charge for open access publication includes the fees for 8 pages (see Editor's report).

Genome Biology and Evolution (GBE): William Martin and Takashi Gojobori reported their plan for GBE, including the editorial board, publishing model, and publication fees. There were extensive discussions on publication fees. The contract between Society and OUP on publishing GBE was eventually approved by Council in November 2008.

Bylaws Amendments: Subsequent to the council meeting, President Paul Sharp, President-Elect Michael Lynch, and Past-President Deborah Charlesworth proposed

amendments to Society Bylaws to reflect the addition of *GBE* as a Society journal and the necessary changes in Council composition. The amendments were approved by Council in August 2008 and approved by the membership in November 2009. The new Bylaws are posted on the SMBE web site.

6. *Adjournment.* - The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Business Meeting

1. *Call to order.* - President Paul Sharp called to order the annual SMBE Business meeting at 5:50 pm, on 7 June 2008. About 20 SMBE members were in attendance.

2. *New business.* - The President summarized the discussion at the Council meeting, including announcing the election results. Marta Wayne delivered the Treasurer's report. Marcy Uyenoyama delivered the *MBE* Editor's report. *GBE* Editor William Martin briefly described the rationale and plan for GBE and noted that the first issue may be published in early 2009. The President announced the locations of the SMBE meetings for the next two years. The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 pm.