

MDO International Advisory Committee Meeting, July 6, 2008 (Saratoga Springs, NY)

Present: Drs Estabrook, Guengerich, Halpert, Ingelman-Sundberg, Johnson, Kim, Meyer, Baillie, Mackenzie, Negishi, Okey, Vermeulen, Waterman, Waxman, Wolf, Vereczkey, Kaminsky, Wang, Ding, Li, Henderson, Coughtrie.

Apologies: Fujii-Kuriyama, Kamataki, Ortiz De Montellano, Archacov, Coon, Gillam, Gonzalez, Sugiyama, Wrighton

The meeting was chaired by Magnus Ingelman-Sundberg, with David Waxman taking notes, as summarized below.

- 1) Summary from Laslo Vereczkey, MDO 2006: The Budapest meeting was a financial success. A total of \$14,000 was transferred to Larry Kaminsky for MDO 2008.
- 2) Report for MDO 2008 – Larry Kaminsky’s budget of \$211,000 included: \$67,000 from donations, \$32,000 from exhibitors and \$87,000 from registration fees. Expenses to date totaled \$151,000, resulting in a net estimated positive balance of \$50,000-\$60,000. Larry did not provide any of the invited speakers with travel fees, which resulted in a major savings, and none of the 70 speakers and chairman turned him down based on a lack of travel support. Also, he negotiated a net \$0 charge from the conference hotel for use of the conference meeting rooms. It was suggested that the net “profit” from MDO 2008 could be used to support student registration fees at future MDO meetings, or perhaps to create a rolling fund to provide a financial cushion for organizers of future MDO meetings. The donations of \$67,000 were received very late, so it is very difficult to count on them in advance.
- 3) Decline in MDO attendance - There was a decline in the number of participants at MDO 2008 (~300) as compared to the Budapest (2006) and Mainz (2006) meetings (400-500 participants each), but it was noted that the Los Angeles MDO meeting also had only ~300 participants. The committee discussed several questions, including: Is this a USA phenomenon, or is there perhaps a decline in interest in attending MDO? Perhaps the low attendance at MDO 2008 resulted from overlap with the *Gordon Conference on Drug Metabolism* scheduled for the same week. Should we be concerned about the apparent decline in attendance? Is a smaller meeting of 300 individuals perhaps more desirable than 400 or 500 participants? What is the best way to deal with the conflict/competition with ISSX for meeting participants? Should MDO place more focus on transporters? What is the best way for MDO, with its tradition of an academic focus, to maintain an

identity distinct from ISSX? At a minimum, the calendar for future MDO meetings should be coordinated with ISSX.

4) Beijing, China, MDO 2010 - The likely date for MDO 2010 is May 16-20, 2010 (Sun - Thurs), and a web site has been set up: www.MDO2010.org. Local organizers from CAMS (Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences) were present at MDO 2008: Drs. X. Wang (Chair) and Yan Li. Several long-term MDO members will be included on the scientific program committee for MDO 2010: Xinxin Ding, Anthony Lu, Henry Strobel and C. S. Yang. The organizers anticipate 300-500 attendees, including 150-300 local (Chinese) attendees. The Scientific Program will be chaired by Yan Li and Xinxin Ding. Fundraising will include the Chinese National Sciences Foundation. It is anticipated that Chinese pharmaceutical companies and foundations will provide generous financial support. However, it can be anticipated that airfare costs may be quite high, which could cut into attendance by younger investigators.

The hotel/venue for MDO 2010 will be determined after the August 2008 Olympics.

- 1st option – Beijing Int'l Conference Center (centrally located).
- 2nd option – Jiyhua Spa + Resort (only 26 km from airport but 35 km to downtown); some committee members felt this site may be too isolated.

5) MDO 2012 is to be organized by Mike Coughtrie and colleagues in Edinburgh, Scotland, most likely at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre (EICC). Two possibilities were discussed by the MDO International Advisory Committee: 1) MDO 2012 should be a traditional, stand-alone meeting, in which case, a less expensive venue would be chosen; or alternatively 2) MDO 2012 should be a joint meeting with ISSX, which could serve as a trial for future interactions with ISSX. The majority voted in favor of pursuing a joint meeting with ISSX in 2012. However, an essential goal expressed by the committee was for MDO to not lose control of the scientific program if a joint meeting is held. There were some concerns raised as to how the finances would be managed, whether ISSX would absorb any deficits incurred, etc. The estimated cost for the venue primarily proposed (for a 5 day meeting) is quite high at \$160,000 + tax, which would only be affordable if the meeting were to be joint with ISSX; if not, then a smaller, less expensive (e.g., local University) venue would be required. Edinburgh offers an attractive venue and the possibility of good weather (at least for a few days each year!) and there are good air travel connections to the U.S. and Europe.

6) A proposal was made by Ron Estabrook to add Tsuneo Omura as an honorary member of the MDO International Advisory Committee, which at present includes Ron Estabrook and Jud Coon. The committee unanimously approved the proposal.