

MDO International Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting Notes (6/27/11)

Present: Drs Waxman, Ingelman-Sundberg, Yun, Guengerich, Gillam, Johnson, Halpert, Ortiz De Motellano, Negishi, Archacov

1) MDO 2010 /Xinxin Ding, Summary of finances: A total of \$180k income was received, which fully covered expenses, but in addition, the Chinese governmental sponsors provided additional funding (unspecified amount). The local organizer (PUMC/IMM) e.g. contributed personnel and other office support for free. The speakers were not reimbursed for travel cost, but had free registration. Meeting provided meals essentially for all four days. As a result, the \$26,070.93 net surplus from MDO2008 in Saratoga, New York was not used and will be available for MDO 2014. A special MDO account will be established for this money. MDO 2012 will not require those funds, as it has the financial backing of ISSX, which according to an agreement between MDO and ISSX has assumed full financial responsibility for that meeting. Furthermore, MDO 2010 received funding from Vanderbilt University of \$ 24 000 which was not used and it is at present not clear whether it is possible to transfer this money to future MDO meeting. Magnus, Fred and Xinxin will investigate this matter.

At MDO 2010 there were 243 international and 230 local (Chinese) attendees; all but 4 speakers showed up. Xinxin Ding played a major role in organizing both an outstanding scientific program and all local arrangements for MDO 2010. The MDO Advisory Committee expressed sincere thanks and appreciation to Xinxin for his very successful efforts.

2) MDO 2012 (the 19th MDO) will jointly be held with the 12th European ISSX meeting in Nordwijk, an attractive venue outside of Amsterdam.

A preliminary budget for MDO/ISSX 2012 has been set, and it assumes approx. 400 paying participants, of whom 290 are expected to pay the full (non-discounted) registration fee. E. Johnson discussed the question of how the registration fee would be set to attract participants. It is particularly important that the fee not be too high, so

as to encourage attendance. It is projected that the ~200 regular, full-paying registrants who attended the last few MDO meetings will also attend MDO/ISSX 2012, and that some of the ~300+ regular European ISSX attendees will also attend. However, there was concern that these projections might not be realistic if the registration cost is too high, and/or if an economic down-turn affecting biopharma persists, or if the joint MDO/ISSX program planned for the meeting is not viewed favorably by the regular MDO attendees.

Potential options for controlling meeting costs were discussed, including instituting only partial speaker travel expense reimbursement. Also, Session Chairs and Co-chairs who do not also speak at the conference will not be offered travel reimbursement.

3) A joint MDO-ISSX Advisory Committee consisting of 30 individuals has been established, and a preliminary list of sessions has been prepared. Several MDO committee members raised the question as to whether the tentative session titles (in particular the plenary sessions) were more “ISSX-like” than they would need to be in order to retain an MDO-like character to the meeting and attract the core of ~200 regular full-paying MDO attendees.

4) MDO 2014 is tentatively planned for Stuttgart, Germany in May-June 2014 with Uli Zanger as organizer together with support from Urs Meyer and Heyo Kroemer in the organization of the meeting. There was strong support for this proposal, given the high quality and enthusiasm of the proposed organizers in this undertaking.

5) MDO 2016 – We are considering having a meeting in Seoul, Korea with Korean scientists including Dr Yun volunteering to organize the meeting.

6) MDO 2018 – Organisers in Japan, including Dr Yokoi and Dr Yamazoe, are looking into the possibility to house the MDO2018 meeting.

Notes by David Waxman