

MDO International Scientific Standing Advisory Committee Meeting Notes (6/19/13)

Location: International P450 Meeting, Seattle, WA with Skype attendees participating

Present: Drs M Ingelman-Sundberg*(Chair), T Baillie, X Ding*, E Gillam, F Gonzalez, F Guengerich, J Halpert, E Johnson, P Ortiz de Montellano, R. A Prough*, and DJ Waxman*

*Skype call-in attendee

1) Summary of MDO 2012 (Joint ISSX meeting in the Netherlands)

628 attendees

155 course attendees

489 fully-paid attendees

139 exhibitors (103K income from exhibitors)

38K, Net loss (loss paid by ISSX per agreement, with MDO)

2) MDO 2014 Stuttgart, Uli Zanger, Conference Organizer

2.1) MDO 2014 will be financially independent of existing MDO reserves, but to do that, Uli and his team will need to limit expenses and increase income, e.g. by offering several short courses on Sunday prior to the meeting, to attract additional paying attendees. In addition, there will be commercial support for conference meeting lunches. The Conference venue is now fixed – it is located close to the airport (not in the city), since Stuttgart does not have many options that could accommodate our need for a large hall for Plenary lectures (estimated about 700 max). A sponsor brochure has been sent to about 100 companies to solicit corporate support and the conference web site is under construction. Abstract submissions and registration will open in August and run through December (??).

2.2) Accommodations: There are several intermediate class hotels in the immediate vicinity of the conference venue. Better quality hotels are one subway stop away, a 5 minutes ride, or in the city itself (about 30 minutes ride, by public transportation). Special arrangements have not yet been made for students with limited travel funds.

2.3) Scientific Program: The program includes classical MDO themes and several new (up and coming) themes. Approximately 30% of the preliminary program includes sessions proposed by the 27 member MDO 2014 conference Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) that Uli and his associates assembled. The SAB includes about 10 members from the standing MDO International Advisory Committee (this committee). Of the 20 parallel sessions initially proposed, 16 were subsequently chosen based upon voting preferences of the SAB. Twenty-one of the 27 SAB members voted, and the

number of sessions was reduced from 20 to 14. Three new sessions were proposed (Protein-protein interactions, Oxidative stress, and Epigenetics regulation).

2.4) Short courses: These are potentially a win-win situation, as the conference venue is not charging additional fees for the space required to host the short courses on the opening day of the conference (Sunday). The target audience for the short courses includes students, and registrants from industry.

2.5) There was a lively discussion, initiated by Jim Halpert, as to what the role of this Standing MDO Advisory Committee is. Magnus stated that its main function is to select and approve the meeting organizer, provide input, advice, and general oversight. The local organizer assumes the financial risk, and so he/she must be given some latitude in the design of the scientific program. Jim and Roland Wolf suggested updating the MDO web page to better formalize the role of the standing committee would be useful.

Paul Ortiz de Montellano stated when he has organized meetings in the past, he also felt it important to have sufficient latitude regarding the program. Tom Baillie agreed given the risk of the local organizer's financial risk. Eric Johnson noted that just as meetings organized for an official society (e.g., ISSX) need to take into account the needs and desires of the society's membership, so too, MDO should take the broad interests of its historic attendees into account. Magnus expressed how we are all grateful to Uli Zanger for such a huge undertaking. Xinxin Ding voiced that the final program should be the decision of the meeting organizer. Finally, Jim rounded out the discussion by commending Uli for being flexible and responsive to everyone's input, and for developing a well thought-out scientific program.

3) MDO 2016: Magnus contacted Bill Smith (ISSX) to discuss a joint MDO-ISSX meeting in North America. The last MDO meeting in North America was at Saratoga in 2008. ISSX will hold its International Meeting in 2016 in South Korea. ISSX's council approved the idea of a joint MDO-ISSX meeting in North America in May 2016, as there won't be an ISSX North American meeting that year. Magnus favors the idea of a joint meeting. Other options include an MDO meeting in Europe.

4) The meeting adjourned around 12 noon (PST).

Notes by David Waxman