

MINUTES
INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS RESEARCH CONFERENCE
General Business Meeting, July 17, 2008
Charleston, SC, USA

INRC Executive Committee Members present: Lakshmi Devi (LD; President), Mary Jeane Kreek (Past-President); Jean Bidlack (JB; Treasurer); Ivy Carroll, John Traynor, Lei Yu (N. America reps.); Christoph Stein and Fred Nyberg (European reps.); Minoru Narita, Mac Christie, Pao-Luh Tao (Rest-of-World reps.) and Craig W. Stevens (CWS; INRC Information Officer, *ex officio*).

Also present: Approximately 200 attendees of the INRC 2008 conference (Open Meeting).

Lakshmi Devi, INRC President, presided over the General Business Meeting which commenced at 4:15pm. LD started the meeting by thanking the local organizers and the attendees. She announced that the main agenda items were the election of the new Executive Committee members, and highlights of the next meetings to be held in Portland OR, USA (2009) and Malmö, Sweden (2010).

I. Election of Executive Committee (EC) Members

North American representative

LD asked JB and CWS to assist with the voting process. She thanked Lei Yu for his 3 years of service on the EC and announced that the following persons were nominated for her replacement: Laura Bohn, from the Ohio State University in Columbus, Ellen Unterwald from Temple University in Philadelphia, PA; and Louis Gendron, from Université de Sherbrooke, Sherbrooke, Québec, Canada. Nominations from the floor were solicited, with no further nominations forthcoming. LD reminded the attendees that everyone here is a member and should vote, as membership is conferred by registration at the INRC meetings. LD asked the nominees to leave the room and a vote was taken by a show of hands, counted by JB and CWS. Ellen Unterwald was elected as the new North American representative on the Executive Committee. An applause followed.

European representative

LD thanked Christoph Stein for his 3 years of service on the EC and announced that the following persons were nominated for his replacement: Vanna Zachariou from the University of Crete in Heraklion, Greece and Ian Kitchen from the University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey, United Kingdom. Nominations from the floor were solicited, and Raquel Rodríguez from the University of Salamanca, Salamanca, Spain, was nominated. LD asked the nominees to leave the room and a vote was taken by a show of hands, counted by JB and CWS. Ian Kitchen was elected as the new European representative on the Executive Committee. An applause followed.

Rest-of-the-World representative

LD thanked Mac Christie for his 3 years of service on the EC and announced that the following person was nominated for his replacement: Mark Connor, from the University of Sydney, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. Nominations from the floor were solicited, and Yosef Sarne, from the Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel-Aviv University, Tel-Aviv, Israel was nominated. LD asked the nominees to leave the room and a vote was taken by a show of hands, counted by JB and CWS. Mark Connor was elected as the new Rest-of-the-World representative on the Executive Committee. An applause followed.

II. Treasurer's Report

LD welcomed JB up to the podium to deliver this year's financial report. JB started by asking CWS to help distribute hardcopies of the summary financial statement for the INRC to the attendees. JB began by reiterating that everyone here is a member and that the INRC is a non-profit, 501c organization under the US tax laws, incorporated in the state of New Jersey. She continued that the treasury is in good position, the annual report goes from May 1st to April 30th for reasons that May 1 is before the conference meeting activities have started and April 30th because it has ended by then from last year. She gave a 'big thanks' to NIDA which has funded travel awards that make much of the attendance of young investigators possible. A resounding round of applause followed. She also thanks the Medical University of South Carolina the Alkermes, a pharmaceutical company with headquarters in Cambridge, MA, USA. She added that the financial support from NIDA helps to bring investigators from the US and it is the other support received that helps to defray the costs of international young scientists. Last year's INRC meeting in Berlin was run independently by Christoph Stein; in other words he received registration fees and used these fees to offset the expenses, which worked out very good. Each year NIDA gives the INRC \$2,000 USD to support international young investigators to come and present a poster at the NIDA satellite meeting held the Friday before the Society for Neuroscience conference. NIDA also expects the INRC to add an additional \$1,000 USD to support 3 awards total for international young scientist to attend the NIDA satellite meeting. She added that emails will be sent out shortly to solicit nominations from our non-USA members for these awards. The INRC also participates in the Friends of NIDA organization and that CWS recently sent out an email to INRCers soliciting donations to that organization which supports efforts to increase funding for NIDA and NIDA initiatives. JB encouraged attendees to also support the Friends of NIDA.

She summarized that although the INRC had no income from the meeting last year in Berlin, there are still expenses that occurred throughout the year including the auditing of the INRC ledgers and the expense of the INRC Executive Committee meeting that occurs during the Society for Neuroscience meeting. This meeting is important to plan for the next year's meeting and that dinner is paid by the INRC. Right now there is \$115,000 USD in the treasury and should at least break even or gain a little from this meeting. The reason why we need more money in the treasury is because of the commitments and contracts made with the hotels and facilities. She noted that she was watching 'Bertha' (second hurricane of the season) as it veered toward the coast as it would have been disastrous if 75% of people could not have come or cancelled. She closed by saying that the INRC is in good financial shape and thanked the attendees for their participation.

LD thanked JB for her presentation and again thanked Jackie McGinty, the local organizer of the meeting, for the tremendous success and excellent facilities that she organized. A huge applause followed for Jackie.

III. Upcoming Meetings

a. 2009 Meeting (July 12th-17th, Portland, OR, USA; Susan Ingram/John Williams)

LD joked that the present meeting is going to be a 'tough act to follow', but introduced Susan Ingram who, along with John Williams, will be organizing next year's meeting in Portland. Susan Ingram started by also thanking Jackie McGinty for this year's meeting. She proceeded to show slides of Portland and emphasized that it would be a great place to combine the meeting with a family vacation. The Benson Hotel will be where the conference is held and is a classic hotel like the conference venue for this year's meeting. It is downtown near plenty of pubs and restaurants. The banquet will also be held there. She continued that two universities are hosting the meeting, Oregon Health and Sciences University, the Vollum Institute where John Williams works and Washington State University about 12 miles away in Vancouver, WA. She added that there will be a large contingency of students and postdocs to help with the meeting. She presented other

information about Portland and the activities in the area, and encouraged all attendees to come to the Portland meeting. She also guaranteed that there will be no rain. She closed with a summary of the topics, noted that Alan North will be giving the Founders Lecture, and solicited anyone to contact her or John Williams to contribute to the program.

b. 2010 Meeting (July 11 to July 16, 2010, Malmö, Sweden)

LD mentioned that the noted that 2010 meeting is being planned as a satellite to the IUPHAR meeting being held in Copenhagen and will be held in Malmö, Sweden with the help of Fred Nyberg. Fred Nyberg came to the podium and presented a slide show of the meeting locale and Malmö. He started by welcoming all attendees to the 2010 meeting and noted that it is in between the European Neurosciences Meeting and the IUPHAR meeting. Copenhagen is only a bridge away and about a 25 min train ride to Malmö. Then can walk to the Hilton hotel or take a short cab ride from the train station. He continued to show slides of the Hilton and the beaches along the 'Swedish Riviera'. He also showed a slide of the HSB Turning Torso, an new internationally famous building in Malmö. He ended with a slide of the conference banquet site, near the beach and at the base of the bridge.

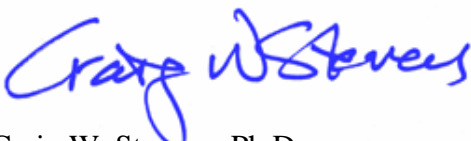
c. 2011 Meeting (June 22 to July 27, 2011 in Hollywood, FL, USA)

LD introduced Sari Izenwasser who told the attendees about plans to hold a joint INRC/CPDD meeting in 2011 in Hollywood, FL, USA. This location is close to both Miami and Fort Lauderdale. She emphasized that NIDA is interested for the two organizations to meet together; people save money because CPDD can get good deals due to their size and also people would not have to fly to two different places. Also NIDA recognizes there is quite a bit of scientific overlap and common interest. She continued that right now she is the Chair of the CPDD program committee and would be until 2010. Then she would switch over and Chair the INRC program committee for 2011. By knowing how the CPDD program works she would be the ideal person for this joint meeting, making sure that INRC would not get lost in the CPDD program. CPDD runs from Saturday night until Thursday afternoon and are already booked; the plan is to shift INRC to run Tuesday night through Saturday. Some ides were to have the last banquet night of CPDD be also the opening night reception for INRC; in that way there would be an opportunity for networking between the two groups. Then INRC would have its own closing banquet on Friday night. The venue is the Westin Diplomat Hotel which has the best conference facilities she has ever seen. It is right on the beach and really fabulous. It is only about 15 min from South Beach in Miami and from Fort Lauderdale. The meeting will be in June because CPDD has already booked for this time. They are planning to shift the start of INRC to start on Wednesday and end on Saturday to overlap about a day with CPDD. She ended with showing slides of the hotel and the rooms.

LD thanked the presenters and announced that the banquet is coming up next. JB added that tonight attendees should wear their nametags and for those that signed up for transportation should meet in the lobby. She also recommended that should call for airport shuttles tonight and gave the numbers.

With these closing comments, LD adjourned the meeting at 455pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Craig W. Stevens, Ph.D.
INRC Information Officer