IFPA Executive Meeting 2017
Manchester, UK

Date: August 30, 2017
Venue: Manchester Central Convention Centre
Time: 08:30 – 12:30

Present: Nick Illsley, Padma Murthi, Cathy Vaillancourt, Claire Roberts, Leslie Myatt, Lopa Leach, Colin Sibley, Annetine Staff, Pascale Chavatte-Palmer, Helen Jones, Isabella Cannigia, Estela Bevilaqua, Alicia Jawerbaum, Yoel Sadovsky, Vicki Clifton, Martin Knofler, Carlos Salomon, Joanna James, Natalie Hannan, Aikou Okamoto, Melissa Westwood, Kirsty McIntyre, Priya Pantham, Yoshi Kudo, Gendie Lash, Steve Charnock-Jones, Marie van Dijk

Apologies: Greg Rice

1. WELCOME Dr. Nick Illsley, IFPA President

2. MINUTES OF PAST MEETING

3. SECRETARY’S REPORT (Dr. Padma Murthi)

4. TREASURER’S REPORT (Dr. Cathy Vaillancourt)

5. STANDING AND AD HOC COMMITTEES

5.1 Publications

5.1.1 Editors’ report – Placenta - Drs. Martin Knofler, Yoel Sadovsky, Vicki Clifton

Martin reported on editorial activities. In 2017-2018 the number of publications to increase with increased submission and acceptance rates. Current 5 year IF is 2.982, without self-citation 2.4.

Vicki reported on lots more submissions of research articles from developing countries, however poorly presented/analysis of data, the quality is poor with 1/3 rejected. Some significantly improved following review. But Placenta is well respected so will continue to work on improving. Steve, Lopa and Annetine suggested that special issue with cluster of reviews is proven to increase citation index with other journals.

5.1.2 Editor’s Report – Trophoblast Research (Gendie Lash)

Trophoblast Research review activities are becoming low priority with less commitment from contributors. Regular reminders do not help, prefer to hear yes or no from contributors.

5.1.3 Elsevier agreement – Report by Dr Les Myatt

Elsevier is not keen about IF or quality, interested only in increasing the volume. A proposal on 2nd Open Access did
not go forward as Joan Annuels (Elsevier) is no longer with Elsevier. Yoel, Lopa and Annetine suggested the 2nd journal should be based on the themes of IFPA and bring together other Pregnancy fields to the Journal. Les suggested that we should negotiate with Elsevier and continue discussion with Greyling to widen the scope of Placenta.

New Editors for Placenta, 2 positions in the place of Vicki and Yoel: Les to form a committee and keep us posted.

5.2 Conferences
5.2.1 Final report on the Portland meeting Sept 2016 (Dr. Les Myatt)
170 full delegates; 127 NI; 11 accompanying persons, 203 posters
Late-breaking abstracts for 22 posters
Registration income: $211,375. Total income: $263,875. Total expenses $205000. ~$40000 in the black.
Les thanked Kent Thornburg for all the support. Satellite meetings were quite successful, specifically the Human Pathology workshop was quite full. Running workshops with clinicians incurred very minimal cost and extra value was added by using the University facilities and local speakers. So Les reported that the meeting was overall was quite successful.

5.2.2 Update on Manchester meeting Sept 2017 (Dr Melissa Westwood)
Meeting statistics:
Number of registrants 401
Representing countries 39
Number of Female registrants: Melissa has requested this information from Bioscientifica
Number of Young investigators: 168
Number of US-based Investigators (new and old): 63 (20 new & 43 old)
Reg fee: standard: £695 NI: £495
Abstracts
306 initially abstracts submitted; of these 37 were selected for oral presentation (22 in the symposia and 15 in the New Investigator sessions). The rest were posters.
16 late breaking abstracts submitted – all posters
28 invited speakers (22 in symposia and 6 in plenary slots) and 3 award lectures.
Social events: Welcome reception at the Manchester Museum.
Budget is similar to Les, most expensive ones are venue hire, AV, catering and speakers.
Sponsors: Manchester City council, Herald Fox and Manchester University- research centre funds.
Abstract handling and review (Elsevier)
Relationship with Elsevier- difficulty accessing Elsevier for abstract files. Bioscientifica helped to provide more clarity.
Melissa questioned on the support from Elsevier, do we depend on Elsevier for the continuity of knowledge?

5.2.3 Update on Tokyo, Japan meeting 2018 (Dr. Aikou Okamoto)
Presented an inspiring and welcoming video clip.
Theme: Clinical Growth via Placenta.
Venue Jikei University, which has 140 years of history.
Venue accommodates 650 seats with 200 speaker rooms.
Located close to Haneda and Narita International airports.
Accommodation recommended is Tokyo Prince Hotel.
JPA Executive meeting is organised on 20th September.
Expected 400 people
Early bird registration $737 (80,000Yen) for standard and $553 for ECRs.

5.2.4 Update on Argentina meeting 2019 (Dr. Alicia Jawerbaum)
Budget is based on 230 registrants.
Discussions involved around pre-symposium topics (Martin), how cheap the meeting will be in comparison to Chile meeting in 2010 (Annetina). Try and get regional participants (Yoel). Wider advertisement through Placenta- Blue pages (Vicki).
Additional discussions to follow with Claire, Les, Melissa, Pascale and Padma regarding for South American Scholars.

5.2.5 Status of 2020 meeting in Amsterdam- Dr Marie van Dijk
Proposed dates September 2-5, 2020. Proposal was accepted and passed by EPG and IFPA.

5.2.6 Conference Undertaking
Nick discussed on guidelines to implement. Claire to continue discussion

5.3 Awards Committee (Dr. Estela Bevilaqua)
Estela thanked the committee for their co-operation for the selection of award winning candidates. However no nominations were presented for the Gabor Than award (Martin). Reminders to be regularly emailed for nominations especially closer to the time in March each year. Award committee to clearly specify ECR and NI award definitions including criteria for eligibility.
Estela also informed of her completion of her role as a chair of IFPA award committee. New Chair to recruit.

5.3.1 Gabor Than Award
5.3.2 IFPA Senior Award
5.3.3 Gruslin Award (Dr. Isabella Caniggia)

6. OTHER OLD BUSINESS

6.1.1 IFPA governance - Executive post rotation (Dr. Nick Illsley)
Claire Roberts was welcomed as the next incoming IFPA President from 2017. Acknowledged and approved as the new IFPA president and lead from the Tokyo, IFPA meeting in 2018.
6.1.2. Executive Treasurer Post- Dr Helen Jones was Welcomed. Helen reported on introduction of NIHR13 IFPA conference grant $10,000/year to support NIH lecturers and trainees.

6.2. IFPA website – [http://www.myifpa.org](http://www.myifpa.org) (Dr. Nick Illsley)
Website: Nick – communications officer position. Continuous update on IFPA communications – maintenance for list server, website is required. Greg Rice is currently responsible for the overall maintenance. At the moment Greg is paid (A$1200/year for the full site). Greg is happy to continue. Nick to liaise with Padma for the IFPA email list and would like to carry on as a communication officer.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Use and management of IFPA funds
Les: We have 200k as an investment. $5000 can be put in a conservative portfolio.

7.2 Underwriting support for IFPA-sponsored meetings
Vicki: Underwriting support for IFPA meetings is yet to be finalised.
Claire suggested investment subject to available funds and that these could depend on the location and the travel of a specific meeting. Catastrophe insurance policy to consider in the long term?