Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution, Council and Business Meetings, 2012, Dublin, Ireland

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I. Call to Order

President Charles Aquadro called the council meeting to order at 10:00 AM, 23 June 2012. In attendance were President Charles Aquadro, Past-President Ken Wolfe, President-Elect Sudhir Kumar, Secretary Manyuan Long, Treasurer Aoife McLysaght, and Councilors Soojin Yi, Laurent Duret, Yoko Satta, and Robin Bush; Molecular Biology and Evolution (MBE) Editor-in-Chief Marcy Uyenoyama; Genome Biology and Evolution (GBE) Editor-in-Chief William Martin; MBE editorial Assistant Liz Raffaelle; Oxford University Press (OUP) Representative Cathy Kennedy; Organizers of the 2012 Annual Meeting James McInerney, Mary O’Connell, and Emma Teeling; Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution (SMBE) 2013 organizing committee member Ben Krinsky; and SMBE 2013 organizing committee Secretariat representative Julie Steffen attended part of the meeting. The council meeting began with Introductions. The business meeting was held 5:30 PM–6:30 PM, 26 June 2012.

II. Approval of Minutes

The Council approved the minutes of the 2011 Council and Business meetings, published in the April 2012 issue of GBE and the May 2012 issue of MBE (first published online: 26 April 2012).

III. Editors’ Report

The editors of MBE and GBE gave reports on the current status of their journals. (See the editors’ reports.)

IV. Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer Aoife McLysaght summarized the financial state of the Society. The records show that the Society is in excellent financial health. (See the treasurer’s report.)

V. Secretary’s Report

Secretary Manyuan Long reviewed the council actions over the preceding year, summarized in VI–X below.

VI. Election of SMBE Officers

President Charles Aquadro appointed the Nomination Committee in June to select candidates for the offices of President-Elect, Secretary, and two Councilors. Members of the nomination committee included Laura Katz (Chair), Deborah Charlesworth, Adriana Briscoe, Michael Lynch, and Manyuan Long (ex officio). After extensive discussion, the nomination committee proposed the candidate list: Brandon Gaut (University of California, Irvine, CA) and Christian Schlötterer (the Veterinärmédizinische University, Vienna, Austria) for President-Elect; Marta Wayne (University of Florida, Gainesville, FL) and Jennifer Wernegreen (Duke University, Durham, NC) for Councillor 1; Harmit Malik (the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, WA) and Todd Vision (the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC) for Councillor 2; and James McInerney (National University of Ireland, Kildare, Ireland) and Purificación López-García (the Université Paris-Sud, Orsay, France) for Secretary. The elections were conducted online from 27 August 2012 to 14 September 2012, at the OUP member-subscription site, where short biographies of each candidate were made available. In the final tally, Brandon Gaut was elected to hold the office of President-Elect (2013); Marta Wayne and Harmit Malik were elected to hold the offices of the two Councilors (2013–2015), respectively; and James McInerney was elected to hold of the office of Secretary (2013–2015).

VII. Other Activities in the Preceding Year

The Council also discussed or made decisions on the following issues:

i) Beginning in the Spring 2011, SMBE supported Phylomedicine—an SMBE Satellite Meeting on 23–24 March 2012 hosted by Sudhir Kumar. Council decided, based on the success of this satellite meeting, to issue another call for proposals due August 2012.

ii) Added SMBE to the international organization of professional societies.

iii) Advertized various meetings related to evolution on the SMBE website.

iv) Organized the Undergraduate Mentoring and Diversity program at the annual meeting headed by Laurent Duret. Ten undergraduates won travel awards to the meeting (five from Europe, three from the United States, and one each from Singapore and Puerto Rico; six females and four males).

v) Sought ways to improve communications between the SMBE members and the Council, for example, checked the membership records for some members, sent the date and place of the annual meetings and other
related information, and provided the related Society activities online.

vi) Maintained the Society website and identified needs for improvement.

vii) Accepted the resignation of former council member, Dan Graur, who resigned for personal reasons from the Council and the MBE associate editorship on 2 October 2011. The Council respected his decision and thanked him for his service to SMBE.

VIII. Report on 2011 SMBE Annual Meeting

The 20th annual SMBE meeting was held on 23–26 June, 2012, at the Convention Centre, Dublin, Ireland, organized by a committee headed by James McInerney. The meeting attracted 1,313 registered participants from 40 countries/regions, comprising 27.4% principal investigators, 31.4% graduate students, 24.7% postdocs, 4.3% staff scientists, and 12.1% others. There were 259 speakers, including 4 plenary speakers and 70 invited symposia speakers who presented their research in plenary talks, the Walter Fitch Prize Symposium, and 26 other symposia. The meeting also attracted 1,500 abstracts and 790 posters.

The SMBE awarded several prizes, with the winners announced at the Prize-Giving & Closing Ceremony 5:30 PM–6:30 PM, 26 June 2012. Eight contestants were selected to compete for the Walter Fitch Student Prize by a committee headed by Ken Wolfe, and Elizabeth Perry from University of Oregon, Eugene, OR, was the winner. The SMBE also gave the best poster prize for postdoctoral fellows to Henrik DeFine Licht from Lund University, Sweden, and Way Sung from Indiana University, Bloomington, IN; the best poster prize for graduate students was awarded to Yves Clement from the Max Planck Institute for Molecular Genetics, Germany; and the best poster prize for undergraduate students went to Katharine Owers from Uppsala University, Sweden. The meeting also provided travel awards to 18 postdocs, 21 graduate students, and 6 Fitch Prize contestants.

The main sponsors were SMBE, the Science Foundation Ireland, and the National Tourist Board of Ireland (the Fáilte Ireland). The organizing committee did their best to optimize the budget and the final contribution from SMBE.

IX. Future Annual Meetings

The 21st annual meeting will be on 7–11 June 2013 at Chicago, IL, organized by a committee headed by Manyuan Long, who discussed the organizing activities for the meeting. The 22nd annual meeting will be in 2014 in Puerto Rico, organized by a committee headed by Taras Oleksy. Council welcomes nominations/suggestions for the 2015 annual meeting location.

X. The Journals and Membership

The Council approved the reports of Marcy Uyenoyama and William Martin (see Editor’s report) and their newly recommended associate editors. The Council appointed Sudhir Kumar as the Editor-in-Chief for MBE for a term of 5 years (2012–2017) following the term of EiC Marcy Uyenoyama who completed her term in August 2012.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Business Meeting

I. Call to Order

President Charles Aquadro called to order the annual SMBE Business meeting at 5:30 PM, 26 June 2012. About 1,000 SMBE members were in attendance.

II. New Business

The President summarized the discussion of the Council meeting, announced the locations of the SMBE meetings for the next year, and congratulated the SMBE 2012 Dublin organizing committee headed by James McInerney on an outstanding meeting. The business meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.