

General Assembly Online Zoom meeting Thursday, July 21st 2022

These minutes will be adopted at the next General Assembly in Florence (Italy in 2024).

The online meeting started at 13.30.

1. Welcome and introduction by the President

The President, Eliora Ron welcomes the members of the Executive Board and the National Delegates to the General Assembly.

2. Roll-call & Introduction of voting delegates by the Secretary General and his assistants

Representatives of the following National Committees and Member Societies were present:

Austria: Heidrun Kerschner
Brazil: Gustavo Goldman
Chili: Rosalba Lagos
Croatia: Roberto Antolović
Finland: Tero Ahola
Greece: Chrysoula Tassou
Greece: Kostas Koutsoumanis
India: T. Ramamurthy
India: Vinay Nandicoori
Israel: Eliora Ron
Italy: Mariagrazia Pizza
Japan: Yoichi Kamagata
Netherlands: Robert Samson
Portugal: Célia Maria Manaia Rodrigues
Romania: Mihai Mares
South Korea: Sang-Ki Rhee
Spain: Juan Alfonso Ayala Serrano
Spain: Miguel Vicente
Spain: Rafael Giraldo

3. Adoptions of Minutes of the Singapore 2019 General Assembly

The minutes were posted on the IUMS website 3 years ago. Objections: none.

Questions:

- none

The minutes were adopted as correct. The minutes of the current meeting will be posted on the website after this GA.

4. Report of the President (Eliora Ron)

IUMS has come of age and is still expanding. 3 new members joined IUMS last year. Main activity of the IUMS lies in the organization of the 3-annual congresses. The President also expressed her gratitude to Dr Sang-Ki Rhee for his excellent organization of the IUMS congress in Daejeon in spite of the serious problems with the Corona restrictions. In recent

years more and more integration of the 3 divisions took place. Workshops for developing countries are being held, in, Indonesia.

5. Report of Treasurer

IUMS Financial Summary 2013-2017 shows the income of the last 3 years and the first half of 2017. Membership fees have been fairly consistent till 2016, when some of the fees were not paid. This is being addressed now. Hence the increase in 2017 and that number will still go up. The income from this congress will be integrated in the budget later this year. Investments did not generate much, due to the current financial situation worldwide.

Financial summary years 2019-2021:

Balance Sheet \$	2019	2020	2021
Balance at bank	181.597	172.440	194.161
Contributions due	-2.492	-3.015	-1.245
Accrued income	84	10.000	0
Prepayments	5.046	0	0
Creditors and accruals	-4.498	-848	-6.637
Total funds	179.737	178.577	186.279
Represented by:			
General funds	131.897	130.608	138.310
Designated funds:			
- Arima funds	25.480	25.549	25.549
- Mudd funds	22.360	22.420	22.420
Total funds	179.737	178.577	186.279

Summary of income / expenditure: measures need to be taken to secure income out of membership dues. Contact details and membership numbers are crucial to send out invoices.

Balance sheet showing the value of IUMS. Total funds consist of General Funds and Designated Funds (Arima and Mudd awards). Funds are being adjusted slightly every year in order to reflect the investments.

Details of the Finances can also be find on <https://iums.org/iums-resources/iums-financial-statements.html>

Membership records: Figures relate to dues received from member societies. Blacked out = not paid.

Current challenges faced by IUMS: Congress (includes global economy, visa issues, travel, Covid)

- *Reduction in reserves*
- *Membership management / Income reduction*
- *Constitution / Legal status*

Questions:

Following the report of the treasurer, there were no questions from the GA. *The report was adopted without corrections.*

6. Report of Secretary (Robert A. Samson)

Member societies: In 2022 IUMS consists of 50 member societies. Some countries have more than one society (e.g. Japan, Korea). The exact number of societies who are members of the IUMS cannot be determined because contact and payment of the dues proved to be also problematic in 2022

Some countries failed to pay their dues and reported financial constraints often due to their national economies

The union now unites ca. 32.000 microbiologists

New members (since 2019)

- Hellenic Scientific Society 'Mikrobiokosmos'
- Indonesian Mycological Society (Mikoina)
- Georgian Association of General and Applied Microbiology (GAGAM)
- Ethiopian Society for Microbiology
- Haitian Society of Hygiene, Microbiology and Preventive Medicine (HASOHMED)
- World society for virology
- Sudanese Society of Microbiology
- Ukrainian Society of Antimicrobial Medicine

IUMS website: Frequently visited. If the societies have any need for information, please inform the Secretary General who can also place important meetings on the website.

Journal: The status of the World Journal of Microbiology and Biotechnology (WJMB) has been examined again and there is renewed interest of the Springer Publishers for collaboration and using the journal as an official IUMS platform. It is now agreed that that WJMB will provide three pages per year free of charge for IUMS to publish in the journal in the online and printed editions. WJMB will include the IUMS logo on its cover and in turn be allowed to leave the text "an official journal of IUMS" on the cover. Springer also requested that the journal Mycopathologia should be an IUMS journal. The Secretary General negotiated the same conditions as for the WJMB.

Following the Report of the Secretary there were above questions. *The report was adopted without corrections.*

7. Divisional Reports

The chairs of the division were joining the online meeting. Due to the Corona restrictions there was less activity

BAM (Rosalba Lagos).

The IUMS 2020 congress was planned to take place in Daejeon, Korea. However, due to the pandemic, the congress had to be fully virtual. We appreciate the great effort of Prof. Sang Ki Rhee to deal with this very adverse situation. The meeting was successfully held with the cooperation of the Federations of Korean Microbiological Societies (FKMS) in November of 2020. The BAM Scientific Committee Chair was Prof. Jihyun F. Kim. In this meeting, BAM contributed with 1 keynote speaker, 4 speakers for bridging sessions, 4 plenary lectures, and organized 20 workshop sessions and 20 E-poster sessions.

Other issues: We had a problem to keep the BAM bank account in Germany due to legal issues (Prof. Dörte Becher from Germany was our former Secretary/Treasurer and managed this account from there). Prof. Rob Samson did all the necessary for establishing a foundation in the Netherlands, so now BAM is a legal entity, and BAM funds are now at a Dutch Bank (Regio Bank). The board changes every 3 to 4 years so we have to find a permanent solution for the bank account and who is responsible for it. The current balance (attached) is next to € 33,000.

Questions:

- No questions.

MYCOLOGY AND EUKARYOTIC MICROBIOLOGY.

Gustavo Goldman, and Tom Dawson reported that due to Covid there were no activities

Questions:

- No questions

VIROLOGY (Paul Young):

Questions:

- No questions.

Following the Reports of the Divisions there were no questions.

The reports were adopted without corrections.

8. Report on IUMS Awards (M. Pizza)

The IUMS awards were not given due to the corona pandemic and will be postponed until next congresses.

Questions:

- No questions.

9. Report of the Nomination Committee for the new Executive Board

Nominations for the members of the Executive Board of 2022-2026 are:

President-elect Paul Young

Vice president Antonio Ventosa

Secretary General: Robert A. Samson (Netherlands) – re-election unopposed

Treasurer no nominations (Heather Lawrence will act as accountant)

Member at Large Eliora Ron (Israel)

The New board was elected following the nominations:

- President: Rino Rappuoli
- Vice President: Antonio Ventosa
- Secretary General/Treasurer: Robert A Samson
- Accounting: Heather Lawrence
- Member at Large: Eliora Ron

10. IUMS Outreach Programs. Report of activities (Robert A. Samson).

Food Safety. 2020. Yogyakarta Indonesia. Workshop food safety and mycotoxins. 2017 5th IUMS outreach program on food safety and mycotoxins in Yogyakarta, attended by > 200 microbiologists.

Questions:

- No questions.

11. IUMS Congress 2024

At the general assembly no decision was made for the next venue of the IUMS congress and this will be discussed by the Executive Board

Questions: none.

The meeting was adjourned at 13.59 (July 21).