

ICCP Meeting
2009 ASCRS Annual Meeting
Hollywood, FL
Sunday, 3 May 2009

Present: Drs. Graham Newstead, Chair; Richard Billingham, Vice Chair; Benjamin Perakath, Raul Cutait, James Fleshman, Luo Cheng-Hua, Khaled Madbouly, De Nardi Paola, Shao Wan-Jin, Anthony Senagore, Alan Thorson, Bruce Waxman

Staff: Julie Weldon

Dr. Graham Newstead called the meeting to order at 10:40 am, May 3, 2009.

Dr. Fidel Ruiz Healy wrote to express his deep sadness in having to cancel his registration and participation in the meeting due to the extraordinary Mexican circumstances associated with uncertain risks related to influenza A (H1N1).

I. Meeting Minutes

Consensus: Approve the June 7, 2008 ICCP Committee meeting minutes.

II. Database of ICCP Members and Training Programs

The database continues to be updated. China, Greece and Iran are the most recent additions. ECTA will be added as a new organization and will have a meeting in China this year. Organizational changes in Europe have been updated.

Links have been added to the website to those Societies which can be accessed from ICCP page on the ASCRS Website.

III. 2009 Fellowship and Scholarship Awards

The 2009 Fellowship recipients Dr. Benjamin Perakath, India and Dr. Shao Wan-Jin, China each received \$6,000. The Traveling Scholarship recipients Dr. Pankaj Garg, India and Dr. Lalitha Mahadavan, United Kingdom each received \$3,000. Dr. Mahadavan has requested that her scholarship be deferred to next year. This was approved, on the understanding that failure to attend in 2010 will require return of the already allocated funds (\$3,000).

Dr. Perakath then presented to the Committee: India has a private sector and a public (Government) sector. The private sector runs their own courses. At this stage, most prefer to be called GI surgeons as they don't want to restrict their practice to colorectal surgery alone. There are plans in place to start a formal Fellowship program based on the US model. At present, one can work anywhere in India and still receive Fellowship status. The system still

has some problems with very few colorectal surgeons. The private sector has taken on a significant teaching responsibility. The public sector has not kept up in this area. Private sector is industrial (money) driven. The total number of surgeons claiming to do colorectal surgery is approximately 400, but there are only 100-200 who practice only colorectal surgery.

Dr. Wan-Jin's Report followed – Most of the colorectal surgeons in China are proctologists. Only the university hospitals or medical centers have departments of colorectal surgery. The system to become colorectal surgeons is not well established. They lack simulation and training systems. In university hospitals and surgical centers there is some training taking place in the larger cities. Most of the university hospitals are in big cities. Rural areas have less access to treatment so patients must go to large cities for referral and treatment. China medical students are assigned to departments of colorectal surgery at different hospitals and have 1-3 year rotations.

IV. Selection of the 2010 applicants

A total of 9 applications were received. One of the problems in evaluating the applicants is that some of those applying for Travel Scholarships might be more suited for Fellowships. The two applicants with the highest scores were Dr. Joseph Plummer from Jamaica and Dr. Martin Hubner from Switzerland. Dr. Hubner applied for a Travel Scholarship but it was agreed that he had the qualifications and need for a Fellowship.

Consensus: Award \$6,000 Fellowships to Dr. Joseph Plummer, Jamaica and Dr. Martin Hubner, Switzerland.

The request by Dr. Newstead for an increase funding of \$3,000 has been approved by the Executive Council, giving the ICCP a total of \$21,000 available for the awards.

It was noted that not everyone requesting a Travel Scholarship has been able to arrange matching funding. With the additional \$3,000 there is \$9,000 left to award.

Consensus: Award three \$3,000 Travel Scholarships. If there are applicants with matching funds available it may be possible to award four Scholarships, but not to exceed total expenditure of \$9,000 in this category.

Following these discussions, Drs. Newstead and Billingham reviewed the applicants again and recommended that Travel Scholarships for 2010 (Minneapolis meeting) be awarded to the following applicants: Dr. Haji (UK), Dr. Singh (UK) and Dr. Al-Kubati (Yemen). Dr. Haji has matching funding and will be offered \$2000, the other two applicants will be provided with \$3000 each.

Thus a total of \$20,000 (of an available \$21,000) will have been allocated for the 2010 meeting.

V. Proposal to Revise Timing Plans for Selection of Applicants for 2011

At the June 2008 ICCP meeting it was agreed to change the time frame so that the recipients would be able to attend the annual meeting in the year they receive the award, however the process has not been implemented.

Consensus: Implement the original proposal of changing the time frame, which will require double funding for one year (2010)

Action: A revised schedule for the new timetable to be enacted, as follows (each year commencing in 2009):

- EAI to commence planning and advertisement arrangements from June 1.
- Advertisements from July 1.
- Re-advertise mid-August.
- Applications close November 1.
- Distribute score sheets for assessment and marking by ICCP Council in last week of November.
- Tally to be completed by Executive by mid-December.
- Successful applicants notified in third week of December.
- Acceptance required by mid-January.

NOTES:

- All activities (above) to be carried out electronically.
- Applicants to be notified they are applying for awards to be undertaken at the following ASCRS meeting.
- Advertisements should be more widespread; DC&R, ASCRS Website (both on the home page, perhaps as a separate box as well as in the ICCP pages), emails to all member organizations within ICCP (utilizing both website links and email addresses).
- Will need to revise the detailed instructions in the format of the Applications' pages.

Consensus: In the latter half of 2010 the advertisements to offer the Awards for 2011 should indicate to applicants that the Travel Scholarships (hopefully 4 in number) may be taken either at the ASCRS meeting in Vancouver (in May) OR at the Tripartite meeting in Cairns, Australia (in July).

VI. Outreach: Bowel Cancer Prevention

Consensus: Develop an international Bowel Cancer Awareness program as was discussed at the ICCP Council meeting in Boston, June 7, 2008.

VII. ISUCRS

Dr. Bruce Waxman, chair of the ISUCRS has had preliminary discussions with the ICCP about ways in which the two organizations might collaborate or even merge. Conceptually there might be one umbrella organization with two divisions, one group which runs the meetings and another which would run the activities.

Drs. Senagore and Fleshman confirmed that the Executive Council would not oppose a merger of the two groups under circumstances which would not see the activities of ICCP diluted or impaired.

Dr. Waxman (joining the committee at the end of the meeting) reported the concept of a merger has been put on hold while the ISUCRS explores the restructure of their organization.. There may be an opportunity for the two societies to come together at a future date and Dr. Newstead will continue discussions.

VIII. New Business

The scoring process was discussed and remains somewhat difficult with the current criteria. There may be a need for two further categories: one for those surgeons who are already established and the other for the younger person who needs a more support to develop a program in countries which may not have more available resources.

Consensus: Review the current criteria and consider adjusting for two levels of scholarship as needed.

The ICCP committee business meeting concluded at 12:00 pm.