



IUPAB

CONNECTING THE
WORLD OF BIOPHYSICS

**INTERNATIONAL UNION for PURE and APPLIED
BIOPHYSICS**

IUPAB NEWS

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Activities of the INTERNATIONAL UNION for PURE and APPLIED BIOPHYSICS
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CONTENTS

Editor's Note	3
Report from the President, Professor Kuniaki Nagayama	4
Report from the Secretary-General, Professor Cris dos Remedios	5
Report from the Treasurer, Professor Patrick Cozzone	7
Report on CODATA, Professor Jean Garnier	7
Report on <i>Biophysical Reviews</i> , Professor Jean Garnier	9
Reports on the Task Forces for Education and Capacity Building in Asia (Nagayama) and Latin America (Morales/Smith)	10 12
Report on Indian Biophysical Society Activities, Professor N.R. Jagannathan	13
General News	14
Obituaries: Manuel Morales; Greta Pifat-Mrzljak	16

Editor's Note



This is the first issue of the IUPAB NEWS for which I have been the sole editor.

Of course we present the formal reports of the Executive, as always, and also the reports on special categories such as the Task Forces.

A new venture this year has been the launch of the IUPAB official journal *Biophysical Reviews*, published by Springer. This was heralded on our website during the year, and feedback has been good. There is a full report from Prof. Jean Garnier on page 9.

Speaking of the website, it has been regularly updated with topical news throughout the year, including notices of post-graduate courses and summer schools.

The schools have been our most successful means of promoting continuing education and providing fora for the exchange of ideas at all levels.

The website is also the source of addresses and contacts for our Adhering Bodies. It is therefore most important that we are informed of any changes of these details, please.

This also enables us to send the annual Newsletter to the correct place.

During the coming year, if you have any conferences or schools you would like to publicise, or information to share such as awards, scholarships, etc., please contact me by email on mail@iupab.org.

I hope that you will enjoy this issue, and would be interested to receive your comments.

Louise Matheson

President's Report



From 19th September to 9th October 2009, I had a chance to visit three developing countries to attend biophysical meetings respectively organized by regional biophysical

societies. This is a report on how I have been impressed by many young people who are so much attracted to biophysics, in my 20-day academic journey as the IUPAB president.

9th International Summer School of Biophysics (Sep 19 to Oct.1, Rovinj, Croatia)

Eastern Europe is active in biophysics and counts ten countries which are Adhering Bodies to IUPAB. The international summer school, which has actually a 30-year-history, was initiated by an Emeritus Professor of Ruder Boskovic Inst., Dr. Greta Pifat-Mrzljak, who recently passed away and who might well have played a pivotal role in supporting such activities in Eastern Europe. The major theme of this school was "Supramolecular Structure and Function" and about 25 lecturers invited mostly from Western Europe and US contributed by presenting their 3-day classes. One hundred students ranging from undergraduates to postdocs were all selected by a 5-member summer school organizing committee, including Greta, according to the quality of applications. Most of them were from Eastern Europe but a few came from Western Europe and Asia, even though they needed to pay travel expenses. The school was organized as three sessions (morning, afternoon and evening) a day and free talks followed after lectures.

Rovinj, the location of the Summer School, is close to the border with Italy and is one of the Adriatic resorts, particularly busy in summer but was quiet at the end of September, though still keeping its memory of the high season.

Students, who were studious, talkative and keen to absorb novel biophysics disciplines,

must have enjoyed this well-organized summer school. Particularly memorable were several young Croatian students who listened to my evening free talk on old and new Japan.

7th Iberoamerican Biophysics Congress 2009 (Sep 30 to Oct 3, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)

A new development in regional integration, Iberoamerican Initiative, began toward the end of the last century. It includes connections between Spain, Portugal and Latin America, where Spanish and Portuguese are the major languages. Among widely spread Iberoamerican countries, Brazil has a strong presence due to its rapid economic growth. This meeting was co-organized by Biophysical Society of Brazil, Biophysical Society of Argentina and LAFéBS.

Most participants were young PhD students, attracted especially by the following 4-day introductory biophysics course. The Congress statistics were: the total attendees: 400, plenary talks: 8, sessions: 12, invited speakers: 64 and posters: 320. I was amongst ten non-Iberoamerican speakers who discussed cutting-edge trends in biophysics.

The leadership of Marcelo Morales was outstanding. His enthusiasm and organizational skills were clearly appreciated by the younger participants.

2nd International Biophysics and Biotechnology Congress at GAP (Oct 5 to Oct 9, Diyarbakir, Turkey)

The old town of Diyarbakir is located in western Turkey where the river Tigris has its origin. This Kurdish cultural center is surrounded by a 6km long castle wall and has a long history including the remains of a huge Roman Colosseum. To the north of the town is a modern university, Dicle (Turkish name for Tigris) Univ. covering about 10km. This meeting was co-organized by Dicle Univ. and the Turkish Biophysical Society. The first one was said to be held 18 years ago showing time goes by here as slowly as the Tigris.

There were 200 registrants and a good balance of speakers from Turkey and

abroad, covering a wide range of topics. Much excitement was generated amongst the younger attendees with their enthusiasm for cutting-edge biophysics. This was reflected in a group of students who approached me after my lecture seeking information on possible study visits to Japan.

It is my hope that the Biophysical Society of Turkey will soon become a member of the

European Biophysical Societies' Association.

Kuniaki Nagayama

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Report from the Secretary-General



2009 was a busy year for IUPAB.

IUPAB Schools Funding.

A major activity of IUPAB is its financial support for School and Workshops in biophysics. We believe that these foster the development of biophysics, often in less well-developed countries.

This year, for the first time, all successful applicants for these grants were asked to provide an evaluation of the school.

Guidelines for the evaluation were available on the IUPAB website and successful applicants were encouraged to monitor the success of their programs by seeking the opinions of the students as well as the teachers.

Schools by successful applicants were held in Brazil, Bulgaria, Croatia, India and Romania.

Developing Biophysics Capacity in Under-Developed Regions

In Latin America an “incubation” over many years that involved continuous financial support from IUPAB has resulted in the emergence of a strong culture of biophysics in Latin America.

There were reasonably large biophysical societies in Brazil and Argentina but other countries had either no such societies or they were very small.

A major influence on the improved visibility of biophysics in this region has been the formation of a new federation, LAFeBS (Latin American Federation of Biophysical Societies).

This organization had many contributors and its current president is Professor Marcelo Morales.

He has been tireless in raising funds, particularly from the Brazilian Government.

Thanks to the LAFeBS, students are provided with the opportunity of travelling between Latin American countries to the sites of expertise and specialized equipment that were not available in their home country.

At the end of these relatively short bursts of research activity, they return to their home

campus better equipped to complete their PhD degrees.

I was able to observe the energy and enthusiasm of almost 250 students assembled for a workshop in Buzios, Brazil in early October 2009.

A Progress Report on the upcoming IUPAB Congress in Beijing

The IUPAB Executive met with the congress organizers (Biophysical Society of China, and the Institute of Biophysics, Chinese Academy of Science in Beijing.

Our purpose was to re-examine the venue and fine-tune the arrangements for the congress to be held in early November 2011.

The original venue for the congress was in need of renovation and these changes were clearly not going to be completed in time for the Congress. Instead it was decided to move the venue to a stunning new site at the Chinese National Convention Centre, close to the famous Bird's Nest structure that featured prominently in the Beijing Olympic games.

This Center is clearly capable of accommodating the expected 2500 participants and features very flexible meeting rooms with the latest audiovisual facilities.

It is also close to large hotels and there is ample provision for students and less costly accommodation only a few minutes' shuttle bus away.

The scientific program is now well developed and the IUPAB Council will assemble in late March to finalize the invited speakers for the Congress scientific sessions.

A Plan to Assist in the Development of Biophysics in Africa

I have been active in developing plans for improving the visibility of biophysics in Africa, particularly sub-Saharan Africa.

With the support of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) through its Regional Office for Africa (ROA) and its

Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC), an application for financial support has been made to ICSU for funding biophysics capacity in Africa.

The plan is to demonstrate to our African colleagues how a successful program like the LAFeBS Network can be emulated.

We plan to take a group of about 30 PhD students and post-doctoral fellows, as well as a representative of the ROA, into Brazil in late 2010. Once they experience the enthusiasm and opportunities in biophysics education, we believe they will return to Africa and modify the Latin American model for African conditions

Acknowledgement

Readers might not have noticed that *IUPAB News* No 55 has a new Editor, Mrs Louise Matheson. I would like to acknowledge her contribution to the Union in 2009, not only for her taking over as Editor but for carrying more than her share of the daily operations of my office.



Cris dos Remedios
Secretary-General

A Message from the Treasurer

The financial situation of IUPAB was unaltered through the 2007-2008 monetary crisis and has remained stable in 2009.

The sole source of income remains subscriptions from adhering bodies, and for this reason the Treasurer's office has been very active (and sometimes insistent!) in reminding all adhering bodies that their dues must be paid as early as possible in any given year, in order to allow IUPAB to cover in time its financial commitments to support workshops, courses and other activities around the world.

In 2009, IUPAB allocated 32 000 euros to 5 schools and workshops held in Brazil, Bulgaria, Croatia, India and Romania. This kind of support to educational and research meetings will be continued in 2010.

In Fall 2011, the 17th International Biophysics Congress will be held in Beijing in close collaboration with the Biophysical Society of China and the Institute of Biophysics (Chinese Academy of Sciences). As with all its previous triennial meetings, IUPAB participates scientifically and financially in the organization of this important event. It was agreed in November 2009 that IUPAB will transfer in 2010 to our Chinese colleagues and hosts the sum of 35 000 euros as a loan to help cover the expenses of the invited plenary speakers. This loan is reimbursable if the 17th International Biophysics Congress ends up with a financial surplus. In addition, the Executive Board of IUPAB will allocate 35 000 euros in travel fellowships for selected participants and a call for applications will be published in due course.

P. J. Cozzone, Treasurer

Report on CODATA

The Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA) was created in 1966 as an interdisciplinary Scientific Committee of the International Council for Science (ICSU). Its seat is located in Paris at 5, rue Auguste Vacquerie at the ICSU headquarters where their secretariat is housed. We may note that it is also the legal seat for IUPAB.

The aim of CODATA is to improve the "quality, reliability, management and accessibility of data of importance to all fields of science and technology" (<http://www.codata.org>). Consequently CODATA is concerned with a large spread of disciplines such as, but not limited to, physical sciences, biology, geology, astronomy, engineering, environmental science, and ecology. CODATA is involved in several international co-operations through its task groups. I will cite some of them: Polar Year Data Policy and Management, eGY Earth and Space Science data Interoperability, Biodiversity, Observation and Specimen Records, Preservation of and Access to Scientific and Technical Data in Developing Countries.

Other task groups are of a more traditional type such as the task group on Fundamental Physical Constants, which makes the reputation of CODATA, or some that are related to geologic sciences or energy resources like the task group of Data on Natural Gas Hydrates.

Altogether the last CODATA General Assembly held in Kiev, October 9-10, 2008, has approved the funding of ten task groups and two working groups (one of the two is the working group on UV/Vis+ Spectra Data Base of interest to IUPAB).

The membership of CODATA is composed of National members (25), International Scientific Unions (16,

including IUPAB), Co-opted organizations (4) and 20 supporting Organizations including the Protein Data Bank or the Japan International Protein Information Database (PIR). Only the National members pay annual dues with a structure similar to the ICSU dues that are based on the Gross National Product (GNP).

The other sources of revenue for CODATA are the grants from different organizations, ICSU, UNESCO for instance (about 50% of the amount received as membership dues). CODATA has a scientific publication, Data Science Journal since three years ago and an older one, (Newsletter), but both depend financially upon CODATA funding and are not beneficial. The same applies to the International CODATA Conferences held every two years, the last one of which was in Kiev, October 5-8, 2008.

In its Strategic Plan for 2006-2012, three major initiatives have been retained. First is Global Information Commons for Science Initiative (GICSI) already launched by CODATA following the World Summits for the Information Society (WSIS) in Tunis, in 2003 and 2005. The goal is to promote full and equitable access to scientific data in the world. Second, a Scientific Data across the Digital Divide (SD³) Program aims at “making critical scientific data and associated tools and resources related to sustainable development widely

accessible in developing countries” (CODATA Strategic Plan). For that purpose CODATA is working with the International Polar Year (IPY) or the electronic Geophysical Year (eGY) through its task forces.

The third initiative is to strengthen the links between data mining, data integration, artificial intelligence and other techniques under the heading of Advanced Data Methods and Information technologies for Research and Education (ADMIRE). Naturally this strategic plan is related to the final report of ICSU in June 2008 from the ad hoc Strategic Committee on Information and Data (<http://www.icsu.org>)

If the share devoted to biology itself and biophysics seems limited in regards to the diversity of stakeholders, IUPAB has a great interest in being represented like other Union members of CODATA, even if it is only in the definition of the task groups that are renewed every two years or in the elaboration of the CODATA Conference program.

It is important to note that my mandate expired in 2009 (only two 3-year terms are possible), so a new candidate from the Council is needed to continue this important aspect of IUPAB’s role.

Jean Garnier

Biophysical Reviews is one year old!

The new IUPAB journal has just printed its fourth issue last December.

As a quarterly pure review journal, during 2009, its first year, 21 peered manuscripts have been published. Considering that the publications rely on invited contribution, this success is due to the commitment of the Editorial Board and the professionalism of the Springer staff.

The Journal's aim is to rapidly publish short reviews, 4-5000 words, with annotated references and free colour figures. This goal has been achieved; for instance, the average elapsed time between the acceptance and the Online First Publication is 0.9 month and 2.3 months for a print publication.

At present, 516 institutions/libraries worldwide have subscribed to an online deal, which is very good for a journal that has just finished its first year of publication. We have achieved an average of 175 downloads per month. This underlines the benefit of the online distribution that increases the visibility of *Biophysical Reviews*.

The authors are strongly invited also to choose the Open Access option provided by Springer, which is offered at a modest cost.

We plan in this coming year, thanks to the regularity of our publication, to formalize an official request for an impact factor for the journal.

Springer has strongly marketed our Journal and it promotes a free table of contents (TOC) alerting service to scientists interested in *Biophysical Reviews* publication.

I would say we have made a good start ensuring that the journal is a continuing success. This can only be achieved through commitment of the IUPAB Council members of the Editorial Board, and all the members of IUPAB to encourage authors to submit reviews to our Journal.

Jean Garnier

Editor-in-Chief

Report on the Task Force for Education and Capacity Building in Asia

History and Activities of The Asian Biophysics Association (ABA)

Historical

The Asian Biophysical Association was born during the 5th East Asian Biophysics Symposium (EABS) held in Okinawa, Japan in the middle of November of 2006. In the Steering Committee meeting held at the end of the Joint Meeting between the EABS and the 44th BSJ (Biophys. Soc. JPN) annual meeting, representatives from five EABS member societies (China-Beijing, China-Taipei, Hong Kong, Korea and Japan) and the two invited societies (Australia and India) discussed extending the EABS to a novel regional association to cover societies in the whole of Asia and Oceania. After a discussion over the naming of this regional association, we decided to start the Asian Biophysical Association (ABA) that included Oceania.

In considering the naming of member societies, we reconfirmed the IUPAB rule, namely that China-Beijing represents the geographical China mainland and China-Taipei represents geographical Taiwan.

EABS itself has a 12-year history starting from the first meeting held in Harima, Japan in May 1994. Then followed the EABS Beijing meeting in May 1997, Kyongiyu, Korea meeting in May 2000, Taipei Meeting in November 2003 and abovementioned Okinawa. Attendance statistics of participants were 310 (1994), 350 (1997), 250 (2000), 400 (2003, where EABS joined with Taiwan Biophysical Society meeting), 1,300 (2006, held jointly with JPN Biophysical Society meeting), and 350 (2009, jointly with Hong Kong Neuroscience Society meeting).

EABS even has a predecessor in the

China-Japan Bilateral Biophysical Symposium held in 1985 in Xuxi (China).

With this background, the ABA can claim a 24-year history. The special bond between the original members of the EABS association was that of an East-Asian culture sharing Chinese characters rooted in ancient China. Under the pressure of a strong global tide, this regional cultural connection was put aside as the ABA created a culture that looked to the future of biophysics.

ABA has now about 9,000 members in total and is managed by the following ABA officers and member societies:

Officers:

President (Benjamin Peng),
Vice- President (N.R. Jagganathan),
Ex-President (Kuniaki Nagayama),
Secretary (Guang Zhu).

Member Societies:

The Australian Society for Biophysics, (145 members); The Biophysical Society of China (3,200); The Biophysical Society of R.O.C. (580); Biophysical Society of Hong Kong (50); The Indian Biophysical Society (730); The Biophysical Society of Japan (3,740); The Korean Biophysical Society (250).

6th ABA Symposium

The mission of ABA is to promote biophysical activity in the region of Asia and Oceania by organizing meetings and encouraging communication among member societies. The most important among them is the ABA symposium and the 6th one was held in the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST, the new campus was founded after Hong Kong's returning to China) from 11th to 14th January 2009.

This was held jointly with the 27th Annual Meeting of Neurosciences (HKSN) chaired by Prof. Benjamin Peng of HKUST. Participants from 10 societies totaled 349, among which 144 were from Hong Kong, 52 from Japan, 42 from China-Beijing, 41 were from China-Taipei, 38 from Korea, 19 from India and 5 from Australia.

Biophysicists from three of the non-member countries (Singapore, Iran and U.S.) also attended. The conference included 10 plenary talks and 16 sessions, was well organized and smoothly managed under the financial support of HKUST.

Ten plenary talks suggested by seven member societies created unforgettable impressions by their qualified and carefully prepared presentations. Speakers were: Shin'ichi Ishiwata (Japan), Yi Rao (China-Beijing), Myeong-Hee Yu (Korea), Donald Chang (Hong Kong), Robert Austin (US), Angela Dulhunty (Australia), Guo-Qiang Bi (China-Beijing), Ana-Shyn Chiang (China-Taipei), R.V. Hosur (India) and Ying-Shing Chan (Hong Kong).

A particular focus was given to neurosciences because of the joint nature of the meeting, but nevertheless a relatively wide range of biophysical fields was represented as illustrated by session titles shown below.

Sessions: Structural Biophysics, Imaging, Cell Signaling, Protein Folding & Misfolding, Biophysics of Single Molecules, Nuclei Acid Biophysics, Structural Biophysics, Membrane Trafficking, Neurobiophysics (A, B), Membrane Biophysics (A, D), Nano-biophysics, Computational Biophysics & Bioinformatics, ABA Travel Awardee Presentation, HKSAN Young Investigator Symposium

In the ABA Travel Award Session, 11 young researchers selected from 35 applicants showed the possible future of biophysics in Asia. The talks given by two Indian delegates (females) and one Chinese (male) were impressive.

The ABA Steering Committee meeting held during the Symposium addressed the election of the ABA officers for the next period (2009-2012) and the selection of societies to manage the 7th and the 8th ABA symposia. Prof. Benjamin Peng accepted the position of President of ABA and was asked to start the ABA office in Hong Kong. The Indian Society of Biophysics led by Dr. Jagannathan will

manage the 7th Symposium to be held in Delhi in January-February of 2011 followed by the Korean Biophysical Society which will host the 8th meeting in Jeju Island in 2013. To encourage more researchers' communications, the ABA symposium is to be run every other year from the 7th symposium.

7th ABA Symposium

This is included in the Report of its Convenor, Professor N.R. Jagannathan. A National Organizing Committee (NOC) is being formed under the Chairmanship of Prof. M. Vijayan, President of INSA with Prof. G. Govil as Vice-chair, with various other committees also being formed.

The members of the Steering Committee of the Asian Biophysics Association (ABA) will help the NOC in the organization of the event.

The Symposium will consist of 7 plenary lectures and 12 symposia on a wide range of topics. The ABA Steering Committee intends to extend its activity by inviting biophysicists from such non-ABA regions as Singapore, Mongolia and Iran.

Joint Symposium between the Biophysical Society of Japan (BSJ) and ABA

A BSJ-ABA Joint Symposium, "Prion and Virus Infections" was first organized in one of the sessions in the 47th BSJ Annual Meeting held on October 30, 2009 in Tokushima Bunri University. Eight lectures by invited speakers (five from Japan, one each from Australia, China-Beijing and Korea) were presented. About 80 participants enjoyed the provocative session focusing on the active two fields to discuss "what are the infectious processes in common".

A big mystery still exists in the prion infection or its disease initiation. On the other hand the virus infection has been well understood and even engineered now for particular genes to be incorporated into cells. By giving a light to the prion infection from the angle of virus infection or vice

versa, we could see an interesting novel encounter productive to both fields.

Kuniaki Nagayama

Kuniaki NAGAYAMA

Ex-president of ABA
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National Institute for Physiological
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Latin American Capacity Building Activities 2009

Capacity Building in Latin America is based mainly on the development of the Latin American Postgraduate Program of Biophysics (PosLATAM), a novel initiative to put together all countries and postgraduate students in order to better develop biophysics in the Region.

In 2009 there were more than 20 Postgraduate Programs from various regions of Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Venezuela, Colombia and Chile. Approximately 135 students (at Master and Doctorate levels) are already registered in these Programs and we expect this to rise to 250 students in 2010.

The students in the IUPAB Program have to attend the Postgraduate Program annual Course, which in 2009 was held in Buzios city (Rio de Janeiro-Brazil). There were 352 registered fellows, not only from IUPAB PosLATAM. We could also give this opportunity to students from other Latin American Countries to learn about

the basic and most advanced topics in Biophysics. More than 20 professors from different countries contributed to the 2009 PosLATAM course in Buzios.

The financial support from IUPAB and the National Agencies from the Brazil and Argentine governments was crucial to the success of the Latin American Capacity Building activities.

In 2010 we hope to have more countries involved in the IUPAB Programs, especially countries where biophysics is underdeveloped (the Caribbean, for example).

We also intend to include students from Africa by offering to some the opportunity to join the IUPAB course in Brazil.

Marcelo M. Morales

Professor Marcelo M. Morales

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Report on Indian Biophysical Society Activities 2009



The Indian Biophysical Society (IBS) was formed in 1961 and has expanded considerably over the years, and now there are about 727 Life Members. This reflects a manifold increase of biophysics

research interests in India over the last few decades.

The interests of members are diverse and include structural biology, molecular and cellular biology, biotechnology, bioinformatics, medical applications, etc.

The official web site of IBS is www.tifr.res.in/~ibs.

IBS holds an annual meeting every year at various centres across India. The 2009 Annual IBS meeting was held at the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad from January 22-24, 2009. Prof. Martin Karplus delivered the Prof. G. N. Ramachandran Memorial lecture. About 250 participants from India with a few from abroad participated. The

President of IBS, Prof. N. R. Jagannathan, presented the awards for young scientists and students.

The 6th Asian Biophysics Association (ABA) meeting was held at Hong Kong in January 2009 and about 15 Indian scientists participated. Prof. R. V. Hosur was invited to give a plenary lecture, while Prof. N. R. Jagannathan, Dr. Amitab Chattaopadhyay and Dr. Gautam Basu chaired scientific sessions.

The 7th ABA meeting (along with the Annual IBS meeting) will be in India at New Delhi from January 30th to February 2, 2011 and will be organized by Prof. N. R. Jagannathan.

India is well represented in the various committees and Task Forces of IUPAB and ABA. Currently, Prof. N. R. Jagannathan is a member of the Council of IUPAB from India. Prof. M. Vijayan is a member of the task force on Bioinformatics; Prof. G. Govil is the Chairman of the task force on Biomedical Spectroscopy, while Prof. K. V. R. Chary is a member of the task force on NMR in Biological Systems. Prof. N. R. Jagannathan and Dr. Ch. Mohan Rao are members of the Steering Committee of ABA.

N. R. Jagannathan

President, IBS

Sydney visit of Prof. Xiyun Yan



Professor Yan is the Vice-Director of the National Laboratory of Biomolecules

as well as Secretary-General of the Biophysical Society of China.

While she was in Australia visiting the Ludwig Institute, Prof. Yan took the opportunity to visit The University of Sydney and gave a short talk in the laboratory of Professor Cris dos Remedios (IUPAB Secretary-General).

She also held discussions with Prof. dos Remedios and Louise Matheson, his Administrative Assistant, about the plans for the 17th International Biophysics Congress to be held in Beijing in November 2011.

Executive meeting in Beijing

The IUPAB Executive met in November 2009 in Beijing to advance the plans for the Congress and to consult with our host colleagues. The Congress promises to be most fruitful and stimulating, and we encourage members of the Adhering Bodies to include it in their plans for 2011.

The Executive takes a break during the meeting with the Biophysical Society of China in Beijing in November 2009.



L to R: Patrick Cozzone, his wife Deborah, Kuniaki Nagayama, Cris dos Remedios, Ian Smith and his wife Eva, and Gordon Roberts.

Point of view: Remembering the XIV International Biophysics Congress

In the fall of 2002 I had the privilege to attend the XIV International Biophysics Congress held in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Though many years have already passed, warm memories still linger. Back then I was a graduate student at the Weizmann Institute of Science, in Israel. My work focused on understanding the mechanism by which viral envelope glycoproteins facilitated membrane fusion, a crucial step in viral infection.

The XIV Congress presented itself as a great opportunity in two salient aspects. On one hand, I had exciting results that I was ready to share and discuss with the scientific community, and on the other, I had left my native Buenos Aires many years before, so going back was likely to be a unique opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones.

Still, covering the cost of travelling across half of the world was simply impossible for a graduate student. Luckily, a Travel Award from IUPAB

allowed me to attend the congress and discuss my work with colleagues from all around the world.

Added to the scientific excitement was the fact that the congress venue was no other than the old buildings of the Schools of Medicine and Pharmacy, which my father had attended many years before. The XIV congress was a great success, in large part thanks to the efforts of the late Professor Ponce Hornos, who untimely passed away a few years ago. Student Travel Awards are one important example of the great work IUPAB does supporting research and teaching in biophysics, a mission we all share.

Sergio G. Peisajovich, Ph.D.
Protein Engineering
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San Deigo, CA, USA.

Obituaries

Manuel Francisco Morales 1919-2009



Manuel Morales, who died on November 12, 2009, was born in San Pedro Sulas, Honduras. When he was a child his family moved to California, where Manuel attended secondary school and college (UCLA). His graduate

training was a Harvard (Masters) and U. California (Ph.D.).

In WW11 Manuel served in the US Navy Reserve. Following the war, he joined the faculties at University of Chicago, the Naval Medical Research Institute, Dartmouth Medical School and UCSF.

Following his official retirement, Manuel continued in research for many years, as a Research Professor at the University of the Pacific. Throughout his career he conducted innovative research in to the mechanism of energy transduction in biological machines. For this work he was honoured by many organizations, including the American Heart Association (Career Investigator 1960-89), National Academy of Sciences (Member since 1975), Government of Japan (Order of the Rising Sun), National Institutes of Health (Scholar-in-Residence 1990-94) and the Biophysical Society, of which he was President in 1968 and a Fellow (2000).

Professor Morales will be missed by his many friends and colleagues as well as by his extended family. His wife of 42 years, Patricia Rainford Morales, had predeceased him.

Greta Pifat-Mrzljak 1939-2009



Greta Pifat-Mrzljak was born in Zagreb, Croatia and died after an illness on December 11, 2009. She was educated from primary school through post-graduate studies in Zagreb, receiving her Ph.D. in 1971 in Chemistry.

At the time of her death, Greta was director of the Ruder Boskovic Institute, and the current recipient of the Emily M. Gray Award for 2010, which is made annually for exceptional contribution to education in biophysics.

Greta was the first non-U.S. recipient in the thirteen year history of the award, and she was in distinguished company. It is most fitting that her achievements were recognized in this forum.

The 10th International Summer School in Biophysics held in Croatia last year was another fine example of Greta's efforts.
