

President's report



EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF BIOMATERIALS

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Date:

General Meeting
Leuven, 1st September 1983

Thanks for attendance and wellcome.

Reason for this meeting, as already mentioned in my NEWSLETTER I/83, is the change in periodicity. It was felt necessary to decouple the General Meetings from the World Congresses. The World Congresses are held in 4 years terms beginning 1980. As the majority of them will be located outside Europe, this change of time frame in felt necessary. The present Council had been elected during the 1980 World Congress in Baden near Vienna.

As one of the main tasks of a G. M. is to determin the basic rules of the policy of the Society and, closely related to this task, to determin the composition of the council, - Some revisions of the Statutes and Bylaws of our Society have been drawn and are submitted for your approval. In addition, the present council will resign and a new list is prepared for a reelected council.

Before giving some comments about the revised details of the Statutes and Bylaws and of the list of recommended council members, it appears to be appropriate to report to you about the activities, attempts and achievements of the last years:

The objects of our Society are summarized in Art. 4 of our Statutes: The Council has tried to follow these requirements in organising or co-sponsoring the conferences shown in Table 1.

The long lasting effect of any scientific meeting is laid down in its proceedings. Our Society, therefore, has always put much emphasis on the publication of transactions of all conferences, symposia etc. for which we adopted any responsibility. Table 2 summarizes all proceedings which have been published during the term of office of the present council:

From this list you can see that our efforts to reduce the publication time to about one year had some success. However, as already mentioned in my recent NEWSLETTER, all these publications have led to commercial problems for the publishers concerned in spite of the fact that nearly all the ~~publishers~~ ^{editorial} work has been done without remuneration. The solution of this problem will be one of the burdens of the future council because, of course, we can not expect the publishers to cooperate with us if there is no return of investment for them. The inclusion of the price of the proceedings - at a reduced rate - in the conference fees may be a contribution to solve this problem.

The following Table 3 surveys the biomaterials related conferences the preparation of which has been carried to different stages of completeness through the present council. But, of course, the major work remains to be done by the council to be elected later.

Conferences and the publication of their proceedings are two vehicles to follow the main task of our Society mentioned previously. During the last years we have tried to establish an additional means of communication in and promotion of our field of biomaterials: In issuing the NEWSLETTER biannually we have tried to establish a constant flow of information on all events and matters of importance on biomaterials. We hope that future councils will be able to continue this series. Of course, there are several possibilities of improvement, but most of them will have to rely on more informations or even contributions from our members. This could be on conferences touching the field of biomaterials at an as early stage of preparation as possible, on personal events of importance like promotions, awards received, changes of positions (we should not confine personal communications to orbitaries), on the formation of new research teams, etc.. Let me also remind you on the possibilities of placing advertisements in our NEWSLETTER.

There had also been an attempt to persue the aims of our Society by shifting portions of the activities into Committees. The basic idea was to form teams of experts on different branches of our field of biomaterials which, then, could explore their specialties more deeply. This kind of activities has not yet been put to work. May-be the next council will pick-up this idea.

However, some other kind of Committees has done very useful work:

The International Liaison Committee has mainly been concerned with maintaining contacts to the other biomaterials societies and preparing the World Congresses on Biomaterials.

Our European Liaison Committee has been established to maintain contact to European societies of closely related fields of interest and to the bodies of the European Community. Some joint conferences (Kopenhagen - Göteborg with the ESAO and this Leuven meeting with the European Society for Biomechanics and next year's Davos meeting) have been the result of these activities.

Let me comment here on suggestions for a still closer cooperation of these societies. The main object of our society is, as was mentioned before, to promote the knowledge and applications of biomaterials. The present council has always felt that this is a worthwhile task still for a separate society but, at the same time, this task also demands for a high degree of cooperation with learned bodies working in closely related fields. We feel that joint conferences like this one in Leuven are a reasonable contribution to solve this problem..

During the term of office of this council the Biomaterials Awards, the George Winter and the Jean Leray Award, have been established. It has been the duty of the Awards Committee to select the awardee. I like to use this opportunity to draw your attention to this chance of honoring persons who you feel have made major contributions to our field of interest (George Winter Award) or young scientists who you feel deserve some particular recognition for their first or second contribution to the science of biomaterials (Jean Leray Award).

It was the Statutes and Bylaws Committee who prepared the revised version of our basic rules which I had sent to you with the invitation for this meeting. There had been two major reasons necessitating the changes:

1. The change in periodicity of General Meetings in order to separate it from the World Congresses.
2. The inclusion of the subscription of our official journal into our membership fee.

The details of these changes will be explained to you by the Chairman of the Statutes and Bylaws Committee, Dr. Clive Lee, when we come to item 8 of our agenda.

Here, I like to mention that the council had been aware of the problems and even danger of the severe change in our membership fee. It was the most difficult decision and we knew that there may be cases in which this increase will not be followed by the one or the other of our members.

But the council felt that the offer to make the J.B.M.R. available at the rate of \$ 25,- per year could not be withheld from our members in view of the main object of our society. And as this offer referred to all of our members only we were forced to this either/or decision. At present, it appears that the majority of our members agrees with this decision and a continuous influx of new members seems to indicate that the attraction of our society has by no means suffered but rather increased.

The details of the changes of our membership will be given in the report of our Secretary.

His report will be followed by the Treasurer's report. From the figures he will present, you will see that the financial situation of our Society could be kept on the healthy side. Let me mention that this was largely due to some surplus from the World Congress and the Amsterdam Conference which allowed us to compensate for some losses caused by the Goteborg Meeting. But it also deserves mentioning that all costs could be kept at an extremely low level by arranging council meetings whenever possible together with conferences which the council members would attend anyhow so that most of the travelling expenses could be born by the institutions from which they come. No secretarian work has been paid for years. Much of the postages and telephone costs have also been subsidised by the institutions concerned. - One major item of expense I like to mention here because you can help us to reduce it: The mailing actions of our treasurer to remind members again and again on the payment of their fees have caused costs of several thousand Guilders. You help us save your money - and, now, contribute to a continuous receipt of the J.B.M.R. - if you pay your membership fee in time, thus avoiding the necessity of any reminder.

At the end of this meeting the present council will resign. We have prepared a list of names for the new council. You will see that more than half of them have been members of the present council already. In addition, most of them are from countries north of the alpes. We feel that we should have more representatives from southern Europe. From the revised text of Section 1 of Art. IV of the Bylaws you have seen that we propose reelection of about half of the council every two years. It would be much in the benefit of our Society if, by that time, enough members who could take the burden of these duties could make themselves available and known.

Forthcoming conferences organized or co-sponsored
by the EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR BIOMATERIALS

Date	Location	Title	In cooperation with
Apr. 84	Washington DC. USA	2nd World Congress on Biomaterials	Soc. For Biomaterials of USA, Japan, Canada and Biomat. Group of Brit. Bio. Eng. Soc.
Sept. 84	Davos	4th Meeting Europ. Soc. Biomechanics	Europ. Soc. Biomechanics
1985	Paris	5th European Con- ference on Bioma- terials	
1988	Kyoto	3rd World Congress on Biomaterials	all Societies on Bio- materials

Proceedings of conferences of the
EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR BIOMATERIALS
published since April 1980

Location and year of conference	Title of publication	Editors	Publisher	year of publication
Strasbourg 1977	Evaluation of Biomaterials. Vol. 1 of Advances in Biomaterials	G.D. Winter, J.L. Leray, K. de Groot	J. Wiley and Sons.	1980
Heidelberg 1979	Dental Implants	G. Heimke	Hanser	1980
Keele 1978	Mechanical Properties of Biomaterials. Vol. 2 of Advances in Biomaterials	G.W. Hastings, D.F. Williams	J. Wiley and Sons.	1980
Vienna 1980	Biomaterials 1980, Vol. 3 of Advances in Biomaterials	G.D. Winter D.F. Gibbons, H. Plenk	J. Wiley and Sons.	1982
Goteborg 1981	Clinical Applications of Biomaterials. Vol. 4 of Advances in Biomaterials	A.J. C. Lee, P. I. Brane- mark, T. Albrekts- son	J. Wiley and Sons.	1982
Amsterdam 1981	BIOMATERIALS Vol. 4 (1983)	K. de Groot	Butterworth Scientific	1983
Lignano- Sabbiadoro 1982	Ceramics in Surgery Vol. 17 of Material Science Monographs	P. Vincencini	Elsevier	1983
Hamburg 1982	Proceedings of the World Congress on Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering 1982	W. Bleifeld, D. Harder, K. H. Leetz, M. Schaldach	MPBE Hamburg	1982

Conferences organized or co-sponsored by the
EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR BIOMATERIALS since April 1980

Date	Location	Title	In cooperation with	No. of papers
Aug. 81	Goteborg	2nd European Conference on Biomaterials	Goteborg University	59
Aug. 81	Kopenhagen	VIII Annual Meeting Europ. Soc. Artificial Organs, Special Session	E.S.A.O.	14
Oct. 81	Amsterdam	Head, Neck and Dental Implants	Free University of Amsterdam	20
June 82	Lignano-Sabbiadoro	2nd BIOSIMF, Ceramics in Medicine	C.N.R.-IRTEC, Faenza, American Soc. Biomat.	50
Sept. 82	Hamburg	3rd Europ. Conf. Biomaterials	World Congress Medical Physics, Biomed. Eng.	24
Feb. 83	Berlin	Implant Stimulated Interface Reactions	Free University Berlin	26
Apr. 83	Leeuvenhout	Biomaterials in Otology	Politzer Society	37
Aug./ Sept. 83	Leuven	4th European Conference on Biomaterials	Europ. Soc. Biomechanics	110