



## Information to members of the Norwegian Society for Immunology (NSI)

### A. Minutes from the Annual General Meeting (AGM), 25 November 2002

#### **Members present:**

32 members were present at the AGM.

40 members attended the guest lecture. Varying numbers attended the abstract session

#### **Annual report:**

The Annual Report, sent to all members prior to the General Assembly, was unanimously approved.

#### **Members:**

It was noted that membership had decreased by 19 members this year, to 125 members.

#### **Finances:**

The finances are sound, and were unanimously approved. The Statutory Accounts for year 2002 are enclosed.

#### **Elections:**

Treasurer Karoline H. Western and secretary Andrew S. Louka resigned their posts after serving the customary 2 years. All elections were unanimous based on recommendation from the present board and in the absence of further candidates.

President: Erik Dissen, Institute of Anatomy, University of Oslo (elected in 2001)

Treasurer: Agnete Brunsvik, Institute of Immunology (IMMI), Rikshospitalet (new)

Secretary: Espen Ø. Kvale, LIIPAT, Rikshospitalet

Substitutes: Not elected (see B below)

Election committee: Tor Lea, IMMI and Oddmund Bakke, Division of Molecular Cell Biology, UiO, Frode Vartdal, IMMI.

#### **Member fee:**

Since the finances are sound, no adjustment was recommended; reduction was not recommended since a large portion of the fee covers Scandinavian Society for Immunology (SSI) membership charges. The annual fees remain as follows:

Ordinary members (including PhD students): NOK 200

Students (e.g. MSc): NOK 100

Patrons (companies): NOK 1000

## **(B) Liaison officers in the other university cities**

In recent years, all NSI Board Members have been based in Oslo. This has allowed highly efficient and cost effective communication within the Board. As a result however, NSI activities have primarily been concentrated in Oslo. In order to compensate for this, the board appointed a liaison officer, initially in Bergen, with the opportunity for such officers in the other university cities in the future. The NSI General Assembly previously (2001) approved redirection of 25% of the fee paid by members from liaison-cities to the local branch of NSI, allowing the local liaison officer to sponsor meetings e.g. through contribution to travel and board for invited speakers or social arrangements. The board continues to believe that this will be an incentive to recruit new members. However, it was noted that the majority of members in Bergen are students, who due to the cost of SSI membership, do not contribute a profit to the NSI.

The board and Assembly agreed with Prof Roland Jonsson's proposal to transfer NOK 10,000 to the liaison officer in Bergen in order that said person commands the wherewithal to execute sponsorship without the burden of reimbursement and consequent delays. In addition, an annual sum should be transferred, proportional to the number of members. There were no objections.

## **Scandinavian Journal of Immunology**

Members of the Norwegian Society of Immunology, automatically members of the Scandinavian Society of Immunology (SSI), are entitled to a free personal subscription of the Scandinavian Journal of Immunology (SJI); a nominal fee of NO 65 per annum is requested for postage and packaging.

The Assembly were reminded that the SJI is the SSI's and therefore NSI's own journal. The journal turned over a profit last year and was able to return in the order of 200-250 000 NOK to the SSI, which largely funds the SSI (NSI) travel bursaries. Few members take advantage of the free subscription offer. It was proposed that one reason for seeming lack of interest was the reduced use of paper journals. Dr Ludvig Munthe's proposal of free access to the online journal with a personal password will be investigated by the new board, as an alternative.

## **New Website Address**

To facilitate advertisement and interest in the NSI website, the URL has been updated. The NSI website address is now:

**[www.norwegianimmunology.org](http://www.norwegianimmunology.org)**

This was deemed the best available address – other obvious addresses were already owned by other organisations.

## **Pamphlet**

Prof R. Johnsson proposed that an NSI leaflet may help increase awareness and interest in the NSI, and serve an important function in recruiting new members. The NSI was awarded one fewer bursaries last year due to the decline in membership, which seems largely to be due to apathy or unawareness. Group leaders were encouraged to promote the NSI actively to their students, and importantly, to continue to be paying and active members themselves. The board will prepare a leaflet highlighting the advantages of membership.

## **Annual SSI Meeting**

Several members noted the low attendance at the last SSI meeting (Bergen) from Norwegian members. Members are encouraged to attend the next meeting in Iceland.

## **Collaboration**

The proposed collaboration between the NSI and Norwegian Society for Immunology and Transfusion Medicine (NSITM; primarily clinician membership) was discussed again. Discussion had taken place between the presidents of these societies. It was agreed that it would be difficult to share board positions between NSITM and NSI, but meeting referendums would be made available between the sister societies. Joint meetings are encouraged and the boards have agreed to try to coordinate the annual meetings for 2003.

## **Patron Advantages**

The advantages to Patrons (company members) were reiterated: staff at the company may attend the meetings with one contact person being a (voting) representative of the company. Advertising was approved on the NSI website 2 years ago, but has not been practised. It is not proposed that discrete logos with links to patrons websites are offered to patrons at no extra charge. Advertising would serve as an incentive to potential company members, who will receive "free" all-year advertisement. Traffic on the NSI website is not sufficiently high to warrant further charges. Advertising on the website should not hinder the members in finding information; they should be reasonably sized (i.e. relatively small) and tasteful. Members are invited to propose further ways of attracting patron members, an important source of income. Commercial interests should not dominate the NSI webpage.