



The International College of Fellows
of Biomaterials Science and Engineering

Minutes of the General Assembly Meeting
The International College of Fellows of Biomaterials Science and Engineering
(ICF-BSE)

World Biomaterials Congress, Daegu, South Korea, 2024
May 28 (Tue), 16:30~18:00 / Room 504

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introduction by Rui L. Reis (ICF-BSE Chair)
2. Thanks to the previous Members of the ICF-BSE Steering Committee
3. New Members and Responsibilities of the ICF-BSE Steering Committee
4. Website and how to improve communication with all Fellows. *Open comments*
5. IUS-BSE can also nominate Fellows. The ICF-BSE must establish a special nomination committee
6. Ongoing Programs of the ICF-BSE
7. Discussion on future activities and identification volunteers to lead them

Ad 1.

Rui L. Reis welcomed the participants and thanked WBC2024 Chair Prof. Ki Dong Park and the Organizing Committee of the World Congress for their support of the International College of Fellows to organize a 'Special Fellows Session' at the WBC2024, and providing a meeting room for the participants of the ICF-BSE General Assembly Meeting.

He congratulated the new Fellows who were inducted in 2020 and 2024 and encouraged them to append the letters of FBSE to their name, together with any other academic and honours identifiers, in order to increase visibility and to highlight that they hold the highest honour possible in BSE.

Ad 2.

Rui L. Reis, the Chair of ICF-BSE Steering Committee (2020-2024), thanked its previous members: Min Wang – Treasurer, Elizabeth Tanner – Secretary, Karen Burg, John A. Hunt, Laura Poole-Warren, Michael Sefton, Maria Cristina Tanzi, and Joachim Kohn – (Previous Chair, President of IUSBSE, acting as ICF-BSE Advisor).

Ad 3.

Rui L. Reis announced the results of Steering Committee Election (2024-2028) and the decision made by the elected members by unanimously voting on who is going to serve as officers (3 positions) and members-at large (5 positions) in the new term of 2024-2028.

The list of officers is: Chair: Rui L. Reis (2nd term), Treasurer: Liisa Kuhn, Secretary: Elżbieta Pamuła, while the Members are: Diego Mantovani, Maria Chatzinikolaidou, Justin Cooper-White, Luigi Ambrosio, Timmie Topoleski and Joachim Kohn (Advisor, Previous Chair, President of IUSBSE). Moreover, to ensure representativeness from different countries, Changsheng Liu, Bikramjit Basu, and Changyou Gao have been invited to join the Steering Committee as non-voting Observers.

Ad 4.

Discussion about how to improve the website and communication with all Fellows was initiated. To do so, a QR code 'ICF-BSE Website: Open Comments' was displayed, allowing us to collect all the suggestions from the audience. Such suggestions are expected to be discussed during the following meeting of the Steering Committee.

Ad 5.

Rui L. Reis recalled the history of ICF-BSE and the honorary status of 'Fellow of Biomaterials Science and Engineering' (FBSE), which was established in April 1992 after the constituent biomaterial societies of the World Biomaterials Congress, now the International Union of Societies for Biomaterials Science and Engineering (IUSBSE), and pointed out the need for public recognition of those members who have gained a status of excellent professional standing and high achievements in the fields.

Every four years, the national and regional biomaterials societies from: Australasia, Canada, China, Chinese Taipei, Europe, India, Japan, Korea, Latin America, and the USA nominate their most prominent scientists (capped to their top-10%) for the honor of being inducted as Fellows into the ICF-BSE.

Moreover, it was mentioned that the IC-FBSE also has the right to nominate three scientists for Fellow status from the countries which are not geographically represented by the existing, above-listed societies.

After discussion, the General Assembly of ICF-BSE decided that every person holding the title FBSE can suggest the candidate from those countries, the Steering Committee of the ICF-BSE will evaluate the applications and nominate a maximum 3 candidates to become Fellows. This procedure can be done every 4 years to be announced at the next WBC, with the timelines as for the nominations by the societies being the part of IUSBSE.

It was also clarified that the process of Fellow selection is performed at the level of each Society, according to their own rules. The prerequisite is, however, that the number of Fellows cannot be higher than 10% of eligible members of each society to obey this Top-10% rule.

Ad 6.

The following ongoing programs have been reviewed and discussed:

- Special Fellows Sessions having the format of FBSE Debates at major conferences, e.g., WBC, ESB, and SFB. They need to be also organized in other IUSBSE societies that are willing to host these sessions.

The traditional format of the debate led by the Chair of the ICF-BSE and have always as debaters, in proposition and opposition teams. The members of the ICF-BSE in either side

are chosen and fellows in favor of the topic are pitched against those with opposing viewpoints and is typically very well appreciated by the audience. It is a flagship activity of the ICF-BSE and FBSEs agreed that it should continue. However, the comment was to discuss in advance with the conference organizers the required facility to be provided: room of appropriate size and time slot, trying always to get a plenary session if possible, to avoid overlapping with other sessions.

— Exchange Students Program

This program was efficient a few years ago, at the New Jersey Center for Biomaterials, Rutgers University, and thanks to the commitment of Joachim Kohn, who assured the funding. Several students profited from it working on their own projects abroad for 3 months. For the program to be continued it needs additional funds. There were no clear suggestions from the audience on how to ensure the funds for this activity. Fellows interested in participating in the program that can receive or send students should contact the Chair.

— Funds

It was clarified by Rui L. Reis that the budget of ICF-BSE is presently only based on donations which are kindly collected on a sub-account of the Society for Biomaterials in the USA. There were no clear suggestions from the audience how to ensure the funds for the activity of ICF-BSE. Liisa Kuhn, as treasurer, will further look into additional ways to support our activities. Any suggestions by FBSEs is welcomed.

— Visibility

The presented ideas from the different Fellows were dealing with the question: how to improve visibility, recognition, how to work on the branding concept to attract the companies ready to provide support for ICF-BSE. There was also one suggestion to establish a fee for the Fellows, but it was not enthusiastically received by the General Assembly, considering that the Fellow title is honorary. Another suggestion was to obtain a support from the organizers of the WBC; however, it was concluded that the organizers are responsible for the budget of the event and might not wish to financially support FBSE.

Ad 7. Discussion on future activities and identifying volunteers to lead them

— Additional ideas from the audience how to improve visibility were proposed: e.g. to establish a Link-in platform, disseminate the activity in social media, or organize a webinar. The question was raised to whom we want to send the message: to the Fellows or outside our community, to industry or to young generations? No consensus was reached.

— Fellow Award (without financial granting) to be given every 4 years to one of the Fellows was regarded as too controversial, which will not move forward our societies.

— A book based on Fellows chapters and/or writing leading opinion articles by the Fellows was found interesting, but the volunteers to lead this activity have not been identified.

— The list of Fellows on the webpage should be updated; Steering Committee will be responsible for it.

Respectfully submitted, June 2024

Elżbieta Pamuła, Secretary

Rui L. Reis, Chair