XXXV International Congress of Physiological Sciences (IUPS Congress 2005)

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The General Assembly of the International Union of Physiological Sciences (IUPS), at its 1997 meeting, accepted the invitation by the United States National Academy of Sciences to host the 2005 Congress with the theme of “From Genomes to Functions.” This acceptance was reaffirmed at the 2001 IUPS meeting in Christchurch, New Zealand, by the General Assembly, which approved San Diego, California, as the site of the 2005 Congress, to be held from March 31 through April 5, 2005.

The invitation to host the 2005 IUPS Congress was presented by the US National Committee (USNC) of the National Academy of Sciences. USNC is composed of the Society for Neuroscience, Society of General Physiologists, Microcirculatory Society, Biomedical Engineering Society, Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology, and American Physiological Society (APS), which is the lead society for this invitation.

USNC has formed a National Organizing Committee for the 2005 IUPS Congress. As Chair of the National Organizing Committee, I wish to extend a most cordial and sincere invitation to everyone in the international physiology community to attend this IUPS Congress in San Diego. The United States had the privilege of holding the IUPS Congress twice previously: 1929 in Boston and 1968 in Washington DC. Since this important event comes to the US only once in about 38 years, we take this extremely seriously and will do our very best to provide you with a most memorable meeting.

With the strong support of the IUPS and the marvelous cooperation of all relevant scientific bodies, the planning of the congress has proceeded very well, and we look forward to a wonderful congress that will be scientifically superb and socially enjoyable. The 2005 Congress will be held in the newly renovated San Diego Convention Center, starting one day ahead of the Experimental Biology (EB) 2005 meeting and ending one day earlier. We will ensure the clear identity of IUPS while providing the congress attendees the opportunity of interaction with sister EB disciplines, such as pharmacology, histology, anatomy, physiology, nutrition, and immunology.

The 2005 IUPS Congress will begin with an opening ceremony on Thursday, March 31, in the afternoon, which will be followed by the Fenn Lecture and a gala reception with entertainment. A number of plenary lectures by distinguished scientists and symposia sessions will be held on Friday, April 1. From April 2 through 5, there will be a full program of plenary lectures, symposia, oral presentations, and poster sessions; these scientific sessions will be held in the convention center concurrently with the EB meeting and the scientific exhibits.

The programming of the 2005 IUPS Congress is being planned by the IUPS International Scientific Programming Committee (ISPC) and the US Scientific Programming Committee (USSPC), both chaired by Walter Boron of Yale University, who is also working closely with the APS Joint Program Committee and other relevant groups. These committees met jointly in San Diego on April 10–12, 2003, and had a wonderful exchange of ideas and formulation of the principles for programming. One of the exciting plans is to have some of the symposia organized as tracks, i.e., to have several symposia on a given field organized to cover the range from genes to the organism level, that run through the various days of the congress. An example is a track on muscle, which might include sessions on muscle proteins, comparative genomics, genetic manipulation and models, the molecular basis of muscle diseases, muscle adaptations as a result of training, biomechanics, and teaching of muscle physiology.

The program committees are receiving input from the IUPS Commissions and others, and they welcome suggestions from the international physiology community on symposia and hot topics to be considered for the 2005 Congress. The form for proposing symposia can be found on the congress website, http://www.iups2005.org. The first deadline for submission of these proposals is May 15, 2003. Proposals received by that date will be considered at the initial programming meeting in early June 2003. Although the form asks for confirmation of acceptance by the proposed speakers, because of time limitations it is necessary only to have the confirmation of the organizers at this point. Most likely this issue of News in Physiological Sciences will not reach you in time to submit your proposals by May 15. You can continue to submit proposals beyond this first deadline for consideration at subsequent programming meetings, but the sooner the better.
The quality of the scientific program depends on the input from the physiological community, and your suggestions/proposals will be gratefully appreciated. We are very fortunate to have excellent panels of outstanding physiological scientists in the ISPC and USSPC. They will have a series of meetings to finalize the program. The deadline for abstract submission for free communications will be November 2004. Please check the IUPS 2005 website for submission and registration. The registration fee for the congress (including access to the EB meeting) will be US $250.00, which will include the reception following the opening ceremony. There will be an additional nominal charge for the closing ceremony at Sea World on April 5.

I am confident that our superb program committees, with the help of your input, will come up with an outstanding scientific program. San Diego is a city with many attractive features for visitors and usually excellent weather conditions. I sincerely hope that you will come to join the physiologists of the world at this most important event for international physiology held once every four years.