

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN UNDERSEA BIO-MEDICAL  
SOCIETY

Held at the Royal Society of Medicine, London, at 1930 on 30 September 1971.

Surgeon Captain Rawlins RN, representing the founding members took the chair and gave a brief introduction in which he explained the need for a group within Europe to organise scientific meetings to discuss the physiological and medical aspects of diving and underwater operations. He explained that due to legal and financial constraints, principally concerned with liability to income tax, it had been decided to recommend the formation of a separate society which it was hoped could become affiliated with the Undersea Medical Society (UMS). This change of emphasis received full discussion and the proposal was accepted unanimously. The foundation of a European society was accomplished that night on the understanding that the executive committee would explore the question of affiliation with the UMS at the earliest opportunity.

The proposed constitution was amended and approved line by line to produce the Constitution and Bylaws of the European Undersea Bio-Medical Society (1971). The President, Professor Carl Magnus Hesser of Sweden, was elected by acclamation and took the chair.

A slate of nominees for other posts on the executive committee was proposed, seconded and voted upon. The following officers were elected to serve on the Executive Committee with President Hesser:

VICE PRESIDENT	Professor K N Walder	UK
SECRETARY-TREASURER	Surg Cdr E E P Barnard RN	UK
PAST PRESIDENT	Surg Capt J S P Rawlins RN	UK
PREVIOUS PAST PRESIDENT	Dr X Fructus	France
MEMBERS AT LARGE	Professor J H Corriol	France 3 years (1974)
	Capt K Seemann MC FGN	Germany 2 years (1973)



Dr P E Paulev Denmark 1 year (1972)

The President gave a brief address in which he thanked those present for the honour of the Presidency and also the founding group for their efforts in bringing the society into existence.

Dues were discussed and fixed for the year 1 January to 31 Décembre 1972 as £5 sterling, or equivalent in other currency. Dues to be payable on the first of January each year.

A suggestion was made that student membership should be considered. This motion was accepted and will be considered by the executive committee.

The question of affiliation was next discussed. Captain Rawlins undertook to open discussions with the executive of the UMS during a forthcoming visit to the United States. Mr Goodfellow, the Honorary Secretary to the Society of Underwater Technology, gave a useful outline of the benefits which might be gained by affiliation with his society and also supplied information as to the difficulties and delays likely in registering with the Charities Commission and the Internal Revenue department for tax relief.

The proposal to appoint national assistant secretaries met the initial barrier that until members of the society had identified themselves it was difficult for each country to elect a local representative; the motion, put by Professor K W Donald, was therefore carried that in principle the idea of assistant secretaries should be approved but that the way in which they were selected or appointed should be left to the executive committee.

It was decided on the motion of Professor Corriol that the official language of the Society should be English, but that this would not of course debar anyone who was unable to speak English; the general principle to be followed



would be inclusive rather than exclusive, with this in mind it was decided that no definition of the boundaries of Europe would be attempted.

The date of the next meeting was left open subject to a meeting of the executive to count heads and promulgate the date and purpose of such a meeting within the framework of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Society.

The need for a permanent home for the Society was discussed. Such a home would avoid having to transfer society funds from country to country and changing the address to which subscriptions had to be paid on electing a new Secretary-Treasurer. It was decided to leave this question in abeyance until the affiliation committee, to be appointed by the President, had had an opportunity to settle the relationship of the society to the UMS.

Those present were asked by the President to say whether any of them would be willing to serve on any of the committees of the society. Names of those willing were taken and a separate list of Committee Chairmen and Committee Members will be issued as soon as possible.

The President made the announcement that it was hoped to hold the first scientific meeting in 1973, possibly at the beginning of June and in Sweden. It was not intended to hold a scientific meeting in 1972 since the Underwater Physiology Symposium to be held in the Bahamas in August 1972 was an important meeting with which we would not wish to interfere.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 2200.



The following were present at the Inaugural Meeting:-

Chairman      Capt J S P Rawlins

Chairman and President      Professor Carl Magnus Hesser ,

Surgeon Commander E E P Barnard RN

Captain R C Bornmann MC USN

Mr Clothier

Professor J H Corriol

Dr M Davis

Professor K W Donald

Dr R Edwards

Dr L Fagraeus

Mr Goodfellow

Surg Lt Cdr R de G Hanson RN

Surg Cdr R J Lambert RN

Cdr Larsen MC USN

Dr J Miller

Cdr J Smith-Sivertsen RNN

Surg Commodore L Troell R Sw N

Professor D N Walder

Surg Cdr J M Young RN