

IIS Board of Trustees Meeting July 23rd 2010

Present: Crist Filer, Dave Hesk, George Ellames, Carolee Lavey, Brad Maxwell

1. ¹⁴C Supply Shortage

The Board discussed the ongoing supply shortage of ¹⁴C-barium carbonate and potential steps the IIS could take to help alleviate the situation. There appear to be conflicting reasons as to the cause of the supply shortage. DH stated that he has been in contact with a vendor company who has communicated that the shortage is allegedly caused by the Russian supplier Rosatom restricting supplies to increase the price and by the potential elimination of exports to non-Russian users. DH added an article published in World Nuclear News in May 2009 appears to support this observation.

http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/IT-Russia_establishes_sole_isotope_exporter-2705095.html

DH suggested that if the above information is accurate, it may be advantageous to explore other production options, although the likelihood of this taking place is low unless there is a commitment in place from major purchasers to buy ¹⁴C-barium carbonate from an alternative supplier. DH suggested one role the IIS could play would be to act as a facilitator between potential suppliers and customers. DH added that in the event there is a deliberate plan to restrict or eliminate exports of ¹⁴C-barium carbonate outside Russia, it may be appropriate for the IIS to contact the appropriate government department to see if any action can be taken at that level. GE also stated that supporting letters from vendors and pharmaceutical companies would likely increase the impact of this approach.

This account of the supply shortage is in contrast with the information that CF has obtained. CF stated that his sources indicated that the supply shortage is merely due to an underestimation of global demand by the supplier and although supplies will be short over the next 2-3 years they will eventually recover.

Post meeting note:

DH and CL have recently met with a second vendor company and their position regarding the ¹⁴C barium carbonate supply is consistent with the information relayed by CF.

From the above discussions, it was agreed that as there is conflicting information as to the cause of the shortage, further information is needed before the IIS can take any concrete steps. It was agreed that the BoT will ask AS to utilize his contacts in Russia to attempt to gain a clearer understanding of the situation. It was also agreed that given the high impact of this issue, this needs to be addressed with some urgency.

Action: CF to contact AS to further investigate reasons for ^{14}C barium carbonate shortage.

2. Heidelberg Update

CF stated that to Heidelberg organizers recently updated progress on the meeting through an email. A scientific committee has been formed and is actively considering candidates for the Plenary and Sponsored lectures and is also in the process of designing the scientific sessions.

3. IIS Discussion group proposal

GE presented a proposal to form topic specific discussion groups with a longer term view having them become Scientific Divisions within the IIS. GE stated that forming such discussion groups are a potential way to reach out to new members and make joining the IIS more attractive. Providing a forum for such discussion groups is set out the IIS Mission and Objectives statement. Section 2.2 of the current by-laws provides the mechanism to form Scientific Divisions by members with a common interest within the IIS under the oversight of the BoT. GE stated that as the IIS constitution was written before the widespread use of the Internet, such Divisional meetings were probably envisaged as face to face meetings. However using a 2010 interpretation would allow for the possibility of setting up 'on line' discussion groups along similar lines to groups within the ACS and the RSC, etc.

GE added that one possibility would be to set up a small number of discussion groups based on the major topics covered at the International Symposia and that it would require a few dedicated individuals to set these up and run them. BM noted that this proposal to allow setting up subject specific divisions within the IIS is very similar to the Divisional structure within the ACS, but on a much smaller scale. In addition he noted that in order for a discussion group to become a Division within the IIS, it would need to be of a certain size, which will need to be worked out.

It was agreed that this is an excellent idea in principle, and the next step should be to develop exactly how this should be set up and implemented. CL noted that for an 'on line' discussion group, members would need to be issued with a user ID and password.

CF suggested that DH send out an email to the membership, summarizing the idea and also to solicit for volunteers to set up discussion groups. GE volunteered to serve as the contact point for interested individuals.

Action: DH to email membership regarding Discussion Group proposal.

4. BoT Election reform update

BM, GE and CL presented a number of proposals to amend the BoT election process, which resulted out of several teleconferences held between them and Raymond Oekonomopoulos, which potentially will give the BoT a wider geographic representation. Several proposals were presented which detailed the positives and minuses of each, along with the status quo, which was also presented as one of the options. It was noted that any change in the composition of the BoT, will require the constitution to be amended and approved by the membership.

On behalf of the BoT, CF thanked the members of the committee for their efforts and from the ensuing discussion it was agreed that several of the proposals should be further elaborated with a view to presenting a formal proposal for approval by the BoT at the next meeting. Assuming a new BoT structure is approved, it was agreed that an aggressive time line will need to be met in order to have the constitution amended and approved by the membership in time for the 2012 elections.

Action: CF to email RHE and AS for input on the election proposals.

5. AOB

Financial Update

Post meeting, RHE updated the BoT on the IIS finances. RHE stated that there is a total of \$189,976.80 in the New Century Accounts.

New Membership Drive

CL updated the BoT on the status of a campaign to recruit new members. Lists were compiled from isotope users in the literature, who are not IIS members and from a list supplied from RHE, which was an attendee list of a meeting related to isotopes. From this a mailing list of 169 was compiled and an invitation letter authored by CF was sent out at the end of May. To date one enquiry was received, which was followed up by DH.

Post meeting note: A second response was received by DH, which is being followed up.

CL stated that although the response has been modest so far, she will continue compiling potential names from the literature and also suggested that the IIS consider making a presence at local scientific meetings which are attended by scientists who are potential users of isotopes. This could be simply achieved by distributing literature about the IIS at these meetings.

CF thanked CL for her efforts on the project. GE added that another potential way to increase visibility of the IIS on poster presentations would be to obtain company

clearance to add the IIS logo and name on a corner of the poster. BM suggested that the list compiled by CL be forwarded to the Heidelberg organizers so they are included in the meeting announcement. DH noted that the international meeting attendee lists are valuable source of new potential members.

WCI/ IIS Committee Update

In response to a question from BM about setting up a joint IIS/ WCI committee, CF stated that he had sent an email invitation to the WCI President, but had not yet received a response.

Next BoT meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the BoT will be on Oct 21st and will be held in conjunction with the North East meeting. DH will contact the meeting organizer to arrange for a conference room at the meeting hotel.

David Hesk
IIS Executive Secretary