

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

April 7, 2010, Beijing

Attendees: Luigi Ambrosio, FuZhai Cui, Zhongwei Gu, Lynne L. H. Huang, Nan Huang, Young Ha Kim, James Kirkpatrick, Joachim Kohn, Bozena Michniak-Kohn, Yang Leng, Hengde Li, Shibi Lu, Ajitkumar Nair, John Ramshaw, Shenguo Wang, Yigjun Wang, Yaoting Yu, Xingdong Zhang, Lian Zhou, Renxi Zhuo, Hesun Zhu

Notes:

On April 7, 2010, a Delegation of Fellows from outside of China met with 13 of the 16 Fellows of Biomaterials Science and Engineering (BSE) who reside in the People's Republic of China (PRC). The meeting was arranged and hosted by Professor X. Zhang of the National Engineering Research Center for Biomaterials, Sichuan University. The purpose of the meeting was for the Chinese Fellows to meet with some of the Fellows residing outside of the PRC and to discuss common interests, establish personal relationships and explore ways to increase the visibility of the ICF as a respected and well-known organization.

Joachim Kohn, who led the Delegation of Fellows, discussed the following points:

1. Establish an international graduate student/young scientists exchange program supported by Fellows.

- This program allows young scientists to pursue their research while exposing them to international cultures and customs, an experience that will prove valuable as scientific research becomes increasingly global in scope. In order to be eligible for a 3-6 month residency abroad, students must be enrolled in a relevant graduate program and must meet the host institution's language and visa requirements.
- Fellows who are interested in having a student participate in a residency in the United States should contact Melissa Aranzamendez at aranzamendez@biology.rutgers.edu. The residency will place from 1 May until 31 July in Dr. Kohn's laboratory at the New Jersey Center for Biomaterials at Rutgers University. Dr. Kohn will cover housing, visa fees, health insurance, and limited local expenses. Eligible candidates will be requested to participate in a telephone interview with Dr. Kohn and their academic advisor. The following will be required:
 - a. the student's CV
 - b. three academic references
 - c. a statement with areas of interest and/or proposed project
- Prof. Zhang offered to establish a similar program on behalf of the Chinese Fellows within his own organization. The purpose of this would be for non-Chinese students to be able to visit Dr. Zhang's laboratory or the laboratory of other Chinese Fellows. To ensure

uniformity with the U.S. program, the general conditions should be similar (i.e. length of stay is 3-6 months; housing, visa fees, health insurance, and local expenses will be covered, foreign visitor will be responsible for airfare to and from China).

- Over time, the College expects that additional Fellows will agree to organize similar exchange opportunities so that a network of laboratories will become available for students to experience a cultural and scientific exchange.

2. **Publish a special ‘Fellows’ issue in a biomaterials journal.** Fellows will be asked to write brief articles, reviews or opinion papers on a common theme for publication in a special issue of a biomaterials journal.
3. **Hold international, biannual meetings for the Fellows.** These conferences will:
 - a. focus on a specific theme or topic
 - b. be limited to a small group (approximately 100)
 - c. provide ample time for private interactions
 - d. require no abstracts and yield no proceedings.

An example of a conference theme would be: “Promoting translational research for industrial applications,” which would explore the different ways in which various countries address technology transfer.

4. **Bestow a Fellows Award.** This award will be presented every 2 or 4 years. There will be no monetary prize given; however, the recipient receives a preferred speaking assignment for a prominent lecture at the World Biomaterials Congress. The following question was asked: Should the award be presented to Fellows or should it be presented to young postdocs or young investigators?
5. **Establish national chapters of Fellows for each particular country.** The suggestion was made to have national chapters as subgroups within the College of Fellows. Some countries have too few Fellows to make this a practical idea; however, the U.S., China, Japan, the U.K., et al, have a substantial number of Fellows and a national chapter may have some useful function. However, no specific decisions were made regarding this item.
6. **Collect a membership fee.** Dr. Kohn advocated against the collection of a membership fee, which would subject the College of Fellows to the burden of setting up an accounting system together with the requisite monitoring, documentation, and reporting duties that are required of dues collection.
7. **Identify the Fellows’ role at the 9th World Biomaterials Congress (WBC).**
 - a. The Fellows will nominate a number of prominent scientists to Dr. Zhang as potential keynote speakers.
 - b. A small group of Fellows (approximately 20) will be asked to evaluate abstracts for the

9th WBC.

- c. Prof. Zhang agreed to provide a time slot at the 9th WBC for a Special Fellows Session, which will be modeled after the successful “great debate,” originally presented at the 8th WBC in Amsterdam. The Fellows will select an appropriate topic and submit a proposal to Dr. Zhang as part of the request for symposia.
8. **Create collection of writings by Fellows.** Fellows will be asked to write a 1-2 page opinion paper about any subject. The papers, which should be of high quality, will be published on the Fellows website (<http://www.fellowsbse.org>). The content can be an introduction to the Fellow’s laboratory, research topics or related policies. Once a sufficient number of papers has been collected, they will be published in a booklet for distribution to industry, the press, or government and funding agencies, depending upon the topic.
9. **The ultimate vision of the ICF-BSE is to become a well-recognized, highly esteemed international organization focused on the advancement of biomaterials science and engineering.** As such, it is the goal of the ICF-BSE to be an advisory entity charged with such tasks as advising biomaterials societies, universities, and government agencies on all matters relating to the field of biomaterials science and engineering.