

SIVB BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONFERENCE CALL
DECEMBER 15, 2004

- 1.0 INTRODUCTION: The conference call was called to order by President David Altman at 1:16 pm (EST). Participating Board members included: David Altman, David Ellis, Cynthia Goodman, Richard Heller, Michael Horn, Dennis Laska, Paul Price, Nancy Reichert, Gordana Vunjak-Novakovic, and Pamela Weathers. Marietta Wheaton Ellis, New Beginnings Management, Inc. also participated.
 - 1.1 Adoption of Agenda. David Ellis moved, and Pamela Weathers seconded, that a modified agenda be adopted as discussed. Motion Passed (10:0:0).

- 2.0 NOMINATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP ON USDA ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BIOTECHNOLOGY AND 21ST CENTURY AGRICULTURE (AC21) (Agenda item 1.)
 - 2.1 Background: The USDA-ARS requested nominations of qualified people to serve on the AC21 for two years which is an advisory committee for the Secretary of Agriculture. Two highly qualified SIVB members, Peggy Lemaux and Wayne Parrott, expressed their interest in being nominated/endorsed. Officers of the Plant Biotechnology Section voted to nominate/endorse each.
 - 2.2 Nancy Reichert discussed the duties of the AC21 and expertise nominees should possess. Michael Horn mentioned another member that would be extremely qualified. However, since the PBS officers had already voted on this, their recommendation would stay as is. Cynthia Goodman asked if the entire membership would need to vote on this endorsement. Paul Price indicated it could be an endorsement by the Board. **Michael Horn moved, and Pamela Weathers seconded, that the Board endorse nominations of Peggy Lemaux and Wayne Parrott to serve on the AC21. Motion Passed (10:0:0).**

- 3.0 SITE SELECTION FOR 2007 MEETING (Agenda item 2A.)
 - 3.1 Background: Dennis Laska has been working with Marietta Ellis on potential sites for the 2007 meeting: Indianapolis and University of Georgia (UGA). Dennis indicated that Tom Zimmerman had received very little response from the Marriott in the Virgin Islands, so it was dropped from consideration for 2007.
 - 3.2 Discussion surrounded the attributes and detriments of each site. The two Indianapolis hotels had minimum charges (Westin, Marriott Downtown), whereas UGA charged a fee per day per participant (UGA). Richard Heller indicated that the attendees would get a better deal at UGA due to lower room rates, but it would cost the Society more because of the participant fee. Cynthia Goodman was concerned about the audio/visual (AV) rental fees the hotels charge, which would be less expensive at UGA. Paul Price indicated it might be a good time for the Society to buy AV equipment since good LCD projectors are quite affordable now. Marietta indicated that more hotels are allowing groups to bring their own projectors for use. Richard estimated it might be a more expensive meeting at the UGA versus at hotels in Indianapolis.

Also, UGA is 60 miles from Atlanta, but no information was given on the cost and availability of shuttle service to Athens. Dennis mentioned the grants that had already been secured for a meeting in Indianapolis, plus the free publicity it has already generated for SIVB. Cynthia indicated that Dennis has already contacted a lot of potential collaborators. It will be interesting to see what kind of meeting we produce when we start planning it this early. **Richard moved, and Paul seconded, that Indianapolis will be the site of the 2007 Congress on In Vitro Biology. Motion Passed (10:0:0).**

3.3 David Altman indicated that Dennis should work with Marietta on the formal site selection and he encouraged all members of the ad hoc committee to continue to look for a 2008 site. Dennis wanted to know if a site selection committee and procedure could be added to the bylaws. David Altman indicated Dennis should discuss this with the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. Gordana Vunjak-Novakovic thanked Dennis for all the work he has done on site selection for 2007. This gratitude was echoed by many others on the Board.

4.0 2005 MEETING ITEMS (Agenda item 2B.)

4.1 Gordana Vunjak-Novakovic said the meeting was on-track but several changes and adjustments still need to be made to the schedule, and she would discuss this with Marietta Ellis after the conference call. She and Paul Price discussed a specific session they were having problems getting speakers for.

5.0 MANAGEMENT COMPANY PROPOSAL

5.1 Executive session.

5.2 **David Ellis moved, and Dennis Laska seconded, that the Board should notify New Beginnings Management that we would like to extend their contract for an additional year that would span July, 2005 through June, 2006. Motion Passed (10:0:0).**

5.3 David Ellis indicated the critical issues surrounding contract renewals are enough to warrant a separate conference call. Cynthia Goodman suggested the February 9 conference call still be held to two hours, but we could schedule a longer conference call on Saturday, Feb. 12. Other Board members agreed with this suggestion

Michael Horn moved, and Dennis Laska seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. Motion Passed (10:0:0). Meeting adjourned at 2:53 pm (EST).

7.0 ACTION ITEM

1. Submit Dennis Laska's proposal to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for study. Dennis Laska is the contact person and he will contact Melissa Hinga (Chair) before the February, 2005 Board meeting.