



AEIC Board Meeting January 11, 2000

P.L. Hunst, Secretary

Board Members participating: Chuck Mihaliak (Dow AgroSciences), Jim Brady (Novartis), Kim Magin (Monsanto), Jan Sharp (Elf Atochem), Penny Hunst (Dow AgroSciences), Brian Skoczinski (Beacon Analytical)

Invited participants: Cindy Lipton (Zeneca), Dave Grothaus (Pioneer), Stacy Charlton (Novartis), Dean Layton (Envirologix), Jim Stave (SDI), Dwight Denham (SDI), Steve Tanner (USDA/GIPSA), Larry Powers (Ricerca), Ann O'Leary (Ricerca)

The AEIC Board Meeting was held via teleconference from 11:30am – 2:30pm EST. The Presidency of the organization was handed over to Chuck Mihaliak and Chuck continued to moderate the meeting. The first hour of the teleconference was devoted to the Board business meeting. The first issue discussed was the “host plaque”. The tradition of giving the company which hosts the AEIC Meeting in the spring and/or fall was instituted several years ago to give some recognition to that company for their efforts and costs associated with hosting. In the past, Chris Rankin had taken on the job of having the plaques made. Since Chris is no longer an AEIC participant, it was discussed whether this tradition should continue. The Board agreed that it should continue and Brian Skoczinski offered to oversee having plaques made for Pioneer (for hosting the 1999 Fall Meeting) and for Ricerca (for hosting the Spring 2000 Meeting).

The next agenda item was a discussion of the AEIC website. Cindy Lipton had forwarded a list of suggestions about the website to Chuck. These included: updating the AEIC officers' names, updating the membership list, adding additional links, adding the biotech information, deleting the message board and employment opportunities sections, etc. Chuck and Penny are trying to arrange a meeting with the webmaster to go over these suggestions. Chuck requested that anyone who has any ideas for website design or has information that should be included on the website, to contact himself or Penny.

Kim gave a brief overview of the membership dues situation. Because several of the companies had the American Cyanamid address in their system as the billing address, Kim has not received checks from several companies. As a

consequence, an accurate accounting of the membership was not available. Brian asked for clarification of the new dues proration scale which was approved at the last AEIC meeting. The new dues proration scale is: \$500 for companies having 50 or more employees; \$250 for companies having less than 50 employees; and \$100 for individuals wishing to join. The fee is still \$50 for affiliates from member companies. The AEIC does have approximately \$15000 in its account and it is anticipated that \$5000 – 8000 more will come in from membership dues. This will give AEIC between \$20-25000 for the 2000 budget. The Board discussed a possible 2000 budget. The foreseeable expenditures are:

AEIC website	\$1000
AEIC/USDA Workshop	\$1500-2000
AEIC publication reprints	\$2000
Administrative support	??
JRC speaker for USDA	
Workshop (Travel)	\$1000-2000
Mailings	\$200-500
Honorarium for USDA	
Workshop Speaker	??

As of right now, it appears that the organization will have sufficient funds to cover all expenditures.

Cindy Lipton then gave an update on the validation publication which was submitted to SFAI at the end of November, 1999. Mike Morgan (SFAI) is reviewing the paper and has sent some comments to Jim Rittenburg. His comments to date have involved some re-phrasing in some of the introductory statements to make them less “inflammatory” in his opinion. Jim Rittenburg is meeting with Mike Morgan in the next two weeks and will discuss the changes with him. The paper should be published within the first quarter of 2000 (probably late March). Chuck suggested that AEIC work through the American Crop Protection Association (ACPA) to have them issue a press release when the paper is scheduled for publication. Chuck will contact Leah Porter at ACPA about this.

Cindy also gave an update on the paper she is giving on behalf of AEIC at the ACS Meeting this spring. The abstract was submitted in mid-October and accepted. Cindy is working on the slides for the presentation and will forward them to Penny for distribution to the Board members for their approval.

The next agenda item was a discussion of the “Grain Biotechnology Detection Methods Validation Workshop” which is being co-hosted by USDA/GIPSA (Steve Tanner) and the AEIC. The workshop will be held February 24-25 in Kansas City. The tentative agenda was reviewed and discussed. The workshop consists of three main sessions. Session I is devoted to Sampling, Validation and Standard Reference Materials. Don Kendall of GIPSA will chair this session.

Speakers have been lined up from USDA/GIPSA, USDA/ARS, Dow AgroSciences, Zeneca and Novartis. Kim will contact someone in the JRC-IRRM to see if they will give a talk on grain reference materials. Dave Grothaus will facilitate the discussion session at the end of this section. Session II will be entitled "DNA Detection: Polymerase Chain Reaction Technology". This session will be chaired by Barbara Van Til of GIPSA. A general overview of PCR, followed by PCR methods validation and PCR practical applications talks will make up this session. A speaker from Aventis will give the general overview talk. Kim has contacted a person in the JRC Environmental Health and Food Group to give the validation talk. If this person cannot attend, a back-up speaker from France was suggested. Steve Tanner indicated that Central Hans has committed to send a speaker for the practical applications talk. David Hondred (Pioneer) will also be asked to facilitate the discussion session at the end of this section. Session III of the workshop will be entitled "Protein Detection: Immunoassay Technology" and will be chaired by Kim Magin. This session will follow the same format as the PCR session: general overview of immunoassay technology, ELISA methods validation, lateral flow methods validation and practical applications. Speakers from Envirologix, the Canadian Grain Commission and SDI have been lined up for this session. Dwight Denham (SDI) will facilitate the discussion session at the end of this section.

Steve Tanner has also suggested that after the cocktail hour sponsored by AEIC during the meeting, a dinner would follow at the hotel (each attendee would pay for their own) and a keynote speaker would be featured. Steve suggested Virgil Smale of the American Baking Institute would be a good candidate for this talk. It was decided that those who are invited to attend the workshop will be required to RSVP their attendance to the workshop and to the dinner. Chuck has drafted an invitation and will add the RSVP for the dinner. Confirmation of speakers should be completed by Friday, January 14 so that the invitations can be sent out. A master list of invitees is being assembled by Chuck. The goal is to keep the workshop attendance to 40-50 people in order to have sufficient discussion and interaction.

The next Board agenda item was a discussion of the AEIC Spring Meeting which is being hosted by Ricerca. At the Fall Meeting, an agenda similar to the USDA Workshop was discussed as the agenda for the Spring Meeting. Since the workshop is going to occur in February, the proposed agenda for the AEIC Meeting needs to be revamped. One suggestion was that the USDA Workshop may bring up specific activities or speakers that AEIC may want to engage in or have address our meeting. Other suggestions were: a) discussion of the path forward for AEIC; b) discussion of the scope of AEIC; c) hear from food manufacturers concerning their uses and/or needs for immunoassay technology in their industry; d) hear what other industry working groups are focusing on, i.e., the ACPA Diagnostic Working Group, the ASTA Seed Detection Group, etc.; e) presentations of other detection technologies; and f) discussion of allergenicity issues, i.e., have Sue Hefle of U. of Nebraska give a presentation. Chuck

reiterated that AEIC needs to have another discussion of the scope of the organization, i.e., do we need to bring in other parties involved in other technologies such as PCR? Does AEIC want the DNA detection groups in AEIC or should AEIC promote that they form their own organization? Do the people involved in PCR feel a need to promote their technology as AEIC did with immunoassay to the agencies? Since the Spring Meeting agenda needs revamping, it was suggested that the meeting dates be moved to later in April. This would allow possible speakers to be lined up well in advance. The dates of April 27-28 were suggested. Larry Powers is going to check to see if there are available hotel meeting facilities available close to Ricerca on these dates. Jan Sharp, AEIC VP, will assist Larry in planning the meeting. Jan will have a teleconference with the planning committee (organized at the last meeting) during the first of February. The committee members were: Cindy Lipton (Zeneca), Stuart Reeves (Diamond V Mills), Kim Magin (Monsanto), Joe Dautlick (SDI), Fernando Rubio (Abraxis), and Chuck Mihaliak (Dow AgroSciences).

