

AEIC Fall Meeting Minutes
Greensboro, NC
September 25-26, 1998

Penny L. Hunst, Secretary

The Fall Meeting of the AEIC was hosted by Novartis Crop Protection (Jim Brady, Organizer) at Greensboro, NC. Nineteen members attended the meeting.

The first topic of discussion was "AEIC—Where do we go from here?" which was moderated by Dave Grothaus (Pioneer Hi-Bred). Dave presented an overhead which summarized several points as follows:

- 1) Have we fulfilled our mission?
EPA Workshops—provided training and information to EPA
- 2) Do we need a new mission or do we we expand our mission?
With either option, there are pros and cons. The cons include: diluted effort of members, less focus of the organization. The pros include: more members participating, more activities by the organization.
- 3) Do we add new technologies?
- 4) Do we add new business/applications?
- 5) Do we add new member companies?

The proposal was made by Monsanto and Pioneer to:

- 1) add ag biotech to the mission statement and to the activities of the AEIC.
- 2) Addition of ag biotech keeps the immunoassay technology focus but would also add new business/applications.
- 3) Addition of ag biotech adds new members, new ideas for activities, etc.
- 4) Many companies have both chemical and biotech components

During the discussion of the proposal, it was generally agreed by the members present that ag biotech should be added to the mission statement. The addition will increase and expand the membership and at the same time, will bring in the additional resources to undertake new activities and issues related to biotech. It was felt that this was not a total change for the organization since environmental was originally chosen in order to stay separate from the medical diagnostic groups. Ag biotech is just another segment of "environmental" as used by the AEIC. A motion was made by R. Lankow to change the mission statement. The motion was seconded by C. Mihaliak.

AEIC Mission Statement:

Revised:

To advance and support immunoanalytical technologies, the AEIC will:

1. Provide a consensus voice for applications to agricultural, biotechnology and environmental industries;
2. Develop educational programs;
3. Furnish scientific expertise; and
4. Establish performance standards for immunochemical methods.

For the Spring Meeting, a subcommittee was appointed to determine what initiatives in the ag biotech area the AEIC may want to address and also to formulate a plan to bring in new members. The subcommittee is being headed by Dave Grothaus (Pioneer) and the other members include Kim Magin (Monsanto), Chuck Mihaliak (Dow AgroSciences), Jim Rittenburg (Biocode), Penny Hunst (AgrEvo USA) and Rich Lankow.

There was a short discussion on the membership requirements of the AEIC, i.e., do we want to allow individual members and also, do we want to change the membership dues to a "sliding" scale to accommodate individual members and small companies. It was decided that the AEIC Board should discuss these issues at the Board Meeting which is to be held in January, 1999. The Board will then bring recommendations to the membership at the Spring Meeting.

Prior to lunch, Joe Dautlick (SDI) presented an overhead presentation which Jim Stave (SDI) presented to the ILSI international meeting held in June, 1998 to discuss the labeling of food for genetically-modified organisms (GMOs) and what analytical method should be used. The European community currently favors PCR, so this presentation was an attempt to present immunoassays as a viable, cost effective, less labor intensive method. Food labeling is a "right to know" issue of consumers in Europe. The European Union has approved GMO foods as safe for human consumption, however, the European consumers want to know which foods contain GMOs so that they can choose to consume them or not. Currently, under directive 90/220, new food products must indicate GMO content on the label. The label information is for the consumer and is not a safety warning.

Following the lunch break, the plans for the upcoming EPA Workshop in October were discussed. Chris Rankin reviewed the process by which the workshop plans were made, i.e., Phase 1 was the presentation preparation and Phase 2 was the workshop promotion and logistics. Both Phase 1 and Phase 2 have been carried out by Rich Lankow who was contracted by the AEIC. The workshop is scheduled for October 20-21 at the Sheraton Crystal City, Arlington, VA. On each day, the sessions will begin at 8:15am with a short introduction on the AEIC by Chris Rankin. Starting at 8:30am, two talks will be given by 1) Jim Stave on the "Principles of Immunoassays" and 2) by Jan Sharp on "Immunochemistry Raw Data". Following these presentations, two concurrent sessions will be held in which speakers from individual member companies will give presentations on various applications of immunoassays. Session A will contain talks by Arno Krotzky (BASF), Dave Bolin (BASF), Jim Brady (Novartis), Chris Rankin (DuPont), Joe Dautlick (SDI) and Chuck Mihaliak (Dow AgroSciences). Session B will contain talks by Chuck Mihaliak (Dow AgroSciences), Pat Nugent (Dow), Jim Rittenburg (Biocode), Kim Magin (Monsanto) and Tim Lawruck (SDI). At the request of Chuck Mihaliak, the two talks on Spinosad from Dow AgroSciences and Dow will be placed back-to-back in the same session. At 1:30pm, the speakers from the morning sessions will be available for questions. There will also be posters and exhibits from immunochemical manufacturers (only AEIC member companies will participate in the exhibits)

Following the presentation of the general program for the workshop, Jan, Kim, Chuck, Jim B., Joe and Rich went over their presentations for the workshop.

On Friday (Sept. 25), the AEIC Business Meeting was held. The secretary's minutes from the Spring Meeting in Valley Forge, PA, were discussed and approved. Rosie Wong presented the treasurer's report. AEIC currently has 19 paid full members and 17 paid affiliate members. Midwest Research Institute and Thaco withdrew from the organization. The income for the organization for the year began at \$39,004.39. Expenses to date are

\$11672.77, leaving a balance of \$27,439.91. More expenses such as the final expenses for the EPA workshop, the AEIC incorporation fee (\$423) and the accountant audit of the treasurer's books (\$500) have not yet been paid.

Rosie also reported on the AEIC Awards. The ACS Symposia which are scheduled do not deal with immunochemistry or environmentally related topics. The question was put forth as to how much exposure AEIC really gains from giving an award at the symposia. It was suggested and approved that AEIC should have a speaker at the EPA Summit which is being held in December, 1998. Chris will talk with Jeannette van Eamon to see if a speaker can be inserted into the program. There was also a short discussion on having AEIC speakers at other meetings in order to "get the message out" on the expanded, revised mission of the AEIC.

Jim Rittenburg updated the membership on the upcoming SFAI meeting entitled "Agri-Food Antibodies '99". The meeting is scheduled for September 14-17, 1999 in Norwich, UK. The cost will be 500 pounds. The topics include: food allergens, food functionality, biosensors, contaminants, phytochemicals, validation and application of kits and food adulteration. It was suggested that the SFAI website should be linked to the AEIC website. Chuck will attend to this.

AEIC officer elections were held. The results were: Jim Brady—President; Brian Skoczinski—Vice President; Kim Magin—Treasurer. Penny Hunst will continue as the secretary until the Fall Meeting of 1999. The current officers remain until the AEIC Board Meeting which is to be held in January/February, 1999.

The next meeting sites for AEIC are:

Spring, 1999: FMC, Princeton, NJ

Fall, 1999: Pioneer Hi-Bred, Des Moines, IA

Spring, 2000: Ricerca, Painesville, OH (this is pending)

It was suggested that future meeting sites will be picked and then members will be asked to coordinate the meeting at that site. This is in contrast to the past in which a member company has hosted the meeting in their city.

Chuck gave an update on the AEIC web page. The AEIC registration form has been put on the site as well as a job posting area. The SFAI site will also be linked to AEIC.

Chris presented the host recognition plaque to Novartis (Jim Brady) for hosting this meeting.

Jan Sharp will again update the AEIC trifold. The information about the expanded mission will be added and the cover of the trifold will be re-formatted. A list of current members will be updated, also.

The morning was concluded by a final discussion of the EPA workshop plans. The speakers all agreed to meet the evening before at the hotel for a "dry run" of their presentations. There was also a short discussion of the instructional video which was being coordinated by J. Strahan and J. Dautlick. Joe has contacted 2 possible video makers. One quote has been received of \$12,000 for a 10-12 minute video. After further discussion of the benefit of the video or a CD-ROM, it was decided that the general information could be included on the web page. Hot links can be set up for other web

pages which give general information about immunochemistry technology. The EPA workshop presentations will also be put on the web page prior to the spring meeting.

A motion was made by Pat Nugent to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jan Sharp. A tour of the Novartis labs was given by Jim Brady prior to everyone departing for the airport.