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## Minutes of the IOCB Board Meeting No. 8/2024 held on December 17, 2024

*Present:* Pavel Jungwirth, Jan Černý, Martin Dračínský, Michal Hocek, Pavel Majer, Petr Slaviček, Kvido Stříšovský

*Excused:* Radek Cibulka, Pavlína Maloy Řezáčová

*Guests:* Jan Konvalinka, Jiří Cairola, Jiří Polman, Zdeněk Hostomský, Martin Matoušek

*Secretary:* Irena Valterová

The first part was a joint meeting with the IOCB Supervisory Board. Present members of the Supervisory Board: Martin Bilej, Zlatko Janeba, Jiří Krechl, Josef Lazar, Matěj Kliman.

### Minutes of the joint meeting

1. The Director reported on the developments at the Institute since the last DR meeting (June 2024):

- a) Establishment of the Investment Committee (external members P. Kysilka and J. Švejnar) to oversee the investment strategy of the banks dealing with the deposited assets of the Institute. The Institute has been also contributing to the investment projects of the CAS for many years by giving up on part of the contribution from the CAS (in total almost 400 M CZK). On behalf of the Academic Council, DR Chairman M. Bilej thanked the Institute for this help and said that it is a long-term loan that should be gradually returned to the Institute.
- b) No. of employees and salary trends (almost 800 FTEs, over 1,000 employees in total).
- c) Evaluation of several groups during the IAB meeting in September.
- d) IOCB Boston - branch opened on 18.10.2024, so far for Sabatini's group, two more groups are expected to start next year.
- e) Success in obtaining grants - 2 new ERC grants (T. Pluskal and P. Paioti), 6 ERC grants in total. The Institute was less successful in obtaining GAČR grants, the reasons to be analyzed.
- f) Status of buildings on the ÚOCHB campus – the newly opened building K for cryo-electron microscopy; problems with the building envelope of building B (leakage, dispute with the association Chládek and Tintěra + Syner, they refuse to negotiate on the complaint, the Institute will seek a legal solution via court action).
- g) Director's visit to Gilead - support continues to a lesser extent for selected targeted research groups.

2. Information on the election of the President of the CAS (Director, Chairman of the DR) - Prof. Radomír Pánek from the Institute of Plasma Physics of the CAS was elected.

Consequently, the new Academic Council and Scientific Council of the CAS will be elected in March. The Director called for proposals for candidates. The window for submission of proposals to the CAS is from 2.12.2024 to 17.1.2025.

### **Separate meeting of the IOCB Board**

1) *Šorm Medal Nomination*: Michal Hocek proposed awarding the Šorm Medal to Prof. Naoki Sugimoto from Konan University in Kobe. The Šorm Medal is typically awarded to excellent scientists working in fields related to IOCB. Prof. Sugimoto's outstanding research focuses on the biophysical chemistry of nucleic acids and related molecules. The Board unanimously supported this nomination.

2) *Investments for 2025*: The Board discussed the proposed investments for 2025. It expressed gratitude to the Methodical Board for thoroughly reviewing the collected requests and addressing unclear issues with the applicants. The Board unanimously endorsed the Methodical Board's recommendations regarding financing of these investments.

3) *Dream Chemistry Award*: Pavel Jungwirth reported on this year's Dream Chemistry Award, co-organized by IOCB and the Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences. The finalist presentations were held in Warsaw, where Dr. Richard Liu from Harvard University was selected as the winner. The Board also discussed the possibility of establishing a similar award in the field of biology, tentatively named the "Dream Biology Award."

4) *Declaration Against Domestic Violence*: Pavel Jungwirth presented an initiative entitled "Declaration Against Domestic Violence," prompting a discussion on whether IOCB should join. Opinions among the Board members were divided. The Board tasked Pavel Jungwirth with consulting IOCB's HR Award Coordinator, Petra Ben-Ari, for further deliberation on this initiative.

5) *Updating the IOCB Goals and Organization Document*: The Board discussed with the Director the need to update the document *Goals and Organization of IOCB 2021-2025*. It was suggested that the concept for the updated document should be discussed during the Liblice group leaders' meeting in January 2025. Further work on the document will be planned during subsequent Board meetings.

6) *Equal Opportunities Report*: The Board reviewed the report *Equal Opportunities at IOCB in Numbers 2024*, prepared by the Equal Opportunities Officer, Blanka Collis. The Board supported its publication, pending some minor corrections.

7) *Next Meeting*: The next Board meeting is scheduled for February 13th at 9:00 in the director's boardroom.

Minutes taken by I. Valterová and M. Dračinský

December 19, 2024.