

## **Minutes of the Awards and Scholarships Committee**

### **1. Attendance**

Apologies: Greg Exarhos, Mat Ono, Frank Richter, Joe Greene,

### **2. Welch Scholarships**

The report of the administrator is attached to the minutes. The Committee discussed the issue suggested by the Administrator concerning the Application Process and concluded that there may be some flexibility on the starting date of the Fellowship as long as the research project, supervisor and host laboratory are unchanged from that indicated in the proposal. The Committee indicated as "flexibility range" one month before or three months later than September.

### **3. Elsevier Student Travel Awards**

The Committee suggests to assign the Elsevier Travel Awards in 2007 to IVC 17.

### **4. IUVSTA Prize**

The Committee discussed the procedure to get the nominations for the IUVSTA awards. According to the Prize rules the responsibility of the procedure and of setting up the appropriate Committee is of the Chairman of the Award and Scholarship Committee. The Chairman will send a letter of information on the procedure to be followed for nomination to the Societies members indicating as deadline for nominations January 15<sup>h</sup> 2007 .

### **5. Any Other Business**

The chairman reminds to the Committee that during ECM101 it will nominated a new Trustee.

### **6. Motion to Adjourn**

Respectively submitted

Ugo Valbusa

**IUVSTA Welch Award  
Administrators Report  
September 2006**

**2005-2006 Scholar**

The 2005 Scholar, Dr. Johanna Rosen from Germany, who was studying "Theoretical and Experimental Studies Related to the Composition and Microstructural Evolution of Oxides" at the University of Sydney, Australia under Professor Bilek, has completed her term. Her final report is attached, and the final payment of the scholarship has been made.

**2006-2007 Scholar**

This year there were 5 completed applications (one more than last year). During the course of receiving these applications, one or two candidates asked if they would still be eligible if they had relocated to the host laboratory AFTER the application closing date (April 15<sup>th</sup>), but BEFORE the nominal starting date (usually around September). In my previous report, I suggested that such candidates should be eligible, and received your approval.

As it happened, the trustees originally chose a candidate who indeed had relocated after the closing date, but before she received notification. Unfortunately she had changed her research topic, AND her supervisor. Since there was no fair way to reconsider her new activity, and no time (or accepted process) to reassess all the applications a second time, I advised her that she was not able to accept the conditions of the scholarship, but that she would still be eligible to apply again in the future (if she met all the criteria). To my knowledge, this is the first time this situation has occurred.

It is my practice not to notify the other candidates until I have received confirmation that the winner accepts the conditions of the scholarship. I therefore notified Dr. Oren Tal (who was ranked a close second). He will study "Charge Transport through Molecular Junctions" under Dr. Jan M. van Ruitenbeek at Leiden University in The Netherlands. Dr. Tal has recently relocated to Leiden and I have requested that the first payment of the scholarship be made. The remaining candidates were notified that Dr. Tal was the winner of this year's competition.

**Application Process**

The information on the IUVSTA web site, describing the application process has remained essentially unchanged for the last 2 or 3 years. In view of the situation which has occurred, I would appreciate the committee's views on modifying the wording. I believe the intent is that candidates who relocate before the closing date will not be eligible, but that there is some flexibility on the starting date (earlier as well as later than September) as long as the research project, supervisor and host laboratory are unchanged from that indicated in the proposal.

Depending on the committee's views on this, I will modify the information in about the Conditions of the Scholarship included in the Announcement. If we provide a bit more flexibility on the start date, this might encourage more applications. I will also update the table of recent scholars, and send it to the webmaster.

Please advise me if you have any suggestions or concerns about administration of the Scholarship, which would improve the process and encourage more applicants.

Frank R. Shepherd  
Administrator