

## Draft General Assembly Florence 25 October 2024

**These minutes will be adopted at the next General Assembly in Lisbon (2026)**

**The meeting started at 13.30.**

### **1. Welcome and introduction by the President**

The President, Rino Rappuoli welcomes the members of the Executive Board and the National Delegates to the General Assembly.

### **2. Roll-call & Introduction of voting delegates by the Secretary General and his assistant**

Representatives of the following National Committees and Member Societies were present:

Australia Ipek Kurtboke, Paul Young  
Austria Diethard Mattanovich  
Belgium Etienne Thiry  
Chile Fernando Valiente  
Croatia Dijana Skoric  
Danmark Preben Nielsen  
Finnland Mirko Lampi  
Greece Cleo Anastapoulou  
India Sanjay Singh Negi  
Israel Eliora Ron  
Italy Daniella Marchetti, Floriana Campanile, Rino Rappuoli, Viviana Cafiso  
Macedonia Marko Kostovski  
Netherlands Robert Samson  
New Zealand Stephen On  
Portugal Ama Freitas, Jorge Pedrosa  
Spain Antonio Ventosa, Rafael Giraldo  
Sweden Edward Moore  
Taiwan Po-Ren Hsueh  
UK Heather Lawrence  
USA Paul Duplex, Scott Baker

### **3. Adoptions of Minutes of the Rotterdam General Assembly**

The minutes were posted on the IUMS website 2 years ago. Objections: none.

*Questions:*

- none

*The minutes were adopted as correct.* The minutes of the meeting will be posted on the website after this GA.

### **4. Report of the President (Rino Rappuoli)**

IUMS has come of age and is still expanding. 11 new members joined or renewed membership of IUMS last year. Main activity of the IUMS lies in the organization of the annual congresses. The last IUMS congress was in Rotterdam and due to the Covid pandemic, the meeting was only online. The President expressed his gratitude to the Dutch

Microbiological society for their excellent organization of the IUMS congress in Rotterdam in spite of the serious problems with the Corona restrictions. In recent years more and more integration of the 3 divisions took place.

The focus of IUMS is now to saving the microbes for saving the planet. A paper was published on Save the microbes to save the planet. A call to action of the International Union of the Microbiological Societies (IUMS). IUMS and ASM convened a Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) to outline microbial technologies that mitigate climate change. Their resulting report highlights microbe-driven innovations for a non-fossil carbon economy, food security, and urgent methane mitigation

### Report of Treasurer

*IUMS Financial Summary 2022-2024* shows the income of the last 3 years and the first half of 2017. Membership fees have been fairly consistent till 2016, when some of the fees were not paid. This is being addressed now. Hence the increase in 2017 and that number will still go up. The income from this congress will be integrated in the budget later this year. Investments did not generate much, due to the current financial situation worldwide.

Summary (\$)	2023	2022	2021
Income	56,818	41,767	40,443
Expenditure	34,216	38,787	32,743
Surplus	<b>22,602</b>	<b>2,980</b>	<b>7,700</b>
Accumulated fund balance at start of year	189,261	186,281	178,578
Accumulated fund balance at end of year	211,863	189,261	186,281
Percentage gain/loss	<b>12%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>4%</b>

*Summary of income / expenditure:* measures need to be taken to secure income out of membership dues. Contact details and membership numbers are crucial to send out invoices.

*Balance sheet showing the value of IUMS.* Total funds consist of General Funds and Designated Funds (Arima and Mudd awards). Funds are being adjusted slightly every year in order to reflect the investments.

Budget 2023 - 2025 \$	Actual 2023	Budget 2023	Budget 2024	Budget 2025
<b>Income</b>				
Membership fees	41,918	40,000	50,000	50,000

Congress income	-	-	28,000	-
Journal income	14,900	10,000	19,000	TBC
<b>Total income</b>	<b>56,818</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>97,000</b>	<b>TBC</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Representation at scientific meetings	-	-	-	2,000
Outreach programme	-	5,000	-	5,000
Executive Board and IUMS				
Congress costs	-	10,000	15,000	10,000
Subscriptions ICSU	1,558	1,700	1,700	1,800
Governance and Administration	29,302	30,000	30,000	35,000
General office expenses (inc website)	3,090	1,200	3,000	3,000
Bank charges & exchange rate gains/losses	266	1,200	1,500	1,500
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>34,216</b>	<b>49,100</b>	<b>51,200</b>	<b>58,300</b>
<b>Income over expenditure</b>	<b>22,602</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>45,800</b>	<b>TBC</b>

Details of the Finances can also be found on <https://iums.org/iums-resources/iums-financial-statements.html>

*Current challenges faced by IUMS: Congress (includes global economy, visa issues, travel, Covid)*

- *Reduction in reserves*
- *Membership management / Income reduction*
- *Constitution / Legal status*

*Questions:*

Following the report of the treasurer, there were no questions from the GA. *The report was adopted without corrections.*

## **6. Report of Secretary (Robert A. Samson)**

*Member societies:* In 2024 IUMS consists of 51 member societies. Some countries have more than one society (e.g. Japan, Korea). The union now unites more than 80.000 microbiologists. Some countries failed to pay their dues and reported financial constraints often due to their national economies. The union now unites ca. 80.000 microbiologists

New members (since 2022)

- ASM American Society of Microbiology (renewed)

- Italian Society of Pharmaceutical Microbiology.
- Italian Society for Agricultural Food and Environmental Microbiology SIMTREA
- Società Italiana di Microbiologia (SIM)
- German VAAM – Association for General and Applied Microbiology (renewed)
- Gambia society of microbiology
- Microbiologists Society, India
- Macedonian Microbiological Society
- Malaysian society for microbiology (renewed)
- Sudanese Society of Microbiology
- Swiss Society for Microbiology (renewed)

*IUMS website:* In May 2023 the IUMS website is now managed by **Pixwork S.r.l.** in Roma (Italy). If the societies have any need for information, please inform the Secretary General who can also place important meetings on the website.

*Journal:* The status of the World Journal of Microbiology and Biotechnology (WJMB) has been examined again and there is renewed interest of the Springer Publishers for collaboration and using the journal as an official IUMS platform. It is now agreed that that WJMB will provide three pages per year free of charge for IUMS to publish in the journal in the online and printed editions. WJMB will include the IUMS logo on its cover and in turn be allowed to leave the text “an official journal of IUMS” on the cover. Springer also managed that the journal Mycopathologia as an IUMS journal. The Secretary General negotiated the same conditions as for the WJMB.

Following the Report of the Secretary there were no questions. *The report was adopted without corrections.*

## **7. Divisional Reports**

There were no reports from the divisions, but the status and importance of the ComCofs was discussed. There are several commissions which are focussed and important for the systematics of microorganisms.

## **8. Report on IUMS Awards (M. Pizza)**

The IUMS awards were not given due to the corona pandemic and will be postponed until 2026.

*Questions:*

- No questions.

## **9. IUMS Outreach Programs. Report of activities (Robert A. Samson).**

There was no activity in 2021-2024 of the outreach programme due to the Covid pandemic. The last activity was the workshop food safety and mycotoxins in Indonesia Yogyakarta, attended by > 200 microbiologists. A new programme is scheduled in 2025.

*Questions:*

- No questions.

## **10. IUMS Congress 2026**

At the general assembly no decision was made for the next venue of the IUMS congress and this will be discussed by the Executive Board

*Questions:* none.

The meeting was adjourned at 13.59 (October 25).