



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR ANIMAL GENETICS

MINUTES FOR INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR ANIMAL GENETICS GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING

July 28, 2024, Hybrid meeting via Zoom and on-site, Daejeon, South Korea

Approximately 31 individuals attended. Attendance fluctuated from 21-31 during meeting.

Key: EC = Executive Committee; OEC = Officers of the Executive Committee; SC = Standing Committee; CT = Comparison Test; GBM = General Business meeting; ISAG (or Society) = International Society for Animal Genetics; IFAG (or Foundation) = Stichting International Foundation for Animal Genetics; AGE= Animal Genetics (the Journal); LOC=Local Organizing Committee (of Conference); STRV=Short Term Research Visits.

1. Opening and Welcome

Tuggle called meeting to order at 7:01 CDT on Friday, June 28, 2024. Reminded attendees that meeting is being recorded. Jun Heon Lee in attendance as chair of the 2025 LOC.

2. Approval of Minutes of the Virtual General Business Meeting (July 7, 2023)

Motion by Wimmers to approve business meeting minutes from July 7, 2023. Seconded by Looft. Motion passed by show of hands.

3. Secretary's Report

Sofia Mikko presents the Secretary Report and review current Executive Committee.

New board member holding the Early Career Scientist position is Dr. Josue Chinchilla-Vargas. Mikko introduced Chinchilla-Vargas and he provided a brief statement.

Currently Serving ISAG Executive Committee:

President

Christopher Tuggle: serving second term on EC 2023-2027

Treasurer

Klaus Wimmers: serving first term 2021-2025

Secretary

Sofia Mikko: serving second term 2021-2025

Executive Committee Members

Tosso Leeb: serving second term 2021-2025

Sabine Hammer: serving second term 2023-2027

Leslie Lyons: serving first term 2023-2027

Richard Crooijmans: serving first term 2023-2027

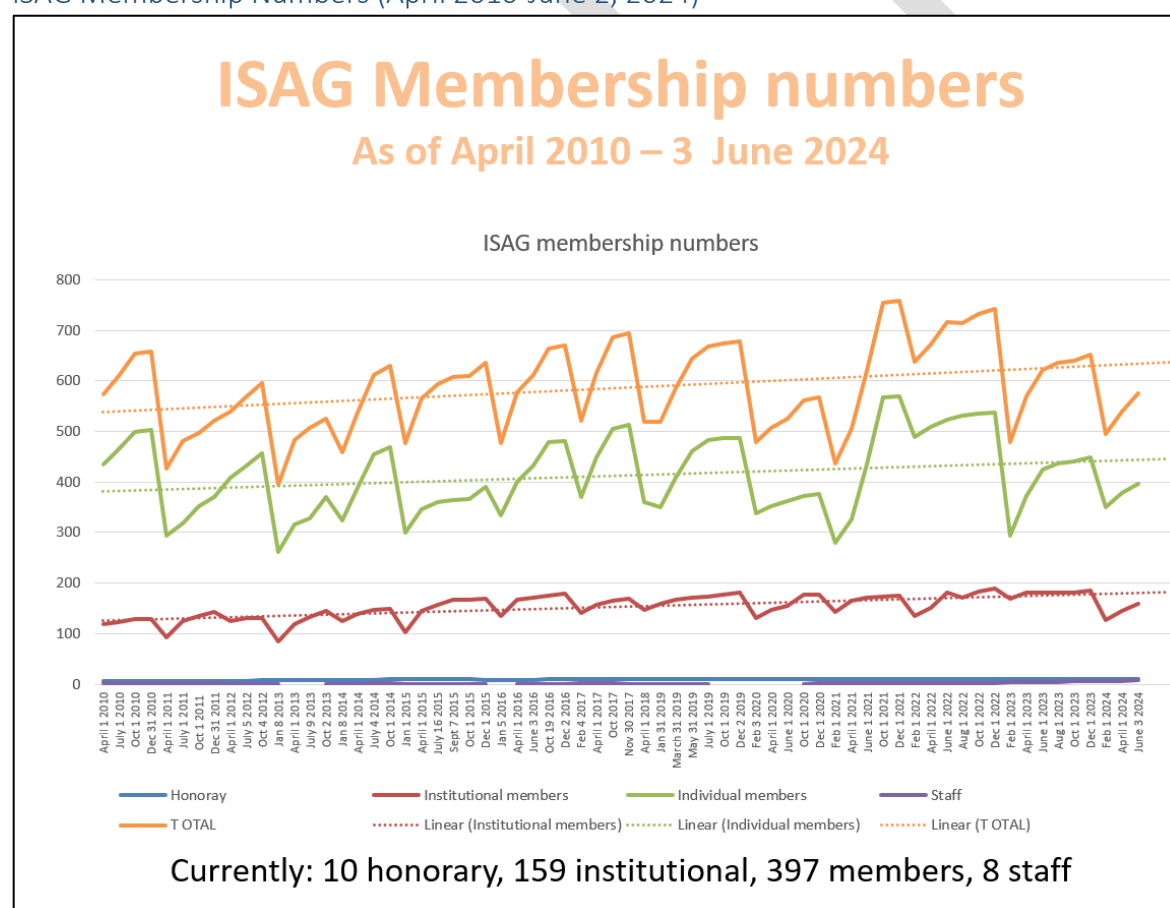
Early Career Scientist on ISAG EC

As a result from the ISAG Future survey, ISAG EC decided to include an Early Career Scientist (ECS) as an EC member. Nominations were accepted during spring 2024, and the web-based member voting closed 15 May 2024. The winner is Dr. Josue Chinchilla-Vargas, Breeding Insight, Cornell University, Ithaca, USA

Meeting Schedule Since GBM2023:

- Annual Business Meeting 7 July 2023, Cape Town on-site – minutes on ISAG website
- Two ISAG Executive Committee meetings
- Two IFAG Board meetings
- One IFAG meetings with South Africa LOC
- IFAG & Publisher's meeting in Weinheim, Germany, 14 June 2024
- Numerous emails

ISAG Membership Numbers (April 2010-June 2, 2024)



Future ISAG Conferences:

Next conference: ISAG2025 in Daejeon, Korea, 21-25 July

Preparations are on-going for ISAG2027. Detailed proposals are considered from Perugia, Italy, and Krakow, Poland.

4. Treasurer's report

Mikko introduces Klaus Wimmers to present Treasurer's report.

Income statement shows positive increase due to investment performance. There was no gift from the foundation (IFAG) in 2023 or 2024. Instead in 2023, IFAG funded large number of bursaries. Short term research visit (STRV) is a new program by ISAG that will have impact on future financials to fund the program. The program was announced in April 2024. In total ISAG may spend more money than revenue by up to half a million Euros on conference and to promote early career researchers.

ISAG Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2023

This is a draft Annual Report, Schuiteman Audit & Assurance B.V., by June 25, 2024. Assets continue to grow slightly. ISAG's financial status continues to be very good.

	Dec,2021 [Euro]	Dec,2022 [Euro]	Dec, 2023 [Euro]
ASSETS			
current assets			
other accounts receivable	225,224	149,613	355,161
securities	639,482	575,722	630,764
cash and cash equivalents	22,972	266,346	21,117
TOTAL ASSETS	887,678	972,681	1,007,042
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
equity			
appropriated research reserve	60,000	60,000	60,000
other reserves	731,430	801,487	861,983
appropriated fund Dr. Yoshiko Suzuki	1,876	1,876	1,876
Sum	793,306	863,363	923,859
Current liabilities			
trade creditors	6,118	1,915	1,211
other liabilities	88,254	107,403	81,972
other accruals			
Sum	94,372	109,318	83,183
Balance	887,678	972,681	1,007,042

	2021 [Euro]	2022 [Euro]	2023 [Euro]	forecast 2023
INCOME				
membership fees	95,075	101,621	95,810	90,000
gift from foundation	19,000	54,847	-	
net results investments	41,575	-51,434	35,447	35,000
SUM	155,650	105,034	131,257	125,000
EXPENSES				
executive committee	5,304	16,752	7,666	20,000
FASS	11,163	9,678	21,116	15,000
audit costs	4,573	4,755	5,696	6,000
insurance	726	726	709	1,000
accounting costs	2,605	2,252	1,875	3,000
other general expenses	2,114	814	856	2,500
Plenary Invited speakers			23,248	-
Poster & Suzuki awards, workshop keynotes			9,595	-
STRV				50,000
SUM expenses	26,485	34,977	70,761	97,500
TOTAL Profit	129,165	70,057	60,496	27,500

71 72 Remarks, News and Further Plans

73 The financial situation of the ISAG remains very good. The assets continue to grow slightly.
74 75% of our capital invested in fixed-rate bonds and 25% in stocks where the primary goal is to
75 maintain the value of the entire portfolio while minimizing risks. There is a consensus to allow
76 expenses to exceed revenues, up to a minimum balance of approximately €500,000. Measures
77 to promote early career researchers should be supported. This balance would serve to secure
78 future conferences and, if necessary, provide guarantees or compensate for any potential losses
79 associated with future conferences.

80 Short-term Research Visit (STRV): announced in April 2024

81 ISAG supports Short-Term Research Visits (STRV), allowing ISAG members to visit affiliated
82 laboratories or institutes abroad for up to six months. The objective of this initiative is to:

- 83 • facilitate knowledge sharing and collaboration among researchers worldwide,
- 84 • support young scientists in advancing their research careers,
- 85 • promote publications in Animal Genetics,
- 86 • utilize ISAG's financial resources to support its mission effectively.

87 The following conditions should be met for the STRV:

- 88 • applicants, sending institutions/Pis, and host institutions/Pis must be current ISAG
- 89 members,

- sending institutions/PIs, and host institutions/PIs must be in two different countries (support cannot be used for a student to visit a lab within the same country).

Amendments and clarifications:

- Applicants (travelling researchers) must have received their PhD no more than five years prior to the STRV application,
- publications in ANIMAL GENETICS resulting from STRV activities are exempt from open access fees.

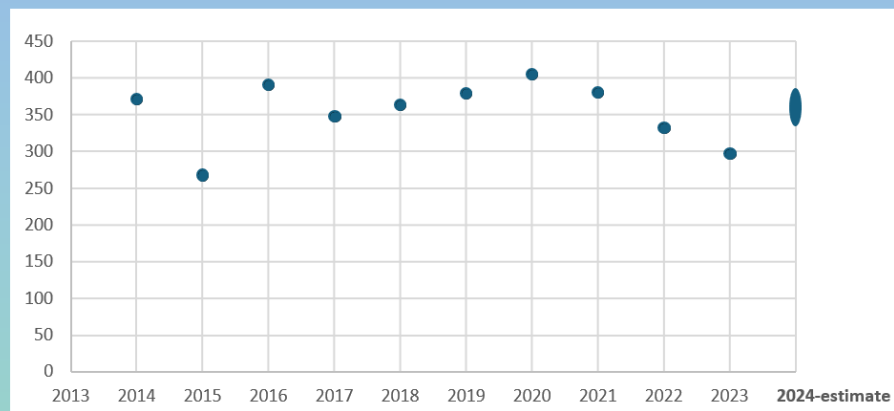
5. Editor's report

Mikko introduces Hans Lenstra to present Editor's report.

Lenstra provides an agenda for his report but notes no update on Open Access (OA) progress. Submissions are down but not explanation as to why, but submissions are up so far in 2024. Also other journals get fewer submissions. China represents half of all submissions. Pie graphs show breakdown of submissions and acceptances by country. Open Access is expected to result in higher number of citations.

Statistics: Submissions

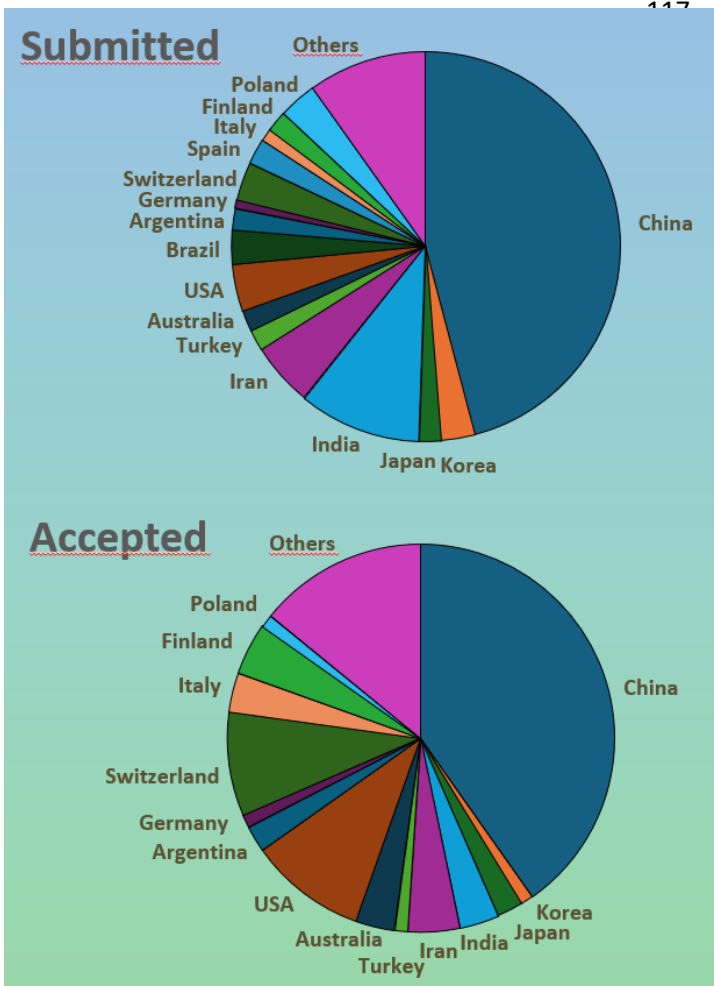
Submissions



After a top of 405 submissions in 2020, a decrease to 296 was noted in 2023, but more submissions are expected in 2024. One reason could be the high number of other competing journals (Frontiers, MDPI, etc.), and that AG is still not fully Open Access.

Lyons asked if ISAG community can assist in lobbying Wiley on moving to OA. Lenstra suggests emails to Wiley saying they both like and want OA.

Lyons asked what percent of submitted/accepted papers are from ISAG members. Lenstra was not sure of that number. There will be a reduced APC for ISAG members and APC is more than membership it would make financial sense to join to get the APC member discount. Lyons suggests encouraging authors to join ISAG to receive discount.



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119 There is a stable distribution of submissions per country with most submissions from China.

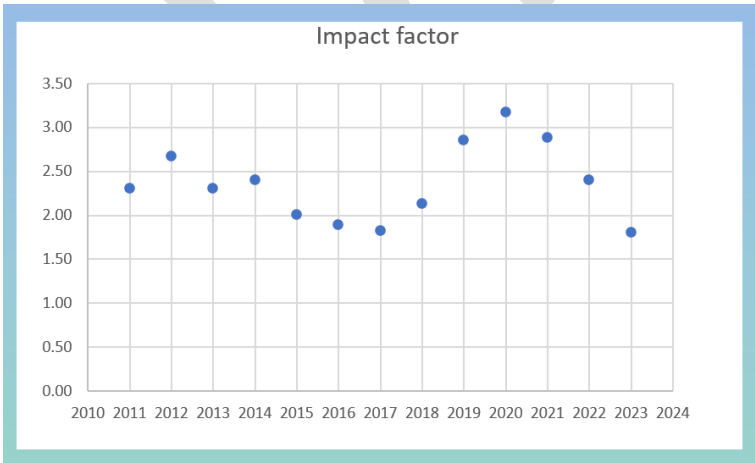
120 The distribution of acceptance rate differs slightly from the submission rates in the following

121 order: Western countries > Asian countries (China, Korea, Japan) > India, Iran. There is a

122 notable trend with several uninvited broad reviews by ‘outsiders’ scientists from Turkey, Iran,

123 and India.

124 Statistics: Impact Factor



Impact Factors fluctuate and is now on a lower cycle. One reason is believed to the absence of full Open Access. OA could increase citations by 40%. A few years ago, there were a few well-cited reviews, leading to a higher Impact Factor. We want to provide a publishing forum also for minor species (camels, buffaloes, fishes, etc.), which will not attract many citations

Editorial Policy

Scope (see Authors' Guidelines)

De-emphasized: immunogenetics

The scope is now broader than livestock, and also include wildlife, laboratory animals, multi-omics, microbiomes, and epigenetics (not many submissions). The topic of Genomic Selection, which is on the border of our expertise, was discussed. AG do not publish human genetics, oncogenetics, or purely developmental biology.

Trends

AG do not anymore publish single-gene association studies (due to population stratification!), microsatellite diversity studies, nor short-read based SV papers. Hopefully there will be more GWAS studies followed up by candidate-gene analysis, epigenetics, long-read sequencing, T2T genomes, and pangenomes. There are hardly any submissions on gene editing.

Manuscript Processing

Data availability: generally complied. Via MTA for commercial or consortium data and in case of legal obstacles.

Streamlining of submission

- Free formatting: almost no formatting requirements at first submission
- Free, but uniform format for literature references
- Coming:
 - ReX, automatic extraction of required data during submission
 - Research Exchange replacing ScholarOne Manuscript?
- Manuscripts outside of scope: referral to/transferred from Wiley journals (JABG)
- Continuous publication: as soon as possible publication ahead of print

Minireviews, special issues, virtual issues

Since 2014 there has been (47 minireviews/60 issues; 18 on invitation) increasing our impact factor; review proposals are welcome

Special issues on functional adaptation, AI-phenomics, gene editing: not enough submissions. Functional adaptation, AI-phenomics → virtual issue. Recently there was a virtual issue with Veterinary Ophthalmology of genetic eye diseases.

Near Future: Open Access, Artificial Intelligence

We are now a 'hybrid' journal with ~40% of the papers Open Access (OA)

In most countries Article Processing Charge covered by Transformational agreements (government pays for Read & Publish). Some agreements do not cover full Open Access journals: Portugal, Greece, Netherlands, Switzerland

No agreements with China (!) and Brazil, but China is OA friendly (61%). The ISAG community is craving for OA! The "flip" to OA" per January 1, 2025 was postponed by our publisher. Reasons:

- Drop in submissions: this trend as already reversed
- Decrease of IF: will decrease more if we do NOT go to OA
- 40% Chinese papers, not covered by TA: China OA friendly

We will urge for OA ASAP and accept a temporal decrease of our income

Groenen surprised by no papers on structured variance in AG. Some papers are received but very few of this type or where that is the main focus of the paper.

Khatib in chat notes it would be nice to send reminders to ISAG community to submit manuscripts to AG.

Ubong asked what was meant by immunogenetics de-emphasized. Popular in the past but with whole-genome sequenced these types of papers are not as popular as ISAG community work on other subjects.

Lyons notes she is forming new committee with ISAG and hopes to submit to journal work that may result. Howe often do 20+ committees do a summary of committee activities and provide a manuscript to AG (what's changed in comparison testing, etc).

Crooijmans comments on lower/dropping impact factor and how it could deter younger authors.

6. 2025 Conference

Mikko introduces Jun Heon Lee as Chair of LOC 2025. Daejeon marketing video played and he invites everyone to attend 2025 conference. Tuggle asks when additional information will be forthcoming, and response was in the next month.

7. Other Business

Mikko comments on comparison tests for 2024-2025 is ongoing and application forms are open and deadline is July 15, 2024.

Lyons introduced and noted new workshop formation titled ISAG Animal Genetic Testing Standardization (AGST).

Establishing the AGTS Committee in 2025:

The ISAG Animal Genetic Testing Standardization (AGTS) Standing Committee has an established Variant Pathogenicity working group focused on the development of standards and guidelines for the interpretation of DNA sequence variants in agricultural and companion animal species. The ISAG - AGTS have and will continue to adapt the guidelines used for human DNA sequence variants classifications that were developed and continually updated by the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics and the Association for Molecular Pathology. The animal – focused standards, guidelines and resulting variant classifications are supported by ISAG. Animal genetic testing services should consider the variant classifications when determining if a DNA variant should be offered as a genetic test and how to properly provide sufficient test interpretations and genetic counseling.

8. Closing

Motion to adjourn by Wimmers to adjourn. Motion seconded by Looft. Motion passes by voice vote. Meeting adjourns 7:59 am CDT.