**Minutes**

**Comparative Gastroenterology Society Annual Membership Meeting**

**June 2nd, 2012**

**New Orleans, LA**

The meeting was called to order at 12:52 PM by President Steve Hill. More than 65 members were present.

**1. Changes on the board**

Steve introduced all current board members. There were no changes on the board in 2012

**2. Approval of minutes**

Approval of the minutes of the membership meeting of the CGS on June 18th, 2011 in Denver, CO. These minutes had been sent to the membership via email. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and carried by a unanimous vote.

**3. Lifetime memberships**

N/A

**4.** **Financial statement**

Secretary treasurer Jan Suchodolski reported about the 2011 membership and financial status of the CGS. Overall the financial situation of the Society is stable with a final balance of $151,047.04 for the membership year ending December 31st, 2011.

It appeared that there was an increase in income over the year 2011. However, the main reason for the difference between the beginning balance and the end balance was due to the fact that in 2010 the CGS needed to prepay the entire hotel for Gutsea 2011 (approx. $19,000), but got reimbursed by the Gutsea participants in the year 2011. Another reason for the difference between beginning and ending balance was due to the 2010 CGS/Waltham grant, as the invoice to pay the grant was not received until calendar year 2012.

Jan reported that the annual tax form 990 has been successfully filed.

After this year’s membership meeting those members will be contacted by email that have last paid dues in 2010 (currently 35 members). If they will not pay their current dues in the next few weeks after ACVIM, they will lose their membership status.

Due to the robust financial situation, the board unanimously voted to introduce new programs (i.e., a second grant for the summer research program, and a travel grant for interns) – see below.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried by unanimous vote to approve the financial statement for the year 2011.

**5. Sponsorship**

Steve all the current sponsors of the organization. In the calendar year 2011:

Mars Pet Care sponsored $8,000 for the Waltham/CGS research grants for the funding year 2012.

Nestlé Purina sponsored GUTSEA 2011 with $5,000, Gutski 2012 with $5,000, the membership meeting in 2011 at the ACVIM Forum (directly paid through ACVIM), and the Board meeting in 2011 at the ACVIM Forum ($400).

P&G Pet Care sponsored the CGS/Iams-Eukanuba Professional Development Award with $6,000 (2 travel grants each for Gutsea 2011 and DDW 2011).

Nutramax Laboratories sponsored GUTSEA 2011 with $5,000, Gutski 2012 with $5,000, and the ACVIM research abstract awards 2011 with $1,600.

Karl Storz Veterinary Endoscopy sponsored GUTSEA 2011 with $1,982.

IDEXX sponsored our DDW dinner 2011 ($1,500).

The board recognized all the sponsors. Without their help many of our programs would not be possible.

**6. CGS Research Abstract Awards at ACVIM**

This year the ACVIM research abstract awards were once again generously funded by Nutramax Laboratories. The winners of the awards for the best oral presentation ($800) and best poster presentation ($800) on a GI topic at the 2011 ACVIM Forum by an individual in training were

The best oral presentation was awarded to **Dr. Sabina Lutz** (Resident at Zurich University) for her abstract entitled: *Cobalamin deficiency in border collies.*

The best poster presentation was awarded to Dr. **Aarti Kathrani** (Phd student at Royal Veterinary College) for her abstract entitled: *Polymorphisms in the toll like receptor 5 gene are significantly associated with inflammatroy bowel disease in a population consisting of 38 different dog breeds*.

Steve Hill made a list of all abstracts that were potentially eligible to win an award in 2012. He has also recruited judges for rating abstracts in both the small animal and large animal areas (via listserver).

Thanks to Nutramax for sponsoring the 2012 ACVIM awards with $800 each (oral and poster presentation).

**7. CGS research grant**

Steve recognized Waltham for making available one grant of $8,000 to support an investigator in training or in private practice.

In the calendar year 2011 Waltham sponsored the CGS/Waltham research grant 2012.

**Dr. Mellora Sharman** from The University of Melbourne (mentor: Caroline Mansfield) was awarded the grant for her project “Characterisation of normal gastric and colonic topological morphology *in vivo* using confocal endomicroscopy”.

The dates for the next funding cycle for this grant are:

Submission deadline: October 15, 2012

Funding decision and Grant funding: February 1, 2013

This grant will only be available to members in training in good membership standing.

**8. Summer research program**

For the year 2012 the Summer Student Research grant “Feasibility of High-Resolution Manometry in Healthy Awake Dogs and Comparison of the Effects of Cisapride and Metoclopramide on Gastroesophageal Sphincter Pressure” was awarded to **Ms. Tarini V. Ullal**, a second year DVM student at UC Davis (mentor: Stanley Marks).

In 2011 the board decided to expand the program and that the reward will be increased to $5,000 stipend for the student and $3,000 in consumables (for a total of $8,000).

The Board unanimously approved a motion to expand this program by offering a second award for the funding cycle 2013. The funding of the second award will be contingent on the financial situation of the CGS and a decision to fund a second award in following years will be made at every future CGS board meeting.

The dates for the 2013 funding cycle for this Summer research program are:

Submission deadline: February 15, 2013

Funding decision: February 28, 2013

**9. CGS/Iams-Eukanuba Professional Development Award**

Jonathan Lidbury (Texas A&M University) and Marie Chartier (Veterinary Specialty Hospital San Diego) were selected for the two CGS/Iams-Eukanuba Professional Development Awards to attend GUTSKI 2012. Both presented during the meeting.

The two 2012 CGS/Iams-Eukanuba Professional Development Awards for attending a major research meeting were awarded to Silke Schmitz (Royal Veterinary College) and Alison Bardley (Colorado State University).

The two awards are given to: 1) one award for a member in training in their first year of clinical training (i.e. 1st year resident or intern), and 2) one award to a member in their late clinical training or in research training. If one of the two awards does not receive any applications or the Board decides that none of the applicants should receive the award then the Board can decide to transfer the grant to a second grant in the other category for that one year.

In their application letter the applicants will need to specify the status of their training and the year they are in their program.

The board unanimously approved a motion to offer a travel award to Gutski/Gutsea specifically for Interns. This new travel award ($1,500) will start with funding cycle 2013.

The CGS/Iams-Eukanuba Professional Development Awards for GUTSKI 2013 travel will be

Submission deadline: September 15, 2012

Funding decision: October 1, 2012

The dates for applying for the CGS/Iams-Eukanuba Professional Development Awards for the research meeting (like Digestive Diseases Week; DDW) in 2013 are

Submission deadline: January 15, 2013

Funding decision: February 1, 2013

The membership was reminded that all applicants must be members in training of the CGS in good standing. Many of our previous applicants have failed to meet this requirement.

**10. CGS dinner at DDW**

Jan reported that 27 members were present for the dinner at DDW San Diego, CA sponsored by Hill’s Pet Nutrition and everybody felt that it was a valuable meeting. The meeting this year was a memorable experience with more than 16,000 gastroenterologists in attendance and well over 5000 research abstracts presented. There will be another CGS dinner during next year’s DDW in Orlando.

**11. GUTSEA/GUTSKI meetings**

GUTSKI 2012 in Winter Park, CO was a great success – everyone enjoyed the meeting. There were 39 active participants, and 24 presentations. Thanks to Bob Sherding, Dave Twedt and Jan Suchodolski for organizing this wonderful event.

Thanks to Nutramax Laboratories, Nestlé Purina Pet Care, Storz Veterinary Endoscopy, Pfizer, and VCA Antech for their generous sponsorship of this meeting.

Bob Sherding reported that the committee for GUTSEA 2013 is looking into Belize, Puerto Rico, and Grenada. More concrete suggestions will be send out soon.

The dates for Gutsea 2013 are: March 2-6, 2013

The dates for Gutski 2014 are: March 1-5, 2014

Jane Armstrong suggests Cuba for a possible meeting in 2015. The majority of members would be interested in this location.

**12. CGS Speakers at the ACVIM Forum 2013 (3 hours)**

Jörg will be representing CGS on the program planning committee for the ACVIM Forum 2013 in Seattle. Jörg suggests PLE as a topic to the CGS members. The topic is well received.

Jörg also polls the membership if there is continued interest in scheduling a speaker if background in human medicine for upcoming topics. The majority of members are in favor of inviting a speaker from human medicine in the future.

Possible topics for the Liver Study Group are dietary management of hepatic diseases.

**13. Upcoming elections**

The following positions will be up for elections:

- President

- President-Elect

- Secretary-Treasurer

- Webmaster

- At-large Member I (responsible for grants and travel awards)

**14. Other business**

 The SIG-Endoscopy was a great success.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 1:35 PM.