

Minutes

The 39th IWWFBB Steering Committee Meeting

St. Andrews, Scotland, April 15, 2024

Participants: Harry Bingham, Yonghwan Kim, Masoud Hyatdavoodi, John Grue, Peter Wellens, Xinshu Zhang, Mostafa Amini-Afshar, Jun Zang, Kevin Maki, Bob Beck, Mike Meylan, Hugh Wolgamot, Sime Malenica, Alexander Korobkin, Tatyana Khabakhpasheva

1. Summary of the 39th IWWFBB by Masoud Hayatdavoodi

Masoud started by apologizing for the problems with the online set up during the opening session. Despite careful preparation and testing, it is always more challenging to support online participants, something which should be kept in mind by future hosts. Most of the numbers along with how they fit into historical statistics are available from the Introduction in the proceedings. The Workshop seems to be back to where it was pre-covid, in terms of abstract submission and participation. Masoud noted one issue with the finances: The appropriate ONR contact was found quite early in the process and everything was on track for a \$15,000 grant but then, because of the participation of Harbin U. as a co-organizer/editor, ONR finally refused to sponsor. Masoud was still able to make ends meet, which was highly appreciated by the Committee. A few senior members, sponsors and people from India were offered support (free registration) and Nick and Dave were given free online registration. No paying online registrants were signed up. John suggested that the Chairs set an official target/limit on the number of presentations to help the hosts in their planning. There was some discussion about what this number should be and about whether or not this year's program was too packed. Masoud noted that the program is very close to previous years, and others noted that there have also been some evening sessions in the past. John also suggested that the Chairs contact Nick and Dave to orient them on how things went this year. The Chairs have arranged a meeting with the founders shortly after the Workshop. After further consideration, the Chairs recommend that the official target should be: **55 presentations of 25 minutes each (including changeover), with no evening sessions.**

2. **Status of preparations for the 40th IWWFBB in Shanghai by Xinshu Zhang. Dates: May 11-14, 2025.** Xinshu is finalizing arrangements with a hotel in the center of town, close to People's Park in a relatively peaceful area on the West side of the Bund. It has good connections to the airports, and shuttle buses will be arranged. We will have a small conference room with a room for coffee breaks and one for meals on the same floor. The banquet could be held at the hotel, but he is also looking into holding it at the Bund. The fee should be around \$1000. Support is

being negotiated from several sponsors including SJTU and the CSC. The usual schedule will be followed with announcements made starting in September, abstracts due on Jan. 15 and notification by Feb. 15. A partner's program is also planned including a trip to Wu Xi. Xinshu wondered how many people he can expect to attend. It seems to be hard to predict, but probably between 80 and 100. Kevin noted that we should be careful that we don't have too many new attendees who are not familiar with the format and expectations of the workshop. Xinshu has prepared some slides to present at the banquet.

3. Status of preparations for the 41st workshop in the Balkans by Sime Malenica and Yannis Chatjigeorgiou.

Sime reported that both Greece and Croatia are still an option, either Corfu or on the coast between Split and Zagreb. Sime asked the Committee to indicate a preference, but no strong opinions were raised. Both seem equally appropriate, and the decision was left to Sime and Yannis. Both places are easy to get to from major airports. The date has not been chosen yet but will be in April or May and avoid both the Easter and Orthodox Easter holidays.

4. Future Workshops. Outstanding/new bids:

Peter Wellens (Delft University, the Netherlands) confirmed his bid to hold the 42nd workshop. Hugh Wolgamot put in a bid to hold a future workshop in Perth, Australia. The Committee awarded the 42nd workshop to Peter Wellens.

5. IWWWFB website and other organizational issues

- **Status of the RWWWFB.** Yonghwan reported that the next event was planned for April 10, but it was delayed due to scheduling conflicts with the speakers. The speakers were selected after discussion with Alessandro, Kevin, and Masoud, and the April 10 event was postponed until May to accommodate the schedules of the recommended speakers. The lecturers of the 7th RWWWFB will be Marilena Greco and Mike Meyland, and the 8th RWWWFB will be given by Bob Beck and Chiang C. Mei. Paul Taylor will be one of lecturers for the 9th RWWWFB.
- **Tuck Fellowship:** Masoud proposed that we provide a certificate/plaque to the winner and runner-up. He contacted Adelaide who have no objections as long as the cost is covered by workshop hosts. Yonghwan noted that the webpage provides the official record of Fellowship winners, but needs to be updated. Sasha noted that the Weinblum Lecture doesn't provide anything physical to recipients. The Chairs were encouraged to ask Adelaide for a status of the endowment so that we have some idea of how long it will continue and can possibly react by seeking further contributions. We agreed that Masoud should give the plaques this year. We discussed whether or not to institute a policy on this. Kevin argued against it, to keep the administration as light as possible. Masoud noted that the way we

choose the recipient could be improved. It is rather subjective in the end, and can be very difficult to decide between several nearly equal candidates. He suggested asking them to prepare a more involved application. The consensus was that this is the nature of the award, which is solely based on the submitted abstracts, so we agreed to leave it as it is. Sasha suggested that we try to raise more money for the Tuck Fellowship. We will start by contacting Adelaide to learn the status.

6. AOB:

- Jun Zang suggested that we do something to show our appreciation for the workshop founders. Perhaps some kind of Newman-Evans award. Yonghwan suggested that we could include support (free registration) for the 2nd and 3rd place Tuck fellows by including this in the budget. This could either be done through a small increase in the fees or through dedicated sponsorship. This could be a nice way to encourage participation by more young people. We decided that the Chairs will take a zoom call with the founders to hear their thoughts on the idea. Jun noted that she attended her first workshop in 2004 while she was pregnant with her daughter, and now 20 years later her daughter is joining her in the partner's program.

The Chairs met with the Founders on April 23 to discuss this year's event and the proposed Founders Award. Nick and Dave expressed their appreciation of the online option and also the fact that we continue to keep them involved. Practical issues in terms of sound quality and the ability to recognize who is speaking during discussions were discussed, along with delays associated with changing computers. This is something that future hosts could try to improve. Yonghwan noted that the Shanghai time zone will be challenging for European and US online participants. Nick suggested that opening up online participation to the general public could be nice thing. Currently, the policy is that all speakers must attend in person, but if the host decides to support online participation then co-authors and invited guests can attend online. We could re-visit this question next year. Both Dave and Nick were open to the idea of a Founders Award, but preferred to keep it as low-key as possible and also preferred not to be directly involved. Yonghwan noted that the awards would carry more weight and prestige if they were called something like the "Prof. JN Newman" and "Prof. DV Evans" awards, providing more inspiration to young scientists. The Founders agreed to leave it to the Steering Committee to decide.