

Agenda

NASCE Council Meeting 1
Sunday May 28, 2023
13:30 pm – 15:30 pm, Salón Gobernador-Misión Juriquilla Hotel
NASCE 2023, Querétaro Mexico

Attendees: Jean-Paul Paluzzi, John Chang, Hamid Habibi, Christopher Martyniuk, Marta Romano, Aurea Orozco, Rodolfo Cardenas, Jim Carr, Angela Lange, Matt Vijayan, Valérie Langlois, Maricela Luna, Yun-Bo Shi, Mark Sheridan, Farwa Sajadi, Santiago Pech

1. President's welcome

Yunbo Shi (President) welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for all their work over the last two years. He remarked that NASCE2021 was a virtual meeting given the pandemic, and it was a great success. He thanked the organizing committee and the program committee for all their efforts for the 2021 meeting. He is looking forward to the NASCE2023 meeting and enjoying the nice venue.

All council members introduced themselves.

2. Approval of minutes from the last NASCE Council meeting (Virtual) on May 21 and May 28, 2021 (attached)

The minutes of the last two council meetings (May 2021) were sent out with the meeting agenda. Yunbo Shi asked for approval of the minutes. John Chang moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Jean-Paul Paluzzi. There were no changes. Vote was called and the minutes were approved for both meetings.

3. Report of the Nominations Committee, Yun-Bo Shi (Chair and President, NASCE)

a. Introduction of newly elected officers and council members

Yunbo Shi indicated that the Nominations Committee was chaired by himself with membership of Drs. Matt Vijayan (Canada), Cheryl Rosenfeld (USA), and Aurea Orozco Rivas (Mexico).

The Nomination Committee in accordance with the NASCE By-laws, had to elect 3 members to council, and two officers; 1 Vice-President/President-Elect and 1 Secretary/Treasurer. Council members may be re-elected to Council for a second term. These positions were to fill vacated spots. The Nomination Committee took into account the membership from all three countries to ensure equity within the council.

After all solicited nominations were discussed by the Nomination Committee, the Chair did a call out to the NASCE Council members to see if there were any more nominations. In the end there were none, so all nominations were acclaimed.

Yunbo Shi apologized for having limited numbers of nominations and suggested for the future starting the process earlier and also opening the call out to all NASCE members. Hamid Habibi suggested opening up the nominations which allows new names to come forward. This was supported by others on council.

He also welcomed incoming NASCE members;

Dr. Maricela Luna, Vice-President/President-Elect (term 2023-2025)

Dr. Jean-Paul Paluzzi, Secretary/Treasurer (term 2023-2025)

Council Members:

Dr. Juan R. Riesgo-Escovar (Term 2023-2027)

Dr. Angela B. Lange (Term 2023-2027)

Dr. Wendy Portillo (Term 2023-2027)

Dr. Yung Zhu (Term 2023-2027)

4. Report on the conference, NASCE 2023, Aurea Orozco, Chair, LOC

Aurea Orozco gave a general account of the meeting. There are 153 registered participants – 70 academics and 83 students. There are 6 plenary speakers and one Gorbman-Bern Memorial Lectureship speaker. There are 48 invited speakers, 44 contributed talks and 42 posters. Total funds collected were \$59,800 US of which \$22,000 came from sponsorship from UNAM. Support was provided for students (travel and registration) and plenary speakers were subsidized with two hotel night accommodations and waived registration fees. Gorbman-Bern lecturer was subsidized for full hotel costs and registration fees. Lunches and the excursion to Bernal were covered for all participants. Participants came from 16 countries. Overall looks like a successful meeting. Yunbo Shi said that the funds from the university were greatly appreciated and will contribute to the success of the conference. NASCE paid for the T-Shirts which were given to each participant. Yunbo Shi thanked Aurea and Maricela for helping to coordinate this conference.

5. Report of NASCE Secretary (Angela Lange)

Membership: Membership fees this year were collected as registration for the NASCE 2023 meeting. Membership collected 153 (13 lifetime members). (2021-2023 – 162 members)

Conference Support:

Directly from the NASCE funds we supported:

Plaque for Gorbman-Bern award (Vance Trudeau) - \$111.25USD

Support for Conference (BP Servimed) - \$2000.00 USD

Support to be given directly by NASCE:

We will be supporting the Gorbman-Bern awardee (Vance Trudeau) with flight and travel costs to the NASCE 2023 meeting. The banquet ticket, hotel and registration will be covered

locally. Note that the banquet for the Gorbman-Bern awardees from NASCE 2021 (virtual meeting) will also be covered locally.

T-shirts will be covered by NASCE funds as well.

Trainee awards for best talks – estimated at \$400 USD (1st place awards, PDF oral and poster presentation; Graduate oral and poster presentation)

Louis J. Guillette, Jr. Graduate Student Award - \$500 USD

A second Louis J. Guillette, PDF Award - \$500USD

NASCE Research Awards

Sourav Chakraborty – October 2022 - \$1000US

Zeynab Kohandel – February 2022 - \$1000US

Juan Manuel Gutierrez Villagomez – February 2022 - \$1000 US

NASCE Finances:

Balance of NASCE funds – May 23, 2023: \$38,588.31 in the bank account (of which \$4,681.80 belong to Louis Guillette award) and \$491.40 USD in PayPal for a total of \$39,079.71.

From account we have also paid the following:

Go Daddy Domains to host website- \$386.67 CDN

State of Michigan fee to maintain NASCE as a nonprofit - \$20 USD

6. Reports of NASCE Committees

a. Communications Committee – Jean-Paul Paluzzi

There were some problems with functionality of the website. There was an issue with the wordpress code which allows it to function properly and in consultation with the NASCE Executive the website was revised by Feb 2023. The website is completely functional and updated. Jean-Paul Paluzzi would like NASCE to consider getting a more personalized website that can give more functionality to members and perhaps make payments. He also indicated that since he is moving into the role as Secretary to NASCE, a new chair of the Communication Committee needs to be found.

Hamid Habibi cautions that having one central payment collection for the biennial conferences can be a problem given different financial rules in Mexico, US and Canada. Also, the LOC needs access to the funds. Also, it was noted that due to the Not-for-profit status of the NASCE bank account we have to be cautious and maintain the funds below \$50,000 US and therefore collection of registration fees would be an issue. NASCE can have some basic functions for the LOC to tap into and can still accept membership fees when needed.

b. Awards Committee – Hamid Habibi

The award committee considered a number of awards this past year. Hamid wanted to thank the awards committee members for their work.

NASCE Research Fellowships had to be relaxed with regard to countries visited due to COVID. Three applications were received and awarded. The funds for each award are \$1000 US. There was a suggestion to allocate more money per award and also to change the rules regarding the need to collaborate between two countries. This was discussed a number of times during the report and a decision made to table this issue for the next council meeting.

For the Gorbman-Bern Memorial Lectureship award there were 3 nominations, all of which were excellent. The NASCE Award Committee selected Vance Trudeau.

The Louis J. Guillette, Jr. Graduate Student Award – received 6 applications of which quite a few were from PDFs. Dr. Cortes, a PDF, won the award. A problem was noted regarding difficulty to differentiate between PhD and PDF applicants. It was noted that there was an error given that this award is only intended for graduate students. After much discussion, it was decided to give the Louis J. Guillette Jr Graduate Student Award to the most highly ranked graduate students and for this year only to pay using NASCE funds for the award given to the PDF. It was also noted that there is an error on the NASCE website indicating this award is for both graduate students and PDFs and this will be corrected.

Some discussion ensued around perhaps having a NASCE award for PDFs. It was mentioned that we do give presentation awards for oral and poster for PDFs at the biennial meeting.

Hamid Habibi also commented that the awards committee should use forms for evaluating talks and posters that was created by John Chang. He asked for NASCE support in using this form and to suggest future Award Committees use this form. Hamid Habibi proposed a motion to adopt the form, seconded by Mark Sheridan and the council did not object to this. The council members had not seen this form so it will be sent to them before the next council meeting.

Valerie Langlois wants to give one or two awards from the ICEDA for best presentation to a PDF and graduate student. This will be a monetary award of \$250.

Jean-Paul Paluzzi moved a motion to increase the NASCE presentation awards to \$250 for future meetings; seconded by Hamid Habibi. There was much discussion and Mark Sheridan motioned to table the motion until the next meeting of council.

c. Development Committee – Jim Carr

Jim Carr indicated that the development committee lacks a structure and he thinks that to work effectively there needs to be some link with the LOC. There was much discussion, and it was agreed that it would be good to have the local meeting organizers work with the Chair of the Development Committee.

d. Trainee Advisory Committee – Farwa Sajadi and Santiago Pech Pool

This was the second time that the Trainee Advisory Committee was involved in coordinating events at meetings. At NASCE2021 they had a networking event and also a workshop with trainees which was open forum for chatting with each other. All of these were virtual. This year in NASCE2023 they have organized a “Women in Science” workshop. They hope that the trainees will participate and that it will give them insight into not only in career progression but also in how the three countries vary in practice. The Committee also organized a symposium this year on growth hormone.

The committee currently is made up of 3 Chairs and 3 Co-Chairs from the three countries. The Committee found that 6 members is a bit large and three might be okay, as long as they are all active.

7. Matters arising

a. Update on NASCE Fellows (Yun-Bo Shi)

NASCE Fellows program is now up and running. The initial discussion for this new program was in the Executive committee and then came forward for discussion at council. The process and information around the inaugural fellow nominations can be found on the NASCE website. Nine founding members and three new members will be given their certificates at the closing ceremony of this meeting.

Agenda

NASCE Council Meeting 2

June 1, 2023

14:30 pm – 16:30 pm, Salón Gobernador-Misión Juriquilla Hotel
NASCE 2023, Querétaro Mexico

Attendees: Jean-Paul Paluzzi, John Chang, Hamid Habibi, Christopher Martyniuk, Marta Romano, Aurea Orozco, Rodolfo Cardenas, Pierre Deviche, Jim Carr, Angela Lange, Matt Vijayan, Valérie Langlois, Maricela Luna, Yun-Bo Shi, Farwa Sajadi, Santiago Pech-Pool, Cunming Duan, Yung Zhu, Wendy Portillo, Juan R. Riesgo-Escovar, Mark Sheridan

1. Formal appointment of new Officers and Council members (list attached)

The president, Yunbo Shi thanked outgoing members; John Chang and Angela B. Lange for all the work they have done while on council and as members of the Executive and also thanked Pierre Deviche, Cheryl Rosenfield and Jean-Paul Paluzzi for being on council.

He also thanked Aurea Orozco for all her work in NASCE and for running the 2023 NASCE biennial meeting. She will become an ex-officio member of council until 2025.

He also welcomed incoming members;

Dr. Maricela Luna, Vice-President/President-Elect (term 2023-2025)

Dr. Jean-Paul Paluzzi, Secretary/Treasurer (term 2023-2025)

Council Members:

Dr. Juan R. Riesgo-Escovar (Term 2023-2027)

Dr. Angela B. Lange (Term 2023-2027)

Dr. Wendy Portillo (Term 2023-2027)

Dr. Yung Zhu (Term 2023-2027)

President (Dr. Shi) indicated all council members, officers and trainee advisory council members (continuing and incoming) would introduce themselves, provide background, institution and other basic biographical details. Dr. Mark Sheridan also noted that the special issue dedicated to the 7th biennial meeting would be guest edited by Dr. Valerie Langlois, Dr. Aurea Orozco and Dr. Meet Zandawala (further details forthcoming).

2. Discussion of NASCE 2023 (Chair LOC, Aurea Orozco)

Dr. Aurea Orozco discussed and presented a non-finalized NASCE2023 budget/report. Although not finalized, Aurea indicated overall it appears they will be above budget, but again, finalized information will be shared with Angela (or new secretary, Jean-Paul) along with other NASCE executive. Council members asked for some clarification on the presented budget and Aurea indicated these are preliminary numbers that will be finalized

once the meeting is officially over. The outgoing president, Yunbo Shi, thanks Aurea and other members of the local organizing committee for a tremendous job with the NASCE2023 meeting.

3. Discussion of site for NASCE 2025 (Valerie Langlois)

Incoming president, Dr. Valerie Langlois, presented information for the next meeting (NASCE2025) taking place in Quebec City, QC, Canada. The NASCE2025 meeting is projected to be held in June, 2025. Tentative dates would be **June 1-5, 2025**. Members discussed and were asked to comment regarding any potential conflicts of dates with other major society meetings. Valerie presented three potential options for the venue and will soon go and see the sites again and confirm which will work best including economical considerations. Valerie also presented group tour outing options that will be considered along with the options for banquet (such as a boat dinner cruise). Valerie introduced the local organizing committee and made note that the scientific committee will be co-chaired by Dr. Maricela Luna and Dr. Katie Gilmour. Council members had questions about venue options and if Valerie could provide further insight into approximate costs/budget. These details were discussed but more information would be available soon.

4. Status of Committee Chairs

Yunbo requested that the committees provide updates.

Awards committee: Hamid Habibi will stay on as Chair.

Trainee advisory committee will have some turnover but current TAC chairs (Farwa and Santiago) in immediate short term will be working towards onboarding new volunteers.

Development committee will again be chaired by Jim Carr.

Communications chair, Jean-Paul Paluzzi, will be outgoing as Chair. Outgoing president asked for volunteers to chair the communications committee. One member, Yong Zhu, volunteered to chair communications and Santiago Pech-Pool (current TAC) also volunteered to help with communications (both website and Twitter social media).

NASCE nomination committee will be chaired by Maricela Luna. Angela Lange noted that Maricela can refer to the bylaws for terms of reference.

NASCE Fellows, will be chaired by John Chang.

5. Initiatives for the next two years

Updating and continuing the legacy of Gorbman and Bern including updates or improving bio sketches on the NASCE website.

Improvements to the website to include members area, member profiles. Yong Zhu suggested that starting profiles with PIs and perhaps a separate area for trainees. Cunming Duan asked about if social media (like NASCE's Twitter handle) is linked to the website and Jean-Paul confirmed that it is and also encouraged more members on council (and importantly, their trainees) to get active on Twitter to follow the society's @NASCE_SNAEC. This can be used also to endorse and publicize new publications by NASCE regular and trainee members.

Valerie suggested we introduce (or think about) an award for best PhD thesis. The nominees and winner could be invited to give talks at the next meeting in the TAC organized symposium. Members asked Valerie how would this nomination work given the two year cycle of our meetings. Valerie responded noting that this initiative will be discussed with the new executive.

Hamid indicated NASCE doesn't do state-of-the-art (SOTA) lectures (but International and European society does). Yunbo indicated that previously we had SOTA being first one or two invited speakers. Hamid suggested we not differentiate between invited and contributed speakers. Other members noted that they liked keeping the difference between invited and contributed.

Jean-Paul suggested that the society consider further advancing and improving EDI initiatives, including better supporting under-represented members and new members to are facing barriers to participating (by providing more funds to offset travel and registration if requested).

Jean-Paul asked if there are barriers to having sponsorship from industry, suppliers?? This might be a good mechanism to bring more funding to the LOC so that such funding for EDI and/or trainee support initiatives become more feasible.

6. Other business

- a. Yunbo Shi discussed the current financial status of the society. Explaining where we get our funding: memberships \$100/ two year per regular member and \$50 / two year per student.

Costs: Two awardees – GB lectureships but this round only senior was awarded this year but no junior awardee. Current award, Vance Trudeau, had his registration, hotel and travel covered as current GB awardee. Research travel award for trainees (grad or PDF) provides up to \$1000 for collaboration between continental member countries of NASCE (Canada, USA and Mexico). Normally, 2-3 travel awards are distributed annually (\$2-3K). Also, oral and poster awards. Currently, 4 top awards (grad and PDF category, each for oral and poster). \$100 per award = \$400.

- b. Angela Lange discussed the history of how the society was initially set up and how fees are collected. Members provided suggestions and opinions on how fees could be collected along with registration.
- c. Chris Martyniuk (NASCE banker) discussed that our current balance is about \$35K and members discussed the back and forth between the LOC and society doesn't happen. Only sometimes the LOC will request seed money to get the organizing for the meeting going. Mark Sheridan commented on it seems we have a stable financial situation and to keep it as is with one fee that includes registration for the annual meeting. However, how would we deal with someone who wants to be a member, but doesn't attend the biennial meeting for whatever reason (something for new executive to consider going forward).

- d. Santiago Pech-Pool suggested we approach suppliers and industry for financial support.
- e. Tabled motion from Jean-Paul Paluzzi regarding increasing the monetary level of the presentation awards to \$250 US for each of the 4 awards (best student poster, best PDF poster, best student talk and best PDF talk); seconded by Hamid Habibi.

Passed in favour for next meeting in QC but no motion to include additional financial award for runner-ups.

- f. Tabled discussion on value of Research Fellowships and need to work between two countries.
 - i. Valerie suggested we consider two travel awards annually (instead of three). Increase value to \$2000 from \$1000 (annual cost would increase from \$3000 to \$4000).
 - ii. John Chang indicated that from his experience most applicants came from established collaborations.
 - iii. Hamid indicated he is in favour of more support but not at the expense of lowering the number of research awards supporting collaboration. He also indicated that NASCE should consider keeping the potential for any type of collaboration between NASCE members, but to favour international collaborations (so to uphold the COVID exception that was used in the 2022 competition).
 - iv. Mark Sheridan moved that we discuss this after the final budget of the NASCE2023 meeting, Jean-Paul seconded.
- g. Reduced registration fee at biennial meetings for current NASCE members, i.e. including lifetime members.

NASCE lifetime membership benefits the society but no real benefit to the member since no discount at biennial meeting. Although, members that don't attend or miss a meeting can still nominate for NASCE fellows, research travel awards, etc.

7. Passing the baton to the new president

Yunbo welcomed Valerie as the incoming President of the Society and Hamid thanked Angela for her extensive work and involvement with the executive serving as secretary/treasurer.