

# INTERNATIONAL BALINT FEDERATION

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President: Dr Donald Nease (United States)

Vice Presidents:

Dr Kristiina Toivola (Finland)

Dr Marieke van Schie (Netherlands)

Treasurer: Dr Mark Budow (Israel)

General Secretary: Dr Paul Sackin (UK)



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## MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD BY TELECONFERENCE ON 2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2014 AT 15.00 GMT

### PRESENT

#### **AIPB**

Jean-Pierre Bachmann

Mark Budow

#### **BELGIUM**

Jean Flechet

#### **ROMANIA**

Holger Lux

#### **DENMARK**

Tove Mathiesen

#### **SERBIA**

Rosa Sopic

#### **FINLAND**

Kristiina Toivola

Marja Kyla-Utsuri

#### **SWEDEN**

Stefan Balint

Henry Jablonski

#### **FRANCE**

Jean-Daniel Graderler

Philippe Guillou

#### **SWITZERLAND**

Annette Bibica

#### **GERMANY**

Guenther Bergmann

#### **UNITED KINGDOM**

Paul Sackin

#### **HUNGARY**

Daniel Eorsi

#### **USA**

Don Nease

Albert Lichtenstein (from 16.00)

#### **ISRAEL**

1. **Welcome** The President welcomed everyone to the teleconference, held in this way because of the cancellation of the Israel conference and the need to have a meeting in the second half of 2014. Don reported that, following serious illness, Andre Matalon is now back at work and doing well. Guenther reported that Marieke van Schie is also making good progress following her serious illness and expects to be out of the rehabilitation unit within two weeks. We all wished them both well
2. **Apologies** Australia & New Zealand, Netherlands, Russia (St Petersburg)
3. **Minutes of the Council meeting at Newcastle on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2014** Henry Jablonski proposed and Mark Budow seconded that these were a true record. All agreed
4. **Matters arising from the Minutes** Some items were received and would be discussed under ‘any other business’
5. **2015-2017 Board** Paul informed the meeting that nominations for Board positions and revisors/auditors will be sought in early 2015 and the outcome of any election announced in Malmo in April 2015. The new Board would take up office at Metz in September 2015
6. **Change of interim revisor/auditor** Christina Blackwell had resigned for personal reasons and Janet Walker from the USA was proposed by the Board as interim revisor/auditor until Metz. All agreed
7. **Revisor/auditor guidelines** Don explained the need to have these guidelines to make the work of everyone much smoother and avoid misunderstandings. Guenther asked for clarification about the relationship with the Swedish banks and how much is in English. Henry explained that there is no problem presenting the necessary annual report to the tax authorities – this is done on a special form. A full financial report is presented to Council – it could possibly be asked for by the tax authorities. All agreed to the guidelines with minor modifications to reflect Henry’s comments. In future the ‘revisors’ would be known as ‘auditors’
8. **Leadership conference/task force** Tove reported that the next leadership conference would be in the second half of 2016 and bids were welcome to organise it. The task force had agreed that at least one place on the task force would change each two years and no task force member should serve for more than eight years. The membership would continue as five full members, one member from the forthcoming conference country and one from the previous one. Heide and Andrew have indicated that they will be retiring from the task force shortly. It was suggested that Michele stays on the task force until she can be replaced by one of the organisers of the next conference. Bohdan on behalf of the Polish Society offered to host the 2016 conference and Guenther offered organisational support from Germany if needed. It was agreed that Bohdan and any other societies interested in hosting the conference should talk to Tove or Andrew
9. **International Congress Metz 5-9 September 2015** Jean-Daniel Gradeler reported that the University of Metz turned out to be too expensive and not available at weekends so another venue had been found. Jean-Daniel had

managed to renegotiate the cost of lunch and coffee and the cost for all lunches and coffee breaks would be about 100 Euros per participant. Jean-Daniel is working on the full budget. He wishes to open a Congress bank account and would like the IBF to contribute 50% of the advance costs - 2000 Euros. Don explained that the Congress was, for the first time, being run as a shared venture with the host country and the IBF, so any profit or loss would be shared equally. The Board had agreed the advance payment. Council approved the payment

10. **Council meeting first half of 2015** Stefan Balint explained that this would either be held in Malmo or Lund, which is close by. It would start on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April late afternoon/evening with a guided walk followed by dinner. There would also be a dinner on the Saturday evening. The Council meeting would be on Saturday afternoon at 14.00. There would be Balint work on the Saturday morning from 09.00 and on the Sunday from 09.30 to 13.00. In addition there would be a leaders' seminar on 24<sup>th</sup> and international delegates would be welcome, though places are limited to 25. Accommodation for some delegates would be available in the homes of local Balint leaders – this will save costs. Stefan will circulate full details of the meeting within the next two weeks.
11. **Council meeting first half of 2016** Bids to host this are invited and will be finalised at the Council meeting in Malmo
12. **Website** Don is discussing developing the website with a local expert. Any ideas and suggestions will be welcome. Don said that the website could host national society websites as well. This might be of interest to smaller societies who have difficulty developing their own websites. It was agreed that this needed further discussion. Meanwhile any items to go on the website to be with Paul by end of November please
13. **Any other business** a) **WONCA** Philippe had attended WONCA in Lisbon in July 2014 including the EURACT meeting. There had been contact with the European organisation for physician health – there is an obvious place for Balint work here. Andree Rochfort of Ireland is EQUIP representative and a useful contact. It was agreed that we need to have a good presence at WONCA and related organisations. David Watt plans to attend WONCA Europe in Istanbul in October 2015 and other delegates would be welcome. Don knows of a US delegate going to WONCA Asia in the first half of 2015 and he plans liaison with Chinese Balint colleagues. Bohdan also proposed links with the European Psychosomatic Association. Agreed that Paul would see if others are interested in presenting with David at Istanbul and we would invite national societies to inform Paul of any WONCA participation they are planning. There was general agreement that partnering across IBF member societies was welcome and advantageous. Henry reminded us that it is also helpful to have continuity of some core organising leadership, as has been done some years in the past. b) **Translation Board** Don reported that the professional translation of Bohdan's book is complete and is excellent. Don and Paul will review some chapters to see if further editing is needed. Bohdan would welcome other 'critical readers'. c) **2017 Congress UK** The UK organisers are wondering

how many delegates might be expected. Heiderlberg had about 180 and Metz is hoping for similar. Agreed that all delegates should stay for the whole congress and also that there would continue to be Balint groups in French. **d) Vasco de Gama group.** Many national societies and IBF Board members had been asked for support for a 'virtual' Balint group for young WONCA members. It was agreed that Don would respond. Important that IBF sets the frame for such a group. Obvious dangers with such a group especially as there was a suggestion to run it on social media sites as well as Skype. To discuss further in Metz. **e) Balint archives** Andrew Elder wished to inform Council that the Balint Archives are now with the British Psychoanalytic Society in London. There are many papers from throughout Balint's life and will be a treasure for researchers. Don pointed out that Tom Klee has already accessed them at their old site for his research.

**14. Next Council meeting** Saturday 25th April 2015 at 14.00 in Malmo or Lund, Sweden