INTERNATIONAL BALINT FEDERATION

[**www.balintinternational.com**](http://www.balintinternational.com)

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| **B** | 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)  Email: paulsackin@waitrose.com |  |

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HELD AT THE LUDOLF KREHL CLINIC, HEIDELBERG GERMANY ON TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 10TH 2013 AT 14.00**

**PRESENT**

**AIPB**

Jean-Pierre Bachmann

Annie Bouillon

Marie-Noëlle Laveissiėre

**AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND**

Ruth Dunn

Alexa Gilbert-Obrart

Frank Meumann

Diana Nash

**AUSTRIA**

Hans-Peter Edlhaimb

**BELGIUM**

Jean Flechet

Christian Linclau

Michele Paree

**BRAZIL**

Rita Francis Branco

**DENMARK**

Gunnar Axelgaard

Helena Nielsen

Jorgen Strobrech

**FINLAND**

Irmeli Laurila

Kristiina Toivola

Juha-Matti Toivola

**FRANCE**

Francois Auger

Jean-Daniel Gradeler

Ursula Proust-Hartmann

Marie-Anne Puel

Louis Velluet

**GERMANY**

Guenther Bergmann

Astrid Helesic

Philipp Herzog

Anousheh Kielstein

Markus Landmesser

Franz Lippmann

Thomas Loew

Friederike Ludwig-Eckelmann

Rolf Nickel

Heide Otten

Peter Stammberger

**HUNGARY**

Daniel Eorsi

Andor Harrach

**ISRAEL**

Mark Budow

Benyamin Maoz

Andre Matalon

Yuval Shorer

**ITALY**

Mario Carli

Anna Della Casa

Maura Lichino

Frederica Menaldo

**NETHERLANDS**

Marieke van Schie

Jan van Trier

**PORTUGAL**

Jorge Brandao

**ROMANIA**

Holger Lux

**RUSSIA (St Petersburg)**

Andrei Chechik

**SERBIA**

Dragica Nikolic

Tatjana Popovic-Vasilic

Smiljka Radic

Mara Vucurecic

**SWEDEN**

Anders Haggmark

Anita Haggmark

Henry Jablonski

**UNITED KINGDOM**

Jane Dammers

Ceri Dornan

Andrew Elder

Penny Elder

Glenda Mock

Esti Rimmer

Paul Sackin

Heather Suckling

David Watt

Sotiris Zalidis

**UNITED STATES**

Kathy Knowlton

Albert Lichtenstein

John Muench

Don Nease

Jeffrey Sternlieb

**1. Welcome** Henry Jablonski handed over to Don Nease as the new President and welcomed Marieke van Schie and Mark Budow to the Board. Don expressed thanks to Henry for keeping the frame and push in a positive direction. The meeting gave Henry a prolongedstanding ovation.

**2. Apologies** These had been received from Poland

**3. Minutes of the Stockholm Council meeting** These were accepted as a true record

**4. Matters Arising** None

**5. Treasurer’s interim report** Full report for 2013 will be available at next council meeting. One society has only part paid for 2012, no news from Croatia, otherwise all societies are fully paid up.

**6. Fees for member countries.** Holger Lux proposes to keep fees as they were, with 50 per cent fee for E European countries as their incomes as are so low. Heather Suckling suggests more graded fee structure related to size of society; fees based on income are not transparent. Philip Herzog suggests a fund to help those who need it. Jean- Daniel Gradeler points out that a graded fee structure may penalise those with more members. Ceri Dornan asked what other international organisations do. Michele made clear she didn't want Romania to leave the IBF. Henry pointed out that these issues have been discussed for some time; we need a simple, transparent system. There was a majority wish for the system agreed at Charleroi, not treating E European countries as permanent poor relations. Heide Otten asked - what about promulgating Balint and fund raising? Don suggested that we should do that anyway. Holger feels there should be a vote on his proposal. Esti Rimmer thought we should think of poorer countries in general. Can we look up data on incomes etc. set up a task force to do this? Mark Budow said that this is too expensive to work. If we reduce the fees of some countries we may need to increase that of others. Gunther thought that one can't distinguish between rich, poor countries etc., supports Holger's earlier idea of relating fees to member size. Jane said that it is humiliating to come to meetings to say they can't afford it, countries can decide what they can afford and we accept it. Agree email vote on Holger's proposal for returning to the prior fee structure for 2014 as a quick voice vote seemed close. The Board agrees to look into future options for stratifying fees based on the number of members, with a goal of sustaining the current budget.

**7. IBF voting procedure** It was agreed that the revisors should oversee all votes.

**8.** **Reports from National Societies** It was agreed that there should be a template for this.

**9. Leadership task force.** There had been no meeting since Stockholm. Task force would like to meet before the next Board meeting as that is too late to prepare for Israel. Andrew thanked his colleagues and Don. The Congress will end with a discussion about the leadership work and Mark will talk about the Israel conference on September 11-13 2014.

**10. WONCA** Don, Andrew Elder and Mark ran workshops at the world WONCA meeting in Prague and each of two workshops had more than 70 people present. Henry proposed thanks to the team for promoting Balint work internationally. WONCA Europe is in Lisbon next year. Jorge is on organising committee and Balint work will be welcome. Rules are that papers will be chosen by the scientific committee; Jorge asks people to submit lots of papers and come to Lisbon. Don proposes that the Board continues to co-ordinate this activity and request representatives.

**11. Website** TheBoard would like to update and modernise the website. Marieke thinks she can find someone to make the website more accessible, attractive and interactive with photos etc.

**12. International Balint Phototeque** Marie-Anne Puel explained that this was essentially as above, gathering relevant photos on the website, including Board members.

**13. Translation Board** We have given support to one translation from France. Heide does not yet have a publisher for the English version of her book. Also a proposal from Poland is being considered. Felt that translation into languages other than English would not be so useful. Lots of work out there from many societies, please apply to have it translated. We would like a member to replace Don who is standing down.

**14. Council meeting first half of 2014** This will be on the 6-8th June at Longhirst Hall Northumberland, hosted by the UK Society. Jane Dammers spoke briefly to it.

**15. International Balint Congress 2015** There have been no bids for this so far.Thomas Loew proposes Riga in Latvia, where there has been lots of Balint work for over 20 years. Ceri suggests we look for 2017 as well, at least. Denmark is considering 2017 as is the UK.Paul will send Thomas details of how Latvia can join the IBF as the first stage in them making a bid

**16. New Societies** Don wished we could have welcomed China to the GA but no representatives had been able to come.

**17. Any other business** Marie Anne invites members to the French national Balint conference at Besancon on October 25 and 26 2013, and GP conference 3 -5 April 2014. Marie Anne is chair of the GP organising committee and would like lots of Balint proposals. She hopes that there will be an English session. Henry informed us of the book Clinical Uncertainty in Primary Care that has recently been published. There were two chapters by Djorte Kjeldmand, John Salinsky and Henry.

**18 Next meeting** 6-8 June 2014 at Longhirst Hall in the UK.