

INTERNATIONAL BALINT FEDERATION

www.balintinternational.com

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FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE BALINT

Minutes of the meeting of the General Assembly of the International Balint Federation

held at 11.00 am on Wednesday 5th September 2007

At Campo Santana

Lisbon

Those present:

Australia:

Bill Betts
Ann-Marie Diggins
Alexa Gilbert-Obrart
Marion Lustig

Belgium:

Michel Delbrouck;
Jean Flechet

Croatia:

Stanka Spehar

Denmark:

Helena Nielsen

Finland:

Kristina Toivola

France:

Michel Nicolle
Louis Velluet, France
Francoise Auger
Marie Anne Puel
Marie-Eve Vincens

Germany:

Gitta Dorn
Norbert Gunzel
Thomas Kanzow
Heide Otten
Ernst Petzold

Sigmar Scheerer
Barbara Schlichtte-
Hiersemenzel
Johanna Stetter
Olaf Templin

Israel:

Andre Matalon
Benyamin Maoz
Stanley Rabin
MarcBudow

Italy:

Mario Carli

Netherlands:

Willem van Lieshout
Rudolf Meyer
Marieke van Schie

Portugal:

Jorge Brandao
Alexandra Colaco
Antonia Lavinha
Christian Piga

Romania:

Tunde Baka
Albert Veress
Eva Veress

Sweden:

Juanita Forssell
Anita Haggmark
Anders Haggmark
Henry Jablonski
Eve Suurvee

Switzerland:

Katrin Bichsel
Philipp Portwich

UK:

Don Bryant
Andrew Dicker
Erica Jones
Caroline Palmer
Lenka Speight
David Watt
John Salinsky
Heather Suckling

USA:

Karen Glaser
Don Nease

AIPB:

Francois Berton
Annie Bouillon
Marie-Noelle
Laveissiere

1. **Welcome to new members and officers and thanks to the retiring officers:**

Heide welcomed Henry Jablonski as the new President and Donald Nease as a new Vice-president, she then handed the Chairmanship to Henry.

Henry thanked the retiring president, Heide and the retiring Vice-President, Marie-Anne, for their considerable contributions to the development of the International Balint Federation. He particularly noted Heide's work in travelling to many countries to facilitate Balint work and Marie-Anne's achievements in facilitating exchanges with the French-speaking world and for founding and editing the e-journal of the IBF. He presented them with bouquets.

Henry then thanked our hosts, the Portuguese Balint Society for putting on such a successful congress and presented Jorge Brandao with some champagne for the Organising Committee of the Congress.

2. **Apologies:**

These have been received from John Barton (Australia); Bohdan Wasilewski (Poland); Vladimir Vinokur (Russia); Natase Vranjes (Serbia and Montenegro); Ritch Addison (USA); Janos Major (Hungary); Jean-Pierre Bachman (AIPB); Monika Diethelm-Knoepfel (Switzerland); Sanja Blazekovic (Croatia); Eeva and Hanu Makkonen (Finland) and Doris Blass (UK).

The IBF sends very best wishes to Sanja, Eeva and Doris who were prevented from attending by illness.

3. **Minutes of the meeting of the Council 24th March 2007 in Potsdam:**

These minutes had previously been circulated and approved by email. They were declared a correct record of the meeting in Potsdam.

4. **Matters arising that do not appear elsewhere on the agenda:**

Item 13: Right Livelihood Award: Stanley Rabin (Israel) referred to the List of Balint books and requested that the IBF draws up a bank of relevant articles to be put on the IBF website. Marion Lustig said that the Australian Society was already working on this and it was agreed that this should be an international task. Stanley, Marion and Don (Nease) (USA) will co-operate and will welcome contributions from all members in all languages.

Action: Stanley, Marion, Don and All

5. **President's report:**

This was given by the immediate Past-President, Heide.

- Since the meeting in Potsdam Heide attended, and presented a paper to the Psychosomatic Congress in St Petersburg in June. There she was able to meet with Vladimir Vinokur, the President of the Russian Balint Society and now the Russian Society is a bona fide member of the International Balint Federation. She pointed out, that one of her main tasks as president was to maintain a good relationship between the IBF and the national societies..
- another task was to emphasize leadership training. She reminded the meeting that the IBF developed guidelines for leadership accreditation under the presidency of Frank Dornfest in 1998. There are now greater opportunities for the exchange of ideas and experiences. For example, training groups are included in International meetings and Congresses, and there are specific Leadership Intensives, such as those put on by the American Balint Society.
- As a member of the Ascona committee, Heide was delighted that the four prize-winners had presented their papers and received their awards at this Congress. She particularly welcomed the presence of Dr Alex Ammann, the President of the Ascona Foundation and thanked him for coming in person to present the awards.

- She was pleased to report that she will continue to work for the IBF as one of three EURACT representatives. In this capacity she will attend WONCA Paris in October where she will meet other members of EURACT. While there, she intends to touch on the subject of obligatory Balint work, which she greatly favours.
- She gives her best wishes to the new Council and wishes it well in its work for the IBF.

Henry thanked Heide for her report and said the new Council will endeavour to continue her excellent work.

6. **Treasurer's report including payment of fees and setting the rate for 2008:**

- The Treasurer distributed the accounts for 2007 which show a healthy balance.
- Fees from the national societies account for 8000 Euros. He thanked the national societies for paying their fees and requested that everyone should pay by Bank Transfer.
- The fees for 2008 (due before 1st March 2008) will remain the same, namely:
 - Full members: 700 Euros
 - Newly formed or small societies 350 Euros
 - Societies from former communist countries: 140 Euros
 - Individual members 70 Euros
- The IBF now has approximately 40000 Euros compared with 7000 Euros in 1998. The improvement is due mainly to the national societies paying the fees promptly.
- The IBF is now in a position to be able to invest some funds that will further improve the financial position.

Henry thanked Michel for his work in ensuring that the IBF is kept in a good financial position. He recognises that this requires considerable effort on the part of the Treasurer.

*A member of the audience asked what constituted a "small" or "newly-formed" society. The secretary apologised for not having the minutes of the relevant Council meetings with her, but promised to send out this information with these minutes.****

Action: Heather

7. **Secretary's report:**

- The Secretary was very pleased that the Balint Society of Australian and the Russian Balint Society are now bona fide members of the IBF.
- She thanked all the officers of the national societies for responding to her emails and especially for paying the fees! She pointed out that it is now even more important that the IBF is seen to be business-like as it is increasingly being recognised as a bona fide international organisation.
- She explained that she tries to maintain a list of all the officers of the national societies, but this is a difficult and time-consuming task. A definitive list will be produced once a year, after the Autumn council meeting, so if the officers change, she asks those of you who receive her emails to pass them on to the relevant people.
- As there are more than 80 recipients on her email list of officers, she relies on them to disseminate information to all their own society's members.
- She reminded the meeting that in order to remain a member of the IBF, societies need to fulfil the criteria. She does not yet have everyone's Leadership criteria and Ethical codes, but she will send out individual reminders for these. She also reminds you that the fees for 2008 are due before 1st March and if possible these should be sent by IBAN (International Bank Transfer). *N.B. Any charges for this service are to be paid by the national society, not by the IBF.*

Action: Heather

8. **EURACT:**

The IBF is now an "Organisation in Collaboration" with EURACT (the European Academy of Teachers of General Practice) which is an educational branch of WONCA. The three IBF

representatives are Stanislava Spehar (Croatia), Heide Otten (Germany) and Andre Matalon (Israel). It is hoped that at least one of the representatives will be able to attend each EURACT meeting. Heide will be in Paris at the WONCA meeting, she has been welcomed by the representative from Germany.

9. e-international balint Journal:

Marie-Anne encouraged everyone both to read and contribute to the e-journal. It can be easily accessed by a link from the IBF website. Abstracts of papers are displayed.

A request was made to provide links to the full text of papers, but this raises copyright issues.

If copyright is not a problem, that can be arranged, but it is the responsibility of the contributor to check and inform Marie-Anne..

The President said the IBF is delighted that Marie-Anne has agreed to continue as the editor of the e-journal.

Contributions should be sent to Marie-Anne mapuel@wanadoo.fr before 1st March 2008

Action: All

10. Website for the International Balint Federation

Henry explained that maintaining the website is time-consuming and expensive.

Therefore the Council has agreed that it will be updated twice a year, a month after the Council meeting.

The deadline for the next update is 1st October 2007.

Please check the website and send alterations and new material to Henry before that date.

Please send information to both Henry's email addresses: drhj@jablonski.se and henry.jablonski@spray.se

Action: All

11. Right Livelihood Award

"The Right Livelihood Award was established in 1980 to honour and support those "offering practical and exemplary answers to the most urgent challenges facing us today". It has become widely known as the 'Alternative Nobel Prize' and there are now 123 Laureates from 56 countries.

Presented annually in Stockholm at a ceremony in the Swedish Parliament, the Right Livelihood Award is usually shared by four Recipients. One of them may receive an Honorary Award, given to a person or group whose work the Jury wishes to recognise but who is not primarily in need of monetary support. The others share the prize money of 2,000,000 Swedish kronor (approximately USD 280,000). The prize money is for ongoing successful work, never for personal use."

The IBF has been nominated by Professor Dr. Dietrich v. Engelhardt from Lübeck (a colleague of Ernst in Germany.) The application has been prepared and will be sent off shortly.

Thank you all for your co-operation in suggesting books for the book-list and for bringing your journals.

12. Ascona awards 2009

The IBF was delighted that all four student prize-winners had been able to attend the Congress. We were particularly pleased that Dr Alex Amman, President of the Ascona Foundation had been able to join us.

Concern was expressed about the lack of clarity in the flyer. The Secretary pointed out that this is produced by the Ascona Committee and as they provide the funds for the prizes, they make the decisions, but she will feedback any suggestions to them. She feels that there is need for closer cooperation between the Ascona Committee and the IBF Board, in particular because the IBF pays the students' expenses.

There was a query from Australia, if an Australian student wins, will his/her expenses be reimbursed in full?

It was agreed to discuss this at future Council meeting.

Action: Heather

13. WONCA Paris (October 2007)

Marie-Anne reminded the meeting of the next **WONCA (Europe) meeting on 17th-21st October 2007**. All are welcome! Marie-Anne has organised Balint groups to be held in English, French, German and Portuguese. Leaders include Marie-Anne Puel, Helena Nielsen, Heide Otten and John Salinsky.

Congratulations to Marie-Anne and good luck to the leaders!

14. International Congress 2009:

Albert gave a Power-Point presentation to show us Brasov, Romania, a beautiful resort in the Carpathian Mountains, 800 metres above sea level. We saw some of the scenery and accommodation where the 16th International Balint Congress will be held in 2009.

Albert suggested the first week-end in September, but the Council will set a firm date at the next Council meeting in the spring.

The Romanian Balint Society has asked the following people to sit on the Scientific Advisory Board: Don Nease, Jorge Brandao, Paul Sackin, John Salinsky, Heide Otten, Michel Delbrouck and Henry Jablonski.

Albert said he looks forward to welcoming everyone to this Congress.

Action: Council

15. Council meetings; Spring and Autumn 2008:

The Israeli Balint Society will host the **Spring** Council meeting in Northern Israel near Lake Gennesaret (also known as the Sea of Galilee and Lake Tiberias.) It is very beautiful and safe. Transport from the airport will be arranged. ***The date has not been confirmed at the time of writing these minutes, but will be circulated as soon as possible.*** The meeting will be associated with a workshop and there will be opportunities for sightseeing if people wish to stay longer, it sounds wonderful. Marc Budow marcb@post.tau.ac.i is the organiser.

In the unlikely event of a security problem, the meeting would be held in Potsdam 25th-27th April 2008.

The Council is pleased to accept the invitation from the Dutch Balint Society to meet in Leiden in the **Autumn** of 2008.

16. Comments on Reports from National Balint Societies (previously circulated)

Sadly, there was not sufficient time for discussion about the reports, but these will appear on the website for people to read at their leisure.

The President closed the meeting at 1.15 pm by thanking everyone for attending and for their enthusiasm. Everyone agreed that it had been a highly successful Congress and thanked the Portuguese Balint Society for giving us a wonderful time, the Congress had lived up to its title.

*****Definitions of “small societies” and “newly formed societies”.**

Unfortunately these have not been defined, but in the minutes of both the meetings in Brussels (March 2006) and Paris (October 2006) it states that this will be decided by the Officers (the board) of the IBF.

The board has agreed that this will be rectified at the next Council meeting in the spring of 2008. Meanwhile, present arrangements will continue.

HCS 02.10.07