INTERNATIONAL BALINT FEDERATION

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **B** | President: Dr Donald Nease (United States)  Vice Presidents:  Dr Jorge Brandao (Portugal)  Dr Michele Paree (Belgium)  Treasurer: Dr Mark Budow (Israel)  General Secretary: Dr Paul Sackin (UK)  Email: paulsackin@waitrose.com |  |

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HELD AT PILATRE DE ROZIER. METZ, FRANCE ON 8th SEPTEMBER 2015 AT 16.00**

**PRESENT**

**AIPB**

Jean-Pierre Bachmann

**AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND**

Joy Humphreys

Chel Quinn

**BELGIUM**

Jean Flechet

Christian Linclau

Michele Paree

**DENMARK**

Gunnar Axelgaard

Tove Mathiesen

Helena Nielsen

Jorgen Stroebech

**FINLAND**

Kristiina Toivola

Juha-Matti Toivola

Martina Torppa

**FRANCE**

Anne Deffontaines

Jean-Daniel Gradeler

Marie Noelle Laveissiere

Michel Nicolle

Marie Anne Puel

Ursula Proust

Louis Velluet

**GERMANY**

Heide Otten

Ernst Petzold

Doris Salmen

**ISRAEL**

Mark Budow

Andre Matalon

Stanley Rabin

**ITALY**

Anna Della Casa

Federica Menaldo

Tiziana Pistol

**MAURITIUS**

Poonam Kangloo

**POLAND**

Bohdan Wasilewski

**PORTUGAL**

Jorge Brandao

**ROMANIA**

Tunde Baka

Holger Lux

**SERBIA**

Rosa Sapic

Mirjana Stojanovic-Tasic

Mara Vucurevic

**SWEDEN**

Juanita Forssell

**UNITED KINGDOM**

Ceri Dornan

Andrew Elder

Esti Rimmer

Paul Sackin

John Salinsky

Heather Suckling

David Watt

**UNITED STATES**

Albert Lichtenstein

Don Nease

Jeffrey Sternlieb

Janet Walker

Mary Wassink

1. **Welcome**. The President welcomed everyone to the meeting. He paid tribute to Marieke van Schie who was standing down as Vice-President. He thanked her for her contributions and reported that she had sent her best wishes for the Congress. A card for her was being circulated. Don also paid tribute to the other retiring Vice-President, Kristiina Toivola. He praised her as a key member of Board, always contributing with openness and honesty. Don welcomed the two new Vice-Presidents, Michele Paree and Jorge Brandao and invited them to join us on the platform. Finally Don expressed his thanks to Jean-Daniel Gradeler for organising such a successful Congress. Jean-Daniel received a standing ovation.
2. **Apologies** The only IBF Societies not represented at the Congress were China, Croatia and Hungary. Hans-Peter Edlhaimb was due to represent Austria at this Assembly but unfortunately missed his plane
3. **Minutes of Lund Council meeting 25th April 2015** David Watt proposed and Andrew Elder seconded that these were a true record of the meeting. All agreed.
4. **Matters arising** We had understood that the Ascona Foundation was going to publish the book of essays without financial support from the IBF. However this was a misunderstanding and support was wanted after all. Don explained that we need to know the questions so that we can decide in Salzburg. We were being asked for 2000 euros, with the aim of ongoing support each two years. Questions raised were - why not an online book? Heide explained that an ebook is planned in about 6 months, readers will have to pay for it. Why not freely available on the web? What happens to any profits from sales? SMB would like a financial report before agreeing to any support. Heide explained that the prizes this year were 1800, 1500 and 1300 euros (the amount will vary depending on the exchange rate against the Swiss Franc). Heather Suckling proposed that the decision is left to the Board. Seconded by Bohdan Wasilewski and carried unanimously. However we will still address the questions. **ACTION BOARD**
5. **Treasurer’s report** Mark presented an interim report (attached). We have spent money on bursaries plus offered the three unsuccessful bursary applicants to attend at reduced rates (one took this up) plus support for the 2.0 internet group. Aiming to spend appropriately and accumulate less. Auditors are now Janet Walker and Pia Soderberg. Many thanks to them from the meeting and to Mark. Particular thanks to Juanita Forssell, now standing down as auditor, for her huge work in establishing the systems in Sweden.
6. **Council meeting Salzburg May 13-15 2016** Heide spoke to this in the absence of Hans-Peter. It is Whit weekend, so need to book early. Austrians will be invited and they will have leadership training prior to the conference. We will soon inform people how to register. Accepted unanimously
7. **Leadership Conference 2016** This will be in Warsaw. Bohdan talked about the facilities on offer. He can organise post conference trips. The cost should be below 200 euros for Fri to Sun. The proposed dates of 9 to 11 September clash with the UK Oxford meeting and maybe the annual Swiss meeting. It was agreed unanimously to accept the proposal, with dates to be decided. Note: The dates were subsequently confirmed as **16-18 September 2016**.
8. **International Congress Oxford 2017**. The organisers plan to propose the theme soon. Some more details given about the format and venue of the Congress – Keble College
9. **International Congress 2019** Jorge Brandao thought that Porto was a possibility. We will invite any further bids and, if none, accept Porto at the Salzburg or Warsaw Council meetings. Many thanks to Jorge and the Portuguese Society. Don also pointed out that we will soon be looking for a venue for the Council meeting in the first half of 2017. **ACTION PAUL**
10. **WONCA** David Watt has two workshops accepted for Istanbul 23 Oct 2015. Balint 2.0 also has a presentation. IBF support is offered. World WONCA is in Rio in Nov 2016. Could be opportunity, European Wonca 2016 is in Copenhagen. Helena Nielsen and John Salinsky are preparing an abstract for that.
11. **Website** Don presented a mock-up of how it might look. We aim to circulate it with newsletter and ask for ideas. Can be completed within about a month, once ideas have been agreed. It was agreed to have details of the Ascona prize, pictures of winners etc. Useful to have a calendar with planned meetings by national societies. Various suggestions were made e.g. map of world, events, blog, conversations re leadership. It was advised that there needs to be caution re giving contact details on site unless password protected. **ACTION DON/PAUL**
12. **Co-ordinating national and international meetings** Don invited a discussion on what can the IBF do that is different from national meetings? Lots of ideas: family feeling, hear about how others do it so as to adapt ideas back home, networking, building contacts. Invite whole Balint groups, make clear it's for normal participants, not experts. Take home what we gain from here and champion it in our own countries. Be part of a special group when Balint people are often 'outside'. Research papers important, good playground for creativity, mirroring work at home, can I learn better? Get reinvigorated about Balint groups and see different ways here that seem wrong but do work! New member already has great sense of belonging, 'special' moments like Boris Luban-Plozza singing in my group, older people and those in different countries share the same concerns as younger ones. Makes the life of the doctor rich.
13. **Any other business** iDon pointed out that we are still accepting translation proposals. ii He also gave a brief explanation of how the Board works, with lots of email communication and regular telephone conferences.. Suggestions and ideas to Board members always welcome. iii Andre proposes ambassadors to develop relationships with non-member countries e.g. Spain, Cuba. iv Jean-Daniel suggests global database so that anyone who has been to a Congress etc. can be on a mailing list. v Heather proposes thanks to the Board. vi The Board proposes that agenda items for the Council meetings and GA are requested six weeks ahead of the meeting and closed two weeks before. This was agreed. The Board agreed to look at the various proposals. **ACTION BOARD**
14. **Next meeting** May 13-15, Salzburg