

INTERNATIONAL BALINT FEDERATION

Officers of the Council (since September 2009)

President: Henry Jablonski (Sweden)
Vice-presidents: Benyamin Maoz (Israel)
Donald Nease (United States of America)
General Secretary: Heather Suckling (United Kingdom)
Treasurer: Michel Delbrouck (Belgium)

www.balintinternational.com

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

held on Saturday 10th September 2011 at 4.0 p.m. at the Sheraton Society Hill Hotel,

Philadelphia

Australia and New Zealand:

John Barton
Ruth Dunn
Alexa Gilbert-Obrart
Andrew Leggatt
Laurie Lovell-Simons
Leonie Sullivan
Jenepher Thomas

Austria:

Hans-Peter Edhaimb

Denmark:

Gunnar Axelgaard

Finland:

Kristiina Toivola

France:

Francoise Auger
Michel Nicolle
Marie-Anne Puel
Louis Velluet

A.I.P.B.:

Jean-Pierre Bachmann

Germany:

Gunther Bergman
Frederike Ludwig-Eckleman
Heide Otten

Israel:

Benyamin Maoz
Yuval Shorer

Italy:

Anna Della Casa
Federica Menaldo
Guido Prato Previde

Portugal:

Jorge Brandao

Romania:

Albert Veress
Eva Veress

Sweden:

Anders Haggmark
Anita Haggmark
Henry Jablonski
Elsa Lena Ryding

UK:

Doris Blass
Ceri Dornan
Andrew Elder
Penny Elder
Paul Sackin
John Salinsky
Caroline Spencer-Palmer
Heather Suckling
David Watt

USA:

Lisa Buck
Frank Dornfest
Kathy Knowlton
Albert Lichtenstein
Eran Metzger
Thomas Klee
Kristin Reihman
Don Nease
Ann Sinclair
Amy Smith
Jeffrey Sternlieb
Janet Walker

1. Welcome:

Henry welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the new Board which will take office immediately after this meeting.

2. Apologies:

Heather explained that apologies are recorded individually only from members of the Board. Otherwise apologies are recorded from Societies which are not represented.

Apologies have been received from Michel Delbrouck and the Belgian Society, the Bulgarian Society, the Dutch Society (Marieke van Schie who was due to be here but prevented by a bereavement), the Polish, Russian and Serbian Societies.

3. Minutes of the meeting of the Council on 30.04.11 in Copenhagen (previously circulated) and Matters arising that do not appear elsewhere on the agenda

The minutes were agreed as a correct record and there were no matters arising.

4. Ratification of the revised Statutes of the IBF.

The draft had been circulated and discussed at the Council meeting in Copenhagen earlier this year and approved by the Council.

The General Assembly decided unanimously to ratify the revised Statutes.

(The confirmed version will be circulated with these minutes.)

5. Report from the Board:

- a) **Henry** explained that in order to comply with Swedish regulations the IBF must appoint two Accountancy Revisors (Auditors) who are independent of the Board. Nominations had been received for Tove Mathiesen (Denmark) and Juanita Forssell (Sweden). They were unopposed. Therefore the meeting was asked to confirm their appointment.

The General Assembly decided unanimously to confirm their appointment.

- b) **Henry** reported that there had been an exchange with John Launer (a GP and Systems-based therapist in London) who is co-editing a book with Lucy Sommers “Clinical Uncertainty in Primary Care” which includes chapters on case-based discussion groups in the workplace. They have agreed that Henry Jablonski and Dorte Kjeldmand will contribute two chapters about their work with Balint groups in Sweden. Henry pointed out that for parts of the chapters he and Dorte would need to coordinate with experienced Balinters from other countries, they will circulate drafts for comments and revisions.

Action: Henry, Dorte and Elsa Lena

- c) **Don** reported that he had been occupied with the Leadership task force, the Translation Board and the Comprehensive List of Balint Literature which appear as Agenda items at this meeting.

6. Treasurer’s report:

The Treasurer is unable to be at this meeting because he is unwell, but fortunately on the way to recovery. He has completed the Accounts which have been circulated.

The account is running at a surplus so there is no immediate need to raise the membership fees.

7. Secretary’s report:

a) Membership:

Heather reported that there are at present 23 member societies in the IBF.

The Balint Society of Australia has now become: “The Balint Society of Australia and New Zealand” we are delighted to welcome the New Zealanders.

An update to the accounts: All the Member Societies have paid their fees!

Since the last meeting applications have been received from the Ukraine but they are not an independent society and do not yet fulfil the criteria for membership. The Board has offered to help them to prepare for membership.

An application has been received from the Chinese Balint Federation and the Board is impressed by the commitment and the work being done there with the help of the German and Australian Balint Societies. However, it has asked for further information which is required in order for the application to comply with the Criteria of Membership, but then it looks forward to welcoming the Chinese Balint Society to the IBF.

An individual member from Venezuela, Dr Gonzalez Andres Himiob Almandoz, has also applied and been accepted for Individual membership of the IBF.

b) Communication with the membership:

Please check the list of contacts that is being circulated to ensure that the secretary has accurate information.

It is important to remember that *if you receive communications from the IBF and you are no longer in office, please pass on the information to your successors*

It is the responsibility of the officers and representatives of the individual societies to disseminate the information to their members.

Action: All

c) The new IBF Board – a message from Heather- the retiring secretary:

The new Board will take over after this meeting and I wish them an enjoyable and successful term of Office.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the IBF for having me as your secretary for the last 8 years, it has been a great honour and pleasure. The IBF Board is a wonderful team, everyone participates effectively and with enthusiasm. The work has increased considerably over the last 8 years so I hope you will bear this in mind and provide support to Paul – my very capable successor.

8. Budget for 2012:

Henry explained that in view of the absence of the Treasurer, the presentation of the budget has been postponed until the next Council meeting in Sofia in June 2012.

However, he outlined some principles regarding the **payment of expenses**.

Board members will receive the actual cost of travel to and from the meetings and when they are required to stay an extra night, the cost of that night's accommodation only will be reimbursed by the IBF.

For **IBF leadership and Wonca Task Forces, and Representatives at other International meetings** the same principle will apply.

The IBF will reimburse the **Wonca Conference fee** for those participating on its behalf (unless they can claim this from another source)

In all cases prior agreement must be obtained from the IBF Board.

Other projects that will require funding include the development of a short film about Balint Work to be developed by the Israeli Balint Society, the Translation Board, the website for the Comprehensive List of Balint Literature and further development of the IBF website.

9. Wonca

Vienna 4-7 July 2012: The Art and Science of general Practice

Plans are well underway thanks to Hans-Peter Edlhaime and the Austrian Balint Society.

An application has been made and Andrew Elder and Marie-Anne Puel are also involved. They are planning a workshop including two groups, one in German and one in English.

Prague 25-29 June 2013:

An IBF Task Force will seek volunteers.

Lisbon 2-5 July 2014:

Jorge Brandao and the Portuguese Balint Society are making plans to include Balint work.

We are also hoping to have a Balint presence at the **European Psychiatric Association Conference in Nice in 2013**. Benyamin Maoz was invited to speak at the EPA Conference in 2012 which he is unable to do, but he has offered a Balint workshop at the 2013 meeting. He is asking for Psychiatrists who are interested to contact him.

Action:

Psychiatrists

10. Ascona awards:

There has been uncertainty about whether the Ascona Foundation and therefore the Ascona Prize would continue, but it seems secure. The next prize will be awarded in 2013 at the Heidelberg Congress, and submissions must be in by 31st December 2012. (A flier will be sent out with these minutes.)

A suggestion from Ernst Petzold: Each national society could have its own award for a student essay and could arrange for the winning one to be translated and submitted for the Ascona Prize.

11. Translation board

The IBF supports the translation of important Balint works into English. To make an application for funding please see the IBF website – on the front page. The translation Board consists of Don Nease, Andre Matalon and Paul Sackin.

An application from Michelle Moreau-Ricaud is under consideration at present.

12. Comprehensive List of Balint literature

Don Nease (USA), Leonie Sullivan (AU), John Salinsky (UK), Stanley Rabin (IL), Ann Marie Diggins (AU), Marion Lustig (AU) and Michael Floyd (USA) have compiled a list which is now fully referenced. Owing to Don's change in position from the University of Michigan to the university of Colorado it has lost its home on the internet. The Board has approved the cost to support hosting at the site where the American Balint Society hosts its other databases. Don will work on re-establishing this online.

In a separate discussion Don and Andrew Elder have been discussing ways to get out-of-print literature and possible e-books hosted through Google Books.

13. Council meetings for 2012-13:

The next Council meeting will take place **in Sofia, Bulgaria from 8-10 June 2012** at the invitation of the Bulgarian Balint Society. There will be Balint and social activities as well as the business meeting.

The **second Council meeting of 2012** will be in association with the **Second Biennial International Balint Group Leadership Conference in Charleroi, Belgium 5-7 October 2012** at the invitation of the Belgian Balint Society.

14. Leadership Group Task Force:

The First Biennial International Balint Group Leadership Conference was held in Copenhagen 28-30 April 2011, it was extremely successful. There were 45 participants from 13 different countries and there was valuable international exchange. The Report from the Conference has been circulated to the officers of all the member societies.

In order that, in future, the Leadership Conference will not be held in the same year as the International Balint Congress, it has been decided to hold the second Leadership Conference early, that is in the second half of 2012. After that it will be held in alternate years.

The members of the Leadership Task Force are: Andrew Elder, Heide Otten, Don Nease, Michel Delbrouck and Andre Matalon. Tove Mathiesen joined the Task Force preparing the highly successful Copenhagen conference and will stay on till the next conference in Charleroi in October 2012, organised in cooperation with the Belgian Society. A member of the Belgian organising committee will join in autumn 2011 and later succeed Tove.

15. Website for the International Balint Federation

It has been previously agreed that the deadline for submission to the website should be set at one month after a Council or General Assembly meeting.

The deadline for submissions /alterations after this meeting is Saturday 8th October 2011

In future submissions are to be sent to the new Secretary – Dr Paul Sackin rather than to the President Henry Jablonski, but to facilitate the change ***on this occasion only*** please send your submissions to both paulsackin@waitrose.com and drhj@jablonski.se

The website is well used. The majority of those attending this meeting had accessed it within the last year.

Henry explained that the Board had wondered whether there should be a secure area, requiring a password. The minutes of Council and general Assembly meetings will be on the website, but the Board felt that we had nothing to hide.

Henry asked for a show of hands to leave it open or provide a secure area and the vast majority voted for it to remain open.

16. The 18th International Congress 2013 (Heidelberg)

The 18th International Balint Congress will be in Heidelberg, Germany.

Gunther Bergman gave a short presentation which looks very inviting.

Heidelberg is a beautiful ancient city and the University is the oldest in Europe. It is situated on the Neckar river and has a world famous castle.

The Congress dates are Saturday 7th September to Wednesday 11th September 2013

Please note: *the date had to be changed so if you were at the meeting you may have an earlier date in your diary.*

17. The new Board of the IBF:

Henry thanked the two retiring members of the Board, the Vice-President, Benyamin Maoz from Israel and the Secretary, Heather Suckling from the UK.

He welcomed the new Vice-President, Kristiina Toivola from Finland and the new Secretary, Paul Sackin from the UK. He said he was confident that the Board would continue to work as an effective team.

Benyamin and Heather thanked the meeting for all the support they have received and wished the new Board well.

They both thanked Gunther who had personally invited them to Heidelberg and look forward to seeing everyone there!

18. Any other business, ideas for the future from the assembly

There were several items:

I. **The e-journal:** David Watt asked about the e-journal. This had been a great deal of work for Marie-Anne Puel and Marieke van Schie and very few people had used it. Therefore they decided to end the project.

II. **Past Balint Titles:** Andrew Elder has agreed to investigate issues regarding copyright and costs and so that at least some out-of-print publications may be published with the Comprehensive List of Balint Literature, he will report to the Literature Group..

Action:

Andrew

III. **Benyamin Maoz** raised three issues:

(a) asked for best wishes to be sent to Michel (the Treasurer) from the Congress, the meeting agreed.

(b) he told the meeting that the Board has agreed to support the Israeli Balint Society in the making of a short film to promote Balint work for the use of the IBF at international meetings.

(c) he said that after initially criticising proposals for the Congress he had found it an excellent congress and had even enjoyed the posters! He congratulated the organisers.

IV. **Jean-Pierre Bachman** said that he was delighted to report that two film-makers were making a documentary film of the work of the Association Internationale de Psychodrame Balint which would be shown on television.

Henry concluded the meeting by thanking the American Balint Society for a superb congress, for their excellent organisation and hospitality.

The meeting ended at 5.35 p.m.

Documents to accompany these minutes:

The Accounts

The Revised Statues

Flier for the Ascona Prize