

INTERNATIONAL BALINT FEDERATION

Officers of the Council (since 28th August 2005)

President: Dr Heide Otten (Germany)
Vice-presidents: Dr Benyamin Maoz (Israel)
Dr Marie-Anne Puel (France)
General Secretary: Dr Heather Suckling (UK)
Treasurer: Dr Michel Delbrouck (Belgium)

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council of the International Balint Federation

held (at) on Saturday 11th March 2006 at 09.00 to 11:30

At

The Lundbeck Society, Avenue Moliere 225, 1050 Brussels

Those present:

Belgium:

Michel Delbrouck
Jean Flechet
Luc Declaire
Christian Lincau
Christine Claix

Israel:

Benyamin Maoz

The Netherlands*:

Rudolph Meyer
Marieke van Schie

Croatia:

Stanka Spehar

Portugal:

Jorge Brandao

France:

Michel Nicolle
Francoise Auger
Louis Velluet
Marie-Anne Puel

Romania:

Tunde Baka

Sweden:

Anita Haggmark
Henry Jablonski

Germany:

Heide Otten
Ernst Petzold
Steffen Haefner
Sigmar Scheerer

UK:

Lenka Speight
David Watt
Heather Suckling

*Unfortunately the representatives from the Netherlands did not arrive until after the meeting.

Apologies:

Helena Nielsen, Denmark; Marja Nick, Finland; Marion Lustig, Australia; Caroline Dauchez, AIPB (France); Kornelia Bobay, Hungary; Natase Vranjes, Serbia & Montenegro; Paul Scott, USA.

1. Minutes of the meeting of the General Assembly 27th August 2005

Corrections:

The Stockholm meeting was held at the **ABF Huset** not *ABS*.

Henry Jablonski was present at the meeting.

After these alterations, the minutes were agreed.

2. Matters arising that do not appear elsewhere on the agenda.

Henry has the results of the evaluation of the Stockholm Congress. It was agreed that this would be discussed under Item 16.

3. President's report;

- The president, Heide Otten, said that Stockholm had been wonderful.

- Since then she was invited to a Balint workshop in Israel in November 2005 which had been very pleasant and she and Benjamin planned the Council meeting for November 2006.
- She had just come from the meeting of the Association of General Practitioners in Portugal where she had the chance to give a presentation for the auditorium “Complexity in GP/FM Practice; complexity in the Doctor-Patient-Relationship” and together with Jorge Brandao run a Balint group. They invited the Portuguese GPs to the forthcoming International Balint Congress in Lisbon in September 2007.
- She and Jorge invited the new President of EURACT Egle Zebiene (from Lithuania) to attend their group and she had appreciated the value of Balint work.

4. Treasurer’s report including payment of outstanding fees

- The Treasurer, Michel Delbrouck, presented the Accounts for 2005 and for the first part of 2006. These were accepted by the meeting and are attached to these minutes.
- There is a healthy balance in both the Belgian and British Accounts.
- Michel proposed a new structure of fees for 2007, as follows;
 - 700 Euros for full members
 - 350 Euros for small societies
 - 140 Euros for former communist countries
 - 70 Euros for individual members

There was considerable discussion about these and the following formal proposal was made to the meeting:

“that from 2007 the annual fees will be payable as follows:

➤ Full members	700 Euros
➤ Newly formed or small societies	350 Euros*
➤ Societies from former communist countries	140 Euros*
➤ Individual members	70 Euros

***societies wishing to pay the reduced fee must apply to the Treasurer.**

The Officers of the IBF will consider these application and their decision will be final. Each application for reduced fees must be reviewed every two years.”

This proposal was agreed unanimously.

The President thanked the Treasurer for his work on behalf of the Federation and congratulated him on the clarity of his presentation.

Treasurers should ensure that the fees to the IBF are paid promptly before the end of February each year .

Action

Treasurers

5. Secretary’s report (including Register of Members)

The Secretary , Heather Suckling, said that each International Congress seems to establish Balint work more firmly and Stockholm was no exception and she thanked the Swedish Society for running such a successful Congress.

- **Further attempts to gain more recognition for Balint:**
 - She reported that John Salinsky has received a very positive response from Steve Field, the Educational Network Chair of the Royal College of General Practitioners, to his letter requesting that Balint groups should be included in the curriculum for training GPs. As the Royal College seems to have a great deal of influence in European organisations, this is very encouraging.
 - She referred to her attached report about her correspondence with EURACT and having heard about the positive attitude of Egle Zebiene to the Balint group in Portugal is further encouraged.

- **Membership:**

The Secretary said that there are now 18 members (from 17 countries) who fulfil the criteria, but many have not yet paid for 2006. No further applications for membership have been received. She is still waiting for formal applications from Austria, the Netherlands, Russia and Australia.

She read the letter from Marion Lustig about the fee for the Australians. It was agreed that as they have a new society they will be eligible for the reduced fee of 350 Euros for the next two years.

Administration:

- The Secretary proposed that there are two new forms, the first for Renewal of Registration to be sent out annually. This will enable her to update the list of Officers on the mailing list. She explained that it was not realistic to try to amend this more than once a year. She intends to send out the new forms requesting this information after this meeting, but they will then be sent out annually in January, in good time for societies to pay fees on time- they are due on 1st February.
The second form is for new members to apply to join the IBF.
At the meeting it was suggested that each society should be asked to give the number of members in their society on the forms, this was agreed and the amended forms will be attached to these minutes.

She emphasised that she relies on the officers of each society to circulate their members.

She reminded everyone that she needs to receive a short report (up to 300 words) from each society before each Council meeting or Congress in order to keep everyone informed of Balint activities. These will appear on the website.

She had received a notice from the International Association of Applied Psychology inviting Balint members to their Congress in Athens July 16th – 21st 2006. She circulated the invitation at the meeting.

6. Canada, Russia and Austria

▪ Canada:

In November 2005: Miriam Salaman contacted Oliver Samuel on the publication of a paper on “Balint in GP Vocational Training Schemes” by Paul Sackin, John Salinsky, Oliver Sanmuel and Heather Suckling. She has been a member of a Balint group in Ottawa for the last 21 years! There is no Canadian Balint Society so Heather suggested that they form one. She was amazed to find “a whole Balint world out there”, but there has been no further news from her.

In December 2005 Benyamin Maoz contacted Dr David Cree, President of the GP Psychotherapy Association in Canada. He referred him to the CCFP website and Michel Pare michaelpare@rogers.com who runs similar groups in the Ontario College of Family Physicians Collaborative Mental Health Program. He said that “shared care has superseded the older Balint model to some extent.” They do have both psychiatrist and family physician leaders.”

Disappointment was expressed that there does not seem to be interest in forming a Balint Society in Canada. Heather agreed to contact Miriam Salaman again.

Michel Delbrouck and Marie-Anne Puel said that they know there is some contact between the Association Internationale du Psychodrame Balint and Mrs Suzanne Defoe in Montreal and Dr Richard Boule in Sheerbroeck. He will contact them.

Action:

Heather, Michel and Marie-Anne

▪ Russia:

In February 2006: Vladimir Vinokur emailed the Secretary saying that he would distribute the information about the Council meeting to other regions in Russia where they have Balint

groups and Balint leaders. He asked why Russia was on the agenda and she explained that at each meeting she hears that Russia is about to join the IBF but it is still not a member, nor has she received an application. Vladimir had explained that transferring money was a problem so she had suggested that they could pay when a representative attended a meeting and said that initially the IBF would accept the reduced fee. She had once again sent the criteria but had had no response.

The message had also been sent to Olga Kuznetsova, but she did not reply either.

Heather will email them again to say that the IBF is ready to welcome them.

Action

Heather

▪ **Austria:**

The Secretary had agreed to write Biggi Mautner and to the President of the Austrian Balint Society, but regrets she has not done so. Heide agreed to send her the names and email address of the President so she can do so.

email them again to say that the IBF is ready to welcome them.

Action

Heide and Heather

▪ **Australia:**

The Australian Balint Society now exists and they will shortly apply for membership. (See Australia's report). Marion Lustig wrote the following:

"I am writing to formally request that the newly formed Balint Society of Australia, which will apply to affiliate with the IBF soon, pay a reduced membership fee at least to start with.

We now have 25 members but of course we also need to take into consideration the travel expenses in attending IBF events from Australia."

The meeting agreed that from 2007 the Australian Society would be eligible to pay the reduced fee (350 Euros) as agreed under Item 4. Heather will inform Marion.

email them again to say that the IBF is ready to welcome them.

Action

Heather

7. Balint Workshops at the Scientific Meeting of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners Brisbane October 5-8 2006

Invitation from Marion, this has already been circulated. Anyone wishing to attend the above meeting should contact Marion by email mlustig@optusnet.com.au Heide and Ernst have already agreed to attend and are invited to Balint groups in Melbourne and Sydney.

8. EURACT

See attached summary.

Heather is delighted that Jorge Brandao and Heide Otten have already made contact with the new President of EURCT, Ebe Zebiene from Lithuania.

The new British representative, Roger Price, has asked her what ordinary members want from EURACT.

The following were suggested at the meeting:

- An up-to-date list of representatives from each country, with email addresses.
- Meetings to be arranged where Trainees and Medical Students can meet in groups with experienced leaders discuss cases. (The Federation would be pleased to suggest some suitable leaders.)

Heather will inform Roger of this. She has already sent him her own list (see summary.)

Action

Heather

9. Leadership accreditation

Heather will send all members the documents about Leadership Accreditation that she has received from member countries.

Action

Heather

10. Access to National Balint Journals

The first three editions of **e-IBJ** have been produced, Congratulations to the editorial team; Marie Anne Puel, Tunde Baka, Andre Matalon and David Watt.

This will now appear regularly on the IBF website.

Henry Jablonski suggested that the Proceedings of the Stockholm Congress 2005 could be put on the website, this was agreed.

Action

Heide

11. Funding for translation

Benyamin Maoz has requested help from the IBF for translating a book on “the narrative in the doctor-patient-relationship” from Hebrew into German. Donations have been received from various sources, including the German Balint Society, but more money is required. He asked for 300 Euros.

Providing funds for translation had been agreed in principle at the meeting of **22nd January 2005 in Mallorca (see the minutes item 4 (8))** we had not agreed criteria.

The discussion was whether translation should be only into English -as the language of the IBF – or whether translation into other languages should be supported.

A proposal was made: **“to set aside a budget for translation each year for the Officers of the Federation to award. Although they would bear in mind that translation into English is probably the most useful, they will consider translation into other languages.”**

The proposal was accepted by the meeting and an annual budget of 2,000 Euros was agreed. This will be reviewed annually.

Another proposal to award the Israeli Society 500 Euros for the translation into German was agreed.

Action

Michel

12. Website for the International Balint Federation: www.balintinternational.com

- It was agreed that the “Reports from the National Societies” should continue to be posted on the website.
- The Secretary requested that the Register of members should be kept up-to-date and that members who failed to fulfil the criteria should be removed from the list.
- All information to go on the website is to be sent to Heide heideotten@gmx.de
- There was a discussion about having a chat-line. It would be expensive to start a new one, but it was suggested that if IBF contributed to the cost, the American Balint Society might allow us to use theirs. It was agreed that Heather should approach them.

Action

Heather

13. Right Livelihood Award

Heide and the German Balint Society suggest that the International Balint Federation applies for the Right Livelihood Award. The information about this is on their website www.rightlivelihood.org

She explained that the IBF would have to be nominated by someone who was outside the federation and that the IBF would need to produce a report of what it does. Ernst Petzold knew of someone to nominate the IBF and Heather said she would draw up a plan of the report and circulate it for consultation.

Ernst felt that it was unrealistic to apply this year as applications have to be in before 10th April and if we were unsuccessful we would be unable to apply for 3 years.

Therefore it was agreed to prepare now for nomination in 2007.

Action

Ernst and Heather

14. Ascona awards

Ernst presented the information about the Ascona Prize for medical students. This included a list of the previous winners.

This information is available (in English) on the IBF website. (The flier can be printed off if required.)

- Papers in English, French, Italian or German will be considered
- They should not exceed 10,000 words or 15 pages
- The closing date is for the 2007 Award is 31st December 2006

All members are asked to **ensure that medical students in their country are informed about the award.**

Action

All

15. International Congress 2007 to be held in Lisbon, Portugal

Jorge Brandao presented the plan for the 15th International Balint Congress in Lisbon, Portugal.

- The dates are confirmed: **Saturday 1st to Wednesday 5th September 2007**
- The proposed title was amended slightly by the meeting to: **“Medicine: Evidence and Emotions- 50 years on”** as it will be 50 years since the publication of “The Doctor, his patient and the illness.”
- The venue is the old Medical Faculty of the University. It is on a hill in an environment of buildings related to health matters and in historic buildings. The capacity is 200.
- The closing date for papers is 31st December 2006 and the first announcement will be sent out shortly.
- The papers will be selected by a small group of representatives from Portugal and the IBF.
- The programme has to be finalised, but will start with Registration and a Welcome Party on Saturday so that work can begin on Sunday. (There will also be a City Tour on Sunday afternoon.)

Many suggestions and ideas were put forward at the meeting but it was agreed that Jorge would meet with the German and Swedish representatives to hear their views in the light of their experience of running congresses and the Evaluation forms from Sweden. A more detailed programme will be available at the next Council meeting.

Action

Jorge and colleagues

16. Reports from National Balint Societies

These reports are circulated with these minutes. The document now includes one or two that were too late to be circulated before the meeting.

17. Date and place of Council meetings; Autumn 2006 and Spring 2007

- The next meeting will be in **Israel in Maa’gan on Lake Genezareth in Israel on 16th November 2006**. Heide and Benyamin have already made the booking, this was done because of limited availability.
- Concern was expressed as this meeting will be at the same time as that of the Belgian Balint Society which is also attended by the French Balint Society.
- It was agreed that we would hold the meeting there as arranged, but that ***in future the dates and venues must be agreed at a meeting of the Council.***

It is hoped that it will be possible for some of the French and Belgian speakers to attend.

The venue and dates for the **Spring meeting were agreed 23rd-25th March 2007 in Potsdam, Germany**. Council members are invited to join a Balint workshop there where they will be able to participate in Balint groups and Leadership training.

The **Autumn meeting will be at the International Congress in Lisbon, Portugal (1st-5th September 2007)**

The **Romanian** Balint Society invites the Council to hold a meeting in **Poiana Brasov**. It was agreed (provisionally) to hold the meeting there in **Spring 2008**.

18. Any Other Business

There was no other business;

The President thanked Lundbeck, Michel Delbrouck and the Belgian Balint Society for their generous hospitality and excellent organisation.

The meeting closed at 11.20 a.m.

Other papers sent with these minutes:

- 1. Accounts*
- 2. Summary of correspondence with EURACT*
- 3. Form for Renewal of Registration*
- 4. Form for Application to join the IBF.*
- 5. Reports from National Balint Societies*