

# INTERNATIONAL BALINT FEDERATION

Officers of the Council (since 28<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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.



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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 **22<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> International Balint Congress in Lisbon, Portugal.

- The dates are confirmed: **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> to Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> 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 (1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> 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*