

INTERNATIONAL BALINT FEDERATION

www.balintinternational.com

B

President: Dr Henry Jablonski
(Sweden)
Vice Presidents:
Dr Kristiina Toivola (Finland)
Dr Donald Nease (United States)
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(UK)



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MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY OCTOBER 4TH 2012 AT 14.45 AT PARENTVILLE, CHARLEROI, BELGIUM

PRESENT

Belgium

Luc Declaire
Michel Delbrouck
Jean Flechet
Christian Linclau
Michele Parea

Denmark

Tove Mathieson
Joergen Stroebach

Finland

Kristiina Toivola

France

Marie-Anne Puel
Louis Velluet

Germany

Guenther Bergmann
Anousheh Kielstein
Heide Otten

Israel

Mark Budow
Andre Matalon

Portugal

Jorge Brandao

Russia

Vladimir Vinokur

Sweden

Anders Birr
Henry Jablonski

United Kingdom

Andrew Elder
Paul Sackin
John Salinsky
David Watt

United States

Don Nease

1. **Welcome** Henry welcomed everyone to the meeting
2. **Apologies** Australia & New Zealand, Poland and Croatia
3. **Minutes of the previous council meeting** These were accepted
4. **Matters arising from the Minutes** The Board wished to raise the matter of publications to be considered in Any Other Business
5. **Report from the Board** a) Kristiina wished to draw Council members' attention to the 2012 AMA–CMA–BMA International Conference on Physician Health in Montreal on 25-27 October 2012 (<http://www.cma.ca/2012InternationalConference>). Kristiina will be running a workshop on Balint. b) Following the application for individual membership of the IBF of a physician with no obvious connection with Balint work, the Board is considering the criteria for individual membership
6. **Treasurer's report** As interim Treasurer, Henry reported that the Belgian accounts have now all closed and our assets are in Swedish accounts. There is a Euro pocket for ease of payments to and from Eurozone countries. Reserves are in a deposit account. Further investments with the possibility of better returns are to be considered. A full report for each calendar year, scrutinised by the revisors, will be presented at the spring Council meeting and submitted to the Swedish authorities for tax purposes. The Board felt that the reduced fees for former communist countries were no longer appropriate. Instead they proposed that for 2013 fees should be 700 Euros for societies of 40 or more members and 350 Euros for societies with less than 40 members. The Council agreed this unanimously.
7. **Chinese membership** The Board's proposal to admit China to the IBF from January 2013 following the production of a satisfactory ethical code was unanimously accepted. Heide pointed out that the Chinese had had Balint training for at least 12 years. Recently she and others had visited to run workshops and now these included a leaders' workshop. The Council wished to thank Heide and her colleagues for all the work they had done. It was also agreed that all societies would be asked to submit their ethical codes.
8. **Guidelines for World Congresses** The revised version was accepted by the Council
9. **Guidelines for Hosting Council meetings** The revised version was accepted by the Council
10. **WONCA** There had been minimal interest from participants at the Vienna meeting for the Balint sessions but they had not been properly included in the programme. There was a very useful dialogue there with Clare Gerada, chair of the Royal College of General Practitioners. It was agreed that Henry would write to Clare suggesting that we ask for a plenary and group sessions for Balint at WONCA Prague in 2013 and that she is included as part of our presentation. If this does not materialise we shall wait for the Lisbon 2014 meeting. Mark said he would probably be attending in Prague anyway and would be happy to represent us without reimbursement. Mark pointed out that Prague is a World meeting, not a European one.
11. **Translation Board** The Translation Board is still considering the proposal from Bohdan Wasilewski. While it was a useful review, we did not think that the chapter presented in an English version offered new insights and therefore Bohdan has agreed to translate another chapter for us to consider. There was no news as to whether Helene Oppenheim had found a publisher to take on the translation of her book. Luc mentioned that the Belgian Society is working on a review of Balint publications and may be asking for support from the Translation Board for an English translation. Heide mentioned that Kai

Neumann is translating her book and it will hopefully be ready in time for the Heidelberg Congress.

12. **Heidelberg Congress 2013** Guenther reported that the website calling for papers will be ready in two weeks' time. The scientific committee is in place. They will be responsible for deciding whether submissions are for presenting at the congress, for posters or just for publication in the Proceedings. The fee for the Congress is provisionally set at 480 Euros. Some cheaper accommodation will be available. Peter Fonagy is unable to attend but it is hoped that one or two of his colleagues will come.
13. **Next Council meeting** Romania had offered to host the Council meeting during their 20th anniversary Congress. The Board had considered this kind offer but felt that the venue was too far away from Bucharest Airport to be practical for a short visit. Instead the Swedish society offered to host the Council on Saturday May 4th 2013. The programme would probably run from Friday 3rd May to Sunday 5th May at noon. It could include short presentations, some small group Balint work and fishbowl and also opportunities for sightseeing and socialising. The Council was delighted to accept this proposal.
14. **Leadership Conference 2014** Hans-Peter Edlhaime had offered October 2014 in Krems, Austria. Mark Budow said that Israel was considering a proposal. It was agreed that proposals with dates should be sent in by March 2013 and a final decision made at the Stockholm Council meeting
15. **Website** The deadline for submissions for the IBF website is October 31st 2012. Please send them to paulsackin@waitrose.com
16. **Balint work as EU trademark** Kristiina proposed that we investigate obtaining a European trademark for protecting the concept of Balint work. The IBF could own the trademark. It was felt that this was unlikely to be practicable because it is very expensive and all the fields needing protection would need to be specified. It may also be difficult to defend if challenged. John Salinsky wondered if a 'patent' for the IBF would be another approach. It was also noted that the accreditation process for leaders was a way of keeping our approach distinct. It was agreed that the Board would discuss this further.
17. **Nominations for 2013 Board** Michel has already resigned as Treasurer. Henry and Don come to the end of their term of office as President and Vice President respectively at the Heidelberg Congress. Nominations will be needed to replace them as well as for revisors. Nominations need to be in by 23rd March and votes returned by April 20th so that they can be counted at the Stockholm Council meeting.
18. **Any other business** The recent publication of Heide's book and several other items had prompted Henry to consider whether we might try and publish a comprehensive Balint reader incorporating these texts, the work of the Belgian Society etc. It seems that there is increasing interest in Balint work and such a publication could meet a demand. Heide will ask Springer if they might be interested to take on the publication of such a work and it was agreed that the Board could usefully discuss this further. It was also pointed out that such a reference book could give better protection of true Balint work than a trademark.
19. **Next Council meeting** Stockholm, 4th May 2013

The meeting ended at 16.30. Henry thanked everyone for coming.