**President**

Dr Donald Nease (USA)

**Vice Presidents**

Dr Michèle Parée (Belgium)

Dr Jorge Brandão

(Portugal)

**Treasurer**

Dr Mark Budow (Israel)

**General Secretary**

Dr Paul Sackin (UK)

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**MINUTES OF THE IBF COUNCIL HELD AT THE PANORAMA MEDICAL CENTRE, BUDAPEST, ON SATURDAY 1ST JUNE 2019 AT 13.30**

**PRESENT**

**BELGIUM**

Luc Decleire

Christian Linclau

Michele Paree

**BULGARIA**

Vesselka Christova

Gergana Foreva

**FINLAND**

Martina Torppa

**FRANCE**

Caroline Dauchez

Jean-Daniel Gradeler

Isabelle Martinot Nouet

Alice Polomeni

**GERMANY**

Guido Flatten

Norbert Guenzel

**GREECE**

Alkistis Igoumenaki

**HUNGARY**

Balazs Jeges

Katalin Dobo

Zoltan Guraly

Judit Erdos

Orsolya Papp Zipernovsky

Judit Popovics

Nadiniga Rajnai

Veronika Ila

**ISRAEL**

Mark Budow

Amos Ritter

Shai Krontal

**PORTUGAL**

Jorge Brandao

**ROMANIA**

Ilona Gorog

Maria Mihaela Pap

Albert Veress

Eva Veress

**SERBIA**

Rosa Sapic

**UNITED KINGDOM**

Ceri Dornan

Esti Rimmer

Paul Sackin

David Watt

**UNITED STATES**

Albert Lichtenstein

Don Nease

1. **Welcome** Don welcomed everyone to the meeting
2. **Apologies** AIPB, Sweden
3. **Minutes of the Council meeting in Helsinki on 29th September 2018** David Watt proposed and Martina Torppa seconded that these were a true record. All agreed
4. **Matters of information** Jorge Brandao reported that Brazil has now formed a Balint Society which is shortly to apply to join the IBF. Jorge is also active as a representative of WONCA South America
5. **Treasurer’s report** Mark Budow presented the fiscal report for 2018. This was presented in Euros for simplicity but we continue to have transactions in SEK as well. The SEK continues to decline against the Euro despite experts continuing to say that this will change. The loss for the year of around 2000 Euros is almost entirely accounted for by the declining value of the SEK. The aim now is to move from SEK to Euros and next year’s fees will be payable in Euros only. We will continue to support good ideas to promote Balint work with financial help. Mark was thanked with acclaim for all his work. Esti Rimmer proposed and Isabelle Martinot Nuet seconded that the fiscal report was accepted. All agreed.
6. **Auditors’ report** The auditors submitted the following report: ‘In our function as revisers appointed by the IBF to check the accountancy of the Federation managed by the Treasurer and the Board as a whole, we give the following report: We have checked the financial records and verifications of the Federation. We found everything in good order and well conscientiously managed. We approve of the management and recommend the Council to approve the accounts for the period January 1st to December 31st in Year 2018 and approve of the economic management of IBF affairs by the Board by granting the Board members discharge of responsibility for this period. Signed on 19th May 2019 in Colbert and Metz by Janet Walker and Jean-Daniel Gradeler.’ Mark Budow explained that he has a videoconference with the auditors twice yearly and they clearly check the accounts in great detail but Mark was able to answer all their questions. Mark proposed grateful thanks on behalf of all of us to Janet Walker and Jean-Daniel Gradeler for all their hard work as auditors. In view of Jean-Daniel’s election as vice president we will be looking for nominations for a new auditor
7. **Budget 2019** Mark presented this. Most items are now definite and we expect a loss of around 2000 Euros as planned. There is now a new Internet group led by Joy Humphreys and Frank Meumann who are paid 500 Euros each for the year. The IBF also pays the Zoom licence. Participants pay 50 Euros each and become individual IBF members. Ceri Dornan proposed and Christian Linclau seconded that the budget be approved. All agreed.
8. **Bulgaria’s application to join the IBF** Vesselka Christova and Gergana Foreva described how their society is growing, with 36 members from a range of health disciplines. There are ongoing groups in Sofia and Plovdiv, regular meetings and an annual conference including delegates from abroad. These contacts inspired them to re-join the IBF. Council unanimously approved their application.
9. **Hellenic Society’s application to join the IBF** Alkistis Igoumenaki explained that the Society has 48 members and is moving forward despite members’ financial and other difficulties. Esti Rimmer expressed her concern that there are other groups in Greece with UK accredited leaders, often achieved at great expense to these leaders. The meeting agreed that we should work towards one Society in Greece with the Board to work with the UK Society to try and bring in these other groups. Jean-Daniel Gradeler proposed and Albert Lichtenstein seconded that the Hellenic Society’s application for IBF membership should be approved. All agreed.
10. **Board election results** Paul Sackin explained that there was only one nomination for each of the positions of President, Treasurer and General Secretary. Michele Paree, Mark Budow and Paul Sackin respectively were duly elected. There were four nominations for the two Vice President positions and a vote was held. Seventeen Societies voted. Guido Flatten and Jean-Daniel Gradeler received the most votes and were therefore elected. Paul thanked Albert Lichtenstein and Rosa Sapic for standing and assured them they got quite a lot of votes.
11. **Leadership Task Force** Amos Ritter was appointed to replace Andre Matalon. Esti Rimmer reported briefly on the January meeting of the task force. They were pleased with the Helsinki conference with a good environment, careful selection of groups and leaders and lots of pauses for reflection. They also discussed the break-up of the former Yugoslavia and its possible impact on the next leadership conference. Earlier they had a good meeting with the Israeli Balint Society and gave Andre Matalon a good farewell.
12. **Council meeting Budapest May 31st – June 2nd 2019** Don Nease expressed thanks on behalf of us all to the Hungarian team for an excellent conference.
13. **International Congress Porto September 11-15** **2019 ‘Seeing medicine through other eyes’** Jorge Brandao spoke on behalf of the organisers. There are so far 132 delegates and places are limited to 140. The early bird rate will continue to 10th June. The social programme will include a river trip on the Douro and dinner in port wine cellars. **NB** It was agreed in further discussion with the organisers after the meeting that up to 168 delegates can be accommodated.
14. **Council meeting first half of 2020** Guido Flatten explained that this is to be held in Aachen, Germany, on 15th-17th May in a city centre venue.
15. **Leadership conference 2020** Rosa Sapic announced that this will be held in Serbia from 2nd – 4th October, either in central Belgrade or in a rural location 80km from Belgrade. The task force will meet in Serbia in January and make a decision on the venue.
16. **International Congress 2021** There were no offers to host this. Offers are sought that need to be received before the Board’s videoconference on 28th July. Alkistis Igoumenaki offered the Hellenic Society to host the Council meeting in the first half of 2022.
17. **Annual reports from National Societies** Michele Paree briefly summarised them:

* We’ve received 14 reports out of 26 National Societies: four more then in 2018 BUT it’s curious to note that all the ten Societies of the previous year are not necessarily included in the 14 of this year
* The number of members is increasing in Eastern countries and stable or decreasing in Western countries.
* Many societies help each other, the main link is the language and the common borders. **I think this is an important point for our IBF!**
* Most societies have a supervision
* Suggestions or reflections:
  + Think about analytical approach (Russia)
  + “There are no quick Balint fixes, which implies a plea for STRIVING towards good enough Balint standards. It’s a slow and dynamic process rather than an administrative procedure” (Sweden)
  + e-workshop: reading Balint books (France)
  + collaboration with other fields: Social Workers, teachers, penal institutions (Germany, Hungary, Israel, Poland)
  + Special price for young PEOPLE (Printemps Balint’s price, Belgium)
* Questions to other Balintians
  + DO international conferences change the common practice in National Societies? (Question to the task force)
  + Which of our Societies ARE accredited as a provider of medical education? The answer is: we don’t know exactly

Albert Lichtenstein suggested that members may like to post comments on the IBF leadership listserve, accessed through Albert on [albert.lichtenstein@guthrie.org](mailto:albert.lichtenstein@guthrie.org)

1. **Balint film** Caroline Dauchez described briefly a film (in French) that has been made of a classic Balint group and a psychodrama group. This was done with the help of a grant of 12000 Euros from crowdfunding. Caroline is looking for IBF support for an English version, dubbed or with subtitles. The Board proposed showing the film at Porto, so French speaking colleagues could offer feedback
2. **Applications for individual IBF membership from those in a country where there is a national society** Don Nease explained that there had been recent instances of those not in tune with their national society wishing to become individual IBF members. This was felt not to be satisfactory, and it was also felt that more than one society per country was not desirable. However Martina Torppa pointed out that the Finnish Society only accepts doctors as members and that other therapists in such a situation might reasonably apply for individual IBF membership. This is unusual, most Societies accept other health professionals as well as doctors
3. **Next meeting** General Assembly on Saturday September 14th 2019 in Porto, Portugal