Minutes of the WFITN General Assembly  
Arena 2, Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre  
Wednesday November 11th, 2015, 4.30-6.30 pm

Present from the WFITN Executive Committee
Georges Rodesch                President
Michael Söderman               Secretary General
Serge Bracard                  Treasurer
Sirintara Pongpech             Vice President
René van den Berg              Member at Large
Darren B. Orbach               Member at Large
Luc Picard                     Honorary President
Karel terBrugge                Editor-in-Chief
Absent
Jürgen Reul                    Past President
Allan Taylor                   Member at Large

112 WFITN members in good standing were present at the General Assembly

1. Welcome address by the President of the WFITN (G. Rodesch)
A silent minute for deceased WFITN members Brian Kendall and Pål Svendsen (founding members) and Massimo Gallucci.

2. Approval of new members (S. Bracard)
WFITN member count total 803 (424 in good standing, 23 of which are emeritus), an increase by 5% since 2014. 81 new members (49 provisional) were accepted.

3. Approval of the minutes of the previous GA, Val d’Isère, January 2015 (M. Söderman)
The minutes distributed to the members prior to the meeting were unanimously approved.

4. The President’s report
The President summarized his aims at the beginning of his mandate and what has been achieved. He thanked all members that have spent time and effort in working for the WFITN
The projects outlined in the beginning of the Presidential period were:
A. Professionalization of the WFITN organization
B. Revision of the constitution
C. Creation of a new website
D. Global prize and availability assessment of devices (Device regulations committee)
E. Creation of a WFITN charter of Ethics
F. Creation of WFITN courses

A. The professionalization of the WFITN:
The Vice President will advise and work together with the President of the WFITN meeting in order to create a scientific program. The VP will be helped by the Presidents of the two previous WFITN meetings and a senior WFITN member (external expert).
Members at large were assigned specific tasks
• AT Renewal of the constitution
The WFITN is now registered officially as a non profit organization at the French Prefecture at the Registre National des Associations (RNA) (N° W943003178). The WFITN official address is 7 rue de Castellane, 75008 Paris, FRANCE. There is an official contract between the WFITN and the organizers of the WFITN biannual congresses. The procedure to become a WFITN member has been simplified. There is an official external audit of the WFITN finances by Mrs Karine David Sanint, charted accountant.

The status of the journal INR is still not clear. The current owner of the journal is SAGE publishing company. The WFITN and SAGE still have to agree on the terms of a contract, the major issue being if the WFITN or SAGE will have the power to decide on the Editor-in-Chief. There will be only an electronic version of the journal. The yearly cost will be reduced from 35000 Euro to 22000 Euro VAT inclusive. KTB will remain as EiC for another period of three years.

B. The revision of the WFITN constitution
AT and David LeFeuvre were unfortunately not present. MS did a short presentation in their place: The new constitution differs from the old in many aspects. Among which may be mentioned:
The official address of the WFITN has been changed.
There are now five members at large instead of three members at large.
The members at large will take over specific tasks previously assigned to subcommittee chairpersons.
The procedure of voting for cities to host the biannual congress has been changed.
Electronic voting has been introduced.
The new constitution was unanimously approved, but with amendments to be proposed by the ExCom for the next GA in Val d’Isère:

Article 3. The location of the WFITN biannual meeting is decided by the GA (not the ExCom)
Article 6. The honorary president is a member of the ExCom. The term of office of the Vice President will be defined. The voting process will be clarified.
Article 7. The honorary president may also vote.
Some other minor adjustments and changes.

C. Creation of a new website (DBO with Seon-Kyo Lee, Yuji Matsumari and Dae Chul Suh)
The WFITN will acquire the web domain wfitn.com.
The goals of the website renewal were:
Bring it up-to-date, reflective of current relevant issues and INR-related happenings.
Allow it to become a useful tool for communications from the Society to the membership.
A contract has been signed with Europa and the website, went live in March 2015 and has been improved since.
It is stable, works on most browsers and is accessible from different platforms. It contains links to different meetings, and courses, membership platform, access to the INR journal and a forum. Recently was added access to video recordings of plenary lectures from previous WFITN congresses. The members now have to use the website, in order to help the website committee to make it more interactive and improve the functionality.

D. Device regulations committee (R van den Berg with Thomas Mayer)
The device survey was presented at the GA in Val d’Isère. It will be published in INR December 2015.

E. Charter of Ethics (L. Picard presented by G. Rodesch)
In Jan 2015 there was a working seminar in Val d’Isère with 37 attendants in order to create a draft. This will be discussed and finalized in Val d’Isère January 2016. To be published in the INR journal.

F. WFITN courses (G. Rodesch, MS, SB, Pedro Vilela, Ling Feng, Anton Valavanis).
The very successful courses in Functional Neurovascular Anatomy 2013 and 2014 were under the
The third Functional Neurovascular Anatomy course in October 2015 (Lisboa) was by WFITN only and again was a success with 37 students from 20 different countries. The course was awarded 27 CME credits and is chartered for 2016 in Sao Paolo and 2017 in New Delhi. The course has been financially beneficial for the WFITN. The contact with WFNS about a joint course has not been fruitful. The WFITN has been invited the 2016 WFNS congress in Sotchi, Russia, for a joint one day session. The program and proposal is as yet not clear.

The WFITN has been officially invited to participate as coorganizers of the 2018 Symposium Neuroradiologicum in Taipei. There was a preliminary meeting WFITN-SNR 20151110 where collaboration was agreed. There will be conjoint scientific sessions WFITN-SNR for 2-3 days focused on scientific advances. Care will be taken not to interfere with the program of the AAISTN meeting in Kuala Lumpur. Representatives from WFITN in the SNR will be LP, SP and MS. MS has been invited to the position as Vice President of the SNR and has accepted on behalf of the WFITN. The WFITN has been officially invited to collaborate with the WSO for the meeting in Hyderabad in October 2016. The WFITN has accepted and the representative will be SB.

5. Treasurer’s report (S. Bracard)
The financial situation of the WFITN is favourable. Incomes during 2014 were 84 kEuro and expenditures were 84 kEuro. 25kEuro was a one time expenditure because of the renewal of the website. Next year the cost of the journal will decrease from 35 kEuro to 22500 kEuro. Gross bank savings were almost 250 kEuro.

6. Report from the financial audit (S. Bracard)
The external audit has approved the 2014 account.

7. Membership fees (S. Bracard)
The membership fee will stay unchanged at 155 Euro.

8. Election of new officers of the Executive Committee (G. Rodesch)
Allan Taylor for Secretary General, Darren B Orbach for Treasurer and Michael Söderman for Vice President were elected unanimously.

For the five positions as Member at large were elected Alessandra Biondi, Dae Chul Suh, Timo Krings, Michihiro Tanaka and Hong Qi Zhang.

9. Election of the 2019 Congress site (G. Rodesch)
Two sites applied to host the 2019 WFITN congress. Boston (USA) and Naples/Catania (Italy). Boston was presented by Darren B Orbach and Naples/Catania was presented by Mario Muto/Alessandra Biondi. The GA voted for Naples/Catania with 62 votes against 52 votes for Boston. Thus Naples/Catania will host the 2019 WFITN congress.

10. Update on the 2017 WFITN congress in Budapest, Hungary (I. Szikora)
WACO travel agency will be PCO. All major device companies companies have been contacted on a CEO level in order to secure adequate sponsoring. Siemens, Philips and GE contacted, other imaging companies pending. The website is up and running with link to WFITN. Promotional material has been produced and will be distributed at all major meetings, there are video presentations and for example a booth at the current WFTIN conference. All deadlines are set and on the website. Scientific committee is under consideration. The program is still under development. The selected venue is Millenary Center (remodelled old factory in the center of Buda) with ample space and latest AV/digital technology.

A problem is the new regulations by EUROMED effective as of Jan 2018 that will be applied already during 2017 that regulations forbid direct company sponsoring of physicians. It is yet unclear how this will be managed.
11. Update on the journal INR (K. Terbrugge)
The journal INR is slowly gaining in importance. The number of submissions has increased to 228 during 2014. The acceptance rate for 2015 will be around 45%. The impact factor has increased to 0.78. As a comparison AJNR has 3.6 and Neuroradiology 2.3.

12. Other issues
There were no other issues.

13. Closing remarks by the new President of the WFITN (S. Pongpech)

Michael Söderman
- Secretary General -

Georges Rodesch
- President –