



World Federation of Interventional and Therapeutic Neuroradiology

Minutes of the WFITN General Assembly at Val d Isere Thursday, January 21st, 2016, 3 - 4 p.m.

Executive Committee

<i>Sirintara Pongpech</i>	<i>President</i>
<i>Michael Söderman</i>	<i>Vice-President</i>
<i>Allan Taylor</i>	<i>Secretary General</i>
<i>Darren Orbach</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>
<i>Georges Rodesch</i>	<i>Past President</i>
<i>Timo Krings</i>	<i>Member at Large</i>
<i>Alessandra Biondi</i>	<i>Member at Large</i>
<i>Hong Qi Zhang</i>	<i>Member at Large (absent)</i>
<i>Dae Chul Suh</i>	<i>Member at large</i>
<i>Michihiro Tanaka</i>	<i>Member at Large (absent)</i>
<i>Luc Picard</i>	<i>Honorary President</i>
<i>Karel terBrugge</i>	<i>Editor-In-Chief INR (absent)</i>

57 members in good standing present.

1. The meeting was opened at 3 p.m. by S Pongpech thanking WFITN members for attending.
2. The minutes from the previous General assembly held in Gold Coast, Australia, in November 2015 were approved as proposed by T Krings and D Orbach.
3. Presidents report (S Pongpech)
 - a. The new Executive committee has been in place for just over 2 months and the new Executive members were introduced to the General Assembly.
 - b. The Honorary President L Picard was thanked for leading the ethics subcommittee which had met in Val d Isere in 2015 and 2016 to produce an ethics charter for the WFITN for publication in the INR journal.

An objection was made at this point by J Moret who stood in front of members to address them. With support from C Islak from the floor he objected to the email sent out the day previously saying that the ethics charter of the WFITN had been finalized and would be voted on at the General Assembly. He objected to the process saying he had not received an email about this himself and had only found out through colleagues, so a vote would be unreasonable. Furthermore he objected to the content of the paragraph on live demonstration teaching (par 2.4). While live case teaching required rules the proposed charter was negative and unacceptable. After J Moret had finished addressing the meeting A Taylor indicated that a vote was not proposed in the email that had been sent but that all previous charters had been accepted by mutual approval at the General Assembly. L Picard said that paragraph 2.4 did not forbid live case teaching but only warned against the risks to patients. A Taylor asked J Moret what part of paragraph 2.4 was specifically a problem without a reply being received. G Rodesch



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informed the general assembly that there had been 2 seminars with about 40 invited participants from the WFITN and the co-operation of ESMINT in constructing the charter, including participants involved with live case teaching. L Spelle also objected to paragraph 2.4 saying it was a judgement against live case teaching rather than an ethical rule. I Szikora said that ESMINT did not officially cooperate with this document therefore it can't be stated that this was co-operative. G Rodesch replied that P Brouwer who was the ethics committee chair for ESMINT had been specifically invited to the seminars, and had participated in the charter as had individuals from many other societies. P Brouwer said he had been involved but not in the capacity of representing ESMINT. For clarity A Taylor asked for a show of hands which members had read the ethics charter. No count was taken but it appeared that most had. J Moret said there should have been more participation from people who do live case teaching in the writing of the charter. G Rodesch reminded J Moret that he had been invited to participate in the ethics seminars but had not come. Furthermore other representatives of live courses had been present during the discussions and approved the charter. L Picard suggested that paragraph 2.4 on live demonstrations be suppressed and the rest of the charter could be published. I Saatci addressed members saying this was not a democratic process and if it proceeded there would be a split in the federation and we would face having 2 world federations. G Gal said this charter could not be published without a vote taking place. M Mawad said that as someone who was involved with live case teaching he had been involved and contributed specifically to this paragraph of the charter. In this respect participants involved in live case teaching had been involved and the charter should go to a vote. C Islak indicated that he had read the charter and did not like the wording of paragraph 2.4. J Moret agreed that if paragraph 2.4 was withdrawn he would contribute to rewriting this paragraph. L Picard proposed that paragraph 2.4 be suppressed and the rest of the document accepted. A Berenstein agreed that all participants in live case demonstrations must contribute to the live case ethics component of the charter by Val d Isere 2017. M Mawad felt that there had already been enough participation and the paragraph could be accepted. I Szikora wanted to make it clear that ESMINT had not participated as an official partner. There was general agreement with the proposal to suppress paragraph 2.4 and publish the rest of the charter with a new paragraph on live case demonstrations to be constructed by those who objected to the current paragraph. A vote was subsequently held and the majority of participants in the GA voted in favour of this proposal. There was one vote against (M Mawad).

- c. The roles of the new Executive committee were explained as defined in the constitution. DC Suh will assume responsibility for managing the website and electronic communication with assistance from the previous web team of the last Executive committee. Rule and constitution matters would be managed by M Tanaka assisted by A Taylor. A Biondi will manage device and industry issues. L Picard will continue to oversee ethics matters and the treasurer D Orbach will also take in charge membership responsibilities. Education will be the primary responsibility of the President with her ad hoc team



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comprised of T Krings, HQ Zhang, G Rodesch and M Soderman. The development of a research grant will be overseen by M Soderman and G Rodesch.

- d. The WFITN is officially registered in Paris, France and the bank account is currently also in France. There are some difficulties in accessing the account and the Executive together with our French lawyer are exploring the possibility of moving the account and establishing an education foundation outside of France.
- e. A new contract has been signed with the INR publisher SAGE on 24/11/2015.
- f. Thanks were given to W Chong, H Rice and L de Villiers for organizing the Gold Coast meeting. More information to be provided by W Chong later.
- g. I Szikora is the president of the next WFITN meeting in Budapest and details of the meeting will be presented later. The scientific committee for the meeting will be comprised of the 2 past meeting Presidents L Lemme Phlagos and W Chong together with the WFITN Vice President M Soderman and M Mawad.
- h. There are concerns about the effect of the new EUCOMED regulations concerning physician sponsorship to attend academic meetings. The regulations are to take effect in 2018 but could be implemented in 2017 which will effect the next WFITN meeting. The WFITN is working together with ESMINT and other societies to come up with a solution of how industry may support our meetings within the new regulations.
- i. Regarding education the education committee had been tasked with drawing up a proposal for the future running of the WFITN functional neurovascular anatomy course which had initially been started with the ESNR but had become exclusively run by the WFITN during the 3rd course in 2015. There was also a need to have a policy for endorsing other courses like that proposed by L Lemme Phlagos at the last meeting. The education proposal had been written by T Krings and HQ Zhang and was accepted by the Executive committee. More detail would be presented later.

4. Treasurer Report (D Orbach)

- a. Financials. The current capital of the WFITN is just over 250 000 €. Income (through Oct 31 2015): ~75 000 € (~38 000 from membership fees and 38 000 from course fees)
Of note, income from the last quarter (almost all from membership fees) was ~15 000 €. As we typically collect ~40 000 €/year, this amount represents a significant increase
The capital continues to increase year-to-year over the past several years, and may be increasing significantly now (largely because of improved membership fee collection but also because of growth in membership).
- b. Membership. There are approximately 550 members in “relative” good standing, including new ones since Gold Coast.
Concerning new members there have been 86 new registrants since Gold Coast (55 paid). After Buenos Aires there were 40 new registrants. So far there are more than 20 new registrants now in Val d’Isere, last year there were 11. Both the number of registrants is increasing over time, and



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actual payment of membership fees is increasing. Additionally, WFITN courses bring in significant income. Overall, income is likely to be significantly higher going forward than in the past. Since we are a non-profit organisation, we need to have a plan in place for how to manage the increasing income.

- c. HSBC in France, the bank for WFITN for many years, has been remarkably unresponsive in arranging for Treasurer access since Serge B stepped down (as has HSBC in the US) We will likely switch to another international bank in France with branches in the US as well.
5. New member approval (A Taylor)
 - a. 8 new members were fully approved and 19 were approved pending payment of membership fees as proposed by D Orbach and A Berenstein .
6. SAGE contract (G Rodesch)
 - a. A new contract has been negotiated giving the WFITN control in appointing an editor and deputy editor. This was necessary after the sale of the journal by M Leonardi to SAGE. SAGE imposed a standard contract on the WFITN which was not acceptable to us. G Rodesch negotiated with Sage and the new contract is now in favour of the WFITN which continues to have control of both the scientific and financial aspects.
7. Education proposal (T Krings)
 - a. A written proposal had been submitted to the executive committee by L Lemme Phlagos suggesting an increase in the number of WFITN academic activities comprised of continental meetings and refresher courses or M&M sessions. This will be considered by the education committee in line with the new education proposal.
 - b. The WFITN course in neurovascular anatomy will have course directors comprised of the WFITN past president, the WFITN treasurer and a local course director. This will ensure continuity of the meeting going forward. The roles and responsibilities of each co-director were defined as were the curriculum of the course and how it would be taught. The finances of the meeting would also be open to the WFITN executive.
 - c. Regarding endorsement of worldwide educational events it is proposed that the WFITN can offer free advertisement (email, journal, website) as well as allow the use of the WFITN logo in return for discounted rates for WFITN members. Courses would need to be accredited by the WFITN education committee and course directors need to be WFITN members in good standing or partner organisations.
8. Acute stroke intervention training consensus publication. (A Taylor)
 - a. There are currently 12 participating societies.
 - b. The consensus document is to be published in journals in February and March 2016 including JNIS, INR, EJMN, Japan society journal.
 - c. The background to the document is that the good results for thrombectomy in the recently published trials were obtained by skilled interventionsists. There was pressure from other non-neurointervention trained groups however to perform thrombectomy. It was felt that there was a specific need to produce



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- a guideline outlining the training requirements for acute stroke intervention.
- d. The WFITN has contributed to the current recommendation which looks at baseline qualifications, specific training in stroke intervention, continuing education requirements and stroke unit certification and hospital requirements.
 - e. I Szikora added that ESMINT has further requested that the article title be changed to refer only to ischaemic stroke and not stroke in general which may include haemorrhagic stroke. They had also requested a 1 year minimum in the specific stroke training requirement.
9. Gold Coast WFITN meeting (W Chong)
- a. A post congress report on the meeting held from 9 to 13 November at the Gold coast exhibition centre was presented.
 - b. Overall sponsorship was USD 1,326,150 and exhibition sales secured an extra income of USD 43,500. The anticipated profit is USD 200,000
 - c. There were 1,041 attendees from 65 countries. The most participants came from USA followed by Australia, Japan, China and Korea.
 - d. There were 572 abstracts and 263 posters. There were 72 plenary lectures and 295 concurrent lectures. Total meeting time was 41 hours.
 - e. Marketing of the meeting had been successful with the website available in multiple languages and over 65,000 views. On social media there were 190 twitter followers, 980 facebook likes and 17 instagram followers.
 - f. Participant satisfaction was 86% for academic content.
10. Budapest WFITN meeting 2017
- a. I Szikora introduced the congress video inviting members to the 2017 meeting in Buda to be held at the Millenary congress centre from 16 to 19 October. The website is www.wfitn2017.hu
11. Other Matters
- a. A spine intervention survey will be undertaken by A Biondi for presentation at Val d Isere 2017
 - b. The website will be updated to allow electronic member joining and voting (DC Suh)
 - c. Minor constitution changes required after the Gold Coast meeting accepted the new constitution will be circulated to members within time for a vote of acceptance in Val d Isere 2017. (M Tanaka)

The meeting ended at 4.10 p.m..

Allan Taylor

Secretary General