

**INTERNATIONAL CONTINENCE SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**  
Of The 43rd Annual General Meeting of the International Continence Society  
Barcelona, Spain, 29<sup>th</sup> August 2013

Minute writer (from audio recording): Tracy Griffin

Sender Herschorn welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- 1. Matters arising from the Minutes of AGM held 18<sup>th</sup> October 2012 in Beijing.**  
SH confirmed that according to company rules we had to be apprised of any items in advance and nothing was received.
  
- 2. Approval of Minutes from AGM held 18<sup>th</sup> October 2012 in Beijing.**  
SH stated that when anyone approves or moves anything, please could they state their name and where they are from. The AGM minutes were approved.
  
- 3. Ordinary Resolution vote to approve the appointments of:**
  - **Sherif Mourad – Honorary Treasurer**
  - **Adrian Wagg – General Secretary Elect**SH confirmed that voting had already taken place on-line and that an AGM vote must be allowed for these positions. The votes on-line are added to the AGM votes and the double votes are discounted and that is why membership badges were scanned prior to entering the meeting today. SH then asked for ballot papers to be marked and handed in separately. SH also confirmed that everyone should vote in the room even if they voted on-line. SH thanked everyone for their votes and confirmed that the results will be available via the ICS website as soon as possible.
  
- 4. General Secretary Report – Sender Herschorn**
  - a) General report and committee reports**

Before starting his report SH expressed his thanks to David Castro-Diaz, meeting chair and Montserrat Espuña Pons, scientific chair and stated that it had been a wonderful meeting with an exciting scientific meeting with a wonderful venue too.

SH confirmed that the ICS now had a strategic plan and explained why and how the process started, who was involved and provided input, including industry interviews and a membership survey (which had 321 responses) and how the success would be measured.

SH confirmed that there are about 2300 stakeholders. The stakeholders are all the members, all of the organisations that contribute that have similar interests from patients as well as our industry partners.

A question was asked about budget for the strategy consultants. SH confirmed that it was within the budget. .Ajay Singla stated that although £20,000 had been reserved, the ICS had only spent about £15,000.

Tamara Dickinson stated that a great deal of work must have gone into the plan, but the smallest part of the presentation was implementation. Can you advise on how the membership can contribute and who is going to oversee implementation and how that plan is going to be shared with the membership? SH responded that was where the ICS was a 'bit thin'. The ICS rushed to get the document to press and the next challenge was to get to implementation. SH also confirmed that there will be a plan by December and will be put out to the membership at that time.

SH then presented a photo of the office staff and confirmed the team members and their job titles. SH then thanked the staff for all their hard work throughout the year and a job well done. SH confirmed that they were responsive and were always there to help.

SH highlighted some good news regarding membership. It was confirmed that the ICS had exceeded 3,000 members now with a final total of 3,081, many of whom are repeat members. This year had the highest number of members renewing their membership. SH stated that this was an indication that the society was on the 'right road'.

SH confirmed that where governance was concerned the ICS had a lot of difficulty this year with disgruntled members who created turmoil. It was realised that the ICS processes were deficient unfortunately and there were lengthy discussions surrounding this. A bylaws change process has been instituted in order to address this. There is a sub-committee of the board which will annually review the bylaws and come up with suggestions which will then be transmitted to the membership for subsequent approval and then bylaws changed. One of the problems was the code of conduct. It was agreed that scientific disagreement should occur in this organisation and members don't always have to agree, but in order for the society to thrive members have to get along. SH confirmed that the code of conduct is not perfect but is better than what the ICS had previously. SH also confirmed that there was no appeal process in the disciplinary procedure, but this is currently being worked on.

SH started presenting the committee reports and then handed over to Marcus Drake for his report on the Standardisation Steering Committee (SSC).

**Standardisation Steering Committee** – Marcus Drake confirmed that the committee was conscious of the ICS background of developing the leading documents for standards in this area and the SSC have started to ensure that the way those developed are robust, ethical and done by an appropriate process. MD stated that the documents were rather big and cumbersome so there is work going on to improve their accessibility, giving a platform for education which is a strategic priority of the organisation. Reports currently being developed are the urodynamic equipment standard, chronic pelvic pain, good urodynamic practise document, neurourology, with

the next 2 proposals basic science physiology and detrusor underactivity. A document has been produced called the *Standard for Developing Standards*,. MD confirmed the role of the committee and the working groups. MD outlined the uses of Wiki - a single point to obtain documents freely, whereby users can post their comments for further development. MD stated that the committee was now looking at other languages, including Spanish and Arabic. MD highlighted the need for further committee members, outlining the areas where assistance was required.

**Children's Committee** – 2013 saw a continuation of transition from childhood to adult services of young people. It is now the Children's and Young Adult's Committee and not just the children's committee. There was a workshop in Beijing and the manuscript is in the editing stage. There was recently a joint ICS/ICCS transition meeting in Toronto which was successful. There's a new committee chair Giovanni Mosiello, with 2 new members elected. There is a continued focus on adolescent issues rather than young children including management guidelines for adolescent gynecological conditions. The committee is reviewing resources for completion of the report from the Toronto meeting.

**Continence Promotion Committee** – has been active during 2013. 16 countries were represented during World Continence Week. 2 members stepped down from the committee, Brian Buckley and Anita Saltmarche. The public forum was cancelled for Barcelona and a review is required to decide whether this forum is needed. In 2014 there will be an increase in focus on awareness and implementation of plans and goals outlined in their review.

**Education Committee** – underwent some transition this year and Adrian Wagg was the interim chair with Ervin Kocjancic now formally elected. They have been very active, selecting workshops, reducing the budget of the committee as revenues were reduced, creating Meet the expert sessions, and finding ICS speakers. There is a streamlined application process, an eLearning subcommittee, and selected workshops. Training subcommittee surveyed trainee needs and a trainee session has been launched. Education Quality subcommittee produced a host style for ICS questions and produced some pod casts on good chairmanship available on ICS TV. Plans for 2014 looking at possibility of accredited courses and eLearning courses will be developed.

**Ethics Committee** – helped with disclosure statement, was very successful over past 2 annual meetings. A lunch symposium with an ICS guest speaker took place. The committee will need to recruit 3-4 new members. Ed Stanford, the chair, is proposing changes regarding the board of trustees which will be looked at. There will be a review of the disclosure slides and how to monitor. They assisted with the Code of Conduct.

**Fistula Committee** – which was chaired by Sherif Mourad who has now stepped down. Suzy ElNeil is the new Chair. 5<sup>th</sup> fistula workshop took place in Kampala, Uganda in June. Committee is now divided into a number of zones. A fact sheet was produced, updated for 2013. Planning to produce a dedicated video on the different aspects of the committee. More training courses are being planned with a proposal of a fistula centre.

**Neuro-urology Promotion Committee** – Tony Stone stepped down and Helmut Madersbacher was elected as interim chair until next year. A number of plans for 2014 were discussed in order to develop education and scientific material based on their mandate.

**Nursing Committee** – 2 working parties were active: care home and intra and postpartum. Committee represented the ICS at different courses throughout the world. Practise and research sub committees have been working on practise issues. Jennifer Skelly conducted a questionnaire on practise issues and the findings were presented at the nursing forum. Committee aiming to work with the education committee on a number of programmes and courses. Proposing a meeting at the next annual meeting in Brazil.

**Physiotherapy Committee** – number of meetings in the last 12 months. Organised physiotherapy roundtable meeting in Barcelona and contributed on a regular basis to the ICS newsletter. Sponsored the lunchtime pelvic floor muscle exercise session and contributed to the physiotherapy and nursing working party. Planning another round table, manuscripts for a state of the science seminar and will contribute to the continuing physiotherapy topics and speakers to multidisciplinary educational activities.

**Publications and Communications Committee** – key for engaging our stakeholders. Chaired by Jerzy Gajewski who has completed his term. ICS newsletter is popular. Additional communication tools such as eFlash, factsheets, and the website were finalised. The website has been updated this year and Roger Blackmore our website specialist should be congratulated. The rest of the website will be updated over time. Further developments will be completed during 2014, including ICS advertising.

**Urodynamics Committee** – Very active developing modules with the first being accepted for publication. 3 new modules will be developed and a strategy to endorse the modules is planned. In 2014 they will submit and present 5 new modules, assisting other committees in developing eTeaching modules and other educational activities.

End of Committee Reports

SH then confirmed all new elected positions for 2014. There were special committee extensions to terms which were approved by the board. Laurence Stewart was extended for a further year to aid the 2014 meeting due to vacancies within the Scientific committee. Jane Meijlink has a 1 year extension to ensure patient representation on the Standardisation Steering Committee. These positions were both approved.

SH then thanked and acknowledged Ajay Singla, who is now stepping down as honorary treasurer. Ajay was thanked for all his work over the years. Werner Schaefer was recognised for his contributions over 40 years with the ICS and who was a trustee and Education chair Jerzy Gajewski served in a number of positions, lastly as Publications

and Communications chair. Wendy Bower served as Children's and Adolescent committee chair. Sherif Mourad stepped down as Fistula Committee chair. Anthony Stone stepped down as Neuro-urology Promotion Committee chair. Manfred Stohr concluded his term as clinical representation of the scientific committee. Jane Meijlink was thanked for her excellent service as ICS News editor and member of the Publications and Communications committee. SH also thanked the trustees for their work and contributions.

SH outlined a number of ICS committee positions indicating expressions of interest need to be received by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014. There are currently 2 co-opted Board of Trustee positions for 2013/14. Applications for these vacancies should be submitted to ICS office by 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2013.

- b) **Announcement of approved bids for 2017 Annual Meeting.** 5 bids have been approved for 2017. However, more information is required before the bidding process can begin. This will be resolved shortly.
  - c) **2015 annual meeting.** SH confirmed that it had been previously agreed to hold a joint meeting with IUGA in 2015. Following a trustee meeting (Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2013) and having looked at the finances, a tough decision was made that the ICS could not have a combined meeting. This was based on advice received on potential revenues and attendees at the meeting. It was therefore agreed by the Board of Trustees that it would not be in the best interests of the organisation to hold a joint meeting. It has not yet been agreed what the alternative will be as the ICS will be looking at the options. Emmanuel Chartier - Kastler outlined the process of winning the annual meeting bid and expressed his surprise in having learnt earlier that day that the meeting had now been cancelled. EC-K also stated that he was very disappointed and believed the process to be unfair. EC-K confirmed that he would not be the meeting chair if it is decided to hold the meeting outside of France and would only complete the work that he had been elected to do. SH thanked Emmanuel for his comments. Harry Vervest, past president of IUGA, commented that they had been informed 4 hours ago and following on from a board meeting they had decided go ahead with their obligations to the French and will have their meeting in France. SH re-confirmed the reasons why this difficult decision had been made and apologised if this appeared severe. The decision was solely made with the best interests of the ICS in mind.
  - d) **2013 Awards and Fellowships winners** - SH congratulated the winners. The full list is available on the ICS website and via the office.
5. **ICS Honorary Treasurer's Report & Statement of Accounts – Ajay Singla** Ajay Singla (ICS Honorary Treasurer) confirmed that it would be his last report after 6 years and wanted to acknowledge his thanks to Avicia Burchill, Dan Snowdon and Nicola Walsh (the bookkeeper) for all their help over the years in support and putting the financial figures together. AS confirmed that the figures have been stable in spite of the global changes and economic recession which had been witnessed by all. AS presented the financial figures. AS outlined the annual meeting income and confirmed that no profit

was made in Beijing 2012 due to the amount of industry financial support, the lower number of delegates attending and the higher level of expenses.

John Heesakkers stated that he felt a further explanation should be given regarding the cancellation of the joint meeting, as meetings in Europe were very profitable. AS confirmed that it was purely down to the financial aspect that this decision had been made. SH confirmed that the figures were looked at very carefully from the meeting planners and as soon as a decision had been made, Emmanuel was informed of this decision. SH also outlined the responsibilities of the trustees and confirmed that although it was not the right decision politically it was the right decision financially. Sherif Mourad also reiterated how difficult the decision had been, but was justified. John Heesakkers confirmed that he was sure the decision was right, but not the process. Chris Fry asked whether there was information available regarding the current balance sheet as this seems to be essential to the decision to cancel the joint meeting. AS confirmed that this was available if required and was sent to all ICS members before the AGM. Nina Davis stated that if we were talking about potential significant changes with the ICS, a more detailed balance sheet should be available and if the membership voted to hold a meeting in Lyon, then the trustees should make every effort to ensure the meeting takes place. AS reconfirmed that full financial information is available to all members via the annual report. Nucleio Lemos expressed his concern regarding public relations and communication from the Board of Trustees to members. NL was sympathetic but confirmed that he believed a lot of stress could be avoided if the communication was better, currently giving the impression that ICS is no longer a democratic society. Tamara Dickinson stated that having been at a trustee level in another organisation and having had to make very difficult decisions about budgets and what is best for membership, that she appreciated the harsh decision the trustees have had to make. TD also confirmed that having 2 separate meetings, industry would not provide equal sponsorship for both meetings. SH confirmed that all comments were taken seriously and full details will be provided. Peter Rosier requested if 'step by step' information could be provided in the future, so the membership could understand better. SH confirmed this would happen. Diane Newman stated that Beijing was a year ago and so the board should have known about this earlier and asked why it took so long to make a decision. There was a question raised by Chris Fry concerning the presentation of the accounts and whether a balance sheet of accounts should have been presented for approval by its members. AS confirmed that he didn't believe this was a requirement. Ed Stanford stated that he has received feedback that there are too many meetings in our speciality and questioned the funding available for an individual meeting.

After some explanation the company's financial statements for the year ending 31 December 2012 together with the Trustees' Annual Report and the Auditor's report thereon were laid before the meeting and IT WAS RESOLVED that they be and are hereby adopted. The information is available on the ICS web site.

6. **ICS Annual Meeting Scientific Chair - Montserrat Espuna.** MS gave a review of the abstracts figures from 2000 to 2013 and confirmed that 2013 had been the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest number of abstracts accepted, 84% in total. MS thanked the scientific committee for

their hard work in producing this year's programme. Tamara Dickinson congratulated the committee on producing such a wonderful programme, however she felt that it was a shame that the abstract that won the best clinical prize had been presented in a very small plenary session on Friday and would hope, as other societies do, that the best abstract prize winners be presented together at a plenary on the first day of the meeting. SH confirmed that the scientific committee would look at that point.

**7. Any Other Business**

There was no other business, so the meeting was adjourned.

**Date of next meeting: 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2014, Rio de Janeiro.**