



WORLD FEDERATION OF SOCIETIES OF INTENSIVE AND CRITICAL CARE MEDICINE

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY 1 – TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15TH 2019

12.30 to 14.00 – Room 220,
Melbourne Convention Centre, Melbourne, Australia

Present from the Executive and Council:

Janice Zimmerman (President); Arzu Topeli* (Treasurer); Djillali Annane*; Lluís Blanch*; Assem Abdel Razek*; Obashina Ogunbiyi*; Gene Sung; Elisa Estenssoro*; Kapil Zirpe*; Chae-man Lim*.

* indicates where a Council member is also a Delegate representing their national scientific society

Apologies for absence: John Myburgh; Masaji Nishimura; Ignacio Martin-Loeches.

Delegates representing the following member societies were in attendance (n= 67):

ANZICS	Stephen Warrillow; Anthony Holley; Mary White;
Argentina	Elisa Estenssoro
Bangladesh	Mohammad Omar Faruq; Abu Reza Mohammad Nooruzzaman
Belize	Jorge Hidalgo; Gerhaldine Morazan
Bolivia	Adrián Avila Hilari
Brazil	Fernando Bozza; Fernando Suparregui Dias; Flávia Ribeiro Machado
Canada	Claudio Martin; Alison Fox-Robichaud
Colombia	Agamenon Quintero
Dominican Republic	Antonio Gandra
Egypt	Assem Abdel Razek
FEPIMCTI	Nestor Raimondi
France	Djillali Annane; Xavier Monnet; Elisa Gouvea Bogossian; Wasineenart Mongkolpun
Honduras	Flavia Moreira
Hong Kong	Gordon Choi
India	Kapil Zirpe; Atul Kulkanri; J V Divatia; Chirag Matravadia
Indonesia	Rudy Manalu
Ireland	Catherine Motherway
Japan	Shigeki Fujitani; Hiroshi Morimatsu; Moritoki Egi; Shinya Miura
Kenya	David Misango
Korea	Chae-man Lim; Ho-geol Ryu; Jae-Seung Jung
Mexico	José Javier Elizalde González; Jorge R. Sánchez Medina
Mongolia	Altanchimeg Sainvaya
Nepal	Tamanna Bajracharya (non-voting)
Nicaragua	Mirtha Miraglia
Nigeria	Obashina Ogunbiyi
Romania	Dorel Sandesc; Daiana Izabela Toma
South Africa	Dean Gopalan; Isabel Coetzee; Stephilia Tshukutsoane
Spain	Lluís Blanch; Gonzalo Hernández
Sweden	Owain Thomas; Kristin Savolainen; Tim Baker; Christian Rylander
Taiwan (TSECCM)	Wei-Mau Choi; Tony Yu-Chang Yeh
Taiwan (TSCCM)	Chong-Jen Yu; Huey-Wen Yien
Turkey (TSMSICM)	Melda Turkoglu; Defne Altintas; Arzu Topeli Iskit
USA (SCCM)	Heatherlee Bailey; Lewis Kaplan; Javier Perez-Fernandez; Ruth Kleinpell
WFCCN	Paul Fulbrook

There were also 3 non-voting observers in attendance.

The President opened the meeting at 12.45 by welcoming all delegates with some brief introductory remarks.

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the 2nd General Assembly held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on November 9th 2017 be approved. The minutes were unanimously approved with no objections subject to a further review to reflect the attendance of Delegates representing Mexico. The attendance record will be checked to determine if the Delegates from Mexico signed the record and the minutes will be corrected if the review shows this is necessary.

It was proposed and seconded that the membership of the following societies be ratified. This was approved unanimously with no objections and the following societies were therefore elected to membership of the WFSICCM;

Critical Care Society of Namibia	(approved by Council 18.01.2018)
Critical Care Society of Kenya	(approved by Council 16.04.2018)
Taiwan Society of Critical Care Medicine	(approved by Council 17.06.2018)

The President introduced all the 13 candidates who had been nominated for election to Council by inviting them to stand and be recognised. A ballot was held to determine the 7 new Council members to serve from 2019 to 2023 (4 years) and the following were duly elected;

Mary White	Australia
Jorge Hidalgo	Belize
Fernando Suparregui Dias	Brazil
Shigeki Fujitani	Japan
Jose Elizalde-Gonzalez	Mexico
Chong-Jen Yu	Taiwan
Ruth Kleinpell	WFCCN

The President briefly presented the rationale for each of the 3 resolutions being proposed for approval by the General Assembly as follows:

Resolution #0001 – to make amendments to the current Constitution

A majority of the changes being proposed were a general updating and removing some obsolete statutes/clauses. A substantive amendment was the creation of the new position of President-Elect. This position was intended to provide greater continuity in leadership following the reduction in the term of office of Council members from 8 years to 4 years. Council members having served for 2 years would be eligible for election as President-Elect and so by exception would require their period in office as a Council member to be extended to a total of 6 years. The President invited questions and comments but there being none, resolution #0001 was proposed, seconded and unanimously approved with no objections.

Resolution #0002 – to change the name

Following a review of the official names used all society members, the use in the society names of the descriptive terms "intensive" and "critical" and a subsequent period of consultation with member societies, Council made a recommendation to change the name of the Federation. The President invited questions and comments but there being none resolution #0002 was proposed, seconded and unanimously approved with no objections. With immediate effect and in future, the Official Title of the organisation will be World Federation of Intensive and Critical Care (WFICC).

Resolution #0003 – to change the domicile and to make any further and necessary changes to the Constitution

The President provided some background. An application to the UK authorities for the granting of charitable status had been declined and Council had made an assessment of the likely tax implications for continuing to use the UK as the host domicile for the WFICC. Several options were assessed and other professional medical organisations were consulted to identify the most appropriate model for the most tax efficient operations. Council were recommending the establishment of the WFICC as an international not-for-profit association in Belgium and seeking the approval of the General Assembly to make any consequential changes to the Constitution to give legal effect to this transfer of domicile. The President reassured Delegates that the content of the constitution would largely remain unchanged but there would be some changes.

A substantive example was the requirement to hold an annual General Assembly to ensure compliance with Belgian law. To accommodate this requirement the updated (Belgian) Constitution was being drafted to allow the annual General Assembly, in the intervening years between World Congress, to be held via video conferencing. The President invited questions or comments;

Paul Fulbrook (WFCCN) questioned about whether the new Constitution, when completed, would require further ratification by a subsequent General Assembly. The President responded by saying that by approving this resolution today, Delegates were being invited to empower Council to make the necessary changes to ensure full compliance with Belgium law. In any event, Societies would receive a copy of the new Constitution.

Djillali Annane (France) enquired about quantifying the likely tax liability of remaining in the UK and the potential impact on financial resources. The President responded that annual tax burden had been assessed at around \$30,000USD. Council members had concluded that this was not a wise use of financial resources and that this had prompted the search for alternatives. The President further responded that Council was keen to maximise the finances available for future strategic projects which provided some additional justification of the need for change.

Catherine Motherway (Ireland) enquired about the financial implications of producing and reporting annual audit information and accounts to the authorities in Belgium. The President and CEO confirmed that annual accounts were already produced and independently examined by a UK Accountant and the reporting requirements in Belgium were similar. Any additional or adverse financial impacts were unlikely.

There being no further questions or comments, resolution #0003 was proposed, seconded and unanimously approved with no objections. The President thanked Delegates for their support for all these resolutions and for endorsing the many work hours which Council members had invested.

The President proposed and it was seconded that the Council recommendation for the Turkish Society of Medical and Surgical Intensive Care Medicine (TSMSICM) to host the 16th World Congress in 2023 be approved. This was accepted and unanimously approved with no objections. The President extended her congratulations to the TSMSICM and its members.

The President reported to the General Assembly with the key points being as follows:

- Members of the 2017 – 2019 Council were all thanked for their contributions and those members concluding their term in office at this General Assembly were presented with tokens of appreciation by the President;
- The general focus of Council's activities since the last General Assembly has been to modernise and to prepare for a future as a global, professional organisation. Evidence of modernisation includes a new logo, a new website with improved functionality, the adoption of a new name and a Committee structure to focus in specific areas such as education and strategic projects.
- The enhanced professionalism included more prudent financial management with a reserve fund to cover any unexpected events and the adoption of new policies and procedures covering conflict of interest, conference and guideline endorsements and future World Congress. A proposal process will be introduced for the submission of strategic projects to request WFICC support and to ensure compatibility with the WFICC mission and values;
- Council recently approved the "WFICC Awards" to be presented for the first time at the Closing Ceremony in Melbourne and these awards will be a feature of all future World Congress. The awards for best poster and best oral will target submissions from low and middle-income countries by young contributors (within 5 years of completing speciality training). The prize will be a certificate, waiver of Registration Fees for the next World Congress and a travel grant.
- Looking to the future, Council would be working on diversity policy, collaborating with the iWIN initiative and identifying some young intensivists to assist in enhancing the WFICC social media platform.

The President invited questions or comments;

Melda Turkoglu (Turkey) emphasised the need for more support for research activities and the important coordinating Role which the WFICC could play in societies working together. Dorel Sandesc (Romania) enquired about the number of attendees at this World Congress and how many countries were represented. Stephen Warrillow (ANZICS and Joint-Convenor) responded that there were 2400 attendees from 85 countries. Dorel Sandesc noted he and a colleague were the only representatives from societies in from Eastern Europe and encouraged more work in engaging with societies in this region and thereby making the WFICC even more representative of global intensive and critical care. The President responded that one action point for the new Council to address was some "blind spots" including the creative use of video conferencing. David Misango (Kenya) noted that formal and structured training programs were being implemented in India and Israel and asked whether these could be used as a model for the WFICC? The President responded that work was on-going to develop a WFICC database of training opportunities that were already available.

It was proposed and seconded that the President's report be accepted, and this was approved unanimously with no objections.

The Treasurer (Arzu Topeli) reported to the General Assembly. The financial stability of the organisation has continued to improve since the last report to the General Assembly in 2017. Expenses were stable and well controlled with income increasing due largely to the highly successful 13th World Congress in 2017 in Rio de Janeiro. The Treasurer expressed her appreciation to the Associacao de Medicina Intensiva Brasileira for hosting such a financially successful event. Future financial planning will focus on consolidating this stability by relocating the legal and financial functions to Belgium, the establishment of a reserve fund and the development of an investment strategy. The Treasurer invited questions. Owain Thomas (Sweden) enquired about size of the reserve fund and how much would be required? The President responded that the plan was for the reserve to be sufficient to fund 2 years of operations.

It was proposed and seconded that the Treasurer's report be accepted, and this was approved unanimously with no objections.


The President invited any further contributions from Delegates but none were forthcoming.

The next meeting will be the 2nd General Assembly at 17.45hrs on Wednesday, October 16th in the Room 220 of the Melbourne Convention Centre.

There being no other business the President closed the meeting at 13.40.



Janice Zimmerman
President



Jorge Hidalgo
Secretary General