Present from the Executive and Council:

Janice Zimmerman (President); Arzu Topeli* (Treasurer); Djillali Annane*; Lluis Blanch*; Assem Abdel Razek*; Obashina Ogubiyi*; 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
Argentina
Bangladesh
Belize
Bolivia
Brazil
Canada
Colombia
Dominican Republic
Egypt
FEPIMCTI
France
Honduras
Hong Kong
India
Indonesia
Ireland
Japan
Kenya
Korea
Mexico
Mongolia
Nepal
Nicaragua
Nigeria
Romania
South Africa
Spain
Sweden
Taiwan (TSECCM)
Taiwan (TSCCM)
Turkey (TSMSICM)
USA (SCCM)
WFCCN

Stephen Warrillow; Anthony Holley; Mary White;
Elisa Estenssoro
Mohammad Omar Faruq; Abu Reza Mohammad Nooruzzaman
Jorge Hidalgo; Gerhaldine Morazan
Adrián Avila Hilarí
Fernando Bozza; Fernando Suparregui Dias; Flávia Ribeiro Machado
Claudio Martin; Alison Fox-Robichaud
Agamenon Quintero
Antonio Gandra
Assem Abdel Razek
Nestor Raimondi
Djillali Annane; Xavier Monnet; Elisa Gouvea Bogossian; Wasineenart Mongkolpun
Flavia Moreira
Gordon Choi
Kapil Zirpe; Atul Kulkarni; J V Divatia; Chirag Matravadi
Rudy Manalu
Catherine Motherway
Shigeki Fujitani; Hiroshi Morimatsu; Moritoki Egi; Shinya Miura
David Misango
Chae-man Lim; Ho-geol Ryu; Jae-Seung Jung
José Javier Elizalde González; Jorge R. Sánchez Medina
Altanchimeg Sainvaya
Tamanna Bajracharya (non-voting)
Mirtha Miraglia
Obashina Ogubiyi
Dorel Sandesc; Dalana Izabela Toma
Dean Gopalani; Isabel Coetzee; Stephilia Tshukutsoane
Lluis Blanch; Gonzalo Hernández
Owain Thomas; Kristin Savolainen; Tim Baker; Christian Rylander
Wel-Mau Choi; Tony Yu-Chang Yeh
Chong-Jen Yu; Huey-Wen Yien
Melda Turkoglu; Defne Altintas; Arzu Topeli Iskit
Heatherlee Bailey; Lewis Kaplan; Javier Perez-Fernandez; Ruth Kleinpell
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)
- 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 (WFICCC).

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 WFICCC. 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 WFICCC 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 Belgian 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 specialty 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 WFICCC 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-Convener) 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 WFICCC 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 WFICCC? The President responded that work was on-going to develop a WFICCC 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.

[Signatures]

Janice Zimmerman
President

Jorge Hidalgo
Secretary General