



EFIM
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President: Dr. Frank Bosch (Netherlands)
President Elect: Prof. Runolfur Palsson (Iceland)
Past President: Prof. Nica Cappellini (Italy)
Secretary General: Dr. Pedro Conthe (Spain)
Treasurer: Dr. Antonio Martins Baptista (Portugal)

EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF INTERNAL MEDICINE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 1 September 2016, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Minutes

General Assembly

1. Welcome (Frank Bosch)

F. Bosch welcomed the participants, expressing his gratitude to all the Board members who travelled to Amsterdam to the 1st congress organised entirely by EFIM. Frank was very happy to inform the participants that due to such a high interest, the registrations for the Amsterdam congress had to be closed which proved that EFIM is a strong and attractive organisation.

2. Report of the Treasurer (Antonio Martins Baptista)

A. Baptista presented the finances for 2015, informing the participants that EFIM will end the year with a small deficit of 14,951.83€ due to increased expenses associated with the EJIM online access, website projects and marketing. Furthermore, A. Baptista presented the membership situation in 2015, resulting in an income of 84,340.25€. The Hellenic Society of Internal Medicine did not pay their membership dues due for 2015. As per the approval of the General Assembly, the membership of the Hellenic Society was deactivated.

The General Assembly approved the accounts for 2015 unanimously.

A. Baptista presented the current situation of the 2016 accounts up to 30th of June. If the congress makes a small profit as forecasted in the budget, EFIM Accounts for 2016 will end up with positive results.

The 2017 accounts were presented with a small profit, depending on the income to be received from EFIM's 2017 congress in Milan.

Members of the General Assembly officially approved the EFIM Budget for 2017 by the required majority.

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3. Treasurer Re-Election, candidate: Antonio Martins Baptista (Frank Bosch)

F. Bosch informed the members of the EFIM General Assembly that there were no other candidates who applied for the position of EFIM Treasurer

Voting Treasures: Antonio Martins Baptista was re-elected by the members of the EFIM General Assembly with unanimous vote. A. Baptista will serve on the EFIM Executive Committee in the position of EFIM Treasurer for the next 2 years.

A. Baptista thanked the General Assembly members for the trust shown and he added that he will do his utmost to improve EFIM's financial situation.

4. Election, EFIM President-Elect, candidate: Nicola Montano (Frank Bosch)

F. Bosch invited Nicola Montano to present his candidacy for President-Elect. N. Montano is currently Associate Professor of Internal Medicine at the University of Milan, Director of the Division of Internal Medicine & Immunology at Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico in Milan, and Director of the Residency Programme in Emergency Medicine at the same institution. Nicola's research activities are focused on cardiovascular medicine as well as on clinical methodological issues. N. Montano has been a member of the Executive Council of the Italian Society of Internal Medicine from 2009 - 2013, on behalf of which he organised and led the EFIM Summer School in Sardinia during the last 3 years. His vision is for EFIM to represent "the connective tissue", allowing each single voice to become louder and stronger. EFIM should be a "permanent lab" of discussions on four main pillars: 1) educational training (pre- and post-graduation); 2) healthcare organisation; 3) professionalism and ethical issues; and 4) clinical research.

Voting President-Elect: Members of the General Assembly elected Nicola Montano with unanimous vote for the position of EFIM President - Elect for a duration of 2 years.

5. Granting discharge from liability of Executive Committee members for the accounting ended at 31 December 2015

EFIM Executive Committee members were granted discharge by the members of the General Assembly for the accounting which ended 31 December 2015, unanimously.

6. Handover of the Presidency (Frank Bosch and Runolfur Palsson)

EFIM President, F. Bosch handed the presidency to Runolfur Palsson reflecting back in EFIM history by conveying a word of gratitude to all Past- Presidents of EFIM, who devoted time and effort to shape and promote the organisation through the years. Runolfur Palsson, the new EFIM President, acknowledged the great contribution of Frank Bosch to EFIM as well as stressing the need for further development and progress. Runolfur emphasized the importance of EFIM future congresses, implementation of the European Curriculum and harmonisation of postgraduate medical education and qualification at the European level, the Choosing Wisely

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Campaign and the Medical Professionalism Project as important projects that EFIM should concentrate in the future.

- Runolfur Palsson has been officially appointed **EFIM President** for the term of two years, up to the General Assembly in 2018
- Frank Bosch has been appointed **EFIM Past-President** for the term of two years, up to the General Assembly in 2018.

Frank, Runolfur and all the EFIM members congratulated Nica Cappellini for the dedication and support she has given to EFIM over the past 6 years, as she stepped down from her position as Past-President and will no longer be a member of the Executive Committee.

7. Power of Attorney with regard of the administrative aspects involved with the daily management

For the duration of two years (meaning until EFIM's General Assembly in 2018) a special power of attorney is granted to EFIM Executive Manager, Mrs. Aneta Trajkovska, residing at Diegemstraat 87, 1830 Machelen (date of birth, 15/11/1974), to execute and perform all and any administrative duties and aspects that are involved and comes with the daily management of EFIM as an international non-profit association.

8. EFIM Bylaws (Frank Bosch)

F. Bosch presented the new version of the Bylaws following the adoption of EFIM new statutes in June. The new Bylaws regulate the functioning of the Federation and its bodies in general and are to be read with the statutes which were approved by all EFIM members' societies. Frank asked the members to give their comments, to discuss and send their suggestions.

The new version of EFIM Bylaws was approved by the members of the General Assembly.

9. European Curriculum Update (Rijk Gans)

R. Gans announced that the European Curriculum of Internal Medicine has been completed and is awaiting approval by the European Union of Medical Specialists Council, UEMS. The next step will be implementing the curriculum in the European countries. Rijk informed the participants about future projects that have been discussed at recent European Board of Internal Medicine meetings. One of the project is a European Education Centre for Internal Medicine with an idea to set up a European network for data sharing. Another important project is a European Diploma through the Council for European Specialty Medical Assessment, CESMA. R. Gans

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presented a diagram demonstrating the European Board of Internal Medicine future projects. Further information will follow shortly.

10. EJIM Progress report (Pier Mannucci)

P. Mannucci presented the progress report for the European Journal of Internal Medicine and introduced the editorial board. Prof Mannucci informed the General Assembly that the number of submissions is increasing steadily with a 20% rise compared with the previous year. Leading countries in submitting papers are Italy, followed by Spain, Turkey, then Taiwan, China and the others. At the same time, the number of rejected papers increased due to greater emphasis on the quality of the articles. EJIM currently ranks 30th out of 151 journals in the category Medicine, General & Internal with an impact factor dropping slightly in 2015 to 2.591. EJIM remains the flagship of EFIM and is the official journal for several national societies.

11. Call for EJIM Editor-in-Chief (Runolfur Palsson)

P. Mannucci informed the members of the General Assembly that his mandate as Editor-in-Chief is going to end shortly, prompting a call for EJIM Editor-in-Chief. R. Palsson added that there will be further information circulated following the announcement.

12. Case Report Journal Progress report (John Kellett)

J. Kellett informed the members about the success of the European Journal of Case Reports in Internal Medicine and introduced the editorial board. 7 issues were published in 2015, including total of 51 accepted articles. The rate of submitted articles is growing. Portugal is leading in the articles submitted, followed by Spain, Italy, UK and the rest of the European countries. The average processing time from the submission of an article through the decision making and online publication is about 4 weeks. Most of the traffic from the journal comes from the banners and the links that send traffic to the EJCIRM site. 11 EJCIRM papers were cited. While EJCIRM is indexed in Google Scholar, approvals are awaited from the following: SOLAR CNR, SHERPA/ROMEO, DOAJ, SCOPUS and PubMed Central. J. Kellett informed the General Assembly that EJCIRM has been promoted actively during the European congresses, EFIM schools, national society congresses and local events. Facebook draws high traffic to the site and promotes newly published articles and events, including open discussions. John is very proud of what EJCIRM has achieved so far and how the journal has developed. He proposed involvement of new experienced editors in the future.

13. Candidates for European School of Internal Medicine, ESIM Winter School 2018 -2019:

Slovakia (Ivica Lazurova)

I. Lazurova, the President of the Slovak Society of Internal Medicine, presented Slovakia as a candidate for the ESIM Winter School 2018 - 2019.

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I. Lazurova gave a brief presentation, introducing Kosice as the destination for the winter school. I. Lazurova has a long experience in organising postgraduate courses and congresses in Slovakia and Europe.

The proposal included administrative support by the Progress Company which is recognised for being very experienced in organisation of congresses and European postgraduate courses. Lectures, seminars and workshops would take place at the Kosice University, while the centrally located Hotel Yasmin was selected for accommodating the residents. The budget will be maintained at 995€ per resident covering the usual cost of the venue, accommodation, teaching materials and social programme.

Greece (George Dalekos)

G. Dalekos presented the proposal from the Northern Greece Society of Internal Medicine to host the winter school in Larissa.

Larissa is located 160 km from Thessaloniki, the capital city of Thessaly region. The school will be led by G. Dalekos as the ESIM Director, in close collaboration with a local organising committee comprised of a team of the Department of Medicine and Research Lab of Internal Medicine at the Medical School of the University of Thessaly. 2 central hotels were selected to accommodate the residents, while the Mill of Pappas conference centre has been proposed for the ESIM lectures. G. Dalekos presented draft programme and proposed various social activities. Conferre Ltd. has been selected to organise the school as a company with a vast experience in the organisation of medical congresses both at a national and international level. R. Palsson congratulated G. Dalekos on presenting such a complete programme. N. Montano proposed to consider Greece as destination for the next summer school.

Finland (Kim Petterson - Fernholm)

K. Petterson - Fernholm presented the proposal from the Finnish Society of Internal Medicine to host ESIM winter school in the Finnish Lapland.

Prof. Risto Kaaja the President of the Finnish Society of Internal Medicine, will take the lead as the director of ESIM Winter, and he will be supported by Dr. Ieva Ruza and Dr. Marit Graner as co-directors. Kim presented the draft budget, maintaining the usual registration fee of 995€ per resident, and the draft programme which included lectures, clinico-pathological conferences, clinical case presentations and workshops. Hotel Hullu Poro in Levi has been selected as the venue for the winter school, located within 15 minutes' drive from the Kittilä airport with regular flights from Helsinki. K. Petterson - Fernholm invited the General Assembly members to select Levi and Hullu Poro as a venue for the ESIM Winter School in 2018-2019.

Members of the General Assembly voted according to the new voting structure.

32 votes were received for the proposal presented by the Finnish Society.

6 votes were received for the proposal presented by the Slovak Society.

4 votes were received for the proposal presented by the Northern Greek Society.

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The Finnish Society of Internal Medicine won the bid to host ESIM Winter School 2018-2019 (-20).

R. Palsson thanked the Slovak and the Greek society for their proposals to host ESIM winter and congratulated K. Petterson - Fernholm and the Finnish Society inviting the General Assembly members to send residents to the ESIM Winter in Finland 2018 - 2019-20.

14. Progress Report - European School of Internal Medicine, ESIM Summer School 2016 (Nicola Montano)

Another excellent European Summer School of Internal Medicine has taken place in Costa Rei, Sardinia under the leadership of N. Montano and the Italian Society of Internal Medicine. This year, the school hosted two special guests from the USA, Prof. Rita Redberg and Prof. John Ioannidis, addressing the editorial process, how to improve clinical research, how to publish as young physician and Less is More. 47 residents from 23 different countries participated in the summer school. The programme was carefully prepared and offered the participants a variety of topics. Excellent lectures were given by leading specialists. Report written by Ewelina Biscup can be downloaded from EFIM website at:

<http://www.efim.org/events/schools/european-school-internal-medicine-summer-2016>

N. Montano announced that the following ESIM Summer School will take place in the Netherlands in June 2017, under the leadership of Prof. Mark Kramer.

15. Progress Report - European School of Internal Medicine, ESIM Summer School 2017 (Jan Willem Elte)

J.W. Elte presented the progress on the summer school that will take place for the 1st time in the Netherlands in 2017, introducing Prof. Mark Kramer as a director. Mark Kramer will be supported by Dr. Hein Muller, Dr. Jan Willem Elte and Prof. Nicola Montano as co-directors. J. W. Elte announced the theme of the summer school "Harmony" and presented the following workshops/seminars:

- Shared decision making
- Multidisciplinary work in harmony
- Clinical reasoning
- Basic problems in internal medicine
- Patient care in a virtual world

J.W. Elte gave preview of the venue taking place at the Akoesticum in the city of Ede and proposed several social activities for the residents, inviting the national societies to send residents and propose good speakers.

16. Progress Report - European School of Internal Medicine, ESIM Winter School 2016 (Ieva Ruza)

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I. Ruza gave brief overview of the winter school which was held in Riga in February 2016. 47 participants from 21 country attended the school. The Foundation for the Development of Internal Medicine in Europe (FDIME) granted two residents with a bursary: 1 from Morocco and 1 from Lithuania. 18 faculty members (16 international) gave presentations that achieved very high evaluation results.

The school budget ended with a positive balance without any involvement of the local society or industry sponsorship. I. Ruza informed the General Assembly that the Ultrasound Workshop organised for the residents received great interest. I. Ruza thanked everyone for the support and the great success of the 2nd winter school in Riga and invited the General Assembly members to attend the last winter school to be held in Riga from 5-11 February 2017.

17. European Congress of Internal medicine, ECIM 2016, Amsterdam (Frank Bosch)

F. Bosch informed the General Assembly that M. Kramer sent his apologies for not being able to attend the General Assembly and he welcomed all the participants to the Opening Session of the ECIM 2016, starting on 2 September. F. Bosch gave brief summary on the congress, informing the members that 1243 registrations had been received from 65 different countries. The largest number of participants were coming from Portugal (319) and Turkey (273), followed by Spain (134), Netherlands (85), Romania (47) and the UK (42). Registrations had to be put on hold in August due to limited capacity. A total of 1023 abstracts from authors in 45 different countries were accepted for electronic poster presentations during the congress. The greatest number of submitted abstracts came from Portugal, Spain and Turkey, followed by Tunisia, Greece and the UK. A total of 12 plenary sessions were organised, 24 parallel sessions and 2 workshops to be given by well-known clinicians from around the world. A separate ultrasound workshop was organised to take place at the Amsterdam University on Sunday, following the congress.

F. Bosch thanked all EFIM member societies for encouraging their members to register, attend and contribute to such a successful congress.

18. Upcoming congresses:

European Congress of Internal Medicine, ECIM 2017 Milan (Nica Cappellini)

N. Cappellini informed the General Assembly that the 2017 European Congress of Internal Medicine will be held in Milan on 1-2 September. The selected venue is Milan Congress Centre, although this has to be confirmed as the Milan University has been introduced as an alternative option.

N. Cappellini asked the participants to spread the word and invite the members of their societies to register and attend Milan congress for another high level scientific internal medicine meeting. N. Cappellini announced that Milan's 1st Announcement is ready and it will be circulated to the national societies electronically.

The selected PCO, AIM International, will continue the collaboration with EFIM and will be responsible for the organisation of the congress in Milan.

N. Cappellini invited all EFIM members to be actively involved and to share the information about the ECIM 2017 in Milan.

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European Congress of Internal Medicine, ECIM 2018 (Runolfur Palsson)

R. Palsson informed the General Assembly members that there are ongoing discussions about the 2018 congress and that the destination will be announced soon. Further information about the 2018 congress will be circulated during the next EFIM meeting.

19. Reports of Working Groups:

Adult Vaccination Campaign in Europe, ADVICE (Serhat Unal)

S. Unal presented the progress from the ADVICE WG, from the establishment of the WG back in 2013 to the current stage. S. Unal introduced Dr. Lale Ozisik, who attended on behalf of EFIM a workshop on the joint procurement of medical countermeasures/high-level hearing on the implementation of the European Council recommendation on seasonal influenza vaccination in Luxembourg 2015. Following the meeting, a surveys on adult vaccination has been prepared and is currently been tested by the Turkish Society of Internal Medicine. The members of the ADVICE WG attended few other European events, including the Adult Immunization Advocacy Summit convened by the International Federation of Aging, IFA in Rome.

A position paper has been drafted and it is under revision to be published. The aim of the ADVICE WG is to determine the awareness and perception among internal medicine specialists with regard to adult vaccination. In the meantime, an article has been published in the European Journal of Case Reports in Internal Medicine, EJCRIM on ADVICE for healthier life: Adult Vaccination Campaign in Europe. S. Unal presented the highlights, stating that EFIM can have leading responsibilities in Europe's wide initiative to raise awareness of adult vaccination. S. Unal concluded the presentation by introducing the members of the WG and invited the members of the General Assembly to join the ADVICE WG.

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20. Report - Foundation for the Development of Internal Medicine in Europe, FDIME & Clinical Research Course 2016 (Daniel Sereni)

D. Sereni presented the Foundation for the Development of Internal Medicine in Europe, FDIME main activities, including the ESIM bursaries, clinical research seminar, support of the EFIM Exchange programme, and the research grants. D. Sereni introduced the recipient of the 2015 research grant for the study of rare diseases in adults, Dr. Stéphanie Guillet, who will be officially awarded the grant during the congress award ceremony. D. Sereni provided an update on the clinical research seminar that takes place in July of each year in Paris with the support of Amgen Europe. D. Sereni added that the evaluation score from the clinical research seminar is rather high with an average of 3.40 out of 4, and the residents attending would prefer to have the duration of the seminar longer with greater interaction and more workshops. FDIME granted 4 ESIM bursaries, 2 to residents from Lithuania and Morocco to attend the winter school and 2 to residents from Serbia and Tunisia for attending the summer school.

D. Sereni presented the future projects of the Foundation including a benefit concert in collaboration with Geneva University Hospital, the new webmaster, the introduction of social media and the new approach for visibility and fundraising.

21. Report from the Assembly of Young Internists (Frauke Weidanz)

F. Weidanz, the Chair of the Assembly of Young Internists, gave a short overview of the current progress. F. Weidanz presented the design of the new Young Internists logo and informed the General Assembly on the Young Internists elections that took place during the Assembly. The newly elected Young Internist' Chair is Dr. Ieva Ruza, who will take over from Frauke during the 3rd EFIM Day in Brussels, March 2017. Dr. Ricardo Fernandez from Portugal has been elected a new member of the Young Internists Subcommittee. Young Internists Facebook page popularity is growing attracting large numbers of followers in the first few days, demonstrating great success.

Furthermore, F. Weidanz gave a short overview on the preparation for the Young Internists Day during the upcoming congress, informing the General Assembly on the "end-of-life decision" debate between European countries, and a very interactive session on the philosophical and psychological aspects of clinical decision making. A new session was added to the Young Internists Corner named "Meet the Expert" where speakers and delegates can enjoy more intimate and informal atmosphere. The usual case report competition has been organised, attracting over 400 submissions which included some great cases. F. Weidanz added that EFIM Young Internists have been very active and worked already on the new ideas for the next year's congress in Milan.

22. EFIM Day in Brussels, 17 March 2017 (Runolfur Palsson)

R. Palsson invited the members of the EFIM General Assembly to attend the 3rd EFIM Day to be held on **Friday 17 March 2017 at the EFIM Headquarters in Brussels.**

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23. Next EFIM General Assembly - 31 August, European Congress of Internal Medicine 2017, Milan

The following General Assembly will take place on 31 August, 2017 during the European Congress of Internal Medicine in Milan.

24. Any other business

- EFIM Endorsement Guidelines

EFIM is often asked to endorse educational and scientific meetings and to be able to maintain certain standards of performance and scientific quality in every initiative, EFIM produced endorsement guidelines. F. Bosch presented the draft of EFIM Endorsement Guidelines adding that EFIM will carefully evaluate each request before granting the endorsement. Furthermore, EFIM endorsement policy will involve financial compensation for endorsing a meeting of scientific and educational purpose, depending on the event category.

S. Unal commented that EFIM has to be very careful when endorsing other events in internal medicine.

Members of the General Assembly approved EFIM Endorsement Guidelines.

Action: Aneta will prepare the endorsement application form and will communicate this to the following societies who had applied for EFIM Endorsement:

- Czech Society of Internal Medicine
- Greek Society of Internal Medicine
- Polish Society of Internal Medicine

Done - Endorsement granted

- Argentinian Society of Internal Medicine - request for membership

R. Palsson informed the General Assembly members that the Argentinian Society is interested in joining EFIM and attaining close collaboration with EFIM in the future. According to the EFIM Statutes, the Argentinian society qualifies in the category Associate Members.

There were no objections received from the members of the General Assembly on the admission of the Argentinian Society of Internal Medicine as EFIM Associate Member. The Argentinian Society of Internal Medicine will be admitted into EFIM members as of January 2017.

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