



EFIM
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President: Prof. Dror Dicker (Israel)
President Elect: Prof. Ricardo Gómez Huelgas (Spain)
Past President: Prof. Nicola Montano (Italy)
Secretary General: Prof. Xavier Corbella (Spain)
Treasurer: Prof. Valentin Kokorin (Russian Federation)

EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF INTERNAL MEDICINE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 18 March 2021, Virtual Meeting

Minutes

General Assembly

1. Welcome (N. Montano)

N Montano welcomed the members of EFIM General Assembly to the second EFIM virtual Assembly. Nicola congratulated all EFIM internists for the hard work in the last year and thanked them for all their support in the past two years.

2. EFIM President report (N. Montano)

N Montano presented the Annual Report of 2020, thanking the members of the EFIM Executive Committee and the Executive Manager for their hard work and commitment shown in the past few months, meeting regularly via Zoom. N Montano thanked the GA Members for their support in the past two years emphasizing that many projects were accomplished. N Montano focused on the online webinars organised to share the experiences in the management of Covid-19 and informed the GA representatives on the organisation of 16 scientific webinars which are still available on the EFIM websites for the members of EFIM national societies. N Montano added that Covid-19 resources page was created on EFIM website to allow visitors to find useful information. Furthermore, he updated the participants on the ECIM 2021 figures stating that 1108 participants have registered to the congress from 65 different countries. Leading countries are Portugal, Spain, Italy, followed by UK, Switzerland, Greece and other countries. 1167 abstracts were received for reviewing. Furthermore, he added that EFIM social media has been very active especially promoting the congress that brought a lot of new participants. N Montano thanked all the sponsors who made this virtual meeting

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possible and congratulated all the faculty working on the scientific programme of the congress that produced a high-level scientific programme. Moreover, N Montano was very happy to acknowledge Prof. Agnelli for the excellent progress with EJIM reaching 4.3296 IF in 2020. Additionally, N Montano gave brief overview on the collaboration with other institutions like ACP, MIRCIM and FIMI and EFIM institutional collaboration with FDIME, EMA, EU Health Coalition and the European Alliance for Value in Health. Finally, N Montano was proud to introduce the educational platform that will be launched after the ECIM 2021 in collaboration with Delta Medical.

3. Report of the Treasurer, approval of EFIM Annual Accounts 2020, and report on the accounts for 2021 and the EFIM budget for 2022 (V. Kokorin)

V. Kokorin, EFIM Treasurer presented the 2020 accounts, informing the General Assembly members that 2020 will end with a positive balance of **€38,051.36**, besides the difficult year in lockdown. V Kokorin thanked the national societies for processing the membership dues on time and ensuring smooth operation of EFIM office daily activities. V Kokorin added that the expenses in 2020 have been kept to minimum considering the travel ban and cancellation of the face-to-face meetings.

	Accounts Approved	Final 31/12/2020
Income	€ 226.000,00	€ 247.767,97
Expenditure	€ 250.779,48	€ 205.916,61
Provisions		
Social liability		€ 1.800,00
Website		€ 2.000,00
IT Equipment		€ 5.000,00
Withdrawal of provisions		
Legal liabilities		€ 5.000,00
Result	-€ 24.779,48	€ 38.051,36

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The 2020 end-of-year results were approved unanimously by the EFIM General Assembly Members.

V. Kokorin presented the finances for 2021, underlining the difficulties to forecast the results for 2021 due to the current situation. V Kokorin mentioned that a small deficit of -€ 4.315,16 has been expected for the end of the year. The results will of course depend on the outcome of the ECIM 2021, the planned face to face meetings in December and the ability to travel again.

V. Kokorin added that the new membership structure which has been already approved is effective as of January 2021 following the adoption of the new EFIM Statutes and Bylaws.

V. Kokorin submitted the budget proposal for 2022, projecting a negative result of -€ 20.427,25 due to the uncertainty of holding ECIM 2022 as a face-to-face meeting and the instability of the current situation.

Budget Proposal 2022	
Income	€ 252.700,00
Expenses	€ 273.127,25
Results	-€ 20.427,25

Members of the General Assembly approved unanimously EFIM Budget proposal for 2022.

4. Granting discharge from liability of Executive Committee members for the accounting that ended on 31 December 2020 (A. Trajkovska)

EFIM Executive Committee members were granted discharge by the members of the General Assembly for the accounting that ended on 31 December 2020, unanimously.

5. Elections: EFIM President Elect, candidates: Dr. Ricardo Gomez Huelgas - Spanish Society of Internal Medicine

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Nicola Montano invited Prof. Gomez Huelgas to present his candidacy for President Elect.

Prof. Gomez Huelgas is the Past President of the Spanish Society of Internal Medicine and a professor of medicine at the University of Malaga. Prof. Gomez Huelgas will be congress chair of the following ECIM 2022 to be held in Malaga from 10 - 12 March.

Prof. Gomez Huelgas presented his mission for EFIM focusing on the importance of internal medicine in the current situation having internists to deal with different and often unpredictable challenges, as COVID-19 has proved.

Ricardo focused on the two EFIM journals EJIM and EJCRIM that are contributing to the prestige in internal medicine in Europe and added that EFIM's most common weakness is the lack of identity. Prof. Gomez stressed the importance of continuing the work of the working groups with clinical scopes and proposed generating a Research Platform for collaborative network research among European internists. Prof. Gomez stressed out enhancing EFIM Educational Program, lobbying with EU institutions to lead a World Internal Medicine Movement in collaboration with our organisation like ACP, FIMI, SHM.

Prof. Gomez concluded his presentation with a proposal to transform EFIM in the future to a scientific society similar to other medical specialties.

6. Voting and approval of candidate for President Elect

Voting President Elect:

Members of the General Assembly elected R. Gomez Huelgas unanimously for the position of EFIM President-Elect for a duration of 2 years.

N. Montano welcomed R. Gomez Huelgas to the EFIM Executive Committee as the new EFIM President-Elect, congratulating him on the election.

R. Gomez Huelgas will serve the EFIM Executive Committee in the role of EFIM President - Elect for the next 2 years (2021 - 2023).

The mandate of the EFIM President-Elect will not be remunerated.

7. Handover:

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N. Montano concluded his Presidency saying that it has been a real privilege to lead EFIM in the past two years as EFIM President. He thanked the Executive Committee for working collaboratively which added value to EFIM. N Montano was sorry to be interrupted by the pandemics during his Presidency and not being able to say farewell face to face.

N. Montano congratulated Dror Dicker and handed his position as EFIM President. D. Dicker was happy to take over the Presidency and presented his future action plan.

D. Dicker will serve on EFIM Executive Committee in the role of EFIM President for the following 2 years (2021 - 2023).

The mandate of the EFIM President will not be remunerated.

N. Montano will serve on EFIM Executive Committee in the role of EFIM Past President for the following 2 years (2021 - 2023).

The mandate of the EFIM President Elect will not be remunerated.

D Dicker and the rest of the EFIM Executive Committee members thanked R. Palsson for his determination and hard work as EFIM Past President as his mandate came to an end and he will no longer be a member of the Executive Committee.

R Palsson gave short presentation on the significant accomplishment of EFIM during his time at EFIM, stressing the growth of EJIM and ECIM, the growth of the YI and the contribution to postgraduate education through EBIM. R Palsson highlighted the importance of making internal medicine stronger in Europe, through join forces with the national societies. Furthermore, he stressed the importance of reaching out to internists in Europe, becoming a society with individual members in the future. Finally, R Palsson congratulated the current leadership, for all the support given in the past 6 years.

8. European Journal of Internal Medicine progress report (G Agnelli)

Prof. G. Agnelli was pleased to present the progress of the journal for 2021. Prof. Agnelli has been invited as a speaker to the workshop: “How to Write and Publish an Article” organized by the Young Internists, and he was pleasantly surprised to have more than 100 participants attending the workshop. Prof. Agnelli presented the new Board of EJIM asking for more active collaboration from national societies which are not represented in EJIM. Furthermore, Prof. Agnelli added that despite the COVID catastrophe, the journal seemed to be in apparent and good health.

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Prof. Agnelli pointed out that the contribution of some of EFIM member countries remains limited and his aim is to involve Germany, Scandinavian countries, the Netherlands and other societies in the future. Statistics were reported on the countries of origin, submitted, and rejected manuscripts. Prof. Agnelli informed the participants about the harshness of the acceptance of the papers especially of the Covid-19 papers. The number of submissions were increased in 2020 by 40% comparing to 2019, however the rejection has increased to 78%. The papers on Covid-19 were only 2% accepted. Leading countries in submitting papers are Italy followed by China, Spain, United States, France and the rest of Europe. Prof. G. Agnelli was extremely pleased to inform the GA members about the increase in the impact factor to 4.329 in 2020 ranking EJIM in a very high position. Prof. Agnelli encouraged the participants to spread the message and promote the journal among the societies' members, to enlarge the audience and to involve members from all EFIM member societies. Prof. G. Agnelli presented the new EJIM initiative with the Young Internists called "Young Internist Clinical Insights, allowing the YI to publish 4 papers per year. He further presented the new session in the journal, called Clinical insights informing the GA representatives that the first section will be focused on Obesity in collaboration with Dr. Dror Dicker. Finally, Prof. Agnelli stressed the importance of promoting the best EJIM paper during the congress and acknowledging all the authors who worked hard and submitted the papers. Prof. Agnelli expressed his gratitude to EFIM EC members and to their support promoting EJIM.

9. European Journal of Case Reports in Internal Medicine progress report (J. Kellett)

J. Kellett, the Editor-in-Chief of the European Journal of Case Reports in Internal Medicine, reported on the progress of the journal, and the high increase in submission in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. J Kellett added that 17% of the submitted papers were focused on Covid-19. Furthermore, J Kellett reported that the origin of submitted articles have been changed receiving many papers from US and the Middle East however Europe is leading with submitted and accepted papers most of them coming from Portugal, followed by Italy, Greece and other European countries. J Kellett asked members to be more involved in EJCRIM with an aim to substitute him at some point. S Malosio reported on the increased traffic to the journal reaching 1000 visitors in one day due to the publication of a special article. Most of the readers come from the United States followed by Portugal, UK, India, Italy and Spain. Referrals come from PubMed, Scollar, and the social media

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accounts. Mostly read papers were not Covid-19 related surprisingly for 2020. EJCRIM received lots of citations in 2020 mostly because of the Covid-19.

S Malosio informed the GA members on the publication of the abstract book of ECIM 2021 which is available for all the congress participants. She highlighted the creation of media kit to attract sponsors and sponsored supplements bringing additional income to the journal.

Furthermore, S Malosio added the planning of podcast sessions on YouTube to modernise the share of information. Moreover S. Malosio announced the new initiatives to be launched that promotes the journal with sponsors like: Themed Collections, Themed call for papers, educational videos, webinars, restyling the website and application in Clarivate.

She kindly asked the societies representatives to share their ideas and send their suggestions.

10. Report from the Critical Appraisal (D. Dicker)

D. Dicker presented the progress work from the Critical Appraisal Guidelines WG informing the representatives that he is stepping down as a chair and the new Chair of the WG will be Prof. Wiktorja Lesniak from the Polish Society of Internal Medicine. Dror was very happy to inform the members that the first guidelines session will be presented during ECIM and invited all the members to participate. First Guidelines is focused on Pulmonary Embolism and the other one on Community Acquired Pneumonia. Dror congratulated the Steering Committee for the hard work which developed the first appraisal guideline of internal medicine.

11. Report from Young Internists (A. Marra)

A. Mara congratulated D Dicker and R Gomez Huelgas on their positions in the Executive Committee and gave brief overview of the current YI activities. Alberto was very glad to comment about the transition of the Young Internists to Young Internists Section according to the new Statutes. Alberto was very impressed by the quality of the workshop organised by the YI Section together with Prof. Agnelli. Furthermore, A Marra added that several sessions were organised in the main programme of ECIM 2021 involving the Young Internists in the full programme of virtual congress. For the first time the Young Internists Section organised YI awards during the congress awarding Dr. Giordano Sigon from Italy and Dr. Edith Marie Timbol from the Philippines for their best case report. The Young Internists Section has organised several webinars via EFIM Zoom

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platform in the course of 2020 and is currently organising a survey regarding burnout during Covid. A Marra took his time to thank Prof. Montano and Prof. Palsson for all the support given in the past two years.

Finally, A Marra added that the Young Internists Section is very active on the social media channels and invited all the GA Members to encourage the Young Internists community in their countries to get in touch and follow EFIM Young Internists Section.

12. Report from the Early Career Subcommittee (F. Weidanz)

F Weidanz was invited to update on the new Early Career Subcommittee presenting the aims of the group focusing on developing professional leadership and communication skills as a continuation of the Young Internists section. The members of the Early Career Subcommittee are involving 4 officers which are representing all Europe. F Weidanz introduced the activities in 2020 starting with the survey, the organisation of a webinar and a workshop during the ECIM. F Weidanz presented the projects for the future focusing on building the Early Career community and involving the organisation of EASIM. F Weidanz proposed to organise more networking events in the future where representatives from other societies will join during the congress. F Weidanz concluded her presentation by inviting the GA representatives to send ideas for interesting projects and suggestions.

13. European Board of Internal Medicine and UEMS Section of Internal Medicine (R. Gans)

Prof. R. Gans was very happy to present on behalf of EBIM as a joint collaboration between EFIM and UEMS section of internal medicine focusing on the postgraduate education of internal medicine and practise of internal medicine in Europe. He further informed that 209 responses were received on the survey sent to all the societies with 72% completion rate. R Gans stressed out that the survey is very important to improve the EU Curriculum. R. Gans focused on the Online self-evaluation for accreditation of Training Centres in Internal Medicine in Europe to get a formal recognition in EU level. Additionally, R. Gans informed the GA representatives on the progress for relaunching of the European Diploma examination in internal medicine saying that discussions are ongoing about exam blueprint. Furthermore R. Gans, informed the GA representatives on the development of the European exam and the creation of exam platform, the questions for the exams and the needed joint collaboration of all EFIM national

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societies to succeed in this project. Additionally, R Gans informed the GA representatives that the EBIM educational and learning centre in internal medicine has been launched demonstrating the E-platform which has different interactive features that will assist in building EFIM online community, triggers self-learning and effectively find and translate the high-quality knowledge into practice. R. Gans encouraged the GA representatives to register to the EBIM online platform and to become active in sharing experiences and networking. He added further that the bulleting has been published every week involving eight Young Internists in creating the content.

14. Report from the Foundation for the Development of Internal Medicine in Europe (D. Sereni)

D. Sereni presented the members of the board of FDIME in 2020 and the activities dedicated to education and support for research and the support for poster prizes during ECIM. Furthermore, D Sereni informed the GA members that the clinical research seminar had to be cancelled for two years in a row due to the pandemic with a hope to continue in 2022.

Additionally in 2019 one research grant was given to Dr. F. Rodrigues from Paris to work on research of Macrophages roles in autoinflammatory diseases.

In 2020 two research grants were given, one to Dr. P. Wolf from Vienna for the research of Diagnostic Algorithm in excess of Growth Hormone and to Dr. M. Manzillotta from Milan for research of Optimization of autoimmune pancreatitis treatment.

D. Sereni was pleased to report further on the launch of the FDIME newsletter focusing on COVID-19 issues that attracted lots of discussions and broadened FDIME database. The interest was very high on the social media reaching about 56 000 visitors on the Facebook. D Sereni thanked all FDIME Council members who supported the letter and invited all the participants in joining this fascinating experience.

15. Next EFIM General Assembly, ECIM 2022, Malaga Spain

The next General Assembly will take place on Thursday, 10 March 2022 during the European Congress of Internal Medicine ECIM 2022 which will take place in Malaga, Spain from 10 - 12 March.

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16. Any other business:

No further questions were raised.

D. Dicker thanked all the General Assembly members for their participation.
The General Assembly was adjourned at 13h00.

EFIM President

Dr. Dror Dicker

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