

INTERNATIONAL CONTINENCE SOCIETY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

The 35th Annual General Meeting of the International Continence Society
Friday 2nd September 2005 11.30am – 1.30 pm Montreal, Canada.

1. Minute Silence

The General Secretary, Walter Artibani asked for a minutes silence for Tage Hald and Bernd Schoenberger who both sadly died in the last year. He praised Tage Hald for his hard work and devotion as a founding member of the ICS and as first chairman of the standardization committee.

2. Absence of Ex General Secretary

WA commented on the absence of Paul Abrams from the meeting for the first time in over 20 years due to a minor health problem. All joined in wishing him a speedy recovery.

3. The Minutes of AGM held in Paris, France Thursday 26th August 2004 were approved by the membership

4. There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the AGM

5. General Secretary's report on ICS Advisory Group and Executive Board.

Walter Artibani reported on;

- 5.1 The extensive work of the Publications committee with the production of two newsletters, a press pack and fact sheets, the redesign of the ICS website and re-branding of ICS documents along with other ongoing projects.
- 5.2 Funding now available for committee meetings outside the Annual Meeting. Proposals/Applications from all committee chairs expected.
- 5.3 Executive Board met three times in the last year and would continue to meet at least four times a year.
- 5.4 Selection and appointment of a permanent congress organizing company for the society. Kenes International responsible for full management of ICS annual meetings initially from 2008 –2010 benefits include; continuity of quality, financial reporting, better central control.
- 5.5 First ICS Education course to be held Barcelona 11/12 November 2005 with 3 or 4 more planned for 2006 in line with our charitable aims.
- 5.6 Membership figures (1800 paid up so far this year) breakdown by profession, country and continent. ICS Education Courses would help to address the under-representation of certain countries with special effort to increase membership in Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe.

6. ICS Treasurer's Report & Statement of Accounts – Jean Jacques Wyndaele

- 6.2 Jean Jacques Wyndaele reported on the healthy state of accounts with funds of nearly £30,000 in the Charity's trading subsidiary (Conticom ICS Ltd) and over £775,000 in the charity.
- 6.3 The Trustees had seen fit?, in accordance with the society's articles of association and in line with the Charity Commission guidelines to keep reserves of £500,000, representing the cost of maintaining the office, staff, journal subscriptions etc for two years. As the society plans its Annual Meeting four years in advance and membership dues are collected for the year ahead, two years was deemed a required period by the board.
- 6.4 The excess funds were to be spent on educational activities, more committee meetings and society reports and publications in line with the society's charitable aims.
- 6.5 The auditors were approved by the membership for reappointment
- 6.6 Jerry Franklin (Dallas) requested that in view of recent corporate scandals should the auditors be present at the AGM for questions and could the treasurer provide comparison figures from previous years in his report.
- 6.7 The Treasurer responded that full accounts were available by request to the ICS office via the ICS website and that any questions could be answered by the auditors via email but it was not required that they attend the AGM.
- 6.8 The Treasurer also explained that the previous accounting period had been an 18 month period to bring our year end in line with our activities and therefore would not be an appropriate comparison and that in previous years he had always provided comparison figures.
- 6.9 Judith Wardle (London, UK) claimed the society had not acted in accordance with the Charity Commission in failing to provide full accounts to the membership before the AGM.
- 6.10 Vicky Facey (Administrative Manager) responded that full accounts had been provided to the Trustees and were available by request either via the ICS office or website to members as agreed at previous Annual General Meetings. Members did not want full copies of the accounts mailed to them at great cost to the society, but would review accounts by request or on-line if required. She also stated she had full copies of the 2004 accounts with her, for any who wanted to review them.
- 6.11 Hans Peter Dietz (Sidney, Australia) demanded full accounts for previous Annual Meetings. He wanted to know exactly how much was funded by industry.
- 6.12 Vicky Facey explained that the annual meeting accounts had not been audited by the society's auditors in the past and that this was one of the reasons she had pushed to employ a longterm PCO to allow careful financial monitoring and policing of meetings centrally. However, the ICS was happy for members to view the financial reports provided to the society by the meeting organizers each year, on request.

- 6.13 Walter Artibani (ICS General Secretary) added that most of these reports clearly indicated the amount received from industry and these reports could be made available to any member on request.
- 6.14 Tamara Dickinson (Texas, USA) stated that it was her first ICS AGM and she was appalled by the behaviour of the members towards officials that have been elected by the members to manage the society. She added that she was a treasurer of an organization and appreciated how much unpaid, hard work goes into the official positions of a society such as the ICS and that this should be acknowledged by the members.
- 6.15 There was a question regarding the structure and management of the society. Walter Artibani explained the reporting system via the Advisory Committee and Executive Board and suggested that any members wishing to play a fuller role in the society and gain a better understanding of how it operates, would be welcome to join one of the many committees. He added that many requests for expressions of interest to join committees had been circulated by email, in the newsletter and via the website. He also pointed out the management and structure of the ICS is clearly outlined on the website and in the society's governing documents, also all available on the ICS website or on request to the ICS office.
- 6.16 Derek Griffiths (Pittsburgh, USA) complained that the Gala Dinner was too expensive and that it should be included in the registration fee.
- 6.17 Guus Kramer responded that tax laws in most countries prevent any social event being included in an educational registration fee.
- 6.18 Walter Artibani added that once the permanent PCO were in place, measures could be taken to try to reduce the cost of the Gala Dinner.

7. ICS Children's Committee Report - Rien Nijman – not in attendance

8. ICS Continence Promotion Committee Report – Diane Newman

- 8.1 DN stated the CPC was working with 47 (38) organizations in 33 (29) countries DN reported on two global initiatives
- 8.2 Overactive Bladder European Patient Association Network – a Global initiative that focuses on supporting patient advocacy groups currently working in the area of overactive bladder management, in order to help increase awareness, education, and proper treatment of overactive bladder - Francois Haab (France), Chairman - Participation from CPC associations in 5-7 EU countries - Sponsor-Pfizer
- 8.3 Patient Advocacy Group - a global initiative that focuses on supporting advocacy groups to implement wide reaching awareness campaigns targeting policy makers, healthcare professionals. Focus is SUI - Provides guidance for networking and information sharing, developing partnerships with healthcare professionals and supporting awareness, education, and proper treatment. - Developed a position paper, conducting surveys - David Fonda (Australia), Chairman - Participation from CPC associations in 11 countries (EU, Mexico & Canada) Sponsor-Eli Lilly & Boehringer Ingelheim
- 8.4 DN stated the following CPC issues had been put before 2005 ICS Advisory Committee;

Evolving into “Contenance: Bladder Health Campaign” CPC Collaboration with World Federation of Incontinence Patients Plan – Public Forum @ 2007 ICS Rotterdam, 2008 ICI Paris

- 8.5 A discussion followed involving Werner Schafer, two unnamed members and James Malone-Lee, regarding the issue of interaction between industry and various foundations under the umbrella of CPC. A plea was made to debate the topic inside the ethics committee workshop.

9. ICS Education Committee Report – Linda Cardozo

- 9.1 LC reported on the membership of her committee and welcomed two new members; Vik Khullar and Hashim Hashim.
- 9.2 LC reported on the successful evaluation of 2004 Workshops and Courses and that the 11 courses and 23 workshops held in Montreal had been fully booked and very popular.
- 9.3 LC reminded members that application to hold a workshop should be submitted to the ICS office by 1st November and that the application template should be used.
- 9.4 LC reported on the selection process for workshops and courses and confirmed workshop and courses for 2006 would be selected by the Workshop and Course subcommittee, the Education Committee and the Scientific Chair in January 2006.
- 9.5 LC stated the 1st ICS stand alone education course would be held in Barcelona 11/12 November 2005 with three/four more independent courses planned for 2006 in Abu Dhabi, Brazil and China with a review after Barcelona to decide on the next European course.
- 9.6 With regard to recognised ICS Urodynamics Courses, LC reported two had been recognised so far with two more going through the accreditation process
- 9.7 LC stated that a proposal to join EU-ACME programme headed by Carlos D'ancona/Helmut Madersbacher had been approved. All ICS members who wish to receive free membership of EU-ACME will be scanned at ICS meetings to receive credits automatically. Details of how to apply to join will be given to all ICS members when subscription emails/letters are sent out from the ICS office. The EU-ACME will then invoice ICS €10 per joining member. The ICS membership will not rise. This will be another benefit to members included in the £50 annual subscription.

10. ICS Ethics Committee Report – Lewis Wall

- 10.1 LW welcomed expressions of interest to join the committee especially from Hans Peter Dietz who appeared to have many ethical questions.
- 10.2 LW reported that another successful Ethics Workshop had been run in Montreal and that it would be nice if some ICS members with concerns regarding the ethics within the society, attend his workshop.

- 10.3 LW explained his committee was working towards greater transparency and full disclosure for submitted papers to ICS meetings and Satellite Symposia.
- 10.4 LW stated he was planning another workshop for ICS 2006, New Zealand which he proposed was free of charge to all ICS members.
- 10.5 LW suggested his Ethics Committee meeting be a Forum rather than a committee meeting and that it be held within the three days of the Scientific Programme and not in the pre-meeting days.
- 10.6 LW reported on a joint initiative ICS – FIGO – SIU about the development of an evidence based Obstetric Fistula Data and Classification system.
- 10.7 LW proposed a randomly audited, post-op data check on Scientific Papers presented at ICS meetings.
- 10.8 LW recommended a better conflict of interest form be used for ICS meetings. A member who did not announce their name or country proposed the four page military form be adopted.

11. ICS Standardisation Committee Report - Philip van Kerrebroeck/Derek Griffiths

- 11.1 PvK thanked his committees over the years and handed over to the new Chair.
- 11.2 DG reported that in past years, standardization has flourished under Philip van Kerrebroeck and previous chairs. It was now a good time to take stock of present position, strengths and weaknesses and map out plan for future
- 11.3 DG stated there were about 20 reports on ICS web site with much very good material, some gaps and some overlap DG reported some possible inconsistencies, some out of date and rather ad hoc choice of topics. DG also felt the report were rather awkward to access and therefore widely ignored or misunderstood.
- 11.4 DG planned to ask members for input on strengths, weaknesses, organization, accessibility and has some input already: e.g. on terminology, sensation, morbidity or urodynamic studies, pelvic organ prolapse ...
- 11.5 DG reported he will form a small steering group with prerequisite that members of the group are able to write good standardization reports. DG assured the membership he would pay attention to geographic, linguistic and professional affiliation when selecting his group.
- 11.6 DG reported the tasks of the group would be plan strategy, prepare 'collated' reports that were systematized, consistent, easily accessible. DG proposed dedicated web site (or web page on the ICS site with a good search engine and hyperlinks). The group would also be responsible for deciding a system for picking topics for future reports/revisions and act as nucleus of subcommittees for further reports on specific topics. DG planned to invite extra ad hoc members for each specific topic and ensure a method to select them. DG also planned to keep other interested professional organizations informed about proposed topics.

11.7 DG stated the tasks for ICS members were provide guidance on good and bad of standardization reports not just new topics or need for revisions, but organization, accessibility, utility. To review the future of standardization workshop at ICS meeting. DB requested interested members contact him on nacs@compuserve.com or contact ICS office

11.8 WA formally thanked PvK for all his hard work and dedication over the years.

12. ICS/ICUD Committee Report – Paul Abrams (not in attendance)

12.1 In PA absence, WA gave a brief report on the ongoing Evidence Based Urology project in conjunction with EAU –AUA – SIU and ICUD.

13. ICS Meetings and Nominations Committee Report – Linda Cardozo

13.1 LC reported that she had chaired the Meetings and Nomination Committee in WA absence as he was required at the NUU Editorial Board meeting.

13.2 LC explained that a detailed evaluation report had been done by Kenes International (ICS PCO) of bids for received for ICS 2009 and they had weighted various items such as suitability of venue, accessibility etc. The Meeting and Nomination committee had used the Kenes evaluation for 50% of the total weighting and added two extra points for the final 50%. These were ICS loyalty i.e. the number of meeting the Chair had previously attended and his or her work within the ICS and whether the ICS annual meeting had been to their particular country or part of the world previously.

13.3 LC announced Carlos D'Ancona, Salvador, Tony Stone, San Francisco and Edward Leung, Hong Kong were selected by the Meetings and Nominations Committee to be put to a membership web ballot for ICS 2009. It was announce that the web ballot would be available on www.icsoffice.org to members from the date of the AGM and the results would be announced in six weeks time.

13.4 WA announced that nominations for the position of ICS General Secretary Elect should be sent or emailed to the ICS office by 1st April 2006.

14. ICS Neurourology Committee Report – Jacques Corcos

14.1 JC reported the aims of his committee were to promote Neuro-urology around the world, train underdeveloped country physicians and nurses and technicians, to help build and manage Neuro-urology medical centers, organize symposium, courses, workshops and introduce Neuro-urology in med schools curriculums.

14.2 JC reported on a number of activities he had been involved with at a personal level in order to increase the visibility of Neurourology.

14.3 JC plans to submit a budget and full proposal to the ICS board for 2005/6 activities and meetings

15. ICS Neurourology & Urodynamics Report - Jerry Blaivas

- 15.1 JB reported the official journal of ICS & SUFU now had highest ICI impact factor (3.652) in its 20+ year history and only J Urol & Prostate ranked higher. JB went on to report NUU ranks #1 out of 50 in Journal Relatedness and that the manuscript central on-line submission and review process working very well.
- 15.2 JB announced approximately 250 manuscripts were submitted in the past year reflecting a 60% increase (more than tripled in less than 10 years)
- 15.3 JB announced his resignation as EIC of NUU as follows:

“... I have been politely asked to step down as Editor in Chief of this journal, which I am reluctantly doing, but I think that it is a mistake because it's only been 24 years and I think that I am just starting to get the hang of it and with another 24 years I think I could do a much better job, but Walter is going to tell you what the selection process is going to be and how we are going to go forward in the future”

WA thanked him for his dedication and hard work over the last 24 years and invited for a standing ovation.
- 15.4 WA reported on a one-year long negotiation with JB and the publisher during which ICS and SUFU had a single mind and a single voice. The ICS and SUFU Executive Boards decisions in agreement with JB and the publisher were:
 - 15.4.1 to have an interim Editor In Chief, which would be Jerry Blaivas.
 - 15.4.2 Request for applications to be received at ICS Office by November 15th 2005 including detailed editorial plan. The applications request will be announced via email and post to ICS and SUFU membership as well as via ICS and SUFU websites.
 - 15.4.3 An applications review committee will be established. The review committee was agreed among ICS – SUFU and NUU EIC as composed of: interim EIC, representatives of the Editorial Board chosen by the interim EIC (4), ICS Executive Board (4) and SUFU Executive Board (4).
 - 15.4.4 The review process will end December 22nd 2005 with the appointment of the new EIC.
 - 15.4.5 There will be a transition period until February 2006 at SUFU meeting when the new EIC fully in charge.
 - 15.4.6 It was agreed that from then all future issues of NUU would contain an acknowledgement to JB as founder of the journal in the front page.
- 15.5 Derek Griffiths questioned the decision and suggested the terms were reviewed.
- 15.6 WA responded that the terms had been agreed at the NUU board meeting and immediately after final decision had been made at a meeting between JB, the publisher, SUFU president and ICS General Secretary.

- 15.7 Werner Schafer stated that the NUU Editorial Board had not been an open meeting and that Jerry Blaivas does not have any input in the selection of the new EIC.
- 15.8 Walter responded that the process was agreed by the NUU Editorial Board and the Executive Board of both the ICS and SUFU.
- 15.9 James Malone-Lee commented that he was most concerned about the process and felt that JB offered valuable characteristic of independence and that he was incredibly kind and encouraging to academics. JML also asked that the terms be reconsidered.
- 15.10 WA stated that according to our governing documents, officials are elected by the membership to make decisions for the society. He stated that if we reverse committee decisions that had already been agreed, he would have to resign.
- 15.11 WA called for a vote from the membership of approximately 300 present at the AGM. Over 250 voted for the outlined terms, 8 voted against and 22 abstained.
- 15.12 WA stated these new terms will go ahead as approved by the AGM. He announced that a review of the impact of present decisions will take place in three years (before the end of his mandate).
- 15.13 WA announced that ICS and SUFU executives in conjunction with the new appointed EIC will elaborate about byelaws for future procedures regarding the official journal. There will be totally transparent legal contracts between the Wiley and the EIC, ICS and SUFU, in marked contrast to the past.

16. ICS Publication Committee Report – Chris Chapple

- 16.1 CC had to leave the AGM before his report. In his absence WA reported the activities of the committee had been to produce the first two ICS newsletters and to create the ICS press pack with 10 fact sheets.
- 16.2 The committee had also been responsible for the re-design of ICS website – to be launched in near future and the new logo and re-branding of ICS

17. ICS Scientific Committee 2005 Report – Erik Schick

- 17.1 ES named the members of the committee and thanked them for their hard work ensuring the excellent programme for ICS 2005 and gave the following breakdown.

Total abstracts submitted:	895
Podium presentations:	34
Discussed posters:	88
Non-discussed posters:	271
Videos:	18
Read by title:	289
Rejected:	88
Withdrawn:	7

- 17.2 ES reported that 2005 was highest number of abstracts received for an ICS-only meeting and showed comparison charts dating back to 1996.
- 18. It was announced the date of the next Annual General Meeting was 1st December 2006, Christchurch, New Zealand 2006**
- 19. Any other Business**
- 19.1 Hashim Hashim (UK), raised the point that he would like more information regarding the reasons for his papers only given 'read by title' status. Guus Kramer responded that in the email notifying submitters of their papers final status they are offered further explanations by contacting him directly – this has been the case for the last three years.
- 19.2 Richard Millard raised the issue that not many Paediatric Surgery papers had been included in the Scientific Programme. LC responded that the Paediatric papers had been of a very low quality and it was difficult justifying their inclusion.
- 19.3 At request of the General Secretary, Ted Arnold announced he was heading an ICS History Project in conjunction with other senior members of the society. He requested that any members with photos or documents that might be of interest, to send them to the ICS office.