



**INTERNATIONAL CONTINENCE SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**  
Of The 45th Annual General Meeting of the International Continence Society  
Montreal, Canada, 8<sup>th</sup> October 2015

Minute writer (from audio recording): Tracy Griffin

[Link to Annual Report and Accounts](#)

[Link to 2015 Committee reports](#)

Adrian Wagg (AW) welcomed everyone to the meeting on behalf of the board and confirmed that as the meeting was a formal business meeting, questions could be asked but reminded for those asking the question to give their full name for the minutes. AW confirmed there were no apologies for absence for the meeting.

**1. Approval of minutes from AGM held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2014 in Rio de Janeiro.**

AW asked if there were any amendments for accuracy or content or any matters arising. As there were none, the minutes were approved.

**2. Membership voting**

AW confirmed that as part of the meeting, members will be asked to vote. Although voting had been held online, by UK company law, we must also allow an AGM vote. AW explained that online votes would be added to the AGM votes and any double votes would be discounted. A simple majority is required for trustees to be elected as an ordinary resolution. AW confirmed there were votes for 2 trustee positions, General Secretary elect for which we have a single approved candidate who will automatically become General Secretary following the 2016 AGM and the new Allied Health trustee representative, Cristina Naranjo Ortiz. AW asked for any questions and the voting commenced. AW confirmed that the results of the voting would be made available via the ICS website.

**3. General Secretary Report – Adrian Wagg**

AW confirmed that he was pleased to report on behalf of the board a highlight of the previous year since the Rio AGM and thanked the members for attending and taking an interest. The report was 'framed' in line with the ICS strategy, some of which would have been presented at the town hall meeting last night.

Finance: AW stated that a detailed report regarding finances will be given by our treasurer, however in line with our strategy the society had aimed to diversify its income stream and reduce dependency upon the annual scientific meeting as the major source of revenue. The society had taken steps to reduce, where possible, its overheads and costs. ICS had reviewed its membership structure. Negotiations of two of the society's core contracts both with its permanent congress organiser and Wiley for the journal,

had been completed, both of which had been significantly financially beneficial to the society. AW thanked members of the board and office who were involved in that process. AW confirmed the society now had an investment policy and had on behalf of its members invested with a large fund organiser with the aim of achieving at least a 4% return rather than the negative return which ICS had experienced in the past. AW confirmed that a decision had been taken regarding the survey on ICS “position statements”, to which many members had responded. 75% responses were in favour of the position statements, however AW stated that given the return on investment, the board decided not to continue. Other avenues for revenue generation were being discussed.

Governance – AW confirmed that the largest review of our bylaws and articles of association last year had been completed and approved. The committees have now been aligned to the ICS strategy and are engaged in a series of committee performance reviews to make sure their actions are similarly aligned. The Board is trying to move from a position where committee members do most of the work to a more disseminated network of active members.

Stakeholder engagement, AW confirmed that communication had been improved, both between the board and committees with regular teleconferences in addition to regular meetings but also between committee chairs and committees, so that innovations could be shared and progress made with ideas. AW confirmed that the board had responded to calls to appreciate people who work for the ICS. Steps have been taken with the introduction of the wine and cheese social event which took place for the first time earlier in the week. The scientific committee are actively discussing providing CME points for reviewing abstracts. AW confirmed that these were just some of the things ICS can do at relatively reasonable costs to show that they do value member’s participation and hard work. Any other reasonable ideas will certainly be considered.

Scholarly output AW confirmed by working with the standardisation steering committee a schedule of production for an increasing number of standardisation reports was now available. ICS has been increasingly collaborative, working with IUGA in that regard. AW stated that the board were extremely grateful for the hard work of our physio colleagues for the 5 accepted papers with the ICS imprimatur in Neurourology and Urodynamics – putting an ICS stamp on a very innovative and worthwhile academic output. ICS has seen a consensus conference on artificial urinal sphincters championed by Jacques Corcos, attracting external funding, administered by ICS with financial and scholarly benefit. AW confirmed the board had decided to host the 6<sup>th</sup> annual ICI conference in Tokyo next year - the guidelines extracted therefrom will be extremely valuable. ICS also value the large ICS member contribution to that exercise.

AW hoped the membership felt that as a board, they had been listened to and executed changes which will lead to a stronger, better ICS.

### **Committee Reports**

AW confirmed that the committee reports were available online in their entirety but for time constraints he would provide some highlights and members could judge for

themselves the hard work that was done by the committees. AW then thanked the staff in the office and the board for their hard work and outlined the members and their roles.

Children and Young Adults Committee: Chair Giovanni Mosiello. Produced a book on clinical urodynamics in children and young adults which will be published by 2 members of the committee. Also working on a transitional care book. The committee were also working again with the ICS urodynamics committee regarding valuable educational modules with Peter Rosier to provide more guidance and standardisation in that area.

Continence Promotion Committee: Chair Tamara Dickinson. In line with the ICS strategy the committee has been disestablished. ICS was grateful for the output of the Continence Promotion Committee and the work of many of its members, some of whom are seeking active work in other committees. If members had committee vacancies AW requested that they spoke to the ex-Continence Promotion Committee members. The committee successfully piloted world continence week and produced an innovative workshop promoting education of non-specialist practitioners by specialists in the field. AW thanked the committee for all their hard work over the years.

Education Committee: Chair Ervin Kocjancic. Great strides this year – 10 courses and guest lectures confirmed for 2015. ICS recognised courses continue. ICS strategy has moved away from gaining accreditation powers so the committee will cease focus on accredited courses but the ICS approval of courses continues. A major plan for next year is to concentrate on e-learning activities.

Ethics Committee: Chair Nina Davis. Active and thinking about how the committee fits in with ICS strategy. The committee continues to monitor the integrity issues for the organisation, the ICS disclosure policy advises the board of trustees, as required. Would like to maintain their educational role within the ICS and underline those efforts with the education committee and the PCC and will have an active role in the future.

Fistula Committee: Chair Sohier Elneil. Innovative creation of a series of films aimed at healthcare workers in developing countries on fistula prevention, surgical management and physiotherapy. All films are available via the website. AW confirmed he would like these distributed in the areas and to the audiences for which they are intended. There were workshops with fistula committee members being the key part of the faculty. A review of their activities in line with the strategy in collaboration with members of the board is planned.

Neuro-urology Committee: Chair Emmanuel Chartier-Kastler. Attended the 4<sup>th</sup> Neuro-urology meeting in Zurich to discuss and produce a number of neuro-urology papers for publication which are guidelines in relevant areas. Committee have spoken at a number of neuro-urology courses internationally organised by Helmut Madersbacher. There is a plan for a digital book and to collaborate with the new inaugurated International Neuro-urology Society, main members of whom are from ICS allowing us a great opportunity to influence things on a wider scale.

Nursing committee: Chair Donna Bliss. Increased communication with nursing members. A new ICS nursing library. Have a workshop and forum during ICS 2015 and plan the same for next year. A number of plans which have been presented to the board.

Physiotherapy Committee: Chair Doreen McClurg. Hosted the physio roundtable again this year with an increased capacity of 150 places – a great demand for the event and presented strategies for coherence. Currently developing educational guidelines on the assessment of the pelvic floor.

Publications Committee: Chair Jacqueline Cahill. A smaller committee as part of our realignment. They have made great strides in disseminating their work and contributing to ICS news, with regular communication with the membership. Updated ICS fact sheet booklets and plan the creation of an infographic for healthcare professionals to use with their patients.

Standardisation Steering Committee: Chair Marcus Drake. Have 11 working groups working on a range of topics. They have a terminology folder included within delegate bags this year and new documents will be added and will be available in a digestible form. Have an established pipeline for methodology and timetable for production of these extremely valuable documents.

Urodynamics Committee: Chair Peter Rosier. 6 teaching modules within N&U, cystometry, video urodynamics, just a few to name and presentation of new modules during 2015 in which the opportunity to look at the high quality of work that the committee are producing. Currently working on 5 further modules for publication in 2016 and hope these will become the reference standard for teaching of ICS courses and by ICS members in their lectures around the world.

AW then confirmed that he was happy to announce names of the elected persons from our web ballot. The **scientific committee non clinical position** has been won by Steinar Hunskaar from Norway, an excellent co-opted trustee from last year who had performed admirably within the scientific committee in the past and the ICS was very grateful for his further contribution. Nominations and expressions of interest for ICS posts, web ballot by 1<sup>st</sup> April – there are some vacancies. AW confirmed the calls for applications for treasurer, single trustee and additionally as Sherif Mourad will be occupying the treasurer and GS elect post next year, there will be a call for a co-opted trustee as soon as possible until the next annual general meeting – expressions of interest will be gratefully received. AW also confirmed there were a number of elected chairman positions, children's & young adults committee, education committee, fistula committee, publications committee, standardisation steering committee and scientific committee. Likewise in the scientific committee, clinical, nursing and physiotherapy representatives were required. Deadline for applications, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016.

Expressions of interest for membership on ethics, neuro-urology, physiotherapy and urodynamics committees. Great opportunities for members to be involved in the work of the ICS and to see how it all works, with a view to the future.

AW confirmed there were 3 approved bids for the 2019 meeting and reminded attendees of the change in policy where meeting venues would alternate between North America and Europe. AW announced that 2019 would therefore be a European destination – Gothenberg – Ian Milsom, Glasgow - Karen Guerrero and Paris - Bruno Deval. Voting will open online in November. The deadline for bids for 2020 from North American cities would be 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016. AW stated that both the office and Kenes were available to assist with bid applications.

**Awards and Fellowships:**

AW confirmed that there were 29 conference travel awards for 2015 and the board this week have agreed to increase the number of travel awards that the ICS provide. There were 6 scholarships which have been generously supported by Pfizer and 4 ICS fellowships. Again, with finances allowing, the ICS would like to expand these. These awards support early career members.

**Retiring Committee Chairs:**

AW thanked Tamara Dickinson for her work on the Continence Promotion Committee and 2 retiring members of the board, Katherine Moore (7 years) and Alex Wang (3 years) for their sterling service to ICS.

**Deceased members:**

AW confirmed that during the course of 2015 we had sadly lost 2 members, Andrew Ball and Mario Gomes. AW called for a minute's silence.

**Treasurers Report:**

Sherif Mourad (SM) confirmed that he was honoured to present the ICS Treasurer's Report and Statement of accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014. The full accounts and annual report were sent to all of the members and questions were invited, to which none were received - these documents were still available via the website.

SM explained the details within his first slide, outlining the expenditure and income for the last 3 years, noting that all accounts were presented in sterling £s and the figures between brackets meant a deficit or negative balance. SM confirmed that 2014 ended in a deficit. SM stated that Rio was a challenging destination, the first in South America and although it produced a good surplus this was not enough to cover the expenditure of the charity that year.

SM also confirmed that reserves would cover the operating costs of 2015/2016 without breach of the ICS reserve policy. SM summarised details of the 2014 income. SM then summarised the expenditure of ICS and Conticom for 2014. Total expenditure had increased and was due to higher expenditure at the annual meeting. SM presented a comparison of the annual meeting income and expenditure costs over past years.

SM confirmed that the accounts had been audited by an independent firm of accountants, Goldwyns Ltd, Bristol, England and were approved by the treasurer on behalf of the trustees. MS also confirmed Sarah Walters as the ICS accountant and Dan

Snowdon as the Administrative Director. SM stated that if there were no questions regarding the accounts, the accounts would hereby be adopted.

AW stated SM was owed a great vote of thanks for being an extremely adroit treasurer and had done a fantastic job.

**Scientific Report – Nucelio Lemos (NL) & Cara Tannenbaum (CT):**

CT confirmed that there had been a lot of changes in this year's programme and to ensure continuity from year to year an elected scientific chair will be established. CT stated that the annual meeting chair for that year assumed chair of the scientific committee but there are many issues that are not involved with the annual meeting which needed attention. At future meetings there will be the annual programme chair and elected committee chair.

CT summarised the many innovations which had been introduced this year. CT thanked the IT and administrative staff, especially for the work carried out around the app. CT confirmed that she had received positive feedback but was looking forward to receiving further feedback from the evaluation on what delegates would like for 2016. NL stated that at this point he wanted to acknowledge the extensive collaboration of the education committee – it had been team work with Ervin and the committee to integrate all the scientific and educational activities so that the whole content could be provided within a 4 day time frame. CT confirmed that the members of the scientific committee were amazing and certainly 'stepped up to the plate'. CT asked delegates to raise their hands if they liked the electronic poster boards – the majority of which did. NL gave an explanation regarding the introduction of the app for this year's annual meeting and although he had received some feedback regarding the paper format of the programme, he believed the app was eco-friendly, cost saving and dynamic. NL confirmed that the online reviewing system had been reviewed and an online programme building system had been built with the IT Team. Although the amount of work had increased they had managed to keep within a 2½ day face to face meeting. NL confirmed they were working on strategy to increase interaction with the membership to see if they could keep up or even increase the submission of abstracts to the ICS annual meeting and improve the quality of science.

NL also confirmed that they will be looking at the quality of abstract reviewing, providing feedback to individual reviewers on how their reviewing compares to the rest of the reviewer pool. NL stated that he would like to take this opportunity of thanking all the reviewers, counting on more than 150, including the editorial board of N&U and the committee members. The committee were also working on how to award CME credits for the reviewers. NL confirmed that they were also inviting the chairmen of the roundtable sessions to participate in the programme building to encourage more submissions.

AW thanked the committee for all the hard work in making the meeting such a great success.

**Any other business:**

Ervin Kocjancic (EK) – chair of Education Committee asked what was the role of the General Secretary of ICS in ICI and what the bylaws state about any conflict of interest of these 2 positions? EK stated that ICS went through a very similar path in 2012 when the education committee chair was asked to step down and hand over his activity to somebody else because he was the scientific chair of the annual meeting.

AW responded, stating that 2 months after the board's decision to collaborate and host with ICI he was approached by Paul Abrams to be a member of the steering committee for the ICI. AW confirmed with PA that this was a personal invitation and would involve editing the ICI book.

AW also noted that many members of the ICS also work on ICI committees and hoped ICS members would trust and know how scrupulously fair he was in whatever dealings he had with the ICI and the ICS. EK stated that he didn't believe AW was corrupt but there might be some other conflict of interest and this was why Werner Schaefer (WS) was asked to step down and how was this different. AW confirmed that WS was asked to step down due to the amount of work involved chairing both committees and over a matter of performance management.

AW confirmed that there was no conflict of interest – the board are convinced that hosting the ICI meeting is in the best interest of ICS and if anything his involvement with the ICI would bring a closer involvement with ICS. The board hope to move closer in partnership and collaboration with the ICI and bring ICS values to the ICI process. EK asked whether there were any rules for this. AW confirmed there is nothing in either the bylaws or articles of association which prevented this association.

Alex Digesu (AD) - completely agreed with AW but agreed with EK also. AD stated that maybe he had missed something regarding the bylaws and AW's position on the board of ICI. AD also asked whether AW thought the membership should have been involved in the decision, which he felt was the right thing to do. AW reconfirmed that the bylaws and articles of association do not state anything regarding this decision; with regard to the membership's role. The board are elected by the membership to run the ICS for the benefit of ICS and its members, and the decision to collaborate with ICI was taken with only that in mind.

Nucelio Lemos (NL) – stated that he thought it was a smart move to work with the ICI as he believed there should be no separate ICI. NL stated that ICI only exists due to omission by the ICS. The work should be carried out by a charity like the ICS. NL also stated that if the long term plan is to integrate the ICI into the ICS then he congratulated the board. AW confirmed that this was the ICS's long term goal. NL said he was surprised however to find out this information via the Hans Peter Dietz communications and wanted to know what role the scientific committee had within this – should the committee be auditing what the ICI produces, should they have any participation within the programme as this was never communicated to the committee? AW reminded the membership that the original announcement regarding the hosting of ICI was in June well pre-dating the recent emails and what reaction there

was, was overwhelmingly positive at the time. AW confirmed that it was a great chance for the ICS who will have the copyright of this product, gaining with its reputation and intellectual profile.

Daniel Garcia – Mexico (DG) - stated that he had been a member of ICS for 5 years and wasn't aware of the governance rules and asked AW to share with the members. AW confirmed that all bylaws, articles of association and all those things DG referred to were available via the ICS website and were distributed this time last year to all of the members. AW also confirmed that members had to confirm that they had read the articles and bylaws when becoming an ICS member.

Catherine DuBeau (CD) - confirmed that members were excited about the closer collaboration between ICS and ICI but felt what was concerning some of the members was that AW predicated how this happened in that it was a personal relationship between him and Paul Abrams. AW stated that this wasn't the case at all and the building of the ICI relationship was a culmination of 2 years of negotiations between the previous general secretary, himself and the steering committee. CD stated that there was a big role for the ICS scientific committee due to ICI's lack of bringing standards to the standardised review. AW confirmed that the board was aware of the perceived shortcomings of the ICI process and hoped that these would be resolved with time and a close working partnership.

Alex Digesu (AD) – asked whether there was any financial consequence for the ICS relating to the partnership with ICI. AW confirmed that there is a cost to running the ICI hoped that ICS will be able to mitigate this by sponsorship in a similar way to all ICS events. If financial details were required Sherif Mourad would be able to provide this information.

Peter Rosier (PR) – Chair of Urodynamics Committee – asked whether it was possible to present at next year's AGM how the ICS is planning to continue to assimilate with the ICI and shed light on all the aspects arising. AW agreed this would happen.

Marcus Drake (MD) stated that he thought common sense clearly indicated that ICI happening at the ICS was a very constructive, scientifically valuable and very beneficial thing. MD confirmed that focus should be given to ensuring that it is put in place and the procedural aspects are covered by the board of trustees – keep looking at the bigger picture. ICS and ICI are both very valuable.

Kamil Svabik (KS) – stated that he would like to support what AD said; the AGM is the only place where members can express how they feel and requested that at future AGMs important decisions such as the ICI should be taken by the members.

AW confirmed that there were mechanisms in place for bringing motions to the board at the AGM and this was announced to the membership before the summer. *(Note: the ICS membership has a chance to discuss ICS business with the Board at the Town Hall meeting. This is held the day before the AGM at each annual meeting).*

As there was no further business, AW adjourned the meeting.