

INTERNATIONAL CONTINENCE SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Of The 47th Annual General Meeting of the International Continence Society
Florence, Italy, 14th September 2017

[Link to Annual Report and Accounts](#)

[Link to 2017 Committee reports](#)

Sherif Mourad (SM) opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. SM asked people to introduce themselves if they would like to ask a question or say a comment. We gave a chance for prior questions at the Town Hall meeting on Weds to allow more in depth discussion and this is mainly planned to allow enough time for the AGM which is a business meeting and is not a chance for an extended Q&A with the Board and the membership. The agenda papers have links to the key reports, as was emailed to the membership on multiple occasions. Voting is placed later in the agenda this year to allow for members to join following any late running sessions. Members have a limited opportunity to ask questions before voting commences. Please note that at this stage no changes can be made to any vote. To allow more time for due process, voting results will not be given at the end of the AGM. Results will be made available via the ICS website as soon as possible after the AGM

1. Matters arising from the minutes of the AGM held 16 September 2016, Tokyo, Japan

There were no matters arising.

2. Approval of minutes of the AGM held 16 September 2016, Tokyo, Japan

SM as there are no comments sent to us or now then minutes are approved, there is no need for vote from members.

3. General Secretary Report – Sherif Mourad

- a) Trustees' annual report: This is available on the website. SM summarised the progress of the Board and the organisation this year. Following a strategic Board review meeting in Feb 2017 the trustees agreed the new primary aim for 2017 – 2022 is for the ICS “to be the global home of science and clinical education for LUTS, Incontinence and Pelvic Floor Disorders”. We have launched the ICS Institute with 10 individual Schools and Directors assigned to each. ICS Schools work to serve the e-learning needs of ICS members and to provide training in designated centres of excellence. Please visit the website now and keep checking back for much more exciting content. If you are interested in joining the working groups of any School then contact the office. We have 3,250 members this year, the highest total in the 46 year history of the ICS. Compared to 2016 figures this represents a 9% increase in Urologists, 35% increase in Gynaes, 30% increase Physios, 40% increase nurses and 41% increase early career professionals, 35% increase in affiliate numbers. We welcome an affiliation with the Mediterranean Incontinence and Pelvic Floor Society. Numerous other affiliations are being discussed for joining in 2018. SM encouraged all listeners to consider affiliation with the ICS and to contact the office to learn more. The office produced the 6th Edition of Incontinence. This shows the health and relevance of the ICS and that our strategic direction is paying dividends. There is now an atmosphere of professional “calm” in the ICS now and the future is bright

with many exciting plans coming up. I encourage the members to continue to contribute and bring their good ideas forward. Impact Factor of Neurourology and Urodynamics (NaU) has increased from 3.128 in 2015 to 3.560 in 2016 which is the second highest ever. Citations are at 4,800 also the highest ever. The ICS continues to enjoy benefits of the new contract resulting in better finances for the ICS. The ICS is pleased to announce the first ICS Regional Course which will be held in Phoenix, Arizona over 8-9 December 2017. The course titled "Female Pelvic Medicine & Reconstruction for Urology & Gynaecology" is aimed at clinicians with an interest in female pelvic medicine. A range of topics will be covered in the two day programme and will be presented by the best ICS experts. As you can see we have an outstanding faculty. I hope you will consider joining us at what promises to be an excellent event. Registration is now open. We are planning to run a regional course in Europe in 2018 – more news to come on this. We also ran our first ICS cadaver course in Bristol which was very successful and we plan more of these.

- b) Summary of committee achievements: Our committees have had another very active year. The summary committee reports were sent to all members so SM gave some key points from the reports

- **Children and Young adults Committee**

Committee members have spoken at a number of events in Italy and Asia as well as finalising a sponsorship agreement between ICS and Wellspect for a book on neuro-urology for children and adolescents.

- **Education Committee 2016-2017**

Hosted 19 educational guest lectures and add on courses. As well as the new ICS Cadaver course in Bristol. The committee contributed to the scientific committee review of ICS 2017 workshops. A key achievement was the publication of online education content- 300 freshly reviewed videos are now available on ICS TV.

- **Neurourology promotion committee**

The committee published 'Intravesical vanilloids for treating neurogenic lower urinary tract dysfunction in patients with multiple sclerosis.' The committee held their annual joint meeting with INUS (International Neuro-Urology Society) in Zurich. The committee have produced videos for ICS TV and plan to create an additional 3 ICS modules on basic and advance teachings of neuro-urology.

- **Ethics committee report**

The committee are hosting an advanced workshop entitled "The Ethics of Female Genital mutilation (FGM) and Other Urogenital Interventions". The committee worked on a marketing campaign for the new 'Best Ethics Poster Award' which was launched last year but received limited responses. This year the committee received a modest, but solid response from delegates. The committee will be monitoring the live surgery activities during ICS 2017.

- **Nursing Committee**

The committee created a best practice document about bladder and bowel training. Donna Bliss is editing a book on Faecal Incontinence Management for the Advanced Practice Nurse. This will be published by Springer France in 2018. The Committee prepared their annual Nursing Forum and Nursing Workshop for the 2017 annual conference in Florence. Committee members spoke on behalf of ICS at education courses in Brazil, London, China and Hong Kong.

- **Physiotherapy Committee**

The committee prepared their annual Physiotherapy Round-table programme for Florence. Physiotherapists are represented in a wide variety of workshops and podium and poster presentations. The Education & Professional Development subcommittee produced the 'International Continence Society supported pelvic physiotherapy education guideline' published in 2017.

- **Publications and Communications Committee**

Committee members have produced regular content for ICS news and eNews as well as social media content for ICS social media platforms. ICS eNews subscription has increased by close to 800 people over the last year and on average each eNews generates 403 visits to the ICS website. Our social media platforms have increased in members by 25% since Tokyo.

- **Standardisation Steering Committee Report**

The SSC have had a busy year with 3 terminology documents submitted for publication since Tokyo. This follows on from the 3 publications published in 2016. A further 2 reports are expected to be submitted for publication in late 2017. Four working groups are expected to publish their work in 2018/19. Since Tokyo, under the new Chair Bernie Haylen, 6 new working groups have been launched covering a range of topics including fistulae, obstetric trauma and pelvic floor muscle function/dysfunction. The committee are aiming to launch a further 3 working groups by the end of 2017. The committee have also reviewed all the wiki pages online and are hosting a workshop in Florence, organised by Beth Shelly.

- **Urodynamics Committee Report**

The committee have been working on the ICS teaching modules this year with 4 new modules published. This follows on from the 6 modules published in 2016. All new modules will be prepared preferably in a review adhering to PRISMA-guideline, partially depending on further decisions on (centralized or decentralized) structure and process of education development and submitted to NU&U for peer review including a printout of the slides. The committee's design structure and process to develop teaching modules are adopted by the education committee as well as by the board and trustees.

SM further explained that we have worked hard in establishing and consolidating our relationship with industry partners and have secured deals with Laborie, Wellspect and Pfizer

c) Announcement of elected persons from web ballot:

SM confirmed the results of the elections – Re-election of Nina Davis as Ethics Chair, re-election of Emmanuel Chartier-Kastler as Neurourology Promotion Chair, re-election of Donna Bliss as Nursing Chair, re-election of Doreen McClurg as Physiotherapy Chair. Enrico Finazzi Agro was elected as urodynamics committee chair. On the Scientific Committee, Melanie Morin was elected as physiotherapy representative and Jennifer Kruger as non-clinical representative.

Congratulations to all in their success.

d) Announcements of nominees and expressions of interest required by 1st April 2018 for ICS posts web ballot:

SM announced that for the Board there will be a position for Trustee: Allied Health and on the ICS Institute: Directors of Schools (10 positions)

e) Announcement of approved bids for 2021 Annual Meeting web ballot:

SM explained that the three final bids to host ICS 2021 were undergoing further and final review. The final chairs and destinations would be presented to the ICS membership very soon.

SM stated that we would like 2022 invitations for European destinations. We expect bids are financially viable, and should be received by 1st April 2018.

f) 2017 Awards and Fellowships winners:

SM announced we had a busy year with many applications received. The ICS was able to offer many awards to deserving persons therefore fulfilling a key charitable objective. We continue to seek further funding avenues so that we can offer even more awards to the ICS community.

g) Reflection on departed ICS members Amanda Wells and Mostafa Elhilali:

Sherif Mourad gave a speech to honour Mostafa Elhilali. Sharon Eustace gave a speech to honour Amanda Wells.

4. Amendments to ICS Articles of Association: Special Resolution vote

SM explained that for good practice and as stated within strategic plan we undertook a periodic review of the Articles and Bylaws. Only minor updates are proposed this time. Voting has already been held online and by UK Company Law an AGM vote must also be allowed. Following the AGM, online votes are added to AGM votes, any double votes are discounted, and we have the result. A majority of over 75% of votes is required for the Articles to be changed. A majority of over 50% is required for the Bylaws to be changed and for Trustees to be elected. We will vote in four stages: 1 – Articles, 2 – Bylaws, 3 – General Secretary term, 4 – Trustees. The voting took place for the special resolution for amendments to the Bylaws

In reference to the special resolution for the amendment to the Articles of Association approval was given by the membership with 97.1% in favour.

5. Amendments to ICS Bylaws: Ordinary Resolution vote

The voting took place for the ordinary resolution to the Bylaws

In reference to the ordinary resolution for the amendment to the Bylaws approval was given by the membership, with 96.2% in favour.

6. General Secretary term of office: Ordinary Resolution vote

The voting took place for the ordinary resolution for the extension of the general secretary term of office. 80.1% were in favour of commencing the three year term as of the 2017 AGM.

7. Ballot for Trustees: Ordinary Resolution vote to approve the appointments of:

David Castro-Diaz: General Secretary-Elect

Mauro Cervigni: Trustee

Carlos D'Ancona: Trustee

Marcus Drake: Trustee

Alex Tong-Long Lin: Trustee

The outcome of the voting on the Trustee positions was agreed by Ordinary Resolution, with all being elected for three years by the membership.

8. ICS Treasurer's Report and Statement of Accounts – Sherif Mourad

Jerzy Gajweski (JG) summarised the income and expenditure for the last 3 years. Tokyo Annual Meeting produced a surplus higher than expected and with registrations 400 higher than forecasted. A managed deficit of £65,166 was incurred which kept ICS within the reserves policy. The Fund balances as at 31 December 2016 of £1,374,773 cover the calculated operating costs for 2017 and 2018 and therefore meet the ICS Reserves policy.

JG slide summarised the income for ICS and Conticom for 2016. Total income has decreased compared to 2015 which is due to a much higher surplus from the Annual Meeting in Montreal in 2015. Donations received in 2016 were £22k from Pfizer for Education courses and member donations. Annual meeting income in 2016 includes £115,747 from Scientific Programme services, reimbursed Annual Meeting costs of £46,172 as well as the meeting surplus. ICI book income comprises £15k grant from Astellas and £10k pre-order book sales. Subscription income is from ICS membership fees in 2016. Royalty income is from Wiley who provide the NUU Journal sent out to Members. £640k was invested last year and in 2016 a gain of £70,604 has been made on this investment. Investment income of £389 is interest from Nat West bank accounts.

JG presented the expenditure for ICS and Conticom for 2016. Total expenditure has slightly decreased from 2015. Annual meeting expenditure includes all costs incurred by Conticom-ICS Ltd including annual meeting expenses and all office running costs and staff salaries. Educational activities includes £75k staff costs, £33k awards, grants and fellowships, £35k Educational activity costs, £22k Governance costs, £18k Committee costs, £9k Office costs, £7k Trustee board costs, £6k finance costs, £2k advertising costs. Money held in foreign currency increased by £19k (this saved on expenditure). Publication and membership includes £49k NUU journal costs, ICI meeting costs £57k, £91k staff costs, £22k Governance costs, £8k Office costs, £7k Trustee board costs, £6k Finance costs. Money held in foreign currency increased by £19k (this saved on expenditure).

JG presented Summary of income and expenditure for the Annual Meetings.

2016 – Tokyo produced a lower surplus largely due to approx. \$300k less in sponsorship and exhibition.

2015 - Montreal produced a good surplus and the Scientific fee increased from €100k to €130k to reflect the additional work the office has done on educational programme and marketing

2014 - Rio de Janeiro produced a lower surplus than some of the previous meetings.

2012 - The deficit was absorbed by Kenes and the surplus paid to Conticom was the scientific fee only

JG presented the investment update stating that a total investment of £640,000 made in September 2015. There is a diverse investment portfolio managed by Crystal Wealth Management and Russell Group Investments. We agreed a fee of just 0.25% for the ongoing administration and management of the fund. Typical fees are 0.5% – 1% so we have a great deal. The fee is payable from the investment funds directly so as not to detract from the income of the trust. The fund is worth £763,760 as at 1st September 2017. Most of the growth in 2017 was in the early part of the year. Markets have now stabilized and are likely to remain static for the moment. The ongoing uncertainty over Brexit, the strength of the Euro and concerns of North Korea remain and uncertainty sees volatility in the markets.

JG confirmed that the accounts examined by an independent firm of Accountants and approved by the Treasurer on behalf of the Trustees.

Tamara Dickinson asked whether we need the accounts examined every year. JG confirmed that yes we choose to have the accounts and activities independently examined and the annual report is also prepared for the charity commission which covers the accounts and all the activities.

JG stated that with no further questions, the accounts are hereby adopted.

SM stated that the ICS is growing but we cannot keep more than two years of trading in our reserves so if we grow more we will have to use more for charitable activities.

9. ICS Scientific Committee 201 Report – Laurence Stewart, Scientific Chair

Laurence Stewart (LS) said that was the money and this is the business! LS said he was delighted to be elected so that there is consistency within the scientific committee. He said that he was indebted to his current committee and we have had been very successful with attracting interest in the ICS. We have had the best year of submissions with 1093 accepted, 27 withdrawn and 41 not accepted. LS explained that about one third were presented, one third were ePoster and remaining third were non-discussion. LS explained that they have shortened the scientific review committee meeting and still got through the work. We got rid of the micro sessions and asked delegates what they wanted in the programme. We introduced a live surgery session and after a few hiccups it was a success.

LS explained that the goals going forward are a strategic review of programme format. Many thanks to Steinar Hunskaar who undertook this process to make the scoring system better. The new submission platform system will rule out unnecessary mistakes and reduce rejections for formal reasons. Enhanced reviewer guidelines will increase the standard of scores and a new reviewer elearning module should help with this. LS confirmed there will be some changes to the categories as well.

Peter Rosier asked who takes responsibility for the programme. LS responded saying that he will look after the long term strategy. LS further clarified that when he was chair for ICS 2011 he didn't look forward to other annual meetings but just concentrated on his meeting. SM further clarified that the Annual Meeting and Scientific chair are the programme organisers.

Alex Digesu said that LS had done a great job but he disagreed that we have to increase the number of reviewers of the abstracts. The reviewers should be experts in the field. LS responded saying that we are not increasing the number of reviewers but rather are ensuring the areas of interest and expertise are covered.

Outgoing Trustees

SM noted that Chris Payne, David Castro and Myung-Soo Choo finish today as Trustees and thanked them along with the ICS Office and Kenes. He also thanked the members for their continued support.

10. Any other business

There was no other business so the meeting was concluded.

11. Date of Next Annual General Meeting – 30 August 2018, Philadelphia, U.S.A