



Fédération Internationale de Médecine Manuelle - Internationale Gesellschaft für Manuelle Medizin - International Federation for Manual/Musculoskeletal Medicine

FIMM NEWS BULLETIN TO THE NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Secretary-General AUGUST UPDATE

PLEASE NOTE: A Special Edition of the FIMM NEWS will appear shortly with complete information and background materials for the September 15 General Assembly in Prague.

The FIMM Executive Board (EB) met July 4-5, 2007 in the Art-Seminar of the ÄMM in Berlin. **Pressing fiscal and policy topics** motivated the Board members to look toward creative solutions that will be proposed at the upcoming General Assembly.

FIMM's expected role in exchanging manual medicine experience and knowledge, promoting expertise and collegiality, and collaborating in a triennial congress was discussed in light of the recently cancelled Zurich Congress. The EB will be recommending that national societies be encouraged to:

- invite other national societies to share international manual medicine programs
- invite FIMM speakers/leaders to participate in programs
- create within a FIMM meeting time as an integral part of national congresses.

These suggestions would **create a constant, current, and recurrent "FIMM Educational Face"** to multiple national societies each year.

The General Assembly will also be given an opportunity to revisit and discuss prior decisions concerning upcoming **General Assemblies** in light of lessons learned.

- 2008 Bulgaria;
- 2009 Calgary;
- 2010 New Zealand (with Triennial Congress)

FIMM Health Policy Director, Bernard Terrier, was charged by the EB to prepare a plan for the GA to consider that officially represents international M/M Medicine to the World Health Organization (WHO). The most likely recommendation being a document entitled, **WHO Guidelines on Basic Training and Safety in Manual Medicine.**

In further **Health Policy** discussions, the EB will also:

- adopt official position papers regarding **FIMM & Osteopathic Medicine**
- consider asking the **Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes (UEMS)** "to evaluate and possibly initiate the positioning of Manual Medicine in Europe as a distinct specialization".

The **FIMM Academy** announced that it will offer National Societies discounted organizational rates for subscription to the **International Manual Medicine** journal. This *IMM* journal offer is an ongoing benefit for FIMM due to existence of the FIMM Academy.

The Executive Board wishes to inform the GA of the **delicate fiscal status of FIMM**. (A complete budgetary report will be published and sent in advance of the GA). All options ranging from increasing fees, to cutting expenses, and to consider reorganizational strategies were discussed and are under close scrutiny by the EB. All National Societies and delegates will be informed of the rationale underlying the recommendation that the **EB does not recommend an increase in fees this year but rather a one-time special assessment** to address the debt. The EB will present a specific and more aggressive plan based upon fiscal transparency between FIMM operations and projects to the General Assembly that will then be asked to vote on these elements.

A number of National Societies have not paid their dues for two or more years. According to the By-Laws, the General Assembly will be asked to **vote to revoke their membership**. These are the current manual medicine organizations representing:

- Greece
- Lithuania
- Portugal
- Latvia
- Luxemburg

Communication Officer, Michel Dedée, will **survey National Society presidents and representatives** to identify problems and difficulties experienced concerning manual medicine in their countries. In particular, he is interested in hearing from Societies with small memberships. He plans to present his findings in Paris.

After many years, Education Board Director, Glen Gorm Rasmussen, will retire from his position. A **new Education Board Director will be elected** at the FIMM General Assembly. Candidates should consider the qualifications posted on www.fimm-online.com.

The Education Board of FIMM will meet prior to the General Assembly in conjunction with the **Special Glossary Project Task Force**. The Task Force will also meet immediately following the General Assembly to work towards finalizing a revised FIMM Glossary. A **special educational grant of \$5000** was secured for FIMM by Taskforce Chairperson, Michael Kuchera. This grant was awarded to FIMM from the national Osteopathic Research Center located in Dallas, Texas to help standardize manual medicine terminology used to communicate research findings in this field.

Congratulations to authors Michael A. Seffinger and Raymond J. Hruby for their new textbook, **“Evidence-Based Manual Medicine: A Problem-Oriented Approach.”** This 2007 text was published by Saunders/Elsevier.

Congratulations to **former FIMM Scientific Committee member, Boyd Buser**, who has been named the Interim Dean for the Pikeville College School of Osteopathic Medicine (PCSOM).”PCSOM was the brainchild of the late American Osteopathic Association President John A. Strosnider, DO, who dedicated his work to educating osteopathic physicians to bring health care to the rural and underserved in Kentucky.

Glossary input from National Societies and their members is now sought: Please review the existing Glossary for currency, accuracy, and completeness. You can view the *FIMM Glossary* under the Education Committee documents (www.fimm-online.com).

Comments can be sent to any member of the Task Force or to the Education Board Director prior to September 3, 2007.

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**Respectfully submitted,
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Secretary-General**