



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
NOVEMBER 2007

2007 FIMM General Assembly Deliberations Passed.

The FIMM General Assembly met September 15 in Prague, Czech Republic. Delegates representing 20 countries were present along with all members of the FIMM Executive Board and officers from the FIMM Academy. Sixteen countries had eligible voting representatives; three had not submitted full dues payments and one requested proxy representative did not have a letter from the second Society's president.

Health Policy Board and Advisors Confirmed

Health Policy Board director, Bernard Terrier, laid out his vision and an action plan for 2007-2009 designed to defend and advance the understanding and impact of manual / musculoskeletal medicine, globally and nationally. The General Assembly approved the two major long-range arms of this plan and the personnel needed to move them forward.

- **European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS) Plan:** Over the next three years, the experienced representatives of the **"UEMS Team"** will seek to plan and position manual medicine in such a manner that it would be recognized as a unique specialty (or subspecialty). Currently Germany's DGMM maintains an "observer status" within UEMS. The plan passed unanimously (*with 3 abstentions*) as did the Assembly-augmented list of members that also appears at the end of this newsletter.
- **World Health Organization (WHO) Plan:** The **"WHO Team"** seeks to develop a consensus document, "Basic Training and Safety in Manual Medicine," with a target date of 2010 to obtain a WHO Consultation. The unanimously approved plan (*16:0*) will need sponsorship to cover costs. To this need, several National Society representatives pointed out that their organizations were likely to contribute to this effort. The unanimously approved list of Full members and Advisors appears at the end of this *FIMM News*.

An *"Archives of Health Policy Issues"* representing important or interesting medico-political issues will be selected by the Health Policy Director and Secretary-General to appear in each *FIMM News*.

Rasmussen Retires, Teyssandier Elected to Chair FIMM Education Board

After a decade of leading FIMM's Educational Board (EdB), Glen Gorm Rasmussen (Denmark) retired to a standing ovation of the Assembly ... and a unanimous vote to appoint him as Honorary Member of FIMM. Rasmussen reminded the Assembly that FIMM was founded by educationalists with education being the original central core of the Federation.

After hearing his vision for the Board, delegates unanimously (*2 abstentions*) elected, as the new Chairperson, Marie-Jose Teyssandier (France) who had served on the EdB since its inception. Teyssandier was a fellow with Robert Maigne for 40 years, a

manual medicine teacher for 30 years, and the author of 10 textbooks. He laid out a plan to train educators to teach practically and to develop teaching protocols that he proposes should be presented to the General Assembly annually.

Glossary Taskforce

Version 7.0 of the FIMM Glossary and the report of the Special Glossary Taskforce were disseminated to the Assembly. The delegates then voted unanimously (16:0) to accept the report and to thank the Osteopathic Research Center's unrestricted educational grant that funded the newest version.

Dues & Budget for 2008: As a consequence of actions by the General Assembly, two options for dues will exist for 2008. As always annual societal dues shall include a base fee of €135/society; additionally this year a recommendation was passed to increase dues €0.50/member ... thereby to total €4.00/member. (However, if this increase cannot be accommodated by a given national society in 2008, their option is to continue to pay a fee of €135 plus €3.50/member).

The fiscal actions of the General Assembly reflect the need to have adequate funding to meet the Mission of FIMM, to intensify efforts to raise the image of Manual Medicine in Europe and abroad through the new Health Policy Board, AND to address the critical cash flow issue created by several countries not paying 2006 dues (for a variety of reasons). It is important to recognize that while the FIMM Executive Board remained well under expenditures approved in the budget by the 2006 FIMM General Assembly, the current critical imbalance and inability to move forward as rapidly as expected represents the failure of key National Societies to honor their promised support in 2006. It is hoped that all or some of these organizations will in the future repay their shortfall.

- **Dues increase need but an option exists:** In a vote to either severely limit FIMM activities or to raise annual dues, the delegates voted unanimously (*one abstention*) to raise dues. In a second split vote, the delegates recommended that the needed/recommended €0.50 increase per member should be termed "optional" recognizing the difficulty in making a dues transition on short notice for some countries.
- **Balanced budget passed:** The 2008 budget projects modest activities of FIMM limited to the proposed budget and the income generated through dues.

FIMM Memberships Revoked: Delegates voted 12:1 (2 *abstentions*) to revoke FIMM membership for the Manual Medicine National Societies of five countries because of failure to pay dues for two or more years. Unanimously the FIMM Delegates did request that the representatives of these countries be invited to consider applying for "extraordinary membership" (no dues, no vote – see statutes on www.fimm-online.com).

- **Countries who lost their membership but will be invited to consider applying for "extraordinary membership" included:**
 - Greece
 - Latvia
 - Lithuania
 - Luxemburg
 - Portugal
- **New and/or extraordinary memberships sought:** Any organization representing a valid manual medicine organization in an unrepresented country (including one with an extraordinary member) is welcome to apply for full

FIMM membership to the General Assembly in 2008. Other FIMM members are encouraged to try to identify MM physician groups in these (and other) non-represented countries. Contact the Secretary-General at MichaelKuc@pcom.edu or a member of the Executive Board if you or your organization has questions.

Hutson Re-Elected Chairperson of the FIMM Academy Executive Board

By unanimous vote, Michael Hutson (U.K.) was re-elected to chair the Executive Board of the FIMM Academy. In keeping with the Bylaws concerning term limits, this will be his final term in office. A proposal to direct a move of the FIMM Education Board responsibilities to the FIMM Academy was defeated (5:10).

The FIMM Academy has provided several of the most visible products representing FIMM's contribution to manual medicine. This success has been possible even with the agreed upon declining contribution of FIMM and because of increasing membership by manual medicine scientists and educationalists. FIMM strongly supports application and nomination of new members to the FIMM Academy.

The FIMM Academy will have their next major meeting in **Prague from May 29-31, 2008**.

The **2008 FIMM General Assembly** shall be held **September 27, 2008** in **Varna, Bulgaria**.

For more information, please see www.fimm-online.com. A full summary of the 2007 FIMM General Assembly minutes and a new version of the FIMM *Glossary* shall be appearing on the website soon.

General Updates on FIMM National Societies

France: The Société Française de Médecine Manuelle Orthopédique et Ostéopathique (SOFMMOO; President: Jehan Lecocq MD) will hold their annual meeting **December 7-8, 2007 in Paris** with Jean-Yves Maigne, MD serving as president of the congress. The topics will focus on manual medicine and osteopathic approaches to patients with Lumbago and to patients with problems affecting the Knee. FIMM President, Wolfgang von Heymann, MD will present to the Congress as a special guest. See the French society's webpage at www.sofmmoo.com for more information about the Conference.

Russian Federation: Poster summaries of the work conducted by clinical scientists from the **Russian League of Professionals in Manual Medicine** were displayed at the Research Conference at the AOA Annual Convention in San Diego in October 2007. Their abstracts were published (C25-C29) in the August issue of the peer-reviewed *Journal of the American Osteopathic Association* (JAOA 107(8):327-364 August 2007) or see <http://www.jaoa.org/cgi/content/full/107/8/327>. Abstracts (US and Russian) that are particularly related to the clinical, basic science, or education science involved in manual medicine include: F 1, 2, 4 ... P 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10 ... C 8, 19, 20, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 ... B 24, 25, 30 ... M 4, 6, 8.

Switzerland: The Swiss Medical Society for Manual Medicine (SAMM) will hold their 48th annual meeting **November 29-December 1, 2007 in Interlaken**. This year the topics will focus on the dysfunctions of the lumbar spine and specifically the foot. See

<http://www.samm.ch/pub/de/index.cfm?u=4D5F040A03747E74070A720C030F0309030F720C747904046>.

United Kingdom: The British Institute of Musculoskeletal Medicine (BIMM) and the Society of Orthopaedic Medicine will co-host a meeting in **London, November 30-December 1, 2007**. This symposium shall consider best practice when deciding how to treat tendinopathy ... to manipulate or not; to inject or not, etc. See the conference website:

<http://www.bimm.org.uk/uploads/SOM%20Symposium%202007%20Prog.pdf>

United States of America: The American Academy of Osteopathy (AAO) will present its annual Convocation entitled, *“Unlocking the Secrets of the Thoracic Cage: Applying Functional Anatomy and Physiology to Clinical Practice,”* from **March 26-30, 2008** at the InterContinental Hotel in **Dallas, Texas**. See the Convocation website: <http://www.academyofosteopathy.org/ConvocationFlyer2008.pdf>

In addition to the Convocation program, a hands-on lymphatic workshop by Bruno Chikly, MD entitled, *“Fluid Techniques for Interosseous and Embryological Articulations of the Thorax: Specific Evaluation & Treatment,”* will be offered.

An international scientific and research conference on somatovisceral visceral reflexes will follow the AAO Convocation. Plan to stay for both.

A Special Note on Activities in the Lives of Friends in the FIMM Family

The Duodecim Education Award was presented to **Karl August-Lindgren (Finland)** by the ORTON Invalid Foundation (a leading Finnish expert in orthopaedics). Lindgren currently serves as the Secretary-General of Finland’s National Society and is active in the science and research objectives of FIMM and the FIMM Academy.

FIMM Secretary-General, **Michael Kuchera (USA)**, had his article “Applying osteopathic principles to formulate treatment for patients with chronic pain” published. To download the article, see

http://www.jaoa.org/cgi/content/full/107/suppl_6/ES28

MM Educational Opportunities & Resources

Fascial Research Congress to be Re-Broadcast in November & December: Held October 4-5, 2007 on the Harvard Medical School campus in Boston, the first Fascia Research Congress was a tremendous success. The Congress, which presented the latest and best scientific fascial research from basic and clinical scientists around the globe, was oversubscribed and the organizers have arranged to have it rebroadcast at or by a number of colleges and educational sites. (See www.fascia2007.com for rebroadcasting options or to see how you might attend.)

Conceived and organized by a multidisciplinary committee of science researchers and practicing health care professionals whose respective fields shared a common focus and interest in the human body’s soft connective tissue matrix, the Congress was the first international conference **dedicated to fascia in all its forms and functions**. FIMM was a “supporting organization” which means that we backed the conference goals with a formal letter of support. In addition, FIMM made (and continues to make) information about the conference available to our members and associates.

BOOK CORNER

FASCIA RESEARCH: The First Scientific Exploration of Fascia from an Interdisciplinary Perspective. The purpose of this book is to organize relevant information for scientists involved in the research of the body’s connective tissue matrix (fascia) as well as professionals involved in the therapeutic manipulation of this body wide structural fabric. It is based on materials presented at the First International Fascia Research Congress. It includes:

- 16 Full-Text Articles written by the Leading Scientists in Fascia Research
- Abstracts from the First International Fascia Research Congress

Price: \$50 plus \$5.00 for shipping and handling (see www.fascia2007.com).

Physicians confirmed by the 2007 FIMM General Assembly to serve on the **FIMM Health Policy Board** included:

HEALTH POLICY BOARD WHO TEAM (FULL MEMBERS)

Bernard Terrier (Switzerland): Group Leader
Massimiliano Cossu (Italy); Peter Skew (UK); Victoria Sotos-Borras (Spain);
Kazuyoshi Sumita (Japan); Dmitri A. Teterin (Russian Federation); Vlasta Tosnerova
(Czech Republic); James Watt (New Zealand)

HEALTH POLICY BOARD EU TEAM (FULL MEMBERS)

Reinhard Deinfelder (Germany): Group Leader
Lothar Beyer (Germany); Nadine Fouques-Weiss (Germany); Leili Lepik (Estonia);
Hans Tilscher (Austria); Wolfgang von Heymann (Germany)

HEALTH POLICY BOARD (ADVISORY MEMBERS)

Olavi Airaksinen (Finland); Ulrich Böhni (Switzerland); Boyd Buser (USA); Allan
Gravesen (Denmark); Jean Lecocq (France); Matthias Psczolla (Germany); Marie-
José Teyssandier (France)