

**Fédération Internationale de Médecine Manuelle
International Federation for Manual/Musculoskeletal Medicine
Internationale Gesellschaft für Manuelle Medizin
Federación Internacional de Medicina Manual**



Secretary-General

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Draft Version for Appropriate Approval – Full Notes

**Minutes of the 2023 FIMM General Assembly
Eindhoven-Led ZOOM Virtual Meeting
November 5, 2023**

FIMM President, **Henk Bultman**, called the 58th FIMM General Assembly (2023) to order at 1200 UTC (1300 CET). He thanked participants for enduring the necessary short-notice announcement of transitioning from a face-to-face meeting in Tel Aviv to a virtual General Assembly (GA) Due to the recent onset of war in Israel, we must now convene our third virtual General Assembly in the past 5 years. He extended our well-wishes to those in Israel and Ukraine for all they must be enduring. We hope for a more peaceful world and the opportunity to have a face-to-face General Assembly next year.

All delegates and guests attending this online (Zoom) GA had been invited via email and/or WhatsApp and then admitted by members of the FIMM Executive Board (co-hosts **Bultman & Finestone**) after electronic invitation and credentialing.

President **Henk Bultman** invoked our practical and legitimate voting conventions (which were successfully used in previous years) to conduct a virtual GA:

- Only Active Member Societies who paid an annual contribution (dues) completely would be cleared to vote. (In the case that dues payment funds had been transferred but not yet received, the Treasurer requested an evidentiary email in real-time.)
- Whenever calling a vote, the president requested that delegates first voice or signal abstentions or nays. These would be registered and counted. If no further abstention or nay was heard when a vote for approval was called, the remainder of possible votes would be considered as aye votes.
- **Aharon Finestone** (co-host & treasurer) and **Stephan Vinzelberg** (Science Officer) were assigned the role of counting votes or watching for attendees to raise their virtual hands. They were instructed to announce results immediately and maintain a ledger of all votes.

After comparing the Zoom electronic attendance list against his record of dues payments, the Treasurer approved a total of 31 votes from 18 Member Societies for this General Assembly.

The **PRE-PUBLISHED AGENDA** for the 2023 FIMM General Assembly was posted on the FIMM website and emailed to Member Societies well in advance.

As pre-published (prior to the proposed motion mentioned above), the Agenda was:

1. *Opening by the President*
2. *Matters arising from the minutes of the last General Assembly (2022)*
3. *Report from the President*
4. *Report from the Secretary-General*
5. *Report from the Treasurer*
6. *Report from the Auditors*
7. *Election/confirmation of the Auditors and other related matters*
8. *Report from the Director of the Education Board*
9. *Report from the Director of the Health Policy Board*
10. *Decision on the membership fees for the next year*
11. *Membership (admissions/suspensions/discussion on membership status)*
12. *Q&A on the actual status of the societies (limited to 2 minutes per pre-assigned delegate)*
13. *Date and place of the General Assembly 2024*
14. *Any other business (brought up by the societies 2 weeks before the GA)*
15. *Closing the 2023 General Assembly by the President*

AGENDA ITEM # 1: OPENING BY THE PRESIDENT

Attendee Summary:

A total of 31 individuals were on the ZOOM call representing 18 Member Societies and two guests. One of the guests, **David Stran** (SOLAMOYM), was invited as a representative seeking FIMM membership for his Society. **Another (surprise guest), David Cipel** (SOFMMOOM member who was recommended to replace recently deceased **Norbert Teisseire** on the Education Board) also attended.

Also attending the GA were all members of the FIMM Executive Board: **Henk Bultman, Michael Kuchera, Aharon Finestone, Negev Bar, Bernard Terrier**, and **Ilia Todorov** as well as FIMM Advisors, **Karen Goss, Javier Martinez** and **Victoria Sotos-Borràs**.

Not attending from the invited representatives of Ordinary Members included representatives from Japan, New Zealand, the Russian Federation. Observer nation representative from Slovak Republic was also not in attendance.

The President then conducted a formal roll call of Member Society delegates. The voting delegate for each Ordinary Member or a representative of any attending Observer Member was asked for voice confirmation of their presence and a report of their 2023 membership numbers to determine the number of votes allotted. Using a member-weighted voting "Fractions" formula,¹ 31 votes were calculated to be possible at this meeting. Some representatives provided updates concerning their Society or country. (The Attendance / Roll Call Table below summarizes this data; highlighted lines indicate countries not in attendance or without a vote this year because of their membership or dues status.)

¹ FIMM Statutes determine the number of votes according to the numbers of qualified physicians ("Fractions") represented by their Society, the "Fractions" have the following numbers of votes: (1) Fractions of 25-99 have 1 vote; (2) Fractions of 100-1'999 have 2 votes; (3) Fractions of 2'000+ have 3 votes.

Roll Call: MM Society - Delegation Physicians by COUNTRY <i>(Pertinent comments included)</i>	# of Members	Votes
Bulgaria (BSMM) – Ilia Todorov	32	1
Canada (CAOM) – Brian Shames <i>He is actively teaching MM but CAOM not as interested in MM as in prolotherapy so they have not paid their dues; Discussion suggested for helping solve or “Observer” status</i>	64	0
Czech Republic – Vlasta Tošnerová	284	2
Denmark (DSMM) – Karen Goss <i>Karen moved into Education Officer position from President (but still serves as an “international co-president”); With COVID, DSMM has difficulty attracting new course participants so they are entering a period seeking to raise their profile</i>	290	2
Finland (FAMM) – Olavi Airaksinen	180	2
France (SOFMMOOM) – Marc Rozenblat with Patrick III (+ David Cypel)	140	2
Germany (ÄMKA) – Stefan Martin with Ruth Kamping	260	2
Germany (DGMM) – Stephan Vinzelberg <i>(Submission hyperlink)</i>	4424	3
Hong Kong (HKSMM) – Stanley Lam with Mark Lai <i>(Incoming President)</i> <i>Extensive comments concerning growth (+ Societal input for 35 peer-reviewed articles & 5 textbooks during COVID); Advocates MM with interventional Tx’s</i>	124	2
Hungary – Reka Puskás	6	
Israel (ISMM) – Negev Bar with Aharon Finestone	303	2
Italy (SIMFER) – Carla Correggia	85	1
<i>Japan – Not Registered</i>	?	0
Kazakhstan (KAMT&O) – Nadezhda Krasnoyarova	53	1
Republic of Korea (KSCMM) – Me-Riong (Miriam) Kim with Hyun-Jun Lee <i>(5600 if would count associate members in process)</i>	1366 active	2
The Netherlands (NVAMG) - Henk Bultman	152	2
<i>New Zealand (Ordinary Member) – Not participating</i>	34?	0
<i>Russian Federation – Not Registered; No Information</i>	?	0
<i>Slovak Republic (Observational Member); No Information</i>	?	0
Spain (SEMOOYM) – Javier Martinez Romero with Victoria Mária Sotos-Borrás	106	2
Switzerland (SAMM) – Marc-Henri Gauchat with Bernard Terrier	1101	2
Turkey (MTD) – Demirhan Dıraçoğlu with Cihan Aksoy	51	1
Ukraine (UAOCMT) – Vitalii Gubenko with Andriy Fedosenko	93	1
United States of America (AAO) – Michael Kuchera	1323	2
18 of 23 possible member societies in attendance at the GA	10,431	32 votes

Delegates (and accompanying colleagues) for 18 Member Societies represented 10,431 MM doctors. Also attending was invited SOLAMOYM (Latin American Society of Orthopaedic and Manual Medicine) president, **Daniel Stran** (Uruguay), who wished to represent his society in their bid to become an Ordinary Member of FIMM this year. His invitation to attend was extended by President **Henk Bultman**.

AGENDA ITEM #2: Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Last General Assembly

1. Recommendations regarding membership dues. (After finance report).
2. Approval of 2022 FIMM GA Minutes.

MOTION (MINUTES): Approve the Minutes of 2022 FIMM General Assembly as posted on the FIMM-website and distributed with editorial correction of acronym SOFMMOOM spelling noted by **Marc Rozenblat** of that society. – **Passed unanimously**

AGENDA ITEM #3: REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT – Henk Bultman

(For the powerpoint presentation made, please see the **PRESIDENTIAL REPORT** via [hyperlink](#))

The president's retrospective synopsis of FIMM official business (meetings and General Assemblies) from 2019-2023 indicated most communication was conducted online due to unavoidable issues including COVID and war.

He recounted FIMM's Mission & Goals and explained the progress of the Health Policy and Education Board projects and some of the implications of losing face-to-face interactions.

- The current *Guidelines for Basic Training and Safety* (v3) are becoming increasingly outdated by not delineating many of the different standards, situations and evolution taking place in MM educational and credentialing systems recognized in certain countries.
- Until the present *Guidelines* are revised, the work of the Education Project therefore needed to be postponed.

To move forward effectively, a proposed "Strategy Meeting" and its rationale was presented along with a motion (*below*) to identify strategic next steps and long-range strategies to present to the FIMM delegates. This strategy meeting would be focused to advance the Vision & Mission consensus document (Frankfurt, 2015 [hyperlink](#)) as ratified by the entire FIMM Assembly, and allow FIMM Boards to adapt and compensate for the delays caused by inability to meet due to unforeseen worldwide issues.

MOTION

The Executive Board as well as the President of FIMM express their wish to prolongate the assignment given by the General Assembly in 2022.

Talking into account all the arguments put forth; the special circumstances that we have faced since 2020 (including limited General Assemblies and Conferences due to Covid-19 Pandemic (2x) and this year's war in the Middle East); a lack of face-to-face / onsite meetings as result of these circumstances; and the assignment given by the General Assembly in 2022 to prolongate the terms of the President and the Executive Board for 2 extra years.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The terms of the current members of the Executive Board, including the President, shall be extended an additional two more years (until 2026) in order to determine a Strategic Plan with steps to implement set goals needed to advance FIMM's Vision and Mission.

Motion above – **Passed unanimously**

AGENDA ITEM #4: SECRETARY-GENERAL REPORT – Michael Kuchera

(For the presentation made, please see the **SECRETARY-GENERAL REPORT** via [hyperlink](#)).

The Secretary-General's Report this year, "Setting Strategies for Societal Success," built upon his 2021 Report "FIMM: Our Family Finding our Future." In it, he reinforced the Presidential message and continues to support setting up a multi-day face-to-face Strategy Meeting perhaps in the spring of

2024. He provided an example of using a “White Paper Strategy” to help advance the Vision & Mission of FIMM and which could potentially be used by member societies nationally or regionally.

MOTION: Accept Secretary-General Report – Unanimous approval

AGENDA ITEM #5: TREASURER REPORT – Aharon Finestone

*(For the presentation made, please see the **2020 ANNUAL TREASURER’S REPORT** via [hyperlink](#)).*

Aharon Finestone provided his 2022 Annual Report of Treasurer.

At the beginning 2022, the FIMM balance was reported to be approximately €44,750 and closed at the end-of-the-year with a balance of approximately €48,375. This shows a small profit of approximately €3,625. The 2022 Budget was a positive one for FIMM due to savings related to meeting savings related to the GA in Hannover and retiming/relocating the planned Vision meeting. The Executive Board therefore voted during one of their periodic Zoom meetings this year to not recommend an increase in membership dues.

The 2024 Budget presented predicts a face-to-face General Assembly & conference as well as the potential for a Vision/Mission/Leadership meeting resulting in a small deficit of approximately €4,500.

AGENDA ITEM #6 AUDITOR REPORT *(noted here prior to voting on the budget).*

Olavi Airaksinen (auditor) “approved” and **Stefan Martin** (auditor) sent an email Oct 17, 2023 conveying his “approval” post-audit.

MOTION: Accept Auditor’s Report – Unanimous approval

MOTION: Accept Treasurer’s Financial Report of 2022 – Unanimous approval

MOTION: No increase in dues needed for next year – Unanimous

MOTION: Accept Budget for 2024 – Unanimous approval

AGENDA ITEM #7: ELECTION OF AUDITOR(S)

MOTION: Stefan Martin and Olavi Airaksinen agreed to continue and were elected by the GA delegates as auditors this year – **Unanimous approval.**

President Bultman thanked the delegates for the opportunity to continue to serve and pursue the goals set for his term.

AGENDA ITEM #8: EDUCATION BOARD REPORT – Ilia Todorov, Director

*(For the presentation made, please see the **EDUCATION BOARD REPORT** via [hyperlink](#)).*

The Education Board chairman provided a brief history of the Education Project noting that progress was strong until the pandemic. Accomplishments included development of review checklist tools for evaluating both teachers and educational program as well as fully evaluating and passing the curricula of Denmark, Germany, Switzerland and Spain. Evolving educational perspectives and events were felt to warrant postponing the project.

Members who have served on the FIMM Education Board to date include:

- **Ilia Todorov** (Bulgaria), chairman
- **Karen Goss** (Denmark)

- **Javier Martínez** (Spain)
- **Stephan Vinzelberg** (Germany)
- **Heather Ferrill** (USA)
- **Me-riونغ Kim** (South Korea)
- **Negev Bar** (Israel)
- **Norbert Teisseire** (France)

MOTION: Accept Education Board Report – Unanimous approval

AGENDA ITEM #9: HEALTH POLICY BOARD REPORT – Bernard Terrier, Director

*(For the presentation made, please see the **HEALTH POLICY REPORT** via [hyperlink](#)).*

A synopsis of proposed revisions and progress on the current version of *Guidelines on Basic Training and Safety* towards the 4th version was presented. This includes a proposed title change to *Guidelines on Basic Training, Safety, Evidence and Quality*.

Information regarding the process was intended to provide delegates with information and insight into the scope of the changes that will be proposed for their ratification when the 4th version is presented. Proposed direction and scope include:

- Several previous educational pathways for MM training be refined or modified based upon current practices and recommendations from the Education Board
- Expansion of the Glossary section
- Rewriting and explaining the categories of educational levels
- Defining and recognizing “competency-based” training as an equivalent to structure- and “process-based” training (such as the number of hours or credits).
- Expanding and/or updating references in support of the document
- New sections delineating evidence and quality

The projected plan for designating Board tasks and implementation was also presented. These were suggested to be further discussed and developed at the proposed spring (2024) strategy meeting.

Members of the Health Policy Board are:

- **Dr. Bernard Terrier**, Switzerland, (Chairman)
- **Dr. Olavi Airaksinen**, Finland
- **Dr. Boyd R. Buser, DO**, USA
- **Dr. Helle Borgstrøm**, Denmark
- **Dr. Karen Goss**
- **Dr. Henk Bultman**, The Netherlands, (FIMM President)
- **Dr. Nadine Fouques-Weiss**, France
- **Dr. Me-riونغ Kim, K.M.D, M.S.**, Republic of Korea
- **Dr. Hermann Locher**, Germany
- **Dr. M. Victoria Sotos Borrás**, Spain

MOTION: Accept HPB Report – Unanimous approval

AGENDA ITEM #10 – MEMBERSHIP FEES

A discussion at the 2022 General Assembly noted the possible need to increase membership fees in 2023 (*Minutes 2022 General Assembly [hyperlink](#)*). The Executive Board determined that our status in

the face of basic administrative expenditures coupled with our currently postponed projects indicate no need to raise dues or request a surcharge at this time.

PRIOR MOTION: Membership dues will reflect no change / no surcharge – **Unanimous approval was granted in Treasurer Agenda site**

AGENDA ITEM #11: MEMBERSHIP (ADMISSIONS/SUSPENSIONS/DISCUSSION)

SOLAMOYM (Latin American Society of Orthopaedic and Manual Medicine) would like to join FIMM. **Daniel Strán** opened with a brief rationale and thanks for FIMM's help as they formed and developed. They are a young society that started in Uruguay but have 25 active members and 5 honorary members from across Latin America. **Javier Martinez Romero** made a formal presentation with history (etc) See [SOLAMOYM Powerpoint Presentation](#). **Javier Martinez Romero** was asked to be their initial delegate.

MOTION: Accept SOLAMOYM as FIMM Member – **Unanimous approval**

A brief report with no action was presented concerning potential status change for Societies (secondary to activity): Slovak Republic; Japan; Russia.

AGENDA ITEM #12 QUESTION/ANSWER ON FOCUSED ITEMS (DELEGATE REPORTS) or INVITED TOPIC

No questions or focused items submitted or raised.

AGENDA ITEM #13: DATE & PLACE OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY (GA) 2024

President **Henk Bultman** reviewed prior FIMM General Assembly and /or Scientific Congress sites since 1962. (*Secretary-General note: In the 2022 FIMM GA minutes, several suggestions were offered to investigate with the 2024 GA might take place in Budapest if temporal and fiscal logistics can be worked out*). No new recommendations or invitations to host the 2024 General Assembly were offered.

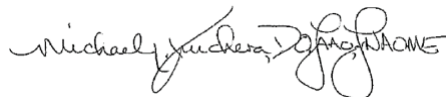
AGENDA ITEM #14: OTHER BUSINESS

No other business proposed for this General Assembly.

AGENDA ITEM #15: CLOSING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The president closed this 58th FIMM General Assembly and thanked the delegates again for their participation in this non-traditional GA virtual format. He also expressed the hope that next year we will meet face-to-face in a collegial meeting at a site to be determined by the Executive Board after investigation of the recommendations and priorities discussed.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Juchera, D.D.M., FIMM

Prof. Dr. Michael L. Kuchera
Secretary-General