



Minutes of the 2022 FIMM General Assembly  
Hannover GERMANY  
October 27, 2022

Secretary-General

*Draft Version for Appropriate Approvals – Full Notes*

FIMM President, **Henk Bultman**, called the 57<sup>th</sup> FIMM General Assembly (2022) to order at 0900. The majority of attendees met face-to-face at the GA congress hall in Hannover Germany with a few invited guests (2 from our ÅMKA hosts) or who were pre-registered with presidential approval to attend via Zoom online. Offsite attendees were admitted by members of a FIMM Executive Board member after electronic credentialing.

Those officially attending this General Assembly are listed in the table below. Voting in this meeting was limited to the delegate(s) of FIMM Member Societies that satisfied their annual contribution requirement as verified by Treasurer, **Aharon Finestone**, with the number of votes per Society indicated by FIMM Statutes. These measures determined that 28 total votes would be possible at this General Assembly.

Those delegates in attendance and their voting potential included:

COUNTRY	SOCIETY	# members claimed	2022 GA Votes	Delegate / Delegation ( <i>Guest or Observer</i> ) Voting (V) / Non-Voting (-)
Bulgaria	BSMM	30	1	<b>Ilia Todorov</b>
Canada	CAOM	64		<b>Brian Shamess</b>
Czech Republic		251		<b>Vlasta Tosnerová</b>
Denmark	DSMM	332	2	<b>Karen Goss</b>
Finland	SMLY	162	2	<b>Olavi Airaksinen</b>
France	SOFMMOO	109	2	<b>Marc Rozenblat; Peter III</b>
Germany	ÅMKA	234	2	<b>Stephan Martin (+ 2)</b>
Germany	DGMM	4222	3	<b>Stephan Vinzelberg</b>
Hong Kong	HKIMM	?		<b>Stanley Lam</b>
Hungary		6		<b>Gabor Ormos; Reka Puskas</b>
Israel	ISMM	237	2	<b>Negev Bar, Yulia Gorsky (+ Aharon Finestone)</b>
Italy	SIMFER	85	2	<b>Carla Correggia</b>
Kazakhstan		53	2	<b>Nadezhda Krasnoygorova</b>
New Zealand	NZCMM	34		<b>Jenny Keightley</b>
S Korea	KSCMM	1366		<b>Me-riong Kim</b>
Spain	SEMOYM	106	2	<b>Francisco Javier Martinez Romero</b>
Switzerland	SAMM	1158	2	<b>Marc-Henri Gauchat; Bernard Terrier</b>
The Netherlands	NVAMG	141	2	<b>Henk Bultman</b>
Turkey	Manual Tip	51	1	<b>Demirhan Diracoglu</b>
Ukraine	UAOMT	91	1	<b>Vitali Gubenko</b>
USA	AAO	1112	2	<b>Michael Kuchera</b>
<b>SUMMARY</b>		<b>3599</b>	<b>28</b>	

From the FIMM Statutes: According to the numbers of qualified physicians represented, 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 or more have 3 votes.

The PRE-PUBLISHED AGENDA for the 2022 FIMM General Assembly was posted on the FIMM website and emailed to Member Societies (including Delegates) well in advance. That agenda (listed below) was accepted with no suggested additions or deletions

1. *Opening by the President*
2. *Matters arising from the minutes of the last General Assembly (On-line 2021)*
3. *Elections Executive Board*
  - *Ratifying HB President+2yrs*
  - *Simon Vulfson's replacement*
  - *Executive Board members*
  - *Plan for Elections / schedule*
4. *Report from the President*
5. *Report from the Secretary General*
6. *Report from the Treasurer*
7. *Report from the Auditors*
8. *Election/confirmation of the Auditors & other related matters*
9. *Report from the Chairman of the Education Board*
10. *Report from the Chairman of the Health Policy Board*
11. *Decision on the membership fees for the next year*
12. *Membership (admissions/suspensions / Discussion on Membership Status)*
13. *Vision & Mission on FIMM's Future:*
  - *New Format*
  - *Relevant info on the actual status of the societies (limited to 2 minutes per preassigned delegate)*
  - *Communication and exchanging info*
  - *Questionnaire*
  - *FIMM Community*
  - *Latin America*
14. *Date and place of the General Assembly 2023*
15. *Any other business (brought up by the societies 2 weeks before the GA) – none added*
16. *Closing the General Assembly by the President*

## **1. Opening by the President**

After opening the meeting, President **Henk Bultman** thanked our host society and its representatives. Treasurer **Aharon Finestone** explained the voting requirements and noted that there would be a total of 28 votes possible during this GA based upon complete payment of dues or received letters of confirmation.

**Karen Goss** and **Stephan Vinzelberg** were elected to count the votes.

Each society was introduced with recognition of their President.

## **2. Matters arising from the minutes of the last General Assembly (Online 2021)**

Delegates were informed that the membership status of Poland and Hong Kong would be discussed in agenda point 12.

The online vote in 2021 concerning changing of the Statutes was confirmed. §3 + §8.2.3 concerning the deadline for achieving an education program of 300 hours was put to the vote and all agreed.

**MOTION: The minutes of GA 2021 were accepted unanimously as published on the FIMM Website.**

There were no other remarks.

### **3. Elections Executive Board**

The GA delegates were reminded of Olavi Airkinsinen's proposal during the 2021 GA to extend Henk Bultman's presidency by 2 years (until the end of 2024). This suggests that the GA would vote for a President-Elect at the end of 2023.

**MOTION: It was unanimously agreed to ratify Henk Bultman as the FIMM President for an additional 2 years.**

The Executive Board recommends desynchronizing the votes of the President and the Executive Board so we don't create a situation in which both the President and the Executive Board are simultaneously new. They propose to have elections for the Executive Board in 2023 and again in 2026. This will create a 2-year overlap of the President and Executive Board.

**Simon Vulfson** (ISMM) stated in 2020 that he would be resigning prior to completing a full term and so this was discussed. The Executive Board suggested that **Negev Bar** (ISMM), who had been actively consulting with the Executive Board and had coordinated many of the online conduct of the Manual Medicine Worldwide webinars, would make a good Communications Officer. There being no other nominations from the floor, Negev Bar was nominated.

**MOTION: Negev Bar (ISMM) be elected to the Executive Board to fill Simon Vulfson's term. – Passed unanimously.**

In summary, the Executive Board discussed a strategy for board and presidential elections for the future with scheduling that would help ensure appropriate continuity of FIMM efforts and projects. This strategy involves the concept of staggering presidential and other Board members by two years.

### **4. Report from the President (Henk Bultman)**

See the [President's Powerpoint Presentation](#) (*click on link*).

As a part of the annual report, Science Officer, **Stephan Vinzelberg**, presented a [Synopsis](#) of our *Manual Medicine Worldwide* online webinars. (*click on Synopsis link*). **Stefan Martin** (ÄMKA) noted that the webinars have significantly impacted him and his Society's teaching information. He also noted that he has been asked to lecture many places round the world after his presentation as part of the webinar.

### **5. Report from the Secretary General (Michael Kuchera, Secretary-General)**

As he was impeded from attending in person, Secretary General Michael Kuchera noted via Zoom that he had wished to relinquish his time to Dr. Vinzelberg and for use in discussing the FIMM Questionnaire later on in this GA. He had nothing further to report.

**6. Report from the Treasurer (Aharon Finestone, Treasurer)**

See the [Treasurer's Powerpoint Presentation](#) (*click on link*).

**MOTION:** The Treasurer's report for 2021 and the budget for 2023 was accepted by the GA unanimously.

**7. Report from the Auditors**

**Peter Stæhr** (DSMM) had made a comment which he and the Treasurer satisfactorily addressed.

**Olavi Airaksinen** (SMLY) just received the report, so he has not had a chance to review the figures.

**8. Election/confirmation of the Auditors & other related matters**

**Peter Stæhr** would like discontinue his role as an Auditor while **Olavi Airaksinen** is happy to continue. **Stefan Martin** (ÄMKA) volunteered to be the other Auditor which was acceptable to the delegates.

**9. Report from the Chairman of the Education Board (Ilya Todorov, Chairperson)**

See the Chairman of the [Education Board's Powerpoint Presentation](#) (*click on link*).

**Vlasta Tosnerova** (Czech Republic) had a question about language barrier issues and Ilya responded that the Education Board has asked each society to appoint an education liaison, who speaks good English, so we can help with the process and not have significant language issues.

**Dr. Finestone** complemented the Education Board on the good job that they are doing. Ruth Kamping from ÄMKA reported that there would be a course next year in English on treating children.

**10. Report from the Chairman of the Health Policy Board (Bernard Terrier, Chairperson)**

See the [Health Policy Board Powerpoint Presentation](#) (*click link*).

He emphasized the need for revising the current [Guidelines on Basic Training and Safety](#) and publishing a new updated version. In the new version, it will be necessary to define the different pathways. It is realized that the *Guidelines* should be not so much about the number of hours, but more about the outcome ... the competencies.

The Health Policy Board chairperson put this question and offer to the room – “Do you see yourself reflected in the *Guidelines*? If so, fine. If not, please respond with an e-mail (to him) or reply to four questions about the matter from the homepage.” He asked this to be done BEFORE the end of 2022.

Q: **Vlasta Tosnerova** asked how to influence medical schools to put MM curricula in as a part of the pre-graduate training. A: The response was that the *Guidelines* should be helpful for this. As the *Guidelines* become more inclusive, more countries should be able to use them for this.

**11. Decision on the membership fees for the next year**

It was recommended that the membership dues for 2022 remain the same.

It was also proposed that there be an increase of 5 – 10 % in the dues for 2023. The exact increase will depend on prices towards the next GA. A detailed proposal (similar to that from Utrecht 2017) will be circulated to delegates.

## 12. Membership (admissions/suspensions / Discussion on Membership Status)

At the moment, FIMM has formerly active Member Societies in the Russian Federation, Japan, the Slovak Republic and Hungary as Observatory Members.

- The society in Hungary would like to remain so for the time being. But leadership there (Reke) reports that there are only very few manual doctors in Hungary that have the opportunity to practice manual medicine, and the society has fallen apart. She is working to get the Society going again and hopes to solve some of the problems they are currently having. FIMM could perhaps help with a course to bring them together again?
- Hong Kong: we have not been able to contact
- Poland: **Vlasta Tosnerova** made contact but received no definitive response
- Slovak Republic: Vlasta has been in contact with them but they have no one who speaks English.

The GA delegates received this information but decided not to change status or exclude any societies at this time.

## 13. Vision & Mission on FIMM's Future

During the discussion of this agenda item, several individuals offered their opinions or suggestions

- **Daniel Stran** from Uruguay informed delegates of the development of MM and a MM Society in South America.
- **FIMM Questionnaire**: The response to the questions were read and commented on (mainly by **Dr. Bultman** who was disappointed that only 18 responses were received from the 24 Societies).
  - In the questionnaire, it was positive to see that the majority of respondents feel they benefit from FIMM.
  - About 50% have a 300-hour program. When the education board asked that question in 2019 they did not get much response.
  - With regard to Scientific Research, there was a lot of interest in a platform to share new knowledge. Olavi commented that there is often a problem concerning data safety and that it would not be easy for a society to do research due to the rules of data safety. Typically, research is done in a university with an Institutional Review Board because of this and other concerns.
  - Changes due to COVID
    - Israel: Their Society (ISMM) had courses in smaller capsules, with online teaching and table trainers working with the 5 -6 people in each capsule. This also solved some of the geographical problems.
    - Denmark: Their Society (DSMM) continued their hands-on courses, but took more precautions.
  - FIMM Community
    - How do we reach more people?
    - Future task to figure out a good communication platform beyond just the delegates who attend the GA.

- We need to develop strategies for better communication between FIMM and its Member Societies as well as to help facilitate communication and participation within each Society related to FIMM's Vision and Mission.
- Several delegates discussed what a shame it was that MM was not covered by public health or insurance in their countries. It was noted that this factor could be a problem in the future by limiting the number of physicians who choose to learn and practice MM. (In the past, many FIMM Member Societies have reported smaller numbers of physicians joining as well as noting increases in their members' average age through failure to attract younger physicians as they enter practice.) All this constitutes a great shame since MM is cheap, safe and very effective.
- Two delegates (Czech Republic and Ukraine) postulated that if it was mentioned in their national guidelines it would be easier to bill for it.

#### **14. Date and place of the General Assembly 2023**

It was proposed that the GA next year could be held in Tel Aviv, ISRAEL in the second half of October with the ISMM serving as FIMM's host.

After mentioning Budapest, Bucharest, Krakow, Finland, Denmark as possibilities for 2024 and Odessa or Kiev for 2025, it was suggested that the 2024 GA might take place in Budapest. Our general idea is to hold the GA in a country that will benefit from the event.

We also noted that we do not have to have a big scientific program every year nor even a workshop course.

#### **15. Other business**

No other business was brought before the General Assembly.

#### **16. Closing the General Assembly by the President**

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Kuchera (via Zoom)  
Secretary-General

And Karen Goss (on site)