



FIMM

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

Minutes of the 2017 FIMM General Assembly  
Utrecht, THE NETHERLANDS  
September 15, 2017

## Secretary-General

### **Draft Version for Proposed ExB & GA Approval – Full Notes**

Delegates, guests and representatives representing seventeen (17) National Societies from around the world convened in Utrecht, The Netherlands, for the 52<sup>nd</sup> FIMM General Assembly (GA). Thanks were extended to **Iliia Todorov, MD** and the Bulgarian Society of Manual Medicine (BSMM) for last year's General Assembly with the associated Scientific and Educational meetings. This year's delegates were cordially greeted by **Henk Bultman, MD** and representatives of the Dutch Society for Musculoskeletal Medicine (NVAMG).

**PRE-PUBLISHED AGENDA** of the 2017 FIMM General Assembly held in collaboration with the Dutch Society for Musculoskeletal Medicine (NVAMG). On Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup> 2017. No additions or modifications were offered from attendees.

1. *Opening by the President, election of two counters of the votes*
2. *Presentations of the representatives of the national societies (limit 4 min/presentation)*
3. *Matters arising from the minutes of the last General Assembly (Varna, Bulgaria)*
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*
9. *Report from the Chairman of the Education Board*
10. *Report from the Chairman of the Health Policy Board*
11. *Confirmation / election of Board / Committee members*
12. *Decision on the membership fees for the next year*
13. *Membership (admissions/suspensions)*
14. *Date and place of the General Assembly 2018*
15. *Any other business*
16. *Closing the General Assembly by the President*

### **AGENDA ITEM # 1: Opening & Logistics**

The 2017 FIMM General Assembly was called to order in Utrecht by the president at 8:30AM. Two Vote Counters were nominated: **Heather Ferrill** (USA) & **Karen Goss** (Denmark) – Accepted Unanimously  
Present:

- FIMM Executive Board Members: **Simon Vulfsons, Michael Kuchera, Aharon Finestone, Wolfgang von Heymann, Bernard Terrier, Marc-Henri Gauchat**
- FIMM Advisory Members: **Henk Bultman, Iliia Todorov**
- National Society Delegates/Representatives: See TABLE from Item #2
- Regrets from **Hungary, Japan, Poland, Russian Federation, Slovak Republic**
- Not eligible for voting due to non-payment of dues: **Hungary, Poland, Russian Federation, Slovak Republic**

The president reviewed the pre-published Agenda as well as logistics related to signing in and the various dinners and social activities to follow this Assembly.

## AGENDA ITEM #2: National Society Reports

National Society reports were made in person (or offered via correspondence). The table below lists official representatives, guests and pertinent membership statistics. Information presented indirectly or via correspondence appear in italics. Submitted powerpoints provided by the representative delegates are attached in the **NATIONAL SOCIETY REPORT SUPPLEMENT** (see [hyperlink](#)).

<b><i>National Society / Delegation Representing Manual Medicine Physicians in COUNTRY:</i></b>	<b><i>Reported Membership</i></b>	<b><i>Example of Content in <b>REPORT SUPPLEMENT</b> (See <a href="#">Hyperlink</a>)</i></b>
<b>Bulgaria (BSMM)</b> <b>Ilia Todorov</b> with <b>Todor Todoroff</b>	n=38	The Bulgarian Society of MM has made major educational modifications to move members over a period of years towards the FIMM Educational recommendations in MM from former MM education of 168 hours to 300 hours. (Practical workshops in Varna at Saint Marina University Hospital)
<b>Canada (CAOM)</b> <b>Craig Appleyard</b>	n=53	Strong membership interest in prolotherapy and education regarding this topic.
<b>Czech Republic</b> <b>Vlasta Tosnerova</b>	n=300	Has refresher courses for teachers and for students
<b>Denmark (DSMM)</b> <b>Helle Borgstrøm</b> with <b>Karen Goss</b> and <b>Peter Stæhr</b>	n=440 (44 meeting 300+ hour level)	Faculty: Student teaching ratio of 1:6 with recertification every 5 years; Numbers diminished from 503 last year; Accrediting body is DSMM – Diploma; Recertification every 5 years
<b>Finland FAMM)</b> <b>Olavi Airaksinen</b>	n=220	Most are GPs and PM&R physicians; 4-6 basic courses per year; annual meeting in November; International course in April; Own diploma
<b>France (SOFMMOO)</b> <b>Norbert Tessiere</b> with <b>Marc Rozenblat</b>	n=512 (1/3 specialists & 2/3 GP)	Now 16 universities (add Montpellier 2016 & Creteil 2017) each with 16-20 students; 2018 October will be Natl Congress of the SOFMMOO (Paris) in possible conjunction with FIMM; UEMMO first congress also for 2018; <a href="http://www.sofmmoo.org">www.sofmmoo.org</a> and <a href="http://www.mediosteo.fr">www.mediosteo.fr</a> ; MD with MM diploma can as to validate it as Osteopathic Diploma if guarantee 1250+ hrs in osteopathy
<b>Germany (DGMM)</b> <b>Wolfgang von Heymann</b> (Vice President of DGMM)	n=5064 at "capacity MM level" DAS Diploma of Advanced studies	DGMM is an Umbrella organization for: MWE (n=2778), DGMSM (n=1422); ÄMM (n=864) MM Core=320 hrs with diploma by Fed Chamber of Physicians "Medical Specialist with Additional Competence in MM" according to UEMS standards; in 2013, German Chamber of Physicians said this group can add 160 hrs for "training in basic osteopathy;" Ministry of Health & Chamber of Physicians (2017) – Safety for patient within evidence based medical osteopathy shall be provided by MM-physicians after 220 hrs of additional educ./training as an additional competence <b>NOTE: German report covers CEN (Comité Européen de Normalisation) issue applicable to 33 countries</b>
<b>Hong Kong (HKSMM)</b> <b>Andrew Ip Kit Kuen</b>	n=109 with 24 fellows	Certificate in Practical Musculoskeletal Medicine (MM) & Adv Certif. in MM; Has research arm

Hungary	?	No new information
<b>Israel (ISMM)</b> <b>Negev Bar</b> , (with <b>Simon Vulfsons</b> & <b>Aharon Finestone</b> )	n=110 → 65paid	Special outreach to teach Family Doctors; plan for FIMM 300 hr; willing to export knowledge to all members of FIMM at <b>Text</b> unless wish certificate (internet coursework)
<b>Italy (SIMFER)</b> <b>Carla Correggia</b>	n = 170	MM is sub-specialty of physiatry with masters + thesis; university post-graduate teaching in Rome, Turin, Milan, Siena, Catania Aim to increase hours and educate all PM&R doctors
Japan - regrets	n=425	
<b>Kazakhstan (KAMT&amp;O)</b> <b>Nadezhda Krasnoyarova</b>	n=52	5 Sessions / year for Kazakh Association of Manual Therapists & Osteopaths
<b>Korea (KSCMM)</b> <b>Byung-Cheul Shin, KMD, PhD</b> with <b>Me-riونغ (Miriam) Kim</b> (and <b>Sung Soo Chung</b> )	N=1125 active members of 3500 total	Chuna Manual Medicine and Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (Michigan State Univ); Chuna MM textbook in all 11 colleges; has <i>Journal of KSCMM for Spine &amp; Nerves</i>
<b>The Netherlands (DOMM / NVAMG)</b> <b>Henk Bultman (HOST – NVAMG)</b> and <b>Nando Liem</b>	n=148 (+11 Extra-Ord)	Not yet recognized as specialty; Natl society certificate with programs 2 year full time >300 hr; Education according to Dutch Guidelines for Medical Specialists; CME requires 200hr over 5 yrs
Poland - Regrets	?	Regrets – <i>Communication (Would like to send dues)</i>
<b>Russian Federation</b>	n=400-428	
Slovak Republic – Not present (Family issue?)	?	Czech rep said they thought they might be able to participate but are not here
<b>Spain (SEMOOYN)</b> <b>Javier Martinez</b>	n=96 (maybe 200 fully trained but can't tell due to different training sites)	Education board is independent from the executive board so not good for continuity ... CV in MMM standardization currently only in Martinez's region with recognition by Spanish General Medical Council ... hope to use FIMM guidelines for standardization; Annual meeting in Novembers
<b>Switzerland (SAMM)</b> <b>Marc-Henri Gauchat</b> with <b>Bernard Terrier</b>	n=1211	2015 MM conference had 1100 physicians attending about same for 2016; Accrediting body SAMM plus Swiss Medical Association;
<b>Turkey (MTD)</b> <b>Cihan Aksoy</b>	n=51 active (150 in premember status, finishing certificate)	Good relationship with Turkish PM&R Assoc with 2850 members (but not with Ministry of Health)
<b>United States of America (AAO)</b> <b>Heather Ferrill</b> with <b>Michael Kuchera</b>	n=1200	Specialty level in neuromusculoskeletal medicine recognized; opportunities & threats in new single accreditation system of graduate medical education

### AGENDA ITEM #3: Minutes of 2016 General Assembly

Minutes as electronically distributed were approved – **Unanimous approval.**

**AGENDA ITEM #4: President Report** (For the presentation made, please see the **PRESIDENT REPORT SUPPLEMENT** by **Simon Vulfsons** via [hyperlink](#)). The following is a brief synopsis of some of the topics/points made.

It has been a quiet year but full of important, interesting work. (The Vision statement was repeated, ***"FIMM is recognized as THE international federation disseminating knowledge and expertise***

*integrating Manual / Musculoskeletal Medicine to health care.”*) He remarked that our delegates have just been denoting how their Societies are meeting the goals and directions that FIMM has been discussing and set forth in our Vision statement. The work of ESSOMM is gratifying. Many schools/societies are talking to one another.

Setting the standards towards a 300-hour curriculum to work within societies / countries with varying infrastructures is important but challenging work. Different FIMM members can help other countries to institute and/or grow MM internationally by offering, promoting and endorsing courses. It is important that FIMM develop processes to be able to facilitate credits and certificates (etc) associated with accreditation processes. For example, see [www.ismm.org](http://www.ismm.org) to see how the theory of myofascial pain is presented online from Israel and the potential for international educational collaboration. The cost for this ISMM initiative was \$2-3000 paid to use a professional company with volunteer faculty. Theory can be given in this fashion in advance of a course to educate members and to recruit them to come and learn at the practical hands-on sessions.

There is a changing of the guard toward new FIMM leadership. **Marc-Henri Gauchat** (Education Board) is resigning from that position and our recommendation is to replace him with Ilia Todorov (pending election this meeting). Our nomination process will also lead us to recommend **Henk Bultman** (The Netherlands) who has been observing our leadership meetings to replace **Sergei Nikonov** (Russian Federation) and to seek new participation from members in the auditor positions.

Dr. Vulfsons offered thanks to all current, observing and retiring Executive Board Members.

The President’s Report was **accepted unanimously**.

**AGENDA ITEM #5: Secretary-General Report** (For the presentation made, also see the [hyperlink](#) to the **SECRETARY-GENERAL REPORT SUPPLEMENT**)

Secretary-General **Michael L. Kuchera** presented a brief presentation entitled, “VISION: Seeing is Believing – Meeting our Mission ... Together.” It built upon his last two annual reports and specifically targeted the FIMM Vision Statement. He offered a SWOT (Strength-Weakness-Opportunities-Threats) Analysis looking introspectively and through the microscope at the vision. He recommended: (1) Building on our strengths and developing our opportunities to advance our Mission and see our way forward while (2) overcoming our weaknesses and preventing threats. He reminded delegates of the long-ranging plan details (Frankfurt 2015) presented by the Health Policy & Executive Boards to the 2015 FIMM General Assembly and of the “future vision” that was/is envisioned. With that in mind, he asked for the delegates and their Societies to consider their vision in this light.

After the Secretary-General’s presentation, Simon asked the delegates only partially rhetorically, “So what can we do now? ... what can we do tomorrow?” He focused on questions related to why societies were not growing. His message to country delegates was to talk to their leaders in this field and together to aim for 2% growth in all societies.

The report of the Secretary-General was **accepted unanimously**.

**AGENDA ITEMS #6-7: Treasurer & Auditors’ Reports** (see [TREASURER REPORT SUPPLEMENT](#) [hyperlink](#))  
ITEM #6

**Treasurer, Aharon Finestone:** Thanks for payments and denoted the intent to better convey the billing. Will send .pdf bills in Jan-Feb for the 2018 year.

**Summary of 2016 with surcharge slide.** There was a small profit from the Varna program and sponsorship from Germany led to budget surplus for FIMM. Capital at end of year was €24,201.

**2018 Budget ...** It was proposed to have a neutral budget that includes an Education Board meeting as well. It was noted that we would like to continue to stay away from surcharges to do our normal business if possible.

**Recommended dues options for the new statutes:** Board looked at two propositions (staged vs graduated/member) and recommends the second proposal (see slide). Current – €16,100 vs €20,700

The treasurer also thanked **Marc Rozenblat** (France) for going over the records. It was noted that the financial advisory committee can meet via internet when needed to determine how to raise more money for FIMM.

(See return to ITEM #6 after Auditors' Report)

#### **ITEM #7: Report from the Auditors**

**Item #7 Auditors' Reports:** After examination, **Todor Todoroff** and **Craig Appleyard** noted that the records were in order. A side comment was to commend **Aharon Finestone** for simplifying the records and reporting.

**Motion to accept and approve the financial reports from the Auditors was passed unanimously.**

#### **Return to ITEM #6**

After item #7 above, we returned to the Treasurer's powerpoint and agenda (see [hyperlink](#)):

- **Motion to approve the budget for 2016 was approved unanimously**
- **Motion to approve the 2018 budget passed unanimously**

After discussion of two presented potential proposals (see [hyperlink](#)), Proposal #2 was preferred. This proposal proposed to replace the current dues structure with an equal base fee of €150 PLUS an additional €4 for the first 100 members, €3 for the second 100 members; €2 for the third 100 members and €1 for every member above 400 to a maximum annual regular assessment of €2400.

- **Motion to approve Restructuring Proposal #2 for use in assessing regular FIMM Membership dues (Base PLUS graduated per member amount per 100 members to a maximum annual regular dues assessment of €2400) – Passed unanimously**

#### **AGENDA ITEM #8: Confirmation of the Auditors**

See ITEM #11.

#### **AGENDA ITEM #9: Education Board Report** (See also the [hyperlink](#) to the **EDUCATION DIRECTOR REPORT SUPPLEMENT**)

**Marc-Henri Gauchat** gave his last report as Education Board Director. He noted that the prior Education Board was dissolved at the 2016 GA awaiting reorganization. Reasonable future activities at that time were to prepare recommendations for a FIMM MM Certification process and to continue to offer courses to help small Societies meet FIMM/UEMS standards (especially by 2023) and to seek credits for participants involved in FIMM-delivered courses. These recommendations were sent to all societies; no opposition or recommendations were received in return.

He presented the following PROPOSITION for the ongoing EDUCATION BOARD & PROJECT: In order to realistically facilitate preparation of “qualified members” (defined by the FIMM *Guidelines on Basic Training & Safety*) by 2023 the Education Board should be reconstituted with 5 elected members and unlimited, pragmatic use of a FIMM Educational Advisory Board. Required criteria for the FIMM Educational Advisory Board: (1) to be involved in education, (2) to master English language, (3) to master electronic communication, (4) to be prepared to support the cost of the meetings (self or society), and (5) to be prepared to get involved for the next 5 years.

It was also noted that without proper funding and a physical meeting of the Education Board, “decent activity is not possible!”

Recommendations were:

- To propose and elect **Ilia Todorov** as the new Director of the Education Board and place him on the Executive Board in that position (replacing **Dr. Gauchat**).
- Approve a list of qualified individuals from which **Dr. Todorov** with the approval of the Executive Board can construct a 5-member Education Board and an Advisory Board;
  - **Wolfgang von Heymann** strongly suggested that societies make proposal by a specified deadline date (Oct 15) and let decision be made on a Skype determination soon so that a mid-year meeting might be scheduled
  - The Netherlands commented that there should be an emphasis on representation by the larger societies
- **Ilia Todorov** was asked to make a comment. He noted the following: “We don’t need a large group (5 is good); criteria are important; appointed members need to be devoted to idea and agree to work hard; nominations/recommendations should be accompanied by a Curriculum Vitae (CV) as well; advisory members will get all information and an invitation to attend (but not necessarily funded).

The president and the delegates thanked **Marc-Henri Gauchat** for all that he offered over the years that he has served FIMM in this and other leadership capacities.

The report of the Education Board Director was **accepted unanimously** with thanks extended to him for his extensive contributions and work to date. (See also ITEM #11 Action)

**AGENDA ITEM #10: Health Policy Report** (See [hyperlink](#) to the **HEALTH POLICY DIRECTOR REPORT SUPPLEMENT**)

In the 11<sup>th</sup> report of **Bernard Terrier** as Health Policy Director, he ...

- Thanked members (**Appleyard, Borgstrom, Bultmann, Fouques-Weias, Sotos-Borras, Terrier, vonHeymann** and **Vulfsons**)
- Briefly reviewed past process and achievements related to the development of the *Guidelines on Basic Training and Safety* and its three official versions. (On the FIMM website are the English and German official content versions and a French official version). The Korean Society has provided us with an unofficial Korean translation.
- Reminded delegates about the fractions voting and the definition of “**qualified physicians**” that will be used after 2023 in membership counts (as applied to voting) to reflect those with 300 hours outlined in the *Guidelines on Basic Training & Safety*.

- Pointed out that with the revised FIMM Statutes, members can recruit additional societies and consider establishing regional organization & structures.
- Reviewed the organization of the UEMS and the success of ESSOMM after FIMM gave them the mandate in 2008 to achieve recognition for manual medicine. Manual Medicine has one vote on the Multidisciplinary Joint Committee (MJC) with Manual Medicine now listed by UEMS on their website. (The MJC includes Neurology, Rheumatology, Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, and Orthopedics.) ESSOMM was the lobby for this because FIMM is worldwide and could not be effective as the sole advocate; we needed a regional (European) advocate
- Presented possible/potential evolution directions for FIMM and suggested that the HPB could be charged with a new project related to preparing scenarios for establishing regional organizations of MM Medicine (no budget needed this year)

Notation for the Delegates and Minutes: France noted that throughout the record should reflect “UEMMO” not “UEMMA.”

**The report of the Health Policy Board Director was accepted unanimously**

**ITEM #11 elect**

On the matter of a “President Elect” to be determined part-way through the 4-year FIMM election cycle with the understanding that a learning curve and experiential continuity might benefit FIMM, the Executive Board recommends that **Henk Bultman** (The Netherlands) be put forth as FIMM President Elect. It is further noted that the FIMM General Assembly can elect someone else next year but this allows potential training using an open position. **MOTION to elect Henk Bultman to the Executive Board to fill the open position as a potential president elect and as outlined in the discussion -- Passed unanimously.**

From the recommendation recorded in ITEM #9: **MOTION to elect Iliia Todorov to fill the place and role of resigning Educational Board Director, Marc-Henri Gauchat – Passed unanimously**

It was noted by President Vulfsons that Auditor **Craig Appleyard** (Canada) was resigning from this position; **Peter Staehr** (Denmark) was nominated along with **Todor Todoroff** (Bulgaria). **MOTION: Peter Staehr and Todor Todoroff were elected as FIMM Auditors for the next year – Passed Unanimously**

**AGENDA ITEM #12: Fees**

Previously approved

**AGENDA ITEM #13: Membership (Admissions/Suspensions)**

- Estonia dissolved
- New Zealand is in an Observatory status
- Poland discussion led to the decision to ask them in writing to pay their dues in order to keep their membership status or else we would move to move them to observatory status (**Discuss again in 2018 with this caveat**)
- Hungary discussion led to decision to ask them in writing to pay their dues or the motion would be to vote them out of FIMM (**Will be revisited in 2018 with this in mind**)

- Slovak Republic discussion led to a decision to write them and accept the offer of **Vlasta Tosnerova** (Czech Republic) to follow up with this Society to explain their situation (**Discuss in 2018 if needed**)

#### **AGENDA ITEM #14: 2018 General Assembly**

- **Marc Rozenblat** (France, SOFMMOO) made a presentation (See **PROPOSED 2018 GA SITE PROPOSAL PRESENTATION** [Hyperlink](#)). He noted therein that France will need to withdraw their prior proposition to hold the 2018 General Assembly at the Disney site previously discussed (too expensive). The program as now proposed would be in Paris with multiple collaborators (12 groups) for 4 days. There would be 2 of the 4 days for FIMM and 2 days for SOFMMOO. The program would be:
  - Near L'Arc de Triomphe
  - Oct 10-11 (12-14), 2018
  - Profession organization that would manage the program: Eventime
  - **MOTION: Accept the French proposal to hold the 2018 FIMM General Assembly on October 11, 2018 in Paris, FRANCE.** (Additionally, the Executive Committee would meet Oct 10, 2018 and courses could be scheduled for Oct 12-14, 2018.) **Passed Unanimously.**

#### **AGENDA ITEM #15: Other Business**

As a possible item of interest (**Henk Bultman & Wolfgang von Heymann** reporting): Lothar Beyer as editor of *Manual Medicine* (OpenAccess version) requested submissions for *J Ortho Med* → *J IAMMM* since there are no European MM articles in English. Originally, they requested €2500 per English article but since articles related to universities can't be charged this must be open access. The proposed solution is to publish 2-3 articles in English but at a much lower cost. They plan to start in at the beginning of next year (6 issues) so they are soliciting 18 English articles to be directed to **Lothar Beyer** or to **Wolfgang von Heymann**. Any ESSOMM member can publish courses in the electronic edition (not in print). One consideration is that these issues are not indexed but that can be solved by OpenAccess with good articles for 3 years to gain indexing with 8-10,000

- Payment by author, University or Society (maybe 1000 euro) --- Biomed Central
- Past Glossary and abstracts ... could still request this in future.

Turkey made a request for FIMM or MM Society members to consider. They would like a Manual Medicine book for translation to Turkish (and they could potentially pay money to FIMM for royalties). They also need teachers (if FIMM sends a teaching doctor, they could offer perhaps \$1000 and give a portion to FIMM which might be another way to help raise monies for FIMM).

The comment was made that in manual medicine endeavors one consideration could be, "Knowledge is free ... certificates cost." Ideas for raising money for FIMM to address its Mission should be sent to the Treasurer or members of the Executive Board.

#### **AGENDA ITEM #16: Closing the General Assembly**

The president officially closed the General Assembly at 3:0PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
**Professor Michael L. Kuchera, DO**  
 Secretary-General, FIMM