



FIMM

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

Minutes of the 2015 FIMM General Assembly
Copenhagen, Denmark
September 4, 2015

Secretary-General

Twenty-six (26) persons representing sixteen (16) National Societies from around the world convened in Copenhagen for the 50th FIMM General Assembly (GA). All were cordially greeted by **Helle Borgstrøm, MD**, president of FIMM's host National Society, the Danish Society for Musculoskeletal Medicine (DSMM).

1. Opening the 50th FIMM GENERAL ASSEMBLY (Copenhagen; Cabinn Metro Hotel)

- The 50th General Assembly of FIMM was officially opened at 9:25 AM.
- FIMM President, **Simon Vulfsons**, welcomed the delegates and again formally thanked the Slovak Society for Myoskeletal Medicine (SMSM) for having hosted the 2014 General Assembly (GA) held in Bratislava. FIMM Treasurer, **Aharon Finestone**, thanked the DSMM for hosting the Welcome Reception, boat tour and dinner on September 3 and announced that DSMM was inviting Delegates (and significant others) to be their guests for the FIMM gala reception and dinner taking place after the GA.
- [Invitations](http://www.fimm-online.com) were previously distributed to all National Societies and posted on the FIMM website, www.fimm-online.com. The president reviewed the agenda; the GA delegates offered no objection, comments or additional items of interest.
 1. Opening by the President, election of two counters of the votes
 2. Presentations of the representatives of the national societies (limited to 4 min/presentation)
 3. Matters arising from the minutes of the last General Assembly (Bratislava, Slovak Republic)
 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 Science Officer of the Executive Board
 11. Report from the Chairman of the Health Policy Board
 12. Decision on the membership fees for the next year
 13. Membership (admissions/suspensions)
 14. Date and place of the General Assembly 2016
 15. Any other business
 16. Closing the General Assembly by the President
- By unanimous acclamation, GA delegates accepted **Craig Appleyard** (Canada) and **Neils Jensen** (Denmark) to count votes.

- **Attendance at the 2015 General Assembly of FIMM:**
 - **Executive Board Members:**
 - **Simon Vulfsons**, President
 - **Michael L. Kuchera**, Secretary-General
 - **Aharon Finestone**, Treasurer
 - **Bernard Terrier**, Health Policy Board Chairperson
 - **Marc-Henri Gauchat**, Educational Board Chairperson
 - **Sergey Nikonov**, Science Officer to the Board
 - **National Society Delegates Attending (& Guests Present at GA):**
 - *Australia: No representative*
 - *Belgium: No representative*
 - Bulgaria: **Iliia Todorov**
 - Canada: **Craig Appleyard** (President)
 - Czech Republic: **Vlasta Tosnerova**
 - Denmark: **Helle Borgstrøm** (President) with guests **Niels Jensen** and **Peter Staehr**
 - *Estonia: No representative*
 - Finland: **Olavi Airaksinen** (President)
 - France: **Nadine Fouques-Weiss** with observers **Norbert Teisseire** (President), **Jean-Yves Maigne**, and **J-L Garcia**
 - Germany: **Wolfgang von Heymann**
 - *Hong Kong: (No representative)*
 - *Hungary: (No representative)*
 - Israel: **Yacov Fogelman** with FIMM Executive Board members **Simon Vulfsons** and **Aharon Finestone**
 - *Italy: (No representative)*
 - *Japan: (No representative)*
 - Kazakhstan: **Nadeshda Krasnoyarova**
 - Netherlands: **Henk Bultman** with observer **Sjef Rutte**
 - *New Zealand: (No representative for this observer status NS)*
 - *Poland: (No representative)*
 - Russian Federation: **Sergey Nikonov**
 - Slovak Republic: **Viera Agnerova** (President)
 - Spain: **Javier Martinez** with observer **Victoria Sotos-Borras**
 - Switzerland: **Marc-Henri Gauchat** with FIMM Executive Board member **Terrier**
 - Turkey: **Cihan Aksoy**
 - USA: **Michael L. Kuchera**

See ADDENDUM 1 at the end of these minutes for attending members' contact information.

- **Voting Status Summary:**
 - **One vote per attending NS delegation (with no proxy submissions from absent National Assemblies):** All attending National Societies were confirmed by the Treasurer as eligible to vote. For the 50th GA, there were 16 certified votes possible.
2. **Presentations of the Representatives of the National Societies** (limited to 4 minutes each) **See also linked summary .pdf titled "2015 FIMM General Assembly – National Society Presentations"**
- As President for the Danish Society for Musculoskeletal Medicine (DSMM) and the host nation, **Helle Borgstrøm** opened the National Society reports session.

SUMMARY CHART OF DELEGATE REPORTS –

Country – Number in Group – Society – Representative(s)	Voting Status @ GA; # of Members	Membership Make-up / Standards / Comments <i>(Also see .pdf of Representatives' Presentations)</i>
HOST COUNTRY Denmark Danish Society of Musculoskeletal Medicine (DSMM) http://www.dsmm.org Helle Borgstrøm (president) reporting with Neils Jensen & Peter Staehr (secretary)	Active 540 physicians 67 specialty status (>300hr)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MM is recognized in Denmark as a “sub-specialty” with an MM diploma issued by the DSMM to supplement members’ primary specialty (GP, Rheumatology, Orthopedics, etc) Courses have 1:6 faculty-to-student ratio
<i>Australia</i>	<i>Observing N/A</i>	<i>No representative – No contact</i>
<i>Belgium</i>	<i>No dues; warning; N/A</i>	<i>Existing national society reportedly disbanded</i>
Bulgaria: Bulgarian Society of Manual Medicine Iliia Todorov reporting	Active 37 physicians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announced new format for national education course to meet FIMM Guidelines. Proposing 7 cycles of 3 days each (210 hours) plus 90 hours of practical workshops Physicians with prior level of 168 hrs will upgrade to 300 hrs Invited Delegates to Varna, Bulgaria for 2016 General Assembly (Last GA to be held in Bulgaria was in 2008)
Canada (Canadian Association of Orthopedic Medicine) www.caom.ca Craig Appleyard reporting	Active 56 physicians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MM introduced to this society in 1970’s by James Cyriax with later secondary influence from Maigne, Bourdillon, Janda and Lewit. Lately CAOM programs have had much heavier emphasis on prolotherapy than MM. <i>In response to question on reimbursement, it was noted that while Canadian doctors are not reimbursed for manual medicine, they are not reimbursed for prolotherapy either</i>
Czech Republic (Czech Association for Myoskeletal Medicine) Vlasta Tosnerova reporting	Active 305 physicians (especially rehabilitation specialists)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification that Karel Lewit died on October 2: pictures offered in presentation MM is officially respected by the Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic and MM is covered by insurance MM physicians use holistic functional approach emphasizing functional diagnosis & treatment – then develop kinesiological muscle activation; Battery of tests fully analyzed prior to treatment which is then designed to reprogram total postural model even if only one part is the problem By law, courses are in education institutions (Prague/Brno) with regional courses with 1:6-9 faculty ratio MM is taught as part of Rehab Med & is also an optional subject in the med school at Charles U (Hradec Kralove); CME required for refresh knowledge; teacher courses exist
<i>Estonia</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>National society disbanded</i>
Finland: Finnish Association of Manual Medicine (FAMM)	Active 230 physicians (½ GPs and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This year celebrating the 50th year of MM Society in Finland Half of members have reached the 300 hours required for the society diploma Close ties to Eastern University of Finland (Kuopio &

<p>Olavi Airaksinen (president) reporting</p>	<p>½ PMR with a few orthopedists)</p>	<p>Helsinki) including orientation course for medical students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent program in Lapland from Antonio Stecco • Started pain education program for GP/Occupational Health doctors in 2011 (now 50 enrolled) • In February started research discussed in 2014 report
<p>France: French Society of Orthopaedic & Osteopathic Manual Medicine (SOFMMOO) http://www.sofmmoo.com and www.mediosteo.fr</p> <p>Nadine Fouques-Weiss (Vice-President) reporting; Observers: N Teisseire (President), J-Y Maigne; and J-L Garcia</p>	<p>Active</p> <p>500 physicians</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official post-graduate 300-hour courses organized by 14 French universities (2 years for a GP; 1 year for specialist); need to be a French or EU physician who passes a test prior to enrolling in university course (some non-EU if recognized equivalency) • Many private weekend courses by local sections • Since 2015, the MM diploma no longer qualifies for the title of “registered osteopath” • Official French version translation of the FIMM <i>Guidelines on Basic Training & Safety</i> by David Cypel, Nadine Fouques-Weiss & Norbert Teisseire was completed on 08/2014 • Question on private courses & title -- Answers: Informal courses in France & abroad can be presented by members but they inform SOFMMOO. Also now the diploma title is “médecine manuelle” without the “et osteopathie”
<p>Germany: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Manuelle Medizin</p> <p>Wolfgang von Heymann reporting</p>	<p>Active</p> <p>An umbrella organization of 5155 physicians & surgeons distributed in 3 societies (MWE=2868; DGMSM =1361 and AEMM=926)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DGMM is umbrella organization for 3 MM physician groups (MWE, DGMSM and AEMM) all at minimum of Capacity level • German Chamber of Physicians decided in 2009 that osteopathy is part of medicine (so defined qualifications, certificate regulations & curriculum) & in 2013 decided “osteopathic procedures” able to be fulfilled by medical specialists with 160 hrs additional education/training (structured curriculum now defined & all DGMM groups agreed to offer this additional training); means Chamber of Physicians certificate based on minimum of 480 hrs in manual/osteopathic content with official final test • Osteopathic regulation in Europe summary (<i>Healthcare Professions Crossing Borders</i>, Oct 31, 2013): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Osteopathic regulation + EU registration: Finland, Iceland, Lichtenstein, Malta, Switzerland, UK - Osteopathic regulation + Non-EU registration: France Hungary, Latvia, Portugal - Regulated treatment but no professional regulation: Belgium, Bulgaria, Italy, Romania, Slovenia - Considering regulation: Germany, Ireland, Norway, Spain - Not regulated / no plans: Austria, Cyprus, Denmark, Greece, Sweden - Unclear: Central & Eastern Europe • Use of Comité Européen de Normalisation (CEN) standards doesn’t override national legislation but serves as standard in countries where none exists (“soft law”). Published standard for osteopathy in spring 2015 and national implementation where there is no regulation in 2015 • Activities of 2015 for DGMM included “Muscle & Pain” meeting with basic researchers (topics listed in report)
<p>Hong Kong: Hong Kong Institute of Musculoskeletal Medicine (HKIMM)</p>	<p>Active</p> <p>Last year</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Established 10 years ago (2005); mission to disseminate skill & knowledge of MSK Med among medical profession, support clinical research & promote among public; joined</i>

Letter from Andrew Ip (president)	reported n=61; 14 with fellowship status	FIMM in 2011 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teaching consists of 6 modules over 2 years; fellowship requires training plus 4+ years MM practice plus exam Grants a certificate of practical musculoskeletal medicine (CPMM) to help doctors acquire basic skills to make MSK diagnoses & tx with hands, regenerative injections & rehab
Hungary Letter from Gabor Omos	No dues	Letter from Dr. Omos – Apologies
Israel: Israeli Society of Musculoskeletal Medicine Yacov Fogelman reporting with FIMM Board members Vulfsons & Finestone	Active n=54 MD full members and 27 non-MD associate members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Realizing vision & mission with slogan, “Touching the Pain;” 4 HMO’s and 2 provide incentives to GPs using MM in care Courses in pain medicine = 252 hrs plus 50 hrs practicum; over 2-year period) for Diploma in Pain and Musculoskeletal Medicine (according to FIMM educational guidelines) “Anatomy Trains” (Myers concept was delivered in Hebrew) Vision/Mission: “Musculoskeletal education for every doctor in Israel” Physician membership of 90 last year is now at 54 ... but # will go up again after annual meeting Dec 2015
Italy: (SMM- SIMFER) Sezione di Medicina Manuale Letter from Guido Brugnoli (president) and Carlo Mariconda	No but paid dues n=132	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter from Dr. Brugnoli indicating they are a department of the Italian Society of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation. Noted Italy would pay 2014 & 2015 dues. Master of MM program (Rome University “Sapienza” was ended in 2012; now only few weekend courses
Japan (Medical Society of Arthokinematic Approach)	No rep ? (est = 500)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use trademarked AKA-Hakata method
Kazakhstan: Kazakhstan Association of Manual Therapists and Osteopaths Nadeshda Krasnoyarova report	Active 50 physicians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 seminars this year for members with teachers from St. Petersburg and from France Members participating in neurological conferences (2 recent) and one coming in Oct 2015 concerning pain syndromes Report on Efficacy & Application of Manual Therapy & Osteopathy presented at World Congress of Art, Sciences & Communication (Great Britain 9/14) & in St Petersburg 6/15
Netherlands: Dutch Association for Doctors in Musculoskeletal Medicine n=133 Henk Bultman (President) reporting	Active 134 physicians (39 extraordinary members)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MM not yet recognized as subspecialty but this is a goal for 2017; accrediting body the Dutch Independent Register for OrthoManual Medicine (ROMG) Two educational routes: (1) NVAMG courses (>300 hr/2yrs) with education according to Dutch Guideline for Medical Specialists and (2) Master of Science in M/M Medicine (97 ECTS points with thesis) at Vrije University Brussels
New Zealand: New Zealand Association of Musculoskeletal Medicine (NZAMM) Letter from James Webb & from President Jenny Keightley	Observer Status Est n=50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter from James Webb: “difficulty in maintaining the impetus & energy required to move against the tide of mainstream medicine which seems to continue to feel that musculoskeletal matters are the realm of physiotherapists” however Accident Compensation Commission has great need for musculoskeletal expertise & wants NZAMM input. Specialist group is moving slowly forwards to re-establish the training a programme that was put on hold for doubt we could maintain our continuing education and administration requirements and then left in limbo for 3 yrs. Keightley: “Our priority ... is retaining and strengthening our specialist base whilst supporting General Practitioners who have an interest in MSK medicine.”
Poland	Active	No information but dues paid

<p>Russian Federation: Russian League of Professionals in Manual Therapy</p> <p>Sergey Nikonov reporting</p>	<p>Active</p> <p>428 physician members</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 1997 Manual Therapy became specialty; now only neurologists, orthopedists, traumatologists and pediatricians having the right to obtain a certificate to practice manual Therapy. Now >36,000 certified Manual Therapists in Russia in several medical associations (osteopaths, kinesiologists, vertebroneurologists, manual medicine specialists) • 2 societies for manual medicine specialists: Russian League of Professionals in Manual Therapy (organized in 1998 by Professor Anatoly Sitel; FIMM's National Society) and Russian Association of Manual Therapy • Russian League in Manual Therapy publishes journal, <i>Manual Therapy</i>, FIMM group in Russia are all specialty physicians working with Manual Therapy licenses • 79 training sites (academies/institutes); curriculum is 450 hrs and 147 refresher hrs required every 3 years
<p>Slovak Republic: SMSM: Slovak Society for Myoskeletal Medicine</p> <p>Viera Agnerova (President) reporting with Observer:</p>	<p>Active</p> <p>149 physicians</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SMSM is member of the Slovak Medical Association. • Membership dropping, in 1996 had 300 doctors • Curriculum has 240 hours leading to a diploma; refresher courses required for a 5 year cycle • Since 2008 when the PMR Boards became a basic option in Slovakia, MM education has been included in the PMR specialty curriculum. • There has been little growth coupled with concern that fewer young physicians are using manual medicine because of poor reimbursement.
<p>Spain: Sociedad Española de Medicina Ortopédica, Osteopática y Manual (SEMOOYM)</p> <p>www.semooym.org is new</p> <p>Javier Martinez presenting with Victoria Sotos-Borras</p>	<p>Active</p> <p>90 physicians -- mostly Rehabilitation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MM education part of training in Rehabilitation specialty • Master's degree MM course from Universidad Computense (32 ECTS) in Madrid backed by (but not run by) SEMOOYM • Estimates of 200 fully trained physicians in Spain but difficult to know due to different sources (France, masters, etc); no standardized process in Spain now so many learn in France • SEMOOYN Educational Committee is looking to create a new webpage and train new teachers; they have completed 6 rounds of train-the-trainers programs in MM to increase educational standardization • Annual Spanish Society for Rehab (SERMEF) workshop in MM becoming very popular • Awaiting report from Spanish National Board of Health for recognition of MM as a subspecialty which will allow full standardization (hope by end of 2015)
<p>Switzerland: Schweizerische Aertzegeellschaft für Manuelle Medizin; Swiss Society of Manual Medicine; Société médicale suisse de Médecine Manuelle (SAMM)</p> <p>Marc-Henri Gauchat reporting</p>	<p>Active</p> <p>1247 physician members with 1200 in the specialty (380+ hr classification)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAMM has a College of 21 Teachers; Delivers 8 modular basic courses over 2 years • There are 8 modules (in German & French) plus a final exam (380 hours over 28 days over 2 years) ... after final exam → certificate in MM which is valid for 5 years with mandatory CME and recertification; Certificate accredited by SAMM and FMH (the Swiss Medical Association) • Annual Congress at Interlaken highly attended • International issue when MM doctor comes from country where MM diploma is not acknowledged then no reimbursement (must take additional courses and exam) – most problem from France while Germany has more equivalent training system • Other issue is that physicians paid per 5 mins so beginners (slow) often paid more than experienced MM doctors

<p>Turkey: Manuel Tıp Derneği (MTD) or Manual Medicine Association</p> <p>Cihan Aksoy presenting</p>	<p>Active</p> <p>44 active physician members & 150 with premember status</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks to Prof Todoroff of Bulgaria (founder of Turkish MM) & to FIMM (esp W von Heymann intensive teaching there) • 6 courses in 2014; 108 doctors attending regular course certificate after each 30-hour course • 3000 members in Turkish Rehab (Lewit → Todoroff → von Heymann has led to MM education); MM society works with the BTR (Scientific Complementary & Regulation Assoc) since 2008; program under auspices of Turkish PM&R Society (Istanbul Univ) • TV show explaining MM (also newspaper; university intro info); Only 3-5 mins to examine patients (unhappy doctors)
<p>United States of America: American Academy of Osteopathy (AAO)</p> <p>Michael L. Kuchera reporting</p>	<p>Active</p> <p>1310 physicians (plus 5906 student members + 25% more by end of year)</p> <p>1235 FIMM-specialty level (>300hr) with about 700 of these specialty-boarded (>2000 hrs)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neuro-musculoskeletal Medicine (NMM) is a nationally recognized specialty requiring full-time residency training over and above basic FIMM-defined capacity-level training; shift certifying body from American Osteopathic Association to the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education • In the AAO, there are 1235 physicians with component level with 700 of these board certified (>2000 hrs with written/practical exams) • In the USA approximately 5000 new students per year graduate from 37 universities/colleges where component-level faculty teach the MM capacity model (>300 hours/4 years); all chairpersons and the vast majority of MM teaching faculty are nationally certified, NMM-specialists who are AAO members • NMM-specialty nationally board-certified AAO members (component level) direct and daily supervise training in all 36 full-time residency programs focused on MM • AAO NS educational program standards require vetted, specialty-level faculty and hands-on programs with a maximum of a 1:8 faculty:participant ratio. • AAO members routinely participate in multiple regional, state, national and international programs; all are required to obtain >150 hrs/3 years of continuing medical education to maintain their certification • Negotiations in USA for unified residency match may lead to developing path for teaching-credentialing MDs at each FIMM level including specialty in NMM

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of Last General Assembly (Bratislava, Slovak Republic)

- Minutes of the last General Assembly had been posted on FIMM website and were most recently mailed to all National Societies in August.
- **MOTION (Passed unanimously):** Minutes of the 2014 General Assembly minutes were accepted as published.

4. Report of the President (Simon Vulfsons): See also [2015 President Report.pdf](#)

- As FIMM's new president, first he needed to learn more about the history of FIMM and the perspectives of others in the Federation.
- The president then called a mid-year meeting of the Executive Board (ExB) and the Health Policy Board (HPB) in Frankfurt in early June 2015. Part of the time was led by a professional facilitator.

- There all held a critical appraisal of FIMM including what FIMM has to offer the individual, national society, delegate, board member, or discipline of MM generally.
- FIMM appears to have become more administrative instead of an innovative body with delegates struggling to push FIMM up the hill and a need to return back to their National Societies to see if there is any fiscal support for any projects. The overall impression is that we need to reaffirm the mission and role of FIMM and strive to increase its value to those it represents.
- **A REAFFIRMATION** of FIMM was made by those attending:
 - **THE VISION OF FIMM:** *FIMM is recognized as the international federation disseminating knowledge and expertise integrating Manual/Musculoskeletal Medicine to health care.*
 - **THE MISSION OF FIMM:**
 - *International umbrella organization which supplies a platform for networking between the national organizations*
 - *Representing the field of Manual/Musculoskeletal Medicine*
 - *Promoting expertise and collegiality*
 - *Dissemination of knowledge and experience*
 - *Implementation of Manual/Musculoskeletal Medicine*
 - In the process we need to avoid splintering and avoid egos. To this end, each stakeholder must be satisfied. We will draw up a long term goal, decide on the road map and then, being realistic, stick to the map to reach our goals. “Plan long and play short” is the adage. This will increase value for all involved.
- **INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION**
 - FIMM has been invited to participate in the EFIC Symposium on Acute & Chronic Joint Pain which will be held in Dubrovnik, Croatia in September 21-23, 2016. This is less than a week after the GA in nearby Varna Bulgaria. FIMM or FIMM National Society speakers will be invited to play a role in plenary and workshop arenas and to introduce the role of manual medicine in addressing joint pain to the attendees. In exchange, the EFIC organizers would ask FIMM and its national societies to distribute information about the symposium to their membership.
 - The EFIC meeting could be coupled with the FIMM annual General Assembly (GA) being held around the same time in Varna.
 - The FIMM GA could be followed with a collaborative Scientific Conference with the Bulgarian Society for Manual Medicine, a basic instructional course for the Bulgarian (and other individual members) could also be planned.
 - Planning for a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) could also take place in this period of time in Bulgaria.
 - (As an aside, one of the world’s finest golf courses is nearby and so perhaps the 1st FIMM international golf tournament would increase collegiality for the fun of MM and MM teaching and perhaps also draw more attendees.)
- **WORKGROUPS** were developed at the mid-year meeting in Frankfurt. Each has an ExB member as its convener:
 - **Politics:** (**S Vulfsons** -- Lead), **N Fouques-Weiss**, **H Bultman**, **V Sotos-Boras**)
 - **Standards/Diploma:** (**W von Heymann** -- Lead, **M Kuchera**, **N Fouques-Weiss**, **S Vulfsons**) ... Topics will include certify advanced studies in keeping with Bologna Declaration, teacher qualifications and identification, training, how to endorse programs eventual diploma or other credentialing of National Societies as well as individuals, , time-dating and renewal,
 - **Organizations** - (**S Nikonov** (Lead), **H Bultman**, **C Appleyard**, **S Vulfsons**) – The task is to identify other groups and societies to join FIMM and/or collaborate with us.
 - **Communications/Public Relations** – (**B Terrier** (Lead), **V Sotos-Borras**, **C Appleyard**) – The task is to profile FIMM, create and disseminate information, employ media such as Facebook, promote direct member discussions and create/maintain a FIMM database.

- **Academic** -- (M-H Gauchat (Lead), M Kuchera, W vonHeyman, A Finestone) – Topics and tasks will involve input and organization for research, education, congresses and courses and to promote collaboration for these endeavors.
- A **FIMM FUTURE** statement was constructed as well:
 - *FIMM is an active, internationally recognized federation, attracting national societies, organizations, and policy makers worldwide, whose main function is gathering, and disseminating knowledge and expertise and proactively advancing integration of Manual/Musculoskeletal Medicine into health care. **FIMM strives to be the standard in the world for Manual/Musculoskeletal Medicine.***
 - *Note that the word “organizations” was added to the original statement above*
 - It was felt that FIMM is the only body that can have all under the umbrella
 - A question was raised concerning why FIMM and IAMMM could not join? The response was that we need to look to start with good collaboration and move from there
- **Motion: That the President’s Report be accepted. (Passed unanimously)**
- **Motion: That FIMM support the Dubrovnik EFIC program and that the General Assembly delegates seek active support as well by their National Societies to their respective physician members. (Passed unanimously)**
- The president expressed his thanks to each of the members of the Executive Board.

5. **Report of the Secretary-General (Michael L. Kuchera):** See [2015 Secretary-General Report.pdf](#).

- The Secretary-General report titled “Dream to Action” was designed to build on the FIMM VISION Statement that “FIMM is recognized as the international federation disseminating knowledge and expertise integrating MM to health care.”
- He asked the delegates of the FIMM Community to contribute their vision and dreams asking themselves and their Societies “What can FIMM be?” in order to help shape what “FIMM will be.”
- Noting that we can’t afford to sleep without dreaming nor dream without acting together on our united vision, Dr. Kuchera talked about the potential to restructure FIMM with certain key functions in mind. These functions should support the mission and the vision just described in the president’s report.
- As an example, he discussed implications for manual medicine in North America associated with a unified pathway for postgraduate medical education in the United States. There are opportunities for the entire field of manual medicine to expand the evidence-base, advance health policy and educate MDs to gain skills and palpatory diagnosis and treatment of somatic dysfunction. What is the international role of FIMM in North America? ... in Europe? ... in meeting the vision?
- In closing, the Secretary-General advocated for the delegates to carry the message of the vision and the mission and the reaffirmation of worth back to their National Societies and to build momentum.
- **The report of the Secretary-General was unanimously accepted.**

6. **Report of the Treasurer (Aharon Finestone) – NOTE: Voting finishes after Agenda Items 13-14 below**

- On behalf of FIMM and the delegates, the Treasurer thanked the Danish Society for their invitation to enjoy Copenhagen, finding an inexpensive hotel, and extending their generosity in treating us all to the additional tours, transportation and this evening’s reception and dinner.
- The Treasurer also thanked past Treasurer, **Victor Dvorak**, for working with him over the past several months long distance and for coming to Copenhagen to work face-to-face. This has been important to further interpret and transition the accounts and prepare the budget synopsis for 2014 and 2015. See [2014 2015 2016 FIMM Treasurer Reports.pdf](#)
 - **2014:** A neutral budget of €16,500 income and expense for 2014 had been approved.
 - It was noted that income from dues for 2014 was **€14,149** (with additional income of **€1508**) for an income shortfall of **€844**.

- Also expenses were higher than expected (due largely to unanticipated banking charges of €1711) causing an over-expenditure of €1018. Note that there was no significant deficit in 2014 related to the Boards, General Assembly or projects of FIMM.
 - This means however that for 2014 there was a deficit of €1862 and against total FIMM assets this left the Federation with €21,786 on Dec 12, 2014.
 - **2015:** A neutral budget of €15,000 income and expense for 2015 had been approved at the last GA in Bratislava. At that meeting an expectation of a 2016 surcharge valued at about €5,000 for the HPB activities of 2015 was also proposed (to allow the National Societies the opportunity to discuss and vote on the surcharge.)
 - As of Sept 3, 2015 €11,192 in dues for 2015 have been paid with specific promises/expectations for €3,366.
 - The midyear meeting in June in Frankfurt for the ExB and HPB however cost €15,000 and the expected cost of the 2015 FIMM GA however (even with the Danish Society covering extra dinner expenses and entertainment) is €14,000. While these items have not yet been reimbursed, this will result in a deficit in 2015 of more than €10,000. (For example, in Frankfurt €4000 was charged simply for 2 days meeting room with light snacks.)
 - Counting the promises and actual monies paid of €3,000 against the assets and the expected expenses will leave very little liquidity in reserve for FIMM. The current bank account is €4,888.
 - **2016:** A preliminary budget for 2016 anticipates dues of €15,000 and the discussed surcharge of €0.50 per member for about €5,000 additional in income. Regular costs are projected at €14,000 and minimal project costs at €2,000 would provide for a positive cash flow this year of €2,000. (NOTE: See Item #12 for Budget and Membership Fees after reports of the various FIMM Boards and possible projects).
- **What are Fiscal Options for FIMM's Future?**
 - Bad Answers: Close FIMM (hope not!); decrease costs (already bare bones). Unfortunately in recent history, FIMM revenues have declined from year-to-year as have number of active National Societies (now 23) with no new Societies identified in current model. In many Societies, their membership is also declining. The FIMM budget in the current model is very tight with already minimal expenditure to conduct the types of international activities expected if we are to be successful in our vision/mission.
 - Possibilities to Consider:
 - Raise income (Med, Pharma, sponsors; open new members; certificates to groups/individuals)
 - Reexamine dues-surcharge structure: Restructure base fees? (Need let NS's know) Higher surcharge in future? Voted last year to raise 5000 Euro through 0.50Euro/member and will probably need to do this next year.
 - Alternative model - FIMM not reimburse Board/Committee members for any expenses
 - What assets do we have?
 - ✓ Knowledge – teaching- skills; Right to give certificate ability (NS renew every few years);
 - ✓ Recognition with half-century of status & FIMM Directory (value to members if develop); >10000 members sending information (this can be valuable); Best promote so FIMM is even higher on search engines
 - Finance Subcommittee had been established to manage fiscal affairs from technical elements during transition of Treasurers: (A Finestone (Lead); V Dvorak; S Vulfsons; S Nikonov; P Staehr). Their mission now completed and they will be consultants for the Treasurer as needed. Now we need a group to focus on generating funds.
- **MOTIONS**
 - **Motion (Passed Unanimously)** to pass the financial report of 2014 & 2015 (year-to-date) as presented.
 - **Motion (Passed Unanimously):** To establish a **Working Group for Fund-Generation**. The Finance/Funds Work group will consist of **S Vulfsons** (Lead); **A Finestone, V Agnerova, W von Heymann**, and French Society treasurer, **Marc Roszenblat**.

7. Report of the Auditors (Todor Todorov; Craig Appleyard)

- This was an unusual year ... in the past the Treasurer, Viktor Dvorak, would mail the fiscal documents to Prof Todoroff but as of now the paperwork has not yet arrived for him to review. Dr. Appleyard only got the books a week ago and this was difficult to review in the time allotted.
- A recommendation was made that the General Assembly not formally vote on books until Prof Todoroff could review and Appleyard reflect more fully.
- **Motion (Passed unanimously):** To postpone the 2014 auditor's report for one month and then conduct an email ballot for to accept the Auditors' written report or not.

8. Election Confirmation of the Auditors

- **MOTION (Passed unanimously):** Todor Todoroff and Craig Appleyard were re-elected as auditors for the year.

9. Report from the Chairman of the Education Board (EdB); Marc-Henri Gauchat

- See powerpoint synopsis in [2015 FIMM EdB Report.pdf](#)
- The EdB chairperson commented on the size of the EdB.
 - The composition of the Board is 10-11 members including: Director **Marc-Henri Gauchat** (Switzerland); **Helle Borgström** (Denmark); **Michael Kuchera** (USA); **Maxim Bakhtatze** (Russia); **Vlasta Tosnerová** (Czech Republic); **Mathias Psczolla** (Germany); **Norbert Teisseire** (France); **Javier Martinez** (Spain); **Yacov Fogelman** (Israel); **Andrew Ip** (Hong Kong).
 - Dr Gauchat noted that **Michael Yelland** (Australia) is willing to continue if invited. He noted that this was important for additional English input and that his past contributions have been substantial.
- Dr. Gauchat noted that he would like the EdB to take on a **MOOC (Massive Open Online Course)** preparation as a pilot project. He provided a brief history and described MOOC's as consisting of 5-10 videos of 10-12 minutes each with possibility to interrupt for more information or quizzing. In a true MOOC, quizzes are often given over several weeks and there can be assignments to upload for subsequent evaluation by a teacher or by MOOC peers. The MOOC allows a possible forum (and therefore a social dimension). Successful MOOC completion offers opportunities for FIMM or a National Society to offer CME or a certificate and may increase interest in face-to-face courses and workshops on the topic or by the group.
 - May increase interest in manual medicine (physician may find topic as they "google" a musculoskeletal problem and happen across the MOOC). MOOCs do not replace courses or hands-on. The MOOC selection could be featured on the FIMM website; it should be in English and/or have English subtitles.
 - If tasked, the EdB would need to select topic(s), identify references, and identify speakers. A book about creating and organizing MOOCs is available if ask anyone would like **Dr. Gauchat** to send it. Israel also has experience in creating/using MOOCs. They edited with Camtasia and participants paid for a certificate. Israel might discuss and see if they might provide some budget to produce a MOOC and so might other societies.
 - **MOOC / Technologically-Based Educational Product Discussion:**
 - Maybe an initial trial might be ready to launch after the next General Assembly as either a trial or a demonstration. **Dr. Fogelman** commented that this seemed to be a good project needing pre-conference prep required for some elements.
 - Ideas discussed included considering enhancing National Society involvement by conducting a MOOC Competition and recognizing the best produced.

- The representative from the Czech Republic estimated that members could pay €10 per person; others noted that arrangements should be in concert with National Society involvement. Choices to discuss then would include: How would such an educational item be marketed ... free benefit, balanced benefit/paid item or income raising? If income generating, will there be opportunities for income to jointly benefit both the Society and FIMM? What issues lie in ownership to the author vs Society vs FIMM?
 - Question how might we limit viewing by non-physicians? One answer is that we may not need to limit this as the material is not “restricted knowledge” and there is no ability to practice hands-on during a MOOC. Viewing does not authorize the use of the material nor does it credential someone beyond their practice rights.
- **PLANS for 2016 General Assembly**
 - Plan and hold a 1.5 day course for instructors or advanced participants.
 - Prepare in advance and present proposals for a FIMM Certificate project. This would include details for credentialing both National Societies and individual doctors
 - Present a completed draft of the MM educational requirements of UEMS including the evaluation of teachers (the latter being a task that ESSOMM needs to complete).
 - Have an updated FIMM Glossary report. The Permanent FIMM Glossary Committee has a coordinator, **Michael Kuchera**, and three language groups: French: **Marc-Henri Gauchat** (CH) & **Norbert Teisseire** (FR); German: **Mathias Psczolla** (DE); and English: **Michael Kuchera** (US) plus a Russian contributor: **Maxim Bakhtatze** (RU).
 - If there is to be progress in all areas by the Education Board for the 2016, a face-to-face meeting would require a budget of €5,000 but with the budget as it is, where will this come from? We need to vote for either another Project surcharge or seek other options.
- **MOTIONS**
 - **Motion (Passed Unanimously)** to accept report of the Chairman of the Education Board.
 - **Motion (Passed Unanimously):** The General Assembly authorizes the development of proposals and/or pilot projects in which funding can be secured by the Funding Workgroup (see list in Item #6 above). Expenditures of these funds will be pending Executive Board approval (eg MOOC marketing to gain insights and experience).

10. Report of the Science Officer of the Executive Board (**Sergey Nikonov**)

- The Science Officer proposes that FIMM work in cooperation with possible 2016 GA host National Society, the Bulgarian Society of MM (BSMM), to host a Scientific & Educational Conference immediately following the General Assembly. This course would be budget neutral to budget positive.
 - This report is actually then the first announcement of the proposed Conference to the delegates of the National Societies.
- **PLANS for a scientific & educational conference in conjunction with the 2016 General Assembly**
 - Tentatively the FIMM General Assembly would take place on September 16, 2016 (Friday) in Varna, Bulgaria. If approved, a conjoint FIMM/Bulgarian Scientific Conference could take place on Sept 17 (Saturday) and an Educational/Instructor Course could follow on Sept 18-19 (Sunday-Monday).
 - A flow chart (see [2015_FIMM_Science_Report.pdf](#)) was presented by the FIMM Science Director to be further delineated in conjunction with the leadership of the BSMM and the FIMM ExB regarding logistics and time line. The FIMM Science Working Group established in June in Frankfurt would also work to further develop details with these leaders for the scientific

component of the conference. Initial scope might be considered for up to 300 participants and at least 20 papers (reviewed by Science Working Group representatives) and there would be a request Presidents of national organizations to intensify National Society efforts to promote the Conference.

- Science Working Group: **S Nikonov** (RU); **M Kuchera** (US); **W von Heymann** (DE); **V Sotos-Borras** (ES); **I Todorov** (BG); **N Krasnoyarova** (KZ); and **A Finestone** (IS):
- **Motion (Passed Unanimously)** to accept the report of the Scientific Director and the individuals named to the Scientific Working Group.

11. **Report of the Health Policy Board (HPB) Chairman (Bernard Terrier)**: See details in [2015_FIMM_HP_B_Report.pdf](#)

- Thanks to Danish for hosting this General Assembly. Overview of this report: (1) European status of MM Update re ESSOMM; (2) FIMM Guidelines; (3) Proposed new structures for FIMM (including revision of the statutes).
 - Members of the HPB are: **B Terrier** (CH); **C Appleyard** (CA); **H Borgstrom** (DK); **H Bultman** (NL); **N Fouques-Weiss** (FR); **V Sotos-Borras** (ES); **W von Heymann** (DE); **S Vulfsons** (IL)
- (1) A brief update was offered on ESSOMM and its interactions with the Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes (UEMS). They have been working with the Multidisciplinary Committee (MJC) towards a UEMS-MJC-MM document; the website just started to work. ESSOMM reflects 13 member societies representing 12,232 physicians. Our educational documents have played an important role as have many of the FIMM members who are part of ESSOMM. (See [.pdf](#) for details)
- (2) *FIMM Guidelines on Basic Training & Safety* history was recounted. Sincere thanks were extended to SOFMMOO and the extensive contributions of members **Nadine Fouques-Weiss**, **David Cypel**, and **Norbert Teisseire** in creating the French language version (v 3.1f). Also thanks were extended to **Wolfgang von Heymann** for the German version (v3.1d – adopted by the GA Oct 15, 2013) and its publication in *Medizin Manuelle*.
 - **Motion (Passed Unanimously)**: The delegates of the 2015 FIMM General Assembly vote to pass the submitted French version and add it to the German and English versions to officially create *FIMM Guidelines on Basic Training & Safety* (v3.2).
 - Note that all official 3.2 versions (in three languages) will be upgraded to have the curriculum of the MMOO of the French Medical Faculty added.
- (3) Report on the prior charge given to the Health Policy Board by the GA on Sept 18, 2014 in Bratislava: “To establish proposals for new legal and constitutional structures of FIMM.”
 - Dr Terrier detailed the analysis of the task (see [.pdf](#)) which included: Frame/format; aims/activities; constitutional bodies such as the GA and the Boards; membership; regional world structure considerations; seat of the Federation; and “official” language. All would be needed to prepare the National Societies to talk about and consider any Statute revisions.
 - Much of the information presented provided looked at strengths and weaknesses of these analysis points and captured thoughts explored at the June midyear meeting of the ExB and the HPB in Frankfurt.
 - Structure and recommendations should help FIMM advance its vision, mission, aims and activities.
 - Alternative aims to consider or to supplement the existing aims in our statutes might include: (a) to achieve the highest sustainable educational and **organizational standard**; (b) to contribute to **expansion on member-level** the process of development of MM

- Medicine on a strictly non-discriminatory basis and (c) to contribute to the **expansion in the world** the process of development of MM Medicine.
- Membership alternatives weighs concepts of nationalities vs societies and considering an inclusive “FIMM-community” welcoming all valuing MM vs the exclusive “officially-designated” membership that FIMM now has. Such a change would also increase representation in MM as well as financial contributions to the Federation.
 - Possible regional world structure alternatives mentioned included:
 - A possible alternative is a FIMM World Council made up of individual regional chapters. Each could work in their part of the world on the issues important to them (but with the broad interest in MM). They could report progress/direction and the regional chapter representatives could meet periodically. A logical distribution might be a European Chapter; North American Chapter; and Australasian Chapter ... with a potential future South American Chapter (etc). In such a distribution, the FIMM European Chapter might include formal UEMMA and ESSOMM interaction or unified societal structure. Such a regional chapter system might offer a leaner and more focused local structure and less financial costs while providing a more sustained political structure and more sustained promotion of MM.
 - It was mentioned that scientific, educational conferences could potentially rotate annually to be held in a different region and maybe have a unified congress every fourth year.
 - The current FIMM seat in Belgium was discussed. While it had a strong historical reference not having an active Belgian society, their complicated procedures, and language obstacles are recognized disadvantages. Alternatives in Berlin, Geneva or Paris were among alternatives that might make more sense for FIMM. English as a language also was a strong consideration.
 - **Proposed New Structure Recommendations, Time Table, Action Plan (#2) & Budget**
 - An internal version (v1.1) of recommendations set out by 12-31-15 followed by a March HPB meeting (possibly in Berlin), two email version generations for 3-30-16 and 6-15-16 (versions 1.2 and 1.3 respectively) coupled with a meeting in conjunction with the 2016 General Assembly would cost €7,000 but provide full recommendations for a new legal and constitutional structure to discuss and propose at the 2016 GA. (See [.pdf](#))
 - **Proposal:** That the FIMM GA charge the HPB to implement Action Plan #2 as presented including the proposed budget of €7,000 as a surcharge to be approved for the FIMM budget 2017.
 - ✓ **Discussion:** Treasurer says “we do not have liquidity.” Note that we are in crisis and that it “might be important to spend money to make money.” We need to “change fast and increase activity.” “Sorry, but the statutes are not our priority.” Why not let the ExB work by email with the HPB to present material for Varna (work together without spending €7,000) or delay until 2017. Could there be tight Skype/email meetings (which usually does not work unless strict deadlines)?
 - ✓ **HPB Chairperson Noted:** The HPB had been charged for 2016 but this would not work with budget and discussion concerns
 - **Motion (Pass with all except 1 -- Czech Rep voting no):** In light of budgetary constraints, the General Assembly will extend the HPB charge for proposed changes (now up to 2 years with a 2017 deadline); the HPB should hold a non-funded meeting in Varna prior to the General Assembly and report their mid-term discussion to the 2016 GA to determine how they proceed.

12. 2016 Budget & Membership Fees

- **Motion (Passed Unanimously)** to pass the financial program budget proposed for 2016 with the proposed €0.50 additional surcharge. (See Item #6 synopsis and the Treasurer's [.pdf](#)).
 - For 2017, National Societies were instructed to anticipate the need for another additional budgetary surcharge.

13. Membership (Admissions/Suspensions)

- There were no new National Society member admissions to be considered this year.
- On the Belgian National Society and his offer to reach out last year, **Sjef Rutte** finds no one interested in FIMM other than single doctors. To this, **Nadine Fouques-Weiss** asked that she be allowed to contact Belgium by end of year and will subsequently then talk to **Michael Kuchera** for contact thereafter if there is potential for this Society.
- Summary: No additions of exclusions this year.

14. Date and place of the subsequent General Assembly (ies)

- **Motion (Passed Unanimously)** that the Bulgarian Society of Manual Medicine host the 51st FIMM General Assembly in Varna on (or about) September 16, 2016.
 - Proposed preliminary dates with the General Assembly on Friday Sept 16 would be to have Board meetings and/or working groups (as possible fiscally) to meet 1-2 days prior (Sept 14-15) and to have a FIMM Scientific/Educational Conference in conjunction with the BSMM following (Sept 18-19).

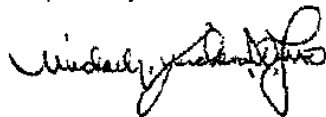
15. Other business

- No other business was raised.
- The FIMM Gala Dinner generously hosted by the DSMM was formally announced with transportation by bus scheduled to leave from the lobby area at 7PM.

16. Closing the 50th General Assembly of FIMM

- President **Simon Vulfsons** closed the 50th General Assembly of FIMM at 5:08PM.

Respectively submitted,



Professor Michael L. Kuchera
Secretary-General, FIMM

ADDENDA

Review of FIMM Committees and Work Groups

- **Scientific Working Group** ... in conjunction with:
 - **Nikonov**
 - **Kuchera**
 - **Von Heymann**
 - **Sotos-Borras**

- Todorov
- Krash
- Finestone
- **Finance Sub-Committee** was set up to manage fiscal affairs from technical elements during transition of Treasurers
 - **Finestone**; Dvorak; Vulfsons; Nikonov; Staehr
 - Mission completed
 - Will be consultants for the treasurer as needed
- **Established Working Group for Fund-Generation**
 - **Finance/Funds Workgroup**
 - **Vulfsons**
 - Finestone
 - Agnerova
 - von Heymann
 - French treasurer Marc ROZENBLAT
 - **Education Board Members**
 - **Director: Marc-Henri Gauchat (Switzerland)**
 - **Helle Borgström (Denmark)**
 - **Javier Martinez (Spain)**
 - **Michael Kuchera (USA)**
 - **Maxim Bakhtatze (Russian Fed.)**
 - **Vlasta Tosnerová (Czech Republic)**
 - **Mathias Psczolla (Germany)**
 - **Michael Yelland (Australia)**
 - **Norbert Teisseire (France)**
 - **Andrew Ip (Hong Kong)**
 - **Health Policy Board Members**
 - **Director: Bernard Terrier (Switzerland)**
 - **Victoria Sotos Boras (Spain)**
 - **Simon Vulfsons (President/Israel)**
 - **Nadine Fouques-Weiss(France)**
 - **Helle Borgström (Denmark)**
 - **Henk Bultman (the Netherlands)**
 - **Wolfgang v. Heymann (Germany)**
 - **Craig Appleyard (Canada)**
 - **Finance Sub-Committee:** Note to be budget neutral, this new subcommittee will be conducted via emails and Skype
 - **Viktor Dvorak**
 - **Sergey Nikonov**
 - **Peter Staehr**
 - **Simon Vulfsons**
 - **Aharon Finestone**
 - **Workgroups from mid-year meeting ...**
 - **Politics (Vulfsons, Foques-Weiss, Bultman, Sotos-Borras)**

- **Standards/Diploma** – country/individuals; certify advanced studies – Bolgna ... (**von Heymann, Kuchera, Foques-Weiss, Vulfsons**) ... teachers noted, programs endorsed, eventual diploma
- **Organizations** - identify other groups and societies to join/collaborate ... (**Nikonov, Bultman, Appleyard, Vulfsons**)
- **Communications/Public Relations** – Profile FIMM, info, Facebook, direct member discussions – database (**Terrier, Sotos-Borras, Appleyard**)
- **Academic** - Research, congress-courses- collaboration (**Gauchat, Kuchera, vonHeyman, Finestone**)

Addendum I A– List of 2014 FIMM National Society contacts at 2015 General Assembly

Country	Name	email
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Bulgaria	Todor Todorov	todoroff@doctor.com
Canada	Craig Appleyard	drappleyard@bellnet.ca
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1B -- Additional NS contact information on record

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