



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

**Minutes of the 2020 FIMM General Assembly
Eindhoven-Led ZOOM Virtual Meeting
October 23, 2020**

Secretary-General

Draft Version for Appropriate Approval – Full Notes

On behalf of FIMM, President **Henk Bultman** called the meeting to order at 1010 UTC. All attending online had pre-registered for this ZOOM event convened for the 55th FIMM General Assembly (2020). They were admitted by members of the FIMM Executive Board (hosts **Bultman & Finestone**) after electronic invitation and credentialing

Sincere thanks were extended to SEMOOYM (Spain) for hosting last year's General Assembly in Elche and its associated Scientific and Educational meetings.

In light of the COVID-19 and the use of ZOOM, practicalities were introduced for the conduct of this virtual assembly:

- Only Active Member Societies who paid annual contribution (dues) completely may vote.
- When a vote is called, the president will ask delegates to first voice or signal abstentions or nays. They will be registered and counted. If no further abstention or nay is heard when a vote for approval is called, the remainder of possible votes will be considered as aye votes.
- **Aharon Finestone** (co-host & treasurer) was assigned the role of vote counter and will maintain a ledger of all votes for the minutes.
- Elections are not expected to take place and would be difficult in this virtual setting; next year, in an anticipated live setting, those needed will take place.

The **PRE-PUBLISHED AGENDA** for the 2020 FIMM General Assembly was posted on the FIMM website and emailed to Member Societies well in advance with the request that any agenda additions be submitted by October 10. None were received and no delegate recommended a change. The agenda presented below had no suggested additions or modifications.

1. *Opening by the President*
2. *Matters arising from the minutes of the last General Assembly (Elche, SPAIN)*
3. *Report from the President*
4. *Report from the Secretary-General*
5. *Report from the Treasurer*
6. *Report from the Auditors*
7. *Election/confirmation of the Auditors*
8. *Report from the Chairman of the Education Board*
9. *Report from the Chairman of the Health Policy Board*

10. *Decision on the membership fees for the next year*
11. *Membership (admissions/suspensions/discussion on membership status)*
12. *Q&A on the current status of the societies (limited to 2 minutes per pre-assigned delegate)*
13. *Questionnaire / Survey*
14. *Date and place of the General Assembly 2021*
15. *Any other business (brought up by the societies 2 weeks before the GA)*
16. *Closing the 2019 General Assembly by the President*

At the onset of this virtual meeting, a roll call of Member Society delegates was conducted. The voting delegate for each country was asked for voice confirmation of their presence and a report of their 2020 membership numbers to determine the number of votes allotted. (This attendance and membership numbers are summarized in the Attendance / Roll Call Table below – See Agenda Item #3.)

Delegates for 16 Member Societies (representing 10,433 doctors) and 1 Observer/Candidate Society (New Zealand) registered and participated in this virtual ZOOM meeting led by President Bultman from Eindhoven NL. Additionally, one participant of an inactive past member society (Hungary) and one visitor from Brazil (expressing potential interest in establishing a manual medicine society) registered and attended with permission of the President.

Treasurer **Aharon Finestone** noted that all 16 Member Societies represented in this Assembly had paid their dues and were eligible to vote. Using the agreed-upon, member-weighted voting formula,¹ 29 votes were calculated to be possible at this meeting. (See Table in Agenda Item #3.)

AGENDA ITEM # 1: OPENING BY THE PRESIDENT (continued)

Attendee Summary:

A total of **31** individuals representing 16 Member and 1 Observer Manual Medicine Societies were in attendance (see TABLE below) as well as 2 invited/observing individuals from Hungary and Brazil. Included in those attending were the members of the Executive Board of the Fédération Internationale de Médecine Manuelle: **Henk Bultman, Michael Kuchera, Aharon Finestone, Simon Vulfsons, Bernard Terrier, and Ilia Todorov.**

Not attending from the invited representatives were those from France (regrets), Hong Kong (registered but not in attendance), Japan, Russia, and the Slovak Republic.

AGENDA ITEM #2: Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Last General Assembly (Elche SPAIN)

1. During the 2019 President's Report discussion, it was suggested that the GA consider a future **Vision/Mission/Leadership Conference** similar to the one conducted in 2015 (Frankfurt).
 - The Executive Board (ExB) discussed this via ZOOM and agrees on excellent value potential with our new bylaws/seat/members and the upcoming transition from old-to-new leadership
 - Time restrictions at this virtual meeting but a wider summit ^{vs} workshop is envisioned (See Agenda Item #3. In light of partial funding already from saved costs (most meetings during pandemic year were held virtually), we placed monies in proposed budget. If passed, the ExB presumes permission to work on this. (See Agenda Items Related to Budget)
2. Last year the Education Board (EdB) chair requested each national society identify an **official education liaison**. The ExB included this request in the 2020 Societal Questionnaire. (See update in EdB Report; Agenda Item #8).

¹ 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+ have 3 votes.

3. It was noted by both EdB & HPB that some editing of the **FIMM Guidelines** would be needed (The report process/timeframe will be shared in the report of the HPB – Agenda Item #9)
4. Possible suspension of the **Slovak Republic** National Society (See Agenda Item #11)
 - Updates from communications to be offered by **Vlasta Tosnerova & Simon Vulfsons**

MOTION: Approve Minutes of 2019 FIMM General Assembly as distributed and move matters arising from minutes to appropriate Agenda Items of this meeting – Passed unanimously

AGENDA ITEM #3: REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT / PRESENTATION OF SOCIETIES

The President reaffirmed the role of FIMM by noting FIMM’s last Vision/Mission Summit (Frankfurt, 2015) and calling for a new vision meeting perhaps for 2021. He envisions this meeting would seek collaboration & alliances with those who value the Manual/Musculoskeletal Medicine field by bringing stakeholders (IAMMM, ESSOMM, etc) together. Interestingly, in the pandemic environment, ZOOM meetings have drawn attention that this world is smaller than many imagined. FIMM *Guidelines* and FIMM guidance for MM societies have the potential to help advance implementation of MM worldwide.

Before the General Assembly, Member Societies were instructed to submit their reports in advance and to identify if any items needed limited discussion time. The President promised that late-but-timely submissions after General Assembly will be compiled and distributed with minutes. The President presented key elements of the submitted reports or allowed shared screen presentations at this meeting from delegates who had material -- limited to 2 minutes maximum per Society. **(See Member Delegate Complete Submissions [hyperlink](#))**

Roll Call: MM Society/Delegation Physicians by COUNTRY	Member #	Votes
Bulgaria (BSMM) - Ilia Todorov	n=34	(1 vote)
Canada (CAOM) – Not Registered	?	
Czech Republic - Vlasta Tosnerova <i>(verbal report only)</i>	n=184	(2 votes)
Denmark (DSMM) - Karen Goss & Berit Schiottz-Christensen	n=350	(2 votes)
Finland (FAMM) - Olavi Airaksinen	n=189	(2 votes)
France (SOFMMOO) – Not Registered; Sends Regrets	?	
Germany (ÄMKA) – Stephan Martin & Ruth Kamping <i>(verbal report only)</i>	n=269	(2 votes)
Germany (DGMM) - Stephan Vinzelberg	n=4656	(3 votes)
Hong Kong (HKSMM) – Registered but not attending	?	
Israel (ISMM) - Negev Bar (voting delegate) with Simon Vulfsons & Aharon Finestone	n=333	(2 votes)
Italy (SMM-SIMFER) - Carla Correggia & Alice Pellizzero	n = 116	(2 votes)
Japan – Not Registered	?	
Kazakhstan (KAMT&O) - Nadezhda Krasnoyarova	n=53	(1 vote)
Republic of Korea (KSCMM) - Byung-Cheul Shin, KMD, PhD & Me-riونغ (Miriam) Kim & Hyun-Jun Lee	n=1106	(2 votes)
The Netherlands (NVAMG) - Henk Bultman	n=141	(2 votes)
Russian Federation – Not Registered	?	
Slovak Republic – Not Registered	?	
Spain (SEMOOYM) - Javier Martinez & Victoria Sotos-Borras	n=104	(2 votes)
Switzerland (SAMM) Marc-Henri Gauchat (voting delegate) with Bernard Terrier	n=1229	(2 votes)
Turkey (MTD) - Cihan Aksoy & Demirhan Diracoglu	n=51	(1 vote)
Ukraine (UAOCMT) – Vitalii Gubenko, Alla Tkalina, Volodymyr Maramukha, Igo Maramukha, Igor Dovgyi, & Andriy Fedosenko	n=81	(1 vote)
United States of America (AAO) - Michael Kuchera	n=1350	(2 votes)
16 of 22 possible member societies	10,433	29 votes

Also registered and in attendance by presidential invitation were:

- Observational member (**New Zealand - Jenny Keightley**) applying for full-membership
 - **Candidates for Membership (See Agenda Item #11)**
- Invited representatives of societies expressing possible future interest in membership included (**Hungary - Reka Puskas**) and (**Brazil – Alexandre Fortes**)

Limited discussion points included now or Item #12 (see delegate report [hyperlink](#))

- Germany noted opportunities for publication of MM/research articles in *Eur J of MM*
- Israel showed Youtube video on “Capsules” Teaching Model – <https://youtu.be/VotdcpE66FQ>
- Spain noted a MM educational outreach into S. America (Uruguay, Peru, Ecuador) and spoke positively about the review process for its own educational plan to meet FIMM 300-hr compliance
- USA described the single accreditation graduate medical education pathway for MDs and DOs to receive “osteopathic recognition” in their medical or surgical specialty as well as a pathway for MDs in the USA to obtain Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine specialty training and certification

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

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

The Secretary-General’s Report this year summarized online responses from 12 member societies to the official FIMM questionnaire. The responses provided input for three main topics: (1) FIMM as a Federation of MM Societies; (2) MM Educational Issues; and (3) Teaching MM in the Age of COVID-19. He requested that delegates encourage their societies to complete the Questionnaire (located on the FIMM Website/[Hyperlink](#)) if they have not yet responded.

MOTION: Accept Secretary-General Report – Unanimous approval

AGENDA ITEM #5: TREASURER REPORT – Aharon Finestone

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

The 2019 Budget was projected to be neutral (18,000 euros in and out). In part, note that FIMM received about €16,000 of €18,000 budgeted for dues plus nearly €3000 in refunded debt. We saved €7,500 though by holding our 2019 General Assembly in Elche rather than Milan. When all is totaled, our budget ended with a profit of €8,133.

The budget for 2021 projects no need for a surcharge over the €16,000 dues income. It adds a projection for the cost of a Vision Summit meeting (€6000) and the ability to hold a face-to-face General Assembly in Hannover. The overall deficit is projected to be only €2000 for next year.

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

Peter Stæhr (auditor) sent an email Oct 19 conveying his “approval” post audit. No report was received from **Wolfgang von Heymann** (second elected auditor) as he had passed away.

MOTION: Accept Auditor’s Report – Unanimous approval

MOTION: Accept Treasurers Report of 2019 – Unanimous approval

MOTION: Accept Budget for 2021 – Unanimous approval

AGENDA ITEM #7: ELECTION OF AUDITOR(S)

Peter Stæhr was proposed for the position of auditor with proposed 2nd auditor to be added in 2021 election (unless a volunteer was willing to be put forth this year). With no volunteer forthcoming:

MOTION: Peter Stæhr to be elected as auditor this year – Unanimous approval.

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

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

The Education Project was begun in May 2017 (Prague) to help societies meet FIMM’s statutory 300-hour educational criteria by 2023. Their board and have developed a FIMM Program checklist and taskforce pairs to review programs. Spain requested that their program be added to the three other programs under review now (Germany/DGMM, Switzerland/SAMM and the Czech Republic’s societal curriculum.) He reiterated the need for an Educational Liaison to be named from each society – preferably someone not on the FIMM Executive or Education Board – who knows their societal program well enough to transfer their program to the FIMM Checklist and could help clarify questions raised by the Task Force reviewers. The liaisons need to be fluent in English which is the working language for FIMM.

Members serving on the FIMM Education Board:

- Heather Ferrill, (USA)
- Karen Goss (Denmark)
- Me-riونغ Kim (South Korea)
- Negev Bar (Israel)
- Javier Martínez (Spain)
- Norbert Teisseire (France)
- Stephan Vinzelberg (Germany)
- Ilia Todorov (Bulgaria), chairman

MOTION: Education Board Report Accepted – Unanimous approval

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

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

The Health Policy Board shall dedicate 2020-21 activities to updating and upgrading the FIMM Guidelines for Basic Training & Safety. The first version had been approved in 2013 (Tel Aviv) and currently version 3.1 appears in 4 languages.

With departures and death of the prior roster, he proposed a new health policy board list be approved to work on version 4.0 and bring it to the 2021 General Assembly to approve as version 4.1 at that time. Approval of the majority of the individuals listed has been previously secured (or expressed their willingness to serve online at this point in time). There may be an additional need to identify and ask a member of the French Society to serve as well.

Requested by the Health Policy Board director to serve:

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

MOTION: Accept the HPB Report and confirm the director’s list of personnel (with to their consent) – Unanimous Approval

AGENDA ITEM #10 – MEMBERSHIP FEES

The budget passed reflects no change in dues and no surcharge. The Treasurer will invoice Societies for 2021 dues using the existing formula applied to the numbers of physician members in each Society in 2020.

MOTION: Membership dues will reflect no change / no surcharge – Unanimous approval.

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

1. **NEW ZEALAND (Jenny Keightley)** – See [Presentation of the New Zealand Association of Musculoskeletal Medicine \(hyperlink\)](#)
 1. A past member and currently an observer member, the NZAMM would like to rejoin FIMM as a full member. Currently 66 members (26 with 300+hr qualification) in a country recognizing MM as a specialty. More recent emphasis on ultrasound training has reduced emphasis on teaching practical hands-on MM skills. James Watt had previously been part of the HPB; FIMM teachers have taught in NZ previously. There is an emphasis on Pain Management and cultural safety (Maori) has important place as well. Discussion on primary care physician audience as well.
 2. **MOTION:** Accept NZAMM as a full member of FIMM – Unanimous approval
2. **SLOVAK REPUBLIC:** Follow—up by **Simon Vulfsons** to **Viera Agnerova** (identified last year by **Vlasta Tosnerova**). Report that aging society has deteriorated for several years. The request suspension and observer status at this time and Simon so recommends.
 3. **MOTION:** Suspension of the member society from the Slovak Republic and grant it observational status – Unanimous approval of action
3. **JAPAN & RUSSIAN FEDERATION:**
 4. A recent email from Japan concerning publication of a book related to their Arthrokinetic SIJ approach suggests they are still in existence. Dues have not been paid
 5. No word from representatives in the Russian Federation; dues have not been paid
 6. **Decision to discuss membership status next year – Unanimous consent**
4. **POLAND:** While suspended last year, **Vlasta Tosnerova** believes that our prior contact has retired. She will send a new email to **Henk Bultman** to see if contact can be reestablished.
5. **HUNGARY (Reka Puskas)** – MM physicians in Hungary wish to reactivate their manual medicine group (they had previously been a FIMM member). They have only identified about 10 MM members however and due to cost of establishing a society, they may elect to work with the musculoskeletal section (subgroup) of the rheumatologists in her country. They appreciate being able to attend this GA by invitation and are observing this year so that they might come back to FIMM next year.
6. **BRAZIL (Alexandre Fortes)** – Dr Fortes is a family physician recently invited to join the Ministry of Health in Brazil and who wishes to establish MM by family physicians as a tool available to promote health reform. Musculoskeletal management is not well taught in Brazil and he has an interest in forming a Society for Musculoskeletal Medicine. They are looking to others for help (education, scope, political, health policy were all identified as issues) and so is here with FIMM. Discussion included observations that rapid growth in Israel was in part due to a focus on primary care doctors and that 60% of manual medicine physicians in the USA were primary care specialists.
7. **Vulfsons/Bultman** recommended setting up a ZOOM meeting with later for those society representatives interested in FIMM assistance (New Zealand, Hungary, Brazil)

AGENDA ITEM #12 QUESTION/ANSWER ON FOCUSED ITEMS form AGENDA ITEM #3 DELEGATE REPORTS

- Israel “Capsules” MM Teaching Strategy to stay healthy but still have supervised hands-on training
 - Short video <https://youtu.be/VotdcpE66FQ>

- In groups of 6 / teacher, they accommodated 112 students over 16 sites
- More time-efficient than large groups with excellent student reviews and significant safety in COVID event. May continue even in post-COVID situation (cost and travel savings)
- **Q:** How long to prepare the course? **A:** Same (just lecture from home) and used existing demo videos
- **Comment:** Using this strategy, you could train table trainers in advance and then introduce educational program across international borders / around world.
- **Olavi Airaksinen** points out IAMMM uses TEAMS and that IAMMM scientific collaboration might be of interest
- USA, Germany, Spain points intended for this ITEM were previously made during ITEM #3

AGENDA ITEM #13: SOCIETAL QUESTIONNAIRE/SURVEY

Presented by Secretary-General in AGENDA ITEM #4. (Please complete on FIMM-online.com if your society has not already done so or you have something to add.)

AGENDA ITEM #14: DATE & PLACE OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY (GA) 2021

Hannover GERMANY had previously been approved prior to this COVID-19 initiated Virtual GA. We propose (pandemic permitting) the 2021 General Assembly be held live in Hannover on Oct 21, 2021

- Furthermore, a Scientific/Education program hosted in conjunction with Germany/ÄMKA on October 22-24, 2021. It would consist of a 3-day hands-on course dealing with MM in children with courses ranging from introductory to advanced skills. Papers and teaching course opportunities would be invited. (Note that 2 of the lectures in this year's Worldwide Manual Medicine webinar feature ÄMKA speakers to promote interest.)
 - The facilities have been reviewed by Henk Bultman.
 - The program would be in English with the potential for German translation if needed.
- **MOTION:** Approve a face-to-face 2021 General Assembly for October 21, 2021 in Hannover GERMANY hosted by Germany/ÄMKA with a 3-day Scientific/Educational Conference to follow. (If COVID prevents doing so safely, virtual options will be discussed.) – Unanimous approval

AGENDA ITEM #15: OTHER BUSINESS

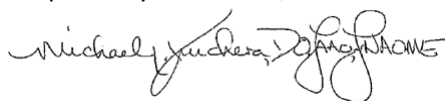
No business items had been received by the pre-proposed cut-off date of 2 weeks prior to this GA. No additional business items offered now.

AGENDA ITEM #16: CLOSING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

After 3.5 hours (at 1330 UTC), the president closed the 54th FIMM General Assembly.

- He thanked both the members of the Executive Board and a special, very active group of outside advisors (**Negev Bar, Karen Goss, Javier Martinez, and Heather Ferrill**) who met via Zoom often on a weekly or biweekly basis to move projects forward.
- He thanked the delegates for their acceptance and participation in this non-traditional GA.
- He reminded the delegates of the two FIMM Worldwide Webinar on 10/24/2020. [hyperlink](#)

Respectfully submitted,



Prof. Dr. Michael L. Kuchera
Secretary-General