



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

**Minutes of the 2021 FIMM General Assembly  
Eindhoven-Led ZOOM Virtual Meeting  
October 22, 2021**

**Secretary-General**

***Draft Version for Appropriate Approval – Full Notes***

FIMM President, **Henk Bultman**, called the 56<sup>th</sup> FIMM General Assembly (2021) to order at 1210 CET. All attending online had pre-registered for this ZOOM event. They were admitted by members of the FIMM Executive Board (hosts **Bultman & Finestone**) after electronic invitation and credentialing.

In light of the COVID-19 and the use of ZOOM for the second year in a row, 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. For this General Assembly the Treasurer has approved 29 votes from 17 Member Societies.

We hope for a face-to-face General Assembly next year.

The **PRE-PUBLISHED AGENDA** for the 2021 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 the cut-off date. A single amendment to the agenda was submitted by the Finnish Society for consideration; inclusion for the agenda will be voted on by the delegates and if accepted will become item 7A. The agenda presented below reflects the suggested addition in red.

1. *Opening by the President*
2. *Matters arising from the minutes of the last General Assembly (on-line 2020)*
3. *Report from the President*
4. *Report from the Secretary-General*
5. *Report from the Treasurer*
6. *Report from the Auditors*
7. *Election/confirmation of the Auditors and other related matters*
  - A. Motion of Finnish Society SMLY (if added by unanimous consent of the Delegates)***
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. *Changing of the Statutes*
14. *Date and place of the General Assembly 2022*
15. *Any other business (brought up by the societies 2 weeks before the GA)*
16. *Closing the 2021 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 2021 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 17 Member Societies (representing 10,303 doctors) registered and participated in this virtual ZOOM meeting led by President Bultman from Eindhoven NL. Also attending were two invited observers (**Reka Puskas** observing from Hungary for possible admission next year and **Rigobert Klett**, former DGMM president, for a presentation on a special educational program being initiated. These individuals attended with permission of the President. **Aharon Finestone** will count and record votes.

Treasurer, **Aharon Finestone**, acknowledged that the 17 Member Societies represented in this Assembly were judged eligible to vote. Using the agreed-upon, member-weighted voting formula,<sup>1</sup> 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 24 individuals were on the ZOOM call representing 17 Member Societies, an invited presenter and an invited observer for possible future Member representative (see TABLE below). 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 **Ilija Todorov**.

Not attending from the invited representatives of Ordinary Members included those from France (regrets), Hong Kong, Japan, New Zealand, and Russia. Observer nations (New Zealand and the Slovak Republic) were also not in attendance.

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

1. The hoped-for ZOOM meeting for a few FIMM Executive Board members to offer assistance and/or guidance to representatives from Brazil and New Zealand was not held this year. It is hoped that this can be accomplished during this year's activities.
2. A face-to-face **Vision/Mission/Leadership Conference** had been mentioned as a possibility for this year however the continuance of the COVID-19 pandemic was not conducive to scheduling this.
3. It was noted by both Education Board & Health Policy Board that some editing of the **FIMM Guidelines** would be needed (The report process/timeframe has been considered and will be proposed in the report of the HPB – Agenda Item #9).
4. The other item carried over from the 2020 Minutes concerns Membership considerations which will be covered in Agenda Item #11.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

**MOTION (MINUTES):** To approve the Minutes of 2020 FIMM General Assembly as posted on the FIMM-website and distributed ... with a correction of the number of Czech Republic members (identified by Vlasta Tosnerova as being 259 rather than 184) and move matters arising from minutes to the appropriate Agenda Items of this meeting – **Passed unanimously**

**AGENDA ITEM #3: REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT / PRESENTATION OF SOCIETIES** (see [hyperlink](#) to Presidential slides)

The President reaffirmed the role of FIMM by noting FIMM’s last Vision/Mission Summit (Frankfurt, 2015) and emphasized that the Vision remains valid today while needing the Board and Members to focus on, and define, how to implement it. He reiterated that, in the pandemic environment, ZOOM meetings have demonstrated that this world is smaller than many imagined.

He also raised concern that many of the doctors within our Member Societies do not know what FIMM is or does. He feels that we need more visibility and a better message that will let Societies and stakeholders know what FIMM has to offer. He also expressed how much MM (as an added qualification or specialty) has much to offer in managing painful or functional disorders and that FIMM should be more visible in promoting this. FIMM *Guidelines* and FIMM guidance for MM societies have the potential to help advance implementation of MM worldwide. He noted that FIMM will increase the number of FIMM internet conferences from 1-2 per year and seek other Member benefits allowing FIMM to serve and facilitate our mutual vision. With better communication within the FIMM Community, we can build on our similarities and learn from or embrace differences that exist within our Federation.

(Member Delegate Reports to supplement this role call – if submitted – can be found at [this hyperlink.](#))

<b>Roll Call: MM Society/Delegation Physicians by COUNTRY</b>	<b>Member #</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Bulgaria (BSMM) - <b>Ilia Todorov</b> - <a href="#">REPORT</a>	n=33 (one member lost to COVID)	(1 vote)
Canada (CAOM) – <b>Brian Shames</b>	n=75	(1 vote)
Czech Republic - <b>Vlasta Tosnerova</b> - <a href="#">REPORT</a>	n=259	(2 votes)
Denmark (DSMM) - <b>Karen Goss</b> with <b>Berit Schiøttz-Christensen</b> - <a href="#">REPORT</a>	n=353	(2 votes)
Finland (FAMM) - <b>Olavi Airaksinen</b> - <a href="#">REPORT</a>	n=168 due to minimized courses	(2 votes)
<i>France (SOFMMOO) – Sends Regrets – Own conference at same time</i>	?	
Germany (ÄMKA) – <b>Stefan Martin &amp; Ruth Kamping</b> - <a href="#">REPORT</a>	n=263	(2 votes)
Germany (DGMM) - <b>Stephan Vinzelberg</b> (new DGMM president, Herman Locher) - <a href="#">REPORT</a>	n=4492	(3 votes)
<i>Hong Kong (HKSMM) – Not attending</i> <a href="#">REPORT</a> (turned in later)	?	
Israel (ISMM) - <b>Negev Bar</b> (voting delegate) with <b>Simon Vulfsons &amp; Aharon Finestone</b>	n=355	(2 votes)
Italy (SMM-SIMFER) - <b>Carla Correggia</b>	n = 102	(2 votes)
<i>Japan – Not Registered</i>	?	
Kazakhstan (KAMT&O) - <b>Nadezhda Krasnoyarova</b>	n=53	(1 vote)
Republic of Korea (KSCMM) – <b>Me-riong (Miriam) Kim</b> with <b>Hyun-Jun Lee</b> - <a href="#">REPORT</a>	n=1374 active (4890 if	(2 votes)

	would count associate members in process)	
<b>The Netherlands (NVAMG) - Henk Bultman - <a href="#">REPORT</a></b>	n=131	(2 votes)
<i>New Zealand (Observational Member) not participating</i>	?	
<i>Russian Federation – Not Registered; No Information</i>	?	
<i>Slovak Republic (Observational Member); No Information</i>	?	
<b>Spain (SEMOYM) - Javier Martinez with Victoria Sotos-Borras - <a href="#">REPORT</a></b>	n=104	(2 votes)
<b>Switzerland (SAMM) Marc-Henri Gauchat (voting delegate) with Bernard Terrier - <a href="#">REPORT</a></b>	n=1138 many retired	(2 votes)
<b>Turkey (MTD) - Demirhan Diracoglu - <a href="#">REPORT</a></b>	n=51 stopped courses – Marc-Henri next month to restart	(1 vote)
<b>Ukraine (UAOCMT) – Vitalii Gubenko with Andriy Fedosenko - <a href="#">REPORT</a></b>	n=86	(1 vote)
<b>United States of America (AAO) - Michael Kuchera - <a href="#">REPORT</a></b>	n=1308	(2 votes)
<b>17 of 21 possible member societies</b>	<b>10,303</b>	<b>29 votes</b>

Also registered and in attendance by presidential invitation were:

- Invited representatives of societies expressing possible future interest in membership included (**Hungary - Reka Puskas**)
- **Rigobert Klett** to present the announcement of a new Masters in Manual Medicine educational program

Several delegate reports were received and posted in advance of the General Assembly. Spain (SEMOYM) and Germany (DGMM) and were invited to present further in Agenda Items # 12 & 15 respectively.

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

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

The Secretary-General’s Report this year, “FIMM: Our Family Finding our Future,” reinforced the Presidential message and hopes that for the future of our Federation, members will communicate, participate and contribute items related to advancing FIMM’s mission including speakers and topics related to programs.

**MOTION: Accept Secretary-General Report – Unanimous approval**

#### **AGENDA ITEM #5: TREASURER REPORT – Aharon Finestone**

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

**Aharon Finestone** provided his 2020 Annual Report of Treasurer. He emphasized that with regard to dues, all qualified physicians who are members of the Member Society should be counted. (Qualified individuals for the purpose of membership numbers are defined by physician laws in their country; not necessarily those meeting a 300-hour educational goal.)

The 2020 Budget was a positive one for FIMM due to savings related to internet-based meetings and programs. The beginning of year FIMM balance was reported to be €22,543 and closed at the end-of-the-year with a balance of €34,898. This shows a profit of nearly €17,300.

The 2022 Budget presented predicts a face-to-face General Assembly & Conference in Hannover GERMANY as well as the potential for a Vision/Mission/Leadership meeting. The expense over income prediction is only €2,000 if both are possible and so no surcharge over regular dues should be needed.

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

**Peter Stæhr** (auditor) sent an email Oct 17, 2022 conveying his “approval” post-audit.

- He did ask about the need for credit card fees? Answer (Finestone): The cost is €150/year (€75 for card and €75 for account) but is needed for paying at conference sites

**MOTION: Accept Auditor’s Report – Unanimous approval**

**MOTION: Accept Treasurer’s Financial Report of 2020 – Unanimous approval**

**MOTION: Accept Budget for 2022 – Unanimous approval**

#### **AGENDA ITEM #7: ELECTION OF AUDITOR(S)**

Because of the passing of Wolfgang von Heymann last year, we need to elect a 2<sup>nd</sup> auditor. According to the Treasurer, the job of an auditor is to review a 5-10 page report summary and support documents and match the items. They also may serve to identify any possible financial issues. (Example: identifying high costs of prior banking fees to be explained or subsequently changed.)

**Peter Stæhr** (Denmark) was proposed to continue in the position of auditor and volunteers were requested for the second position. **Olavi Airaksinen** (Finland) volunteered and it was proposed that he would be the 2<sup>nd</sup> auditor on the ballot.

**MOTION: Peter Stæhr and Olavi Airaksinen were elected as auditors this year – Unanimous approval.**

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7A (added by unanimous consent): EXTENSION OF PRESIDENTIAL TERM UNTIL 2024**

Agenda Point 7A was recommended through a motion submitted in advance by the Delegate from Finland (**Olavi Airaksinen**) on behalf of his Society. As it involved the presidential term, the conduct of this item was administered by the Secretary-General, **Michael Kuchera**.

**Olavi Airaksinen** read his society’s proposed motion and its rationale (as sent and distributed to delegates in advance – see [hyperlink](#) to Finland’s Proposal Letter). In way of discussion, it was pointed out that this only pertains to the president’s position and only this cycle. It is anticipated that regular elections will take place for the rest of the Board in 2022.

**Motion: The Finnish Society of Manual Medicine (SMLY) proposes an extraordinary extension of the presidential term of Henk Bultman for another 2 years until 2024 which would otherwise end in 2022, in amendment of Article 6 Paragraph 10 of the Statutes - Passed unanimously (with one recusal from The Netherlands)**

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

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

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

The Education Board Task Force members had previously endorsed the Danish educational pathway as it relates to the current *FIMM Guidelines* document. This year they also have now endorsed the documents submitted by Spain, Switzerland and Germany. This was a big task.

It was apparent that the current *FIMM Guidelines* present a big issue for the Task Force (and some Member Societies) as they are greatly shaped by the European MM Educational pathways which is difficult to bridge when a different pathway or system is involved.

It was decided to proceed with the Education and Executive Boards prioritizing the development of new Guidelines (under the guidance of Health Policy Board director, Bernard Terrier) to solve this issue. This becomes the highest priority for the Education Board at this time.

Members serving on the FIMM Education Board to date include:

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

**MOTION: 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 history of the Guidelines (since 2013) was presented as well as the need for revisions now to all aspects of the *Guidelines* and to their representation in the Statutes (especially Article 8 which was read). The rationale for extending the transition period in the Statutes to 2025 (from 2023) was discussed.

- The Education Board has worked hard but some Societies have not applied for consultation while others have educational structures that did not fit Guideline structure.
- Other pathways to fulfill MM educational goals exist in the world and it is believed that they must be integrated into our *Guidelines* to represent a worldwide federation perspective.
- Essentially all areas of the *Guidelines* need revision. The HPB will work diligently after this meeting to make recommendations for next year. There will be no budgetary impact and the HPB asks for approval from the General Assembly to do so.

Members of the Health Policy Board director are:

- **Dr. Bernard Terrier**, Switzerland, (Chairman)
- **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-rioung Kim, K.M.D, M.S., Republic of Korea
- Dr. Hermann Locher, Germany
- Dr. M. Victoria Sotos Borràs, Spain
- Dr. Simon Vulfsons, Israel

**MOTION:** Accept the HPB Report and proposal to revisit and revise *Guidelines* – **Unanimous Approval**

#### **AGENDA ITEM #10 – MEMBERSHIP FEES**

The budget passed reflects no change in dues and no surcharge. The Treasurer will invoice Societies for 2022 dues using the existing formula applied to the numbers of physician members in each Society in 2021.

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

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

1. There are no admissions or requests to join this year
2. The Slovak Republic had been suspended and moved to observational status last year.
3. Japan and Russia – It was proposed that Ordinary Membership for these Societies be suspended and at this point they be offered Observational Membership status (Japan last paid dues in 2017 now owing 4 years; the Russian Federation society owes more than 2000 euros from before 2019)
4. Poland -- **Vlasta Tosnerova** attempted to contact them but did not receive a response. She will exchange Henk Bultman's email for correspondence and we **will discuss their status next year.**
5. Hong Kong -- **Will discuss Hong Kong next year** (also in arrears on dues but have had contact in recent past)
6. **President Bultman** had reiterated his recommendation to join **Dr. Vulfsons** and set 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 from AGENDA ITEM #3 (DELEGATE REPORTS) or INVITED TOPIC**

Two items from the submitted Delegate Reports were identified to share in greater detail for the potential benefit of the Delegates and their Societies.

- **Javier Martinez** reporting for SEMOYM (see information about Latin America in the Societal Report): SEMOYM Masters Educational Program in MM in Latin America.
  - The FIMM Education Board approved this program and FIMM & SEMOYM signed a Memorandum of Understanding intended to help educate Spanish-speaking physicians in Latin America and assist in promoting MM Societal activity in the region.
  - SOLAMOYM (Latin American Society for Manual Orthopaedic Medicine) is a newly formed society based in Uruguay, whose aim is the development of MM in Latin America
  - Outreach shared and what FIMM will help. Coursework is expected to start in March 2022.
- **Rigobert Klett** (Germany, DGMM) – Masters Study from Luxembourg (see notes ... will put on site)
  - The presentation (see [hyperlink](#)) provides an overview of a new MM Educational program that meets ESSOM and FIMM Educational Guidelines and results in a Masters in Science degree (and potentially a doctorate).

- Developed by the MWE portion of DGMM and DTMD which is a college in Luxembourg housed in the Castle of Wiltz. Dr Klett has been appointed Professor of MM there.
- This is a 2-year, 120 ECTS course (with up to 60 ECTS credit for external CME or completion of a prior MM credential). There are 11 modules in German & English plus a masters thesis requirement. The total cost is €21,000 (discounted for hours of credit). It begins in 2022 and is open to licensed doctors with a minimum of 2 years of experience.

### **AGENDA ITEM #13: CHANGE OF STATUTES**

Presented in part by the HPB director in AGENDA ITEM #9, the specifics of this Item were distributed to delegates in advance (see [hyperlink](#)). The President did not receive any comments received to this point.

- **Article 3 Ordinary Members:** Change transitional period to end 2025 rather than 2021. Also wording clarifies the means by which Member Societies identify an appropriate pathway to encourage their physicians to fulfill a 300- hour pathway as described in a “valid” version of the *FIMM Guidelines*. It was again emphasized that all Society Members doctors do not need to meet a 300-hr requirement, only that the Society needs to identify a valid Member pathway for their own qualified doctors.
- **Article 8.2.3** specifies the definition of qualified physicians in a Member Society with respect to voting at the General Assembly. The intention of Art. 8.1.3 was transferred to Art. 3.2.3.

**MOTION – Changes accepted as delineated**

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

For two years in a row, Hannover GERMANY had been approved as the site for the next FIMM General Assembly. Unfortunately, COVID-19 has required Virtual GA’s. We again propose (pandemic permitting) the 2022 FIMM General Assembly be held live in Hannover on Oct 26, 2022.

**Ruth Kamping** reported for proposed host ÄMKA delegate, **Stephan Martin** (who was having technical difficulties). She noted that from October 27-30, 2022 (immediately following the 2022 FIMM General Assembly), a course emphasizing pediatric MM is planned for Hannover held in conjunction with FIMM course elements. They plan to start with practical “beginner’s course day” (with basics for all attendees) on Friday and build content and skills through Sunday with lectures and daily workshops. The group purchased new simulators to allow learning and feedback to performing Atlas technique on a “dummy model. The course will contain both pediatric and adult techniques.

- As reported last year, 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 2022 General Assembly for Oct 26, 2022 in Hannover GERMANY hosted by Germany/ÄMKA with a 3-day Scientific/Educational Conference to follow on Oct 27-30, 2022. (If COVID prevents doing so safely, virtual options will be discussed.) – Unanimous approval**
- *There was a call for possible 2023 sites for the FIMM General Assembly hopefully in conjunction with a Conference.*
  - Nothing was finalized however Israel (ISMM – **Simon Vulfsons & Negev Bar**) had discussed the potential of hosting FIMM in Tel Aviv and/or Jerusalem in 2023 or 2024. They now have a new chairperson-elect to replace Negev Bar.
  - There had been discussions related to collaborating with IAMMM in the future.



#### **AGENDA ITEM #15: OTHER BUSINESS**

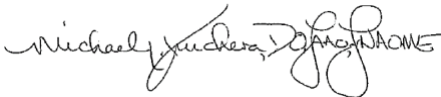
1. **Stephan Vinzelberg** (Germany/DGMM): Announced that the *European Journal of Manual Medicine* has made a call for English article (clinical studies, research, case reports, etc). Submissions can be made through the link (see hyperlink to the journal), through the editor (**Lothar Beyer**) or through Stephan to pass along. See through link on powerpoint or to Stephan Vinzelberg or Lothar Beyer.
  - The question was asked if the journal was indexed / Pub Med? Open worldwide. Q: Pub Med? Answer: It is currently not an indexed journal and due to current saturation in field they were told it was not likely to be so in the near future.
2. **Olavi Airaksinen**: Using the hyperlink to the IAMMM website (<https://iammm.net/>), Dr. Airaksinen as chairman of the International Academy of Manual / Musculoskeletal Medicine, discussed the program planned for Padua on November 12-13, 2021. Here you can find the link for registration, program content and travel to Italy during this period of COVID. There will be more than 30 research presentations in English.
  - If there are problems interfacing with their new website, Dr. Airaksinen invites members to contact him.

#### **AGENDA ITEM #16: CLOSING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

After 2.5 hours (at 1440 CET), the president closed this 56<sup>th</sup> FIMM General Assembly.

- He thanked the delegates for their participation again in the non-traditional GA virtual format and expressed the hope that next year we will meet face-to-face in a collegial meeting in Hannover Germany.
- He also reminded the delegates of the two FIMM Worldwide Webinar offerings "Pain Treatment in MM Medicine" to be held tomorrow on 10/23/2021. (See [hyperlink.](#))

Respectfully submitted,



Prof. Dr. Michael L. Kuchera  
Secretary-General