

Dear delegates, dear friends,

In the name of the Executive Board of FIMM, I have the difficult task to bring you a very sad and shocking message that our beloved friend, Honorary Member and former President of FIMM, Wolfgang von Heymann passed away last Friday, August 3rd, in his house in Tuscany, Italy. It appears that he had an unexpected heart attack.

From the Executive Board we got the first reactions:

"We'll miss him as dedicated colleague, friend"

"A Mensch in his life and a lucky Mensch in his death. He died where he loved to be, and from my observations of him over the last years, I think that's what he wished, and he was possibly ready. I will always remember him fondly."

"Incredible teacher, friend, one of the best in the MM field for sure. He has been my professional example for so many years."

"A wonderful, kind warm person and a dear friend. He will be missed. We owe him a great tribute."

"Wolfgang was a friend and colleague with whom I had the pleasure of working with and learning from in my time in both, ESSOMM and FIMM. He will be missed."

"This is such a loss to his many friends, former students, former patients and current colleagues. He was such a thoughtful, responsible leader and brilliant, evidence-based teacher. Again, it was a message of great loss to those who knew him."

"We are all sad. He was one of my best friends and one of the best."

Every one of us has his own thoughts and special memories regarding Wolfgang. He touched each of our lives – with wisdom, friendship, mentorship and ways that are unique to our individual relationships. We all will miss him.

Although he made enormous contributions in the past on the development of manual medicine in Europe and even world-wide, in my humble opinion he was not yet finished with his tasks on earth. Wolfgang still was involved in diverse projects and was an inexhaustible source of knowledge, experience, support and advice. FIMM, ESSOMM, MWE, DGMM former students, and colleagues all acknowledge and are grateful for his contributions. It will be difficult to find replacement for all his merits, but impossible to replace the person he was.

We should honour Wolfgang for all he meant for Manual Medicine as a field and, in particular, for FIMM as the representative worldwide federation of practitioner societies in that field.

Wolfgang von Heymann first joined the FIMM Executive Board at the 2005 FIMM GA in Copthorne (London). There he declared in his first statement that it should be a primary task for FIMM to establish relationships between manual medicine and WHO in Geneva and UEMS in Brussels. He was elected FIMM president in 2006 in Moscow and immediately established the FIMM Health Policy Board. The

statutes were there adopted accordingly. From his initiative, the FIMM *Guidelines for Basic Training and Safety* adopted by the General Assembly in 2013 in Jerusalem have had a global impact; he was the author of the safety chapter. Today this represents the most important document that FIMM has produced. On the European level Wolfgang von Heymann was one of the initiators of ESSOM, the European scientific society for manual medicine. ESSOM was finally able to integrate manual medicine to the UEMS as a multiple joint committee in 2012.

In 2008 he managed to overcome the severe financial crisis of FIMM with a reorganization and a new contribution system. With a memorandum of understanding in 2009 he clarified the relationship between the International Academy for Manual / Musculoskeletal Medicine and FIMM. (IAMMM had separated from FIMM in 2004 as the former FIMM scientific committee.) In 2010 his presidency was given over to Palle Holck. After the passing of Palle Holck in 2012 Wolfgang von Heymann served as an acting president until 2014. He remained on the FIMM executive board as the communication officer and initiated the 2016 revision of the statutes in Varna which today allow multiple society memberships from one country and the allocation of several votes to the society members according to the number of their individual members. He resigned from the executive board in 2018 in Paris. There he was appointed honorary FIMM member.



With kind regards,

Henk Bultman, MD
President FIMM

