



FIMM

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

Minutes of the 2018 FIMM General Assembly

Etoile St Honoré

Paris, FRANCE

October 11, 2018

Secretary-General

Draft Version for Appropriate Approval – Full Notes

Delegates, guests and representatives representing sixteen (16) National Societies from around the world convened in Paris FRANCE for the 2018 FIMM General Assembly (GA). Thanks were extended to **Henk Bultman** and the Netherlands Association for Musculoskeletal Medicine / Nederlandse Vereniging van Artsen voor Musculoskeletale Geneeskunde (NVAMG) for hosting last year's General Assembly and its associated Scientific and Educational meetings. This year's delegates were cordially greeted by **Nadine Fouques-Weiss MD** and other representatives of the French Society of Manual Medicine (Orthopedic and Osteopathic) / La Société Française de Médecine Manuelle Orthopédique et Ostéopathique (SOFMMOO) including **Norbert Tessiere** and **Marc Rozenblat**.

On behalf of FIMM, **Simon Vulfsons** expressed condolences for the recent passing of **Marie-José Teyssandier**. **Nadine Fouques-Weiss** noted that Dr. Teyssandier had been among the first students of **Robert Maigne** and served as a long-time leader and Board member of SOFMMOO as well as being a past member of the FIMM Executive & Education Boards. All in attendance stood for a minute of respectful silence to recognize Dr. Teyssandier.

It was noted by the FIMM Treasurer that all 16 societies attending this Assembly had paid their dues and were eligible to vote. Using the agreed-upon, member-weighted voting calculation, 30 votes would be possible at this meeting.

A **PRE-PUBLISHED AGENDA** for the 2018 FIMM General Assembly was posted on the web and emailed well in advance. The agenda presented below had no suggested additions or modifications.

1. *Opening by the President, appointment of two counters of the votes*
2. *Presentations of the representatives of national/member societies (limit 4 min/presentation)*
3. *Matters arising from the minutes of the last General Assembly (Utrecht, THE NETHERLANDS) – Including ratifying the movement of FIMM from Belgium to Switzerland*
4. *Report from the President*
5. *Report from the Secretary General*
6. *Report from the Treasurer*
7. *Report from the Auditors*
8. *Election/confirmation of the Auditors*
9. *Report from the Chairman of the Education Board*
10. *Report from the Chairman of the Health Policy Board*
11. *Confirmation / election of Board / Committee members including Presidential elections*
12. *Decision on the membership fees for the next year*
13. *Membership (admissions/suspensions)*
14. *Date and place of the General Assembly 2019*

15. Any other business
16. Closing the 2018 General Assembly by the President

AGENDA ITEM # 1: Opening & Appointment of Vote Counters

The 2018 FIMM General Assembly of invited representatives of Manual Medicine (MM) societies from around the world was opened by President **Simon Vulfsons** at 9:00AM at the Royal Hotel in Paris, FRANCE. Logistics related to signing in and the various dinners and social activities to follow were presented.

Attendees:

A total of 29 individuals representing 16 Manual Medicine Societies were in attendance (see TABLE below). Included in those attending were the members of the Executive Board of the Fédération Internationale de Médecine Manuelle: **Simon Vulfsons, Michael Kuchera, Aharon Finestone, Wolfgang von Heymann, Bernard Terrier, Marc-Henri Gauchat, Henk Bultman, Ilia Todorov.**

Regrets from invited representatives were received from societies in Canada, Japan, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Turkey.

Tellers: Two Tellers volunteered and were appointed to count votes:

Heather Ferrill (USA) & **Vlasta Tosnerova** (Czech Republic) – **Accepted**

AGENDA ITEM #2: National Society Reports

National Society reports were made in person (or offered via correspondence). The table below lists official representatives, guests and pertinent membership statistics. (Information presented indirectly or via correspondence appear in italics.) Submitted powerpoints provided by the representative delegates for their presentations are attached in the **NATIONAL SOCIETY REPORT SUPPLEMENT** (see [hyperlink](#)). Votes awarded represent reported society physician membership at 0 votes if less than 25 members, 1 vote for 25-99 members; 2 votes for 100-1999 members; 3 votes for 2000 members or above. (The delegates were reminded that their votes may be cast and counted if the Society has paid their FIMM membership dues.)

National Society / Delegation Representing Manual Medicine Physicians by COUNTRY:	Reported Membership	Example of Content in REPORT SUPPLEMENT (see hyperlink)
Bulgaria (BSMM) Ilia Todorov President & voting delegate	n=34 (1 vote)	Current leadership listed (Ilia Todorov elected president). Courses organized by body regions (3 days per course). They recognize a need for an additional 120 hours to meet FIMM Guidelines; contract with Medical University in Varna; Past 10 years of programs had provided members with 168 hours of education and they will update to 300 hours through post-graduate coursework.
Canada (CAOM) Brian Shames (sent regrets)	n=41 last year (no update)	Will attend next year (Synopsis from Dr Vulfsons concerning Canadian email)
Czech Republic Vlasta Tosnerova Treasurer & voting delegate	n=298 (2 votes)	The Society president is Janda Jandova. Basic and refresher courses are offered annually and in 2019 will include planned teachers' meetings. Connections to universities and health authorities; Rehabilitation Medicine physician members are heavily represented in the Czech MM society.
Denmark (DSMM) Helle Borgstrøm (president) with Karen Goss (voting delegate) and Peter Stæhr (secretary)	n=371 with 45 meeting 300+ hour level and 5 close to this level (2 votes)	Of concern is that 83 members are >70 years old and only 10 are younger than 60 years. They have 10 teachers; teaching ratio is 1:6. They offer 6-8 courses annually. Danish Health Authority recognizes MM added competency. Kuchera Masters course this year but also this year they had to cancel a basic course because of numbers. The Society may start a masters program at university level (advertising to GPs especially). Question regarding if there are other opportunities to increase numbers: Karen Goss reported

		that were able to obtain an opportunity to provide compulsory course introducing MM for university level medical students
Finland (FAMM) Olavi Airaksinen (President and voting delegate)	n=220 noting internally that only 189 were paid (2 votes)	Stable membership reported (most are GPs and PM&R physicians). 4-6 basic courses are offered per year with an annual meeting in November, an International course in April, several hands-on courses for GPs and Occupational Health Doctors, a 1.5 day manual exam of cervical pain patients and management of low back pain & injection techniques in January at the annual medical meeting, and in Apr 2019 a course on Shoulder Disorders and Movement Control of Spine in Lappland (English). FAMM has their own diploma. NOTE also that as IAMMM president, Dr. Airaksinen notes that their next meeting will be in Liverpool Nov 8-9, 2019.
France (SOFMMOO) Nadine Fouques-Weiss (vice-president and voting delegate) with Norbert Tessiere and Marc Rozenblat (treasurer)	n=500 with 1/3 being specialists & 60-70% GP – some only practicing purely MM (2 votes)	Sites www.sofmmoo.org and www.mediosteo.fr were noted. Their society was founded by Prof Maigne with the first university courses in 1969 (historical background provided). Now there are 18 universities teaching MM. MD's are granted MM diploma if they finish courses with more than 300 hours. 2 years of IUD (international university degree) and one year more for added osteopathic qualification (diploma); she noted that non-MD osteopaths have been able to practice legally since 2007. Annual congress in common with FIMM this year (Paris); UEMMO first congress also for 2018. She made a commitment from their Society to "work together for common good!"
Germany (DGMM) Wolfgang von Heymann (vice president of DGMM and voting delegate)	n=4918 at "capacity MM level" DAS Diploma of Advanced studies (3 votes)	DGMM is an Umbrella organization for: MWE (n=2778), DGMSM (n=1422); ÄMM (n=864) ... all groups made up of physicians at "capacity" level. These 3 societies also include medical osteopathic physicians in component societies (DAAO, DGOM & BAOM respectively). MM status is a recognized "additional competence to a registered specialty" and these physicians are accredited by the Chamber of Physicians. There are > 120 courses offered per year in 17 sites. MM is listed as a treatment in the national guidelines for LBP, myofascial dysfunction, chronic neck pain, and radicular neck pain, Publications in Manual Medicine are now also accepted in English. Policy evolution for recognition: hours vs working in an authorized clinic. Germany rejected the normalization of lay-osteopaths under CEN. NOTE: Germany's report covers the CEN (Comité Européen de Normalisation) issue which is applicable in 33 countries – CEN failed in Germany.
Hong Kong (HKSMM) Mark Lai (vice-president and voting delegate)	n=81 active and 22 fellows and 50 associate members with 24 fellows (1 vote)	Courses provide a Certificate in Practical Musculoskeletal Medicine (MM) & an Advanced Certificate in MM. HKSMM has a research arm for manual medicine and other topics related to MSK diagnosis & treatment as well as a MSK Ultrasound workshop. HKSMM conducts shared courses and has attendees who travel from the surrounding regions.
Hungary Gabor Ormos	?	<i>Again, no new information; summary that has not paid dues for many years</i>
Israel (ISMM) Negev Bar (president and voting delegate) with Simon Vulfsons & Aharon Finestone	n=329 with 245 MDs with 50% being family	ISMM is a physicians-only group within the Israel Medical Society (since 2005, overall 60-75% of members were MDs with 50% family physicians but the society is multidisciplinary in other categories). To date, program "Touching the Pain"

	doctors (2 votes)	has included mostly dry needling coursework but started on-line Webinars (most recently from USA -- M Kuchera) and a plan for more MM techniques. Webinars are free for members and can be used to increase membership and participate in courses. Scheduled for 2019 are manual medicine courses from Kuchera for Counterstrain & Muscle Energy techniques. They have a monthly bulletin and an annual conference; they will open a manual medicine portal patient website. They offer a fellowship for the FIMM/ESSOMM 300-hr Curriculum and are willing to export knowledge (internet coursework) to all members of FIMM (at no cost unless participants also wish a certificate.)
Italy (SMM-SIMFER) Carla Correggia Voting delegate for the Italian Society of Physical and Rehabilitative Medicine – Manual Medicine Section	n = 140 majority are specialists of physiatry (2 votes)	MM is the largest section / sub-specialty of physiatry in Italy); MM education is provided to all trainees in PM&R. There was a masters degree program (now suspended. University post-graduate teaching exists in Rome, Turin, Milan, Siena, and Catania. The Society seeks the most advanced therapeutic methods for treating pain of spinal origin and aims to increase hours and educate all PM&R doctors.
<i>Japan – regrets Shoichi Tsuchida</i>	n=425	
Kazakhstan (KAMT&O) Nadezhda Krasnoyarova (president of Kazakhstan Association of Manual Therapists and Osteopaths)	n=52 (1 vote)	Dr. Krasnoyarova presented a gift of candy to all delegates, The Society presents 7 sessions / year for members of the Kazakhstan Association of Manual Therapists & Osteopaths covering manual and osteopathic diagnosis and treatment of spine. Notably the Association gained state accreditation this year.
Republic of Korea (KSCMM) Byung-Cheul Shin, KMD, PhD (president) with Me-riong (Miriam) Kim, Sung Soo Chung and Sunghoon Ki for Korean Society of Chuna Manual Medicine for Spine & Nerves	N=1051 active members of 3935 possible total (2 votes)	There are 8 Regional Societies on the KSCMM steering committee. They have 2 active websites and a Journal published biannually (June/Dec). Starting in 2019 National Health Insurance is set to cover Chuna Manual Medicine based on pilot program results of research conducted in 2017. Their training program was detailed regarding topics and regions; 120 hours at basic level (300 involved now; also modules). There is a Curriculum Instruction Curriculum (CIQ) with 120 CIQ instructors are now qualified for a unified sustainable program. Their manual medicine originates as Chuna Manual Medicine and is influenced by Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (Michigan State University.) In coordination with Michigan State University, K Donahue gave an osteopathic medicine seminar and 12 members participated in an MSU Advanced MM exchange program. The KSCMM publishes the <i>Journal of KSCMM for Spine & Nerves</i> . A high profile Jaseng international interaction with the American Osteopathic Association was also held in 2018. The KSCMM has GENEROUSLY offered to host the Apr 5, 2019 FIMM Executive & Educational Board Meetings followed by an international workshop (April 6-7). Vulfsons invited others to be involved and noted the significance of possible regional activities that could be part of FIMM future.
The Netherlands (NVAMG) Henk Bultman president NVAMG and voting delegate	n=148 plus 11 Extra-Ordinary members (2 votes)	The Society has both a patient website for musculoskeletal care and a professional site. MM is not yet recognized as specialty (their goal is to have it named as a specialty, “profile“ or fellowship) in the Netherlands. The Natl society certificate requires programs: 2 year full-time >300 hr;

		Education according to Dutch Guidelines for Medical Specialists (CANMEDS); CME requires 200hr over 5 yrs; background from Lewit/Cyriax and now only Sickness (orthomane medicine); 1500 hours full time in practice *80% practice & 20% courses) explained program for 2 years (may expand to 3 years). The group looks to collaborate with the University of Brussels and will use the ESSOMM Curriculum with plan to open to other specialties. In the presentation, CME hour issues were also laid out along with a SWOT analysis.
<i>Poland – Regrets Bartosz Chudzik</i>	?	<i>Tosnorova spoke with Bartosz Chudzik and has a new email address which she will share with us. He would enjoy our reaching out so they could again join us. (It was noted that he sent regrets but no dues).</i>
Russian Federation Sergei Nikonov (vice president and voting delegate) + Vladimir Baztashevick (President) and Nikolay Veretennikov	n=428 but noted that only 120 see sense in cooperating with FIMM and wishes to be represented in FIMM at 120 number (2 votes)	Dr Bartashevich was elected as the new president of the Russian League; Sergei Nikonov is VP (Exec Board introduction in report). MM is a separate and independent medical specialty and is 69th in the list of 72 medical specialties. It requires 576 hours training for a pediatrician, neurologist, or orthopedic surgeon to become a Manual Therapy Specialist with an additional 5-year ongoing 144-hour CME required. In Russia, more than 1000 physicians receive the qualification of Manual Therapist per year. Not all specialists in MM join a professional society. The journal, <i>Manual Therapy</i> , unites various manual therapy specialist including also kinesiologists, vertebroneurologists and osteopaths. In response to question: The St Petersburg group is separate group with good relationship to the other groups... delegates of the General Assembly suggested that the Manual League should reach out to others to increase interactions with FIMM.
<i>Slovak Republic – Not present Viera Agnerova</i>	?	<i>The Czech delegate (Tosnerova) said the Slovak Society for Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine would like to cooperate and that they have a new president.</i>
Spain (SEMOOYM) Javier Martinez voting delegate	n=102 (2 votes)	It was reported that the SEMOOYM board changes next month. It was reported that they may rethink their role as an independent society with SERMEF hosting (as they would like more support). A biannual Masters program is offered in Madrid (32 ECTS). They have 11 fully trained trainers and will add 3 more (in 2-year training). They discussed their upcoming programs noting that education in MM is part of training for specialization. They plan to set up a new advanced course for MM in the Extremities and an intensive 3.5 day course in Peru (LIMA PERU group) that will probably become biannual. Their goal is standardization of MM in Spain and beyond according to the FIMM Guidelines; the Spanish General Medical Council has allowed Regional Councils to recognize a curriculum in MM and would be a first step to recognize trained physicians. They note that the physical therapists are an issue. SEMOOYM joined ESSOMM in 2018 to help advance standardization of the MM curriculum in FIMM; they support and hope to use FIMM guidelines for standardization.
Switzerland (SAMM) Marc-Henri Gauchat (voting delegate) with Bernard Terrier	n=1205 noting 75% are GPs (2 votes)	The Swiss Medical Association and the Swiss government recognize the education provided by SAMM. The SAMM Certificate (8 modules) is 380 hours and they have a regional

		education delivery system. He discussed SAMM education; there are two books on MM which are basis of their education. Education is integrated into the Swiss Medical Association. (The accrediting body for diploma is SAMM plus the Swiss Medical Association). They require mandatory continuous reeducation of 50 credits over 5 years with at least 25 from SAMM. In 2017 SAMM had 1150 attend their annual meeting and their Dec meeting will be on the Upper Cervical Spine (Nov 29-Dec 1, 2018). One weakness noted is in the public understanding the field of MM (hard to differentiate from osteopathic medicine, osteopathy or chiropractic). See SWOT analysis;
Turkey (MTD) <i>Dr. Nazlikul (VP) with report presented by Wolfgang von Heymann</i>	n=51 active (150 in pre-member status, finishing certificate)	<i>Regrets extended from Dr Nazlikul due to unexpected surgery; Listed instructor specialists with a request that no outside lecturers come into Turkey unless invited</i>
United States of America (AAO) <i>Heather Ferrill with Michael Kuchera</i>	n=1400+ (2 votes)	In the USA, specialty level in neuromusculoskeletal medicine requires a full-time residency and the specialty is recognized nationwide. In their SWOT analysis, the new single accreditation system of graduate medical education for both MDs and DOs is perceived as both an opportunity & a threat. The AAO conducts about 10-15 manual medicine post-graduate courses per year.

AGENDA ITEM #3: Items Arising from the Minutes of 2017 General Assembly

- **Minutes of the 2017 GA:** Motion to approve minutes as electronically distributed – **Unanimous approval.**
- **Status Updates on Poland, Hungary and the Slovak Republic Member Societies:** **Vlasta Tosnerova** (Czech Republic) reported on the status of Poland and the Slovak Republic (as noted in ITEM #2 content for those Societies above.)
- **Moving the Seat of FIMM from Belgium to Switzerland.** The Executive Board was previously charged by the General Assembly to take the steps needed to move the seat of FIMM from Belgium to Switzerland. **Simon Vulfsons** provided the attendees with an overview of the challenge and offered the proposed process (BELOW) needed to achieve what the representatives will recall their individual societies collectively had previously voted to achieve.

Proposal: After discussion and consultation with lawyers in both Belgium and Switzerland it was determined that to officially and legally do so, this General Assembly should

- 1) Resolve to wind-up FIMM / FIMM assets in Belgium by December 31st 2018 including appointing a liquidator (**Aharon Finestone**, Treasurer)
- 2) Appoint **Ariane Joachimowicz** (lawyer in Belgium) to take all necessary steps for all publications in the *Moniteur belge*, relating to the dissolution of our international non-profit federation or "AISBL" (*Association Internationale sans but Lucratif*) in Belgium
- 3) Adopt the statutes recently discussed and voted upon in 2016 by the delegates of that General Assembly with the exchange or inclusion specific to the site/address of the seat and date of the action(s)/activation of the Statutes in order to formally establish the Federation in Switzerland.
- 4) Transfer all assets of FIMM in Belgium to the new seat of the Federation seated in Switzerland which shall be identified as the "public interest" which shall receive the remaining assets of FIMM (after deduction of all liabilities). This shall take effect on December 31st 2018.

Discussion: The French delegate (**Nadine Fouque-Weiss** / SOFMMOO) emphasized the need to avoid the simultaneous existence of two groups named "FIMM" during the process. Dr. Vulfsons again assured her that lawyers in both Belgium and Switzerland had been consulted to delineate the process of moving the seat and the assets of FIMM in Belgium to such a federation in Switzerland. Close interactions with the people working

synchronously on the transition are also planned if this legal process should be approved. He noted that in the short term, a variety of strategies could be used to avoid the issue of simultaneous existence for our federation. It was noted that bank fees would be less annually and that having a stable, permanent professional address managed by the Swiss Association of MM (SAMM) will overcome the potential of missing correspondence or notices. Each provides us with long term cost-savings and security compared to our situation in Belgium.

Motion to ratify the recommendations of the Executive Board and, as guided by the four steps outlined above, establish a federation of manual medicine societies which has its seat in Switzerland.

Motion to liquidate FIMM is passed unanimously (30/30)

Motion to appoint Aharon Finestone to serve as a liquidator and to transfer federation assets is passed unanimously (30/30)

Motion to appoint Ariane Joachimowicz to take all legal and necessary steps relating to the liquidation/dissolution of the federation in Belgium (including all publications *with Moniteur belge*) is passed unanimously (30/30)

AGENDA ITEM #4: President Report (Simon Vulfsons). The following is a brief synopsis of some of the topics/points that he made.

Heartfelt thanks to the work of the last 4 years and reaffirmation of work;

- 2015 – Frankfurt meeting of the Executive and Health Policy Boards with a professional facilitator: Reaffirmation for the role of FIMM with vision statement that FIMM should be recognized as “THE” international federation with regard to “disseminating knowledge and expertise integrating Manual / Musculoskeletal Medicine to health care.”
- 2015 Copenhagen - Setting meetings
- 2016 Varna & 2017 Utrecht – Developing joint conferences... deciding to set into motion an international standard for recognizing MM education (Education project starting)
- 2018 Move to Switzerland

Challenges to make FIMM more relevant

- He expressed thanks to the delegate from the Russian Federation (**Segei Nikonov**) for pointing out in his report that not all members see the value of FIMM to them. He noted that this perspective can be applied to both societies and individuals.
- He also valued the delegates’ raising the questions of “how do we increase FIMM membership?” and “how do we solve FIMM’s solvency so that we can do more work?” He noted that he wished he could have done more but noted that now we are on a more stable base and more flexible path to be able to address these issues. **Bernard Terrier** (Executive Board) noted that we are moving into the digital age and this will need to factor into our strategies. The importance of “accepting information parity ^{vs} information imbalance” and Dr. Vulfsons noted the impact of sharing webinars. (He offered to send a link to a webinar produced and distributed by the Israeli Society for Musculoskeletal Medicine featuring Michael Kuchera (FIMM Secretary-General/American Academy of Osteopathy).
- Dr. Vulfsons offered thanks to all current, observing and retiring Executive Board Members.

Vlasta Tosnerova (Czech Republic) and the French delegation (**Nadine Fouques-Weiss** and **Marc Rozenblat**) offered specific congratulations to the president for his service that were echoed by the Assembly.

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

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

Secretary-General **Michael L. Kuchera** presented a brief presentation entitled, “Sixty Years Dedicated to Raising Manual Medicine to New Heights.”

- From a gathering of independent, talented MM physicians in Switzerland in 1958 to our current organization, Kuchera noted that “we have accomplished a lot.” He discussed the “heights” that were achieved from building a strong foundation TOGETHER as a Federation in Education (*Core Curriculum and Guidelines for Basic Training & Safety in MM*); Science (Inter-Examiner Reliability Protocols & Spinal Regional MM Reviews); and Health Policy (ESSOMM adopting the FIMM Guidelines for Basic Training & Safety as a template for their educational expectations).
- He reviewed the messages of his past series of reports in “Dare to Dream ... Dream to Action (Copenhagen 2015), “Can You Hear Me Now” (Varna 2016) and “Vision: Seeing is Believing – Meeting our Mission” (Utrecht 2017) in the context of our journey to this point to reshape the vision, structure and direction of FIMM TOGETHER.
- Now after 60 years, we return to Switzerland to take a seat in the country where we were conceived.
- His message was to CELEBRATE the great HEIGHTS we reached on the solid foundation that we built together over the past 60 years but ... to now get back to work to help MM reach new heights!

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

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

Treasurer, **Aharon Finestone** noted that, enabled by careful planning and execution, the year 2016 was a turning point, and 2017 represented FIMM’s stability, both financially and professionally.

In 2016 FIMM’s income beyond the dues of the national societies was from the organization of the conference in Varna, that created almost €3,000 income. This fiscal benefit was unable to be repeated however in the superb meeting at Utrecht. Even though FIMM is a not-for-profit organization, creating income is important for supporting FIMM’s professional activities (promoting knowledge and practice of M/MM between the participants).

In 2017, FIMM profited from giving the rights to publish one of its documents in Korea. He noted this as a reminder that FIMM has an incredible amount of knowledge and experience that has value, and if FIMM wants to progress, it will have to invest time, thought and possibly capital in realizing this value.

The 2017 budget predicted a balanced budget of 28000 euros; we experienced a profit of income over expenses of 3,000 euros for the year (mostly savings on meetings).

He reviewed debtors and their history; he also expressed both thanks for payments and noted the added support of Societies in covering Education Board costs. He shared his intent to better convey the billing process and informed delegates that he plans to send .pdf bills for the 2019 year in February of 2019.

2019 Budget: It was proposed to have a €5000 deficit budget that includes partial coverage of an Education Board meeting. This will be important to do what we need to do but if the cost is more, there may need to be a surcharge in 2020. The change in the dues seems to be effective.

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

ITEM #7: Report from the Auditors

Item #7 Auditors’ Reports:

- **Peter Staehr** (auditor) reported that the numbers were consistent and the accounting good. Three comments: (1) it was noted that there are reimbursements in 2017 going back as far as 2015 so can be

posted in correct year; (2) bank expenses are 13% of income and that is too much; and (3) incoming fees are slightly lower than the assessed amount and that maybe it should be considered that the societies pay any additional bank expenses incurred.

- In response to item #2, it was pointed out that we did attempt to move the bank to Israel but that would have cost FIMM even more and that in the future, this issue should involve less cost with the transfer of the seat. To be clear on item #3, **Aharon Finestone** responded that additional bank charges were not a problem related to submissions from members /societies but rather a problem with bank returning fees.
- **Ilia Todorov** read the report of **Todor Todoroff's** written report.

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

Return to ITEM #6

After item #7 above, there was a return to the Treasurer's powerpoint and agenda (see [hyperlink](#)):

- **Motion to approve the financial report for 2017 was approved unanimously**
- **Motion to approve the 2019 budget passed unanimously**

AGENDA ITEM #8: Confirmation of the Auditors

See ITEM #11.

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

Education Board director, **Ilia Todorov**, reviewed the intent of the General Assembly passed in 2016. According to the new Article 8.1.3 of the statutes passed at that time, the number of votes at the General Assembly will be determined by the number of "qualified" physicians (or surgeons) according to the national regulations of the country of their member society. He also noted that the article specifies that after 2023 "qualified" physicians or surgeons must essentially fulfil the 300 hours of training in Manual/Musculoskeletal Medicine criteria suggested by the FIMM Guidelines for Education and Safety. To this, he noted that the TASK of the Education Board between 2018 and 2023 is to develop and implement educational proposals and programs that will support the basic curriculum of 300 hours training in Manual/Musculoskeletal Medicine and aid FIMM members.

He reviewed that as he received the charge at the 2017 General Assembly to constitute an Education Board (his proposed members subsequently accepted by the Executive Board in November 2017.) The proposed Education Board met (largely self-funded) April 27-28, 2018 along with the Executive Board at the mid-year meeting in Prague where they created version 1 of an Educational Project along with survey checklists for programs and for teachers' credentials that could be returned by member societies to serve as reference documents for the FIMM Education Board. (Subsequently the checklists have been simplified and aligned to better make comparisons. The point was also emphasized that a "checklist" is intended to convey a structured inventory of data ... not to "check-up" on anyone!)

He noted that it was also decided to constitute a FIMM Educational Advisory Committee that would not be limited in numbers but who would receive all information and be invited to participate in all online meetings. Dr. Todorov expressed his intention to ask each Delegate to suggest an individual from their Society to be invited to contribute to the inventory lists and serve on this Educational Advisory Committee.

In a formal PROPOSAL regarding accreditation and certification processes, the Education Board proposed that by 2023, that five face-to-face meetings be scheduled along with regular online meetings. These would lead to a final version (v5.0) to include:

1. Endorsement of educational activities in a particular member society.

2. Endorsement of activities imported into another country.
3. Accreditation and international education programs offered by FIMM.

He projects that the 5 face-to-face meetings between 2018 – 2023 will cost FIMM only 25K Euro (with most of the financing to support the project coming from individual societies).

The report of the Education Board Director was **accepted (29:0:1 -- All yea except one abstention from Russia)**

- In abstaining, the Russian representative made a comment leading to discussion of those groups with specialty level which are not necessarily at same level as societies with non-specialty activity. It is the Russian delegate's feeling that we only need to adjust training to the societies as they need them
- A comment was made by the German representative regarding about vote retention by member societies and how they might best be helped to fill in areas needed by their members to be counted as qualifying members after 2023).

Motion to approve the LIST of the following Members of the Education Board (as presented in the Report):

The FIMM Education Board:

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

Approved Unanimously

(NOTE: As indicated in his report above, an unrestricted number of recommended member society representatives will serve as an Advisory Committee to the Educational Board being provided information and being invited to online meetings.)

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

In the 12th report of **Bernard Terrier** as Health Policy Director, he thanked members: **Appleyard** (Canada), **Børgstrom** (Denmark), **Bultman** (The Netherlands), **Fouques-Weiss** (France), **Sotos-Borras** (Spain), **Terrier** (Switzerland), **von Heymann** (Germany) and **Vulfsons** (Israel).

He had three items to discuss:

1. Regionalization
2. FIMM Statute issues for 2019
3. The FIMM Website

1. **Regionalization** was identified in the new statutes (Article 6) as a possibility to meet our mission and enhance our performance.
 - Real world examples:
 - He noted that with respect to MM Health Policy in Europe, when he attends FIMM, UEMMO, and ESSOMM events, he experiences a great deal of redundancy as he sits with same people talking about the same issues at each meeting. Maybe a Joint European Society for MM makes better sense (????)
 - He shared his thoughts on an upcoming FIMM “regional” activity that is planned for the first week of April 2019. The Executive Board is invited to Seoul at that time

where we could potentially contribute to enhancing regional activities with a regional educational continuing education program and discussions. (Such an event allows a regional invitational gathering to see how make the region stronger and how can better advance mission and level of MM for less cost.)

- Future possibilities for the future of FIMM:
 - What if an Australasian chapter were founded? How would we interact with it to operate optimally in the big picture for MM? If there were to be chapters for Europe, Australasia, North America, South America, etc, would we benefit from a FIMM World Council or perhaps a different model with rotating leadership every so many years? How would this be financed? We need to be proactive and think about what model best fits the international vision of our federation.
 - Problems and Unknowns: Dr. Terrier identified costs, composition of the FIMM Board, and financial sovereignty could be issues. The Russian delegate, **Sergei Nikonov**, felt that it might be premature to talk about regionalization; he also noted that Russia is both European and Asian in its geography.
 - With the potential for more than one group representing a country, Dr. Terrier noted that it might be best in the future not to refer to “countries” but to the specific societies.
- Possible tasks for the FIMM Board in times of regionalization:
 - Work to foster development of MM in South America and Africa
 - Function as the “center of gravity” so that we and our mission don’t lose the cohesive focus we need

2. FIMM Statute Issues

- The term “Qualified physicians” in Article 8 needs to be clarified. FIMM must also grapple with the meaning and potential impact in stating that qualified physicians must fulfil the 300 hours of training in M/MM criteria of the FIMM Guidelines for Basic Training and Safety. (It was noted that FIMM would not check the doctors but rather review their Society’s educational standards.
- The outcome of discussions on meaning and impact may require rewording and maybe modifying the wording of the Statutes ... or not.

3. Website:

- Dr. Terrier demonstrated and explained his beta-website proposal in systematic fashion.
- **Negev Bar** (Israel) noted the importance of the FIMM website as a window or business card to our federation. He also suggested the possible need for a new logo as in his opinion our current one could be viewed as anachronistic. To this end, he suggested we could potentially announce a logo competition. The Russian delegate was not excited about changing logo and others suggested that if we still want to discuss it, we can do so next year.

In summary for this point in time he feels that the task of the Health Policy Board (HPB) is to prepare scenarios related to the regionalization issue. For this, no specific HPB budget for 2018-19 is needed.

The report of the Health Policy Board Director was accepted unanimously

ITEM #11 Elections

President Vulfsons passed the baton to Wolfgang von Heymann to conduct the elections as he was not running for any position on the Executive Board and therefore had no conflict.

The following were the results for the Executive Board offices scheduled to be filled this year:

- **President:** The Executive Board recommended that current president-elect **Henk Bultman** (The Netherlands) be moved forward and nominated him for the position of president. There were no nominations from the floor. He gave a brief introduction and vision statement. (See [hyperlink](#)). As a summary, he recounted that he joined the Health Policy Board in 2015 and was brought in as president-elect in 2017. He notes that he does not wish to change a lot but rather would like to work on structure, education, certification, finances, quality and communication to reach younger colleagues. Input of members is a concern because no input = no output. We want to reach the top. He recognizes that it is a long way but then a beautiful view ... together.
 - At this point, **Sergei Nikonov** (Russian Federation) asked about relevance and what FIMM might do to help keep Russia? How will we find a way to bring countries that we have lost back and recruit new members? (This was open to all.)
 - **Simon Vulfsons** responded by commenting on this question and perspective by explaining that the answer is reflected in an Aramaic word (ipcha mistabra / אִיפְכָא מִסְתַּבְרָא) meaning to tell the exact opposite of the message.” FIMM’s main goal should be to try to make FIMM of value to each group.
 - **Vlasta Tosnerova** (Czech Republic) commented on the need for all members to support FIMM and take personal responsibility to bring in more societies.
 - **Bernard Terrier** (Health Policy) noted that he was especially happy with the Korean initiative in that we might help Australia and New Zealand return.
 - The Assembly did not request a secret ballot
 - **Henk Bultman was unanimously elected to become the next President of FIMM.**
- **Secretary-General:** The Executive Board recommended that **Michael Kuchera** (USA) be re-elected to this position. There were no nominations from the floor, no questions and no request for a secret ballot. **Michael Kuchera was unanimously elected to be the FIMM Secretary-General.**
- **Treasurer:** The Executive Board recommended that **Aharon Finestone** (Israel) be re-elected to this position. There were no nominations from the floor, no questions and no request for a secret ballot. **Aharon Finestone was unanimously elected to be Treasurer of FIMM.**
- **Communication Officer:** The Executive Board recommended that **Simon Vulfsons** (Israel) be considered for this position. There were no nominations from the floor, no questions and no request for a secret ballot. **Simon Vulfsons was unanimously elected to the position of Communication Officer on the Executive Board.**
- **Health Policy Board Director:** The Executive Board recommended that **Bernard Terrier** (Switzerland) be re-elected to this position. There were no nominations from the floor, no questions and no request for a secret ballot. **Bernard Terrier was unanimously elected to be FIMM Health Policy Director.**
- **Education Board Director:** The Executive Board recommended that **Iliia Todorov** (Bulgaria) who had been elected last year to fill the unexpired term of **Marc-Henri Gauchat**, be elected to this position. There were no nominations from the floor, no questions and no request for a secret ballot. **Iliia Todorov was unanimously elected to the position of FIMM Education Board Director.**

- **Science Director / Science Liaison Officer:** The Executive Board recommended that **Stephan Vinzelberg** (Germany) be elected to this position. He presented himself to the delegates of the General Assembly along with a brief synopsis of his background. He noted that he was from Berlin and has been working with ESSOMM. He would like to bring his experience as a teacher working in one of the largest M/MM teaching wards in Germany where he has been working to integrate and expand the M/MM evidence base. There were no nominations from the floor, no questions and no request for a secret ballot. **Stephan Vinzelberg was unanimously elected to be FIMM Science Director / Science Liaison Officer.**

- **Member at Large:** Dr. Vulfsons summarized the history of this position and noted that it had stood empty for long time. In the Executive Board discussions and the estimated cost involved (potentially 1500-2500 Euro per Dr. Finestone), the Executive Board recommend that the position not be filled this year and therefore has no recommendation for a candidate. The recommendation to not fill the position was put forth along with opening the position to nominations from the floor.
 - **Nadine Fouques-Weiss** (France) thought that she recalled that the position was first filled by **Michel Dedee** (Belgian) regarding taking care of administrative processes and took issue with vagaries. She requested clarification.
 - **Wolfgang von Heymann** detailed the history and noted that the Member-at-Large position was created in 2006 and that **Sergei Nikonov** initially filled it (not Dedee) being later assigned the role of Science Officer because of the ongoing absence of participation by an IAMMM representative. Dedee had initially been charged to be Deputy Secretary General because of his connection to Belgium. (Later when Dedee left FIMM, that position was retitled as the Communication Officer which was taken on by von Heymann).
 - **Negev Bar** (Israel) asked the newly elected president if he felt that the Member-At-Large member was needed at this time. He stated that he felt it was not needed at this point.
 - Further discussion: The French representative feels that the role of the at-large member should be to look at the bylaws but Bultman suggested this is the responsibility of us all and Vulfsons noted that either a sub-committee could do this or a person charged with a responsibility like our auditors are charged. It was proposed that the General Assembly could wait a year while the French representative noted the published agenda item required a vote.
 - **Motion to nominate and elect a person to fill the Member-At-Large position today.** The vote was 4 votes = yes (Italy & France); 24 votes = no; 2 votes = abstention (Czech Republic). **Motion defeated.**
 - **Motion to reconsider to vote for Member-at-Large next year if at that time the General Assembly delegates agree to vote on it. The motion passed (For=19; Against=3; Abstain=8).** The vote specifics were: Aye (Denmark, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Israel, Italy, Spain, and USA,); Nay (Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, and Russia); Abstain (Czech Republic, Korea, Netherlands, and Switzerland).

This concluded elections for the Executive Committee and the meeting was returned to Simon Vulfsons.

- **Auditors:** The Executive Board recommended that **Peter Stæhr** (Denmark) and **Wolfgang von Heymann** (Germany) be candidates for this responsibility.

- Nadine Fouques-Weiss (France) called for a point of information ... “do these positions exist and if so, how many positions? The answer was that the reality is that it is a job needed for the financial review (auditors can be elected internally or paid externally; it is noted in article 9; and FIMM has consistently done this for many years).
- A candidate, **Nadine Fouques-Weiss** (France), was nominated from the floor. 30 paper ballots were distributed with instructions to vote for two candidates.
- **Elected as auditors were Peter Stæhr and Wolfgang von Heymann.** Note: Not all ballots contained 2 selections leaving the final vote: 25 Stæhr; 21 von Heyman; 12 Fouques-Weiss.

Honorary Membership: The General Assembly of FIMM extended special recognition to **Wolfgang von Heymann** (Germany). The Award recognized his exceptional service to FIMM and M/MM from 2006-2018.

AGENDA ITEM #12: Fees

Previously approved

AGENDA ITEM #13: Membership (Admissions/Suspensions)

- It was noted that Estonia dissolved their society and can be removed from our membership if still listed.
- New Zealand & Australia are in an Observatory status
- We heard about the status of Poland and the Slovak Republic but not Hungary. It was **moved that FIMM should write them one more time and make a definitive vote next meeting on all three regarding observer status or other alternatives. Passed unanimously**
- There was an inquiry about the upcoming Australasian regional meeting to take place in Korea in April 2019. “Could non-FIMM members attend?” Answer: “Whoever arranges the conference (in this case KSCMM) can set attendance rules.” It was noted that FIMM welcomes all who wish to advance the Mission.

AGENDA ITEM #14: 2019 General Assembly

The General Assembly discussed invitations from Spain and from Italy as possible venues for the 2019 General Assembly.

- **Dr. Vulfsons** recounted the history of our interactions with both member societies in this regard. Spain had suggested mid-September or November dates) and Italy would be attractive especially if we could arrange a conjoint meeting with IAMMM. Because there was difficulty in identifying mutually agreeable 2019 dates to arrange such a conjoint meeting with IAMMM, the Executive Board proposes that the General Assembly consider meeting in Spain in 2019 (September or November; October is too expensive in Madrid) and consider investigating Italy in 2020 with SIMFA/Italy. It could be advantageous for FIMM to also consider approaching IAMMM for potential dates and sites in 2020.
 - **Bernard Terrier** wanted to clear up any issues in our relationships with the Spanish and Italian societies. He noted that our initial discussions with Italy were intended to consider a meeting in 2020 but perhaps there was a misunderstanding. Also this was prior to the possibility of a 2020 consideration with IAMMM.
 - **Carla Correggia** (Italy/SIMFA) wanted to note that the Italian national congresses are held annually and that for 2019 it is to be held in Florence. She cannot however assure which town it will be held in the future or if the president would agree to such a congress. That would not obviate the potential to work with IAMMM and to consider Padua.
 - **Sergei Nikonov** (Russian Federation) inquired whether a congress is being organized or not? Answer = The Spanish society (SEYMOOA) meeting is currently scheduled for September or October 2019 but their leadership can work to accommodate FIMM who needs to keep the cost down (Madrid is expensive in October).

- **MOTION: Accept that the Executive Board may negotiate with either the Spanish or Italian societies (vote for one vs the other) to arrange to hold the 2019 FIMM General Assembly in September if possible.** (Note that FIMM would probably seek to meet in mid-to-late September; it was also noted that if Spain were to be selected that the General Assembly would most likely take place in Madrid.) **Motion passed for Spain (Italy: 7 votes; Spain 23 votes)**

AGENDA ITEM #15: Other Business

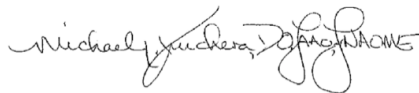
None

Henk Bultman had some closing remarks. He expressed his special thanks to **Simon Vulfsons** and **Wolfgang von Heymann**. He also expressed his personal CONGRATULATIONS to Wolfgang for his service and naming as a FIMM Honorary member.

AGENDA ITEM #16: Closing the General Assembly

The president officially closed the General Assembly at 4:55PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Michael L. Kuchera, DO". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "K" and "D".

Professor Michael L. Kuchera, DO
Secretary-General, FIMM