



WORLD FEDERATION OF NEUROLOGY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING/COUNCIL OF DELEGATES

Minutes

Sunday, 22nd September 2013

HALL F, REED MESSE WIEN GMBH CONGRESS CENTER

MESSEPLATZ 1, VIENNA, AUSTRIA

Present

Trustees: Dr Vladimir Hachinski, Dr Werner Hacke, Dr Raad Shakir, Dr Gustavo Roman, Dr Ryuji Kaji, Dr Wolfgang Grisold, Dr Donna Bergen, Dr Stephen Sergay

Staff in Attendance: Keith Newton; Laura Kennedy

National Delegates/Representatives (Proxies) from:

Countries

Guests/Observers: Daniella Dreman (Kenes International); representatives of Seoul, Hong Kong and Kyoto (the three cities bidding for WCN 2017)

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1. Introduction & Welcome

The President, Dr Vladimir Hachinski, opened proceedings and welcomed all Delegates to the meeting. All delegates had registered on entrance and been provided with ballot papers for themselves and their proxies.

2. Minutes of the COD Meeting in Stockholm, 2012

The Minutes of the Council meeting, held in Stockholm, Sweden on Sunday, 9th September 2012, were approved as a correct record.

3. Kenes International – Assessment of Site Visits

Ms Daniella Dreman of Kenes International provided the assessment of the proposed sites for WCN 2017 as the Professional Congress Organizer for the World Congress of Neurology. She confirmed that any of the venues would be suitable for WCN, with good local support. She gave her assessment of each one in turn.

Site Selection Report

CODEX in Seoul is a flexible, centrally located and modern congress center. There are a lot of international flights to Seoul. There are many hotels nearby. There is also generous support from the city.

The venue proposed in Hong Kong is the Asia World Expo, Travel to Hong Kong is easy and the venue is 30 minutes from the airport, but is not in the city center. There are many hotels in the city, but fewer near the congress center. The main issue is that it is an exhibition center, rather than a congress center, so the congress halls would need to be built which would increase the cost of the venue. However, the city is offering generous support which could offset this slightly.

The venue proposed in Kyoto is the International Congress Center. Travel to Kyoto is a little more difficult as there is no international airport in the city. There is a limited number of hotels near the venue, but there are more in the city center.

Dr Shakir and Dr Hacke reported that they had spent two days at each venue in order to assess the suitability for WCN. They were met by the highest possible representatives of the neurological societies at each venue. They were shown everything they needed to see and were provided with clear information. They agreed that it was a difficult decision to be made as they are all excellent venues.

Each venue gave a short presentation in the following order: Hong Kong, Kyoto, Seoul.

4. Election Statements

a. President

There were three candidates for the role of President of WFN: Dr Werner Hacke, Dr Gustavo Roman and Dr Raad Shakir. Each candidate gave a short presentation and had previously published a statement in *World Neurology*.

b. First Vice President

There were two candidates for the position of First Vice President: Dr William Carroll and Dr Ryuji Kaji. Each candidate gave a short presentation and had previously published a statement in *World Neurology*.

c. Secretary-Treasurer General

There were two candidates for the position of First Vice President: Dr Stanley Fahn and Dr Wolfgang Grisold. Each candidate gave a short presentation and had previously published a statement in *World Neurology*.

d. Elected Trustee

There were four candidates for one position of Elected Trustee: Dr Donna Bergen, Dr Amadou Gallo Diop, Dr Marco Medina, Dr Ching-Piao Tsai. Each candidate gave a short presentation and had previously published a statement in *World Neurology*.

5. Voting of Officers and 2017 site

Delegates were asked to cast their vote for their preferred venue and to vote for one candidate for each position using the ballot papers provided. The papers were collected and counted by Mr Keith Newton, Executive Director of WFN.

6. Receipt of Annual Report 2012

a. President's Report

Dr Vladimir Hachinski reported that since his election as President he had achieved many of his aims, including the change from a four year to a two year cycle for the congress and the realization of a dream of a congress in continental Africa with Marrakesh in 2012. The surplus generated from the Marrakesh congress was used to establish a foundation to further support Neurology in Africa.

In March 2011, Dr Hachinski established the World Brain Alliance in order to unite key Neurology specialties in advocacy activities. Cooperation has increased with the establishment of the WFN Specialty Network. The Grants Committee has further encouraged cooperation. In 2013, over €360,000 in grants will be awarded to 11 projects, 4 of these in Africa.

Dr Hachinski remarked that in the past WFN has, perhaps, been seen as a Society for older Neurologists. However, the Young Neurologists branch has now been established and the organization is much more dynamic. He stated his belief, that Officers should be appointed on merit, although he noted there was still a preponderance of men and a lack of representation from some parts of the World.

Dr Hachinski finished by saying that it would not be for him to judge what has been achieved, but nothing would have been achieved alone. He thanked all those who had assisted him during his term of office.

b. First Vice President's Report

Dr Hacke reported that he had been active in a number of areas over the past few years. The WFN Specialty Network has been established to concentrate on the Neurology specialty societies. Some of these societies are big and influential, with large congresses and many activities. However, in the past there had not been so much cooperation between these societies. This lack of cooperation can have a financial impact in terms of sponsorship. Even more than this, many societies carry out similar projects in the same regions, for example teaching programs and symposia.

The idea of the Specialty Network was to increase cooperation. It started with 15 societies, including WSO, ILAE, MDS and IPNA. Dr Hacke was pleased in the level of enthusiastic interest from the Presidents, Past President and Secretaries of these societies. This kind of cooperation will have an impact on the work of WFN and allow the organization to speak for Neurology including the subspecialties.

Dr Hacke reported that he had also been involved in the planning of WCN. The process for congresses has been professionalized, with a clear bidding document and standards. The roles of the Congress Supervisory Committee and Scientific Program Chair have been defined and refined. This is still an ongoing process, but he was pleased to note the excellent bids received for the venue for 2017 and asked Delegates to start to consider the venue for 2019, which should be in Africa or the Middle East.

a. Secretary-Treasurer General's Report

Dr Shakir presented the WFN Financial Report and asked for approval of the finances. He explained that expenditure increased and exceeded income. This means the reserves have been used to fund activities. Membership dues and journal revenue are static. The income from WCN varies with each congress, but is expected to be good from Vienna. The deficit at the end of 2012 was £219,000. The reserves at the end of 2012 were reduced to £2.6million. This is an acceptable position for WFN.

Dr Shakir stated that he was pleased with the amount awarded in grants in 2013 and encouraged all to apply for grants in 2014.

A motion to approve the 2012 audited accounts was proposed by the Delegate from Belgium and seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

-Recommendation that Messrs Griffin Stone, Moscrop & Co. be reappointed auditors for the Federation

The Delegate from USA said he understood it was common practice in the USA to rotate auditors on a five-year cycle and asked whether this is something the Secretary-Treasurer General had considered. Dr Shakir said he would take this to the Finance Committee to be considered for the next round.

The Treasurer formally proposed that the Federation's auditors, Messrs Griffin Stone, Moscrop & Co. be re-appointed for a further year. The motion was approved unanimously.

c. Education Committee Report

Dr Wolfgang Grisold and Dr Steve Sergay presented the report of the Education Committee. Dr Sergay thanked his Co-Chair, Dr Grisold and commented they had worked together really well. They presented a PowerPoint presentation of the activities of the Education Committee. These included the development of standard operating procedures for Education Committee activities, monitoring of educational grants, department visit programs, teaching center accreditation, subspecialty course endorsement, website updates and Google Drive, cooperation with ebrain, management of the Continuum program, WFN

Training Survey Task Force, publications, neurology for non-neurologists and collaboration with the IFMSA.

d. Applied Research Committee

Dr Donna Bergen reported that a fresh look had been taken at the Applied Research Committee. The purpose was to have a forum to talk and meet. New research groups have been established on coma, neuro-oncology and neuro infectious diseases. These groups are open to all interested parties to join.

e. Membership Committee

Dr Bill Carroll stated that there have been several member societies with problems paying their dues. He has been working with the Central Office to manage this, so far the issue has been resolved for 20 societies allowing them to participate actively in WFN.

Dr Carroll stated that when an application is received from a potential new member by the membership committee, the applicant has to wait until the next Council of Delegates before they are approved. He will recommend to the Trustees that there be a Pending Membership category, to allow new members to access educational benefits before their membership is approved. They will not have voting rights until they are approved.

i. Membership Application – Oman

Dr Carroll proposed the motion that The Oman Society of Neurology be approved as a member of WFN. This was seconded by the Italian Delegate, all were in favour.

ii. Membership Application – Tanzania

Dr Carroll proposed the motion that The Tanzania Society of Neurology be approved as a member of WFN. This was seconded by the Cameroon Delegate, all were in favour.

iii. Membership Application – Uzbekistan

Dr Carroll proposed the motion that The Uzbekistan Society of Neurology be approved as a member of WFN. This was seconded by the Japan Delegate, all were in favour.

f. WCN 2015 Progress Report

Dr Hacke reported that the planning for Chile is now well underway, with a Scientific Program Committee meeting to be held at WCN 2013. He expected it would be an excellent program

Dr Shakir agreed and reminded delegates to start thinking about the 2019 congress venue. Expressions of interest should be sent during the first half of 2014, so site visits can take place at the end of 2014, with voting at the Council of Delegates meeting in 2015.

Dr Renato Verdugo, Chair of the WCN 2015 Local Organising Committee, stated that the program was well advanced. Social activities are also being planned. They are already working well with Kenes, the PCO. He encouraged everyone to attend.

g. Africa Initiative Report

Dr Hachinski said that the Africa Initiative had been founded by his predecessor, Professor Aarli. It has encouraged many activities including the successful WCN in Morocco, with many scholarship opportunities for African delegates, a possible accredited teaching center in Rabat and potentially also in Ghana plus many successful grant applications. Although it is convenient to talk of one continent, Dr Hachinski acknowledged the wide variation within Africa. He stated that Dr Aarli's vision for the Africa Initiative was that it should be "With Africa, for Africa".

a. Asia Initiative Report

Dr Ryuji Kaji thanked those who had attended the Asia Initiative meeting the previous day, it was positive to see the large number of attendees. The Asia Initiative committee has been working together with AOAN, which is now growing in terms of financial reserve.

The AOCN meeting in Macao is currently being prepared. This will be a big meeting, with the possibility for other regions to have joint symposia.

Dr Kaji reported that they have been trying to encourage teaching projects for young neurologists in the region. This has involved twinning programs between countries with a common language. This is a cost-effective way to improve teaching.

The Asia Initiative has partnered with a journal, *Neurology Asia*, this is also the journal of ASEAN.

b. Latin American Initiative

Dr Gustavo Roman reported that a Pan-American Federation of Neurology was being discussed. The bylaws have been written and sent to local committees for consideration. A meeting would take place during WCN 2013 in order to take this further. It is hoped that all the major countries would be involved in this federation, including USA and Canada.

7. Any Other Business

Dr Mohammad Wasay reported that the Public Awareness committee would like to establish World Brain Day on 22 July 2014. They are working with the World Brain Council to promote this and would encourage all members of WFN to participate in activities in their countries and regions.

He further requested that all congresses of WFN members should have a public awareness component within the program. This would help to increase public awareness around the World. There is an Advocacy leadership course taking place at WCN 2013, which is something that could also be done by regional societies.

8. Announcement of Election Results

The voting for the venue for WCN 2017 produced no majority winner after the first round, so a second round of voting was required. After the second round of voting, **Kyoto was declared to be the venue for WCN 2017.**

The voting for the Officers of WFN was declared with a majority of over 50% after the first round of voting as follows:

- **President-elect: Dr Raad Shakir**
- **First Vice President-elect: Dr Bill Carroll**
- **Secretary-Treasurer General: Dr Wolfgang Grisold**
- **Elected Trustee: Dr Amadou Gallo Diop**

Dr Hachinski congratulated the winners and encouraged all candidates to serve whether elected or not.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed.