



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR MEDICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERING

Affiliated with the International Union for Physical and Engineering Sciences in Medicine

Minutes of the IFMBE General Assembly, Wednesday, August 27th 2003, Sydney - Australia

1. OPENING REMARKS: PRESIDENT DOV JARON:
Dov Jaron opens the General Assembly (GA) meeting and welcomes the delegates, committee and division chairmen and the members of the Administrative Council present.

2. CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Roll Call of Affiliated Societies

The Credentials Committee, composed of Heikki Terio (Sweden), Monika Nagel (Germany) and two tellers Enrico Nunziata (Italy) and Peter Heimann (South Africa), verified the credentials of the delegates and determined the quorum. A green delegate sign was handed out to be used in voting and as identification for receiving ballot forms. On behalf of the Credentials Committee Heikki Terio reported on the status of the delegates present.

*31 National Societies, 61 voting delegates

* 2 Transnational Societies, 5 voting delegates

* 7 voting members of the Administrative Council

Total number of voting delegates 73

National and Transnational Member Societies present:

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, China-Taipei, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, The Netherlands, Poland, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, USA, IEEE/EMBS, ESEM

Absent: Argentina, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Iceland, Latvia, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Thailand, Ukraine, Yugoslavia

Members of the Administrative Council:

Dov Jaron, president, (USA)
Jean-Pierre Morruci, past president, (France)
Joachim Nagel, vice-president, (Germany)
Heikki Terio, secretary general, (Sweden)
Mladen Poluta, treasurer, (South Africa)
Antonio Infantosi, (Brazil)
Jos Spaan, (The Netherlands)

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Niilo Saranummi (Finland) moved a motion to approve the agenda. Arthur Mak (Singapore) seconded; the agenda was approved unanimously.

Approval of the MINUTES OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2000 IN CHICAGO, USA

Heikki Terio briefed the Minutes of the General Assembly of Chicago in 2000. Richard Kirsner

(Australia) moved to accept the Minutes, Helmut Hutten (Austria) seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2000-2003

Dov Jaron briefed his report. He said that it has been a privilege to serve IFMBE as the President for the last 3 years. This long term enables the President to implement a reasonable number of strategic objectives, which would be extremely difficult if the appointment was of a shorter duration. Dov Jaron wanted to point out some important advances of which the Federation can be most proud. The most important milestone in the Federation's recent history was the acceptance of the International Union for Physical and Engineering Sciences in Medicine (of which we are members) into the International Council of Science (ICSU). Another important accomplishment was the establishment of the European Alliance for Medical and Biological Engineering and Science (EAMBES). He also mentioned that the Federation Journal, Medical and Biological Engineering and Computing, has undergone considerable improvements since Alan Murray became editor. The report was well received and accepted.

5. SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT 2000-2003

a. Summary of activities 2000-2003

Heikki Terio briefed his report for the time 2000-2003. He pointed out again, like during the GA meeting in 2000, that a good communication network is most essential to the Federation work, but unfortunately it is very hard to maintain. The addresses to the contact persons, secretaries and officers of the Societies become regularly out of date and the Secretary General's Office does not get new information. He asked all the Delegates to ask their Societies to update the contact information.

b. Summary of discussions from the AC meeting, 21-22 August

Heikki Terio summarised some of the more important items from the Administrative Council (AC) meeting that was held 21-22 August in Sydney. He mentioned

1) that 4 delegates from developing countries received IFMBE support to attend the WC 2003 in Sydney.

2) that the AC decided that IFMBE would have an individual membership in certain cases. The individual membership fee would be maximum €50 and minimum €10 adjusted to the gross domestic income per capita in the applicant's country as compared to the European Union.

3) that there are now guidelines for the organisation of regional conferences and the preparation of the conference proceedings that will be included in the new proceedings series.

4) the AC's discussion of a permanent centralised IFMBE office to enhance the services to the membership.

Heikki Terio asked the delegates of the General Assembly to observe the different reports that were attached to material for the General Assembly and to study them. If the delegates have any questions what so ever concerning these reports they are welcome to approach Secretary General or the author of the report.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT 2000-2003

Mladen Poluta briefed the Treasurer's report and the report from the Finance Committee. The total reserves are £ 454,480.81 (= \$ 720,422.75 or €653,938.53). Details are shown in the beginning of the report he submitted. He pointed out that the main source of IFMBE's income is the Journal of the Federation. He encouraged all the delegates to promote the Journal in their countries.

He mentioned that he would support the outsourcing of the simpler administrative functions of the Treasurer to a centralized office/service with a regular, consistent presence to minimize disruptions and delays.

Colin Roberts (UK) said that he would like to see more details in the financial report and pointed out that it would be appropriate to close the books before the end of the year. He recommended that the GA should accept the report but demanded auditing of the accounts before approval. Ratko Magjarevic (Croatia) moved to accept the Treasurer's report, Marc Nyssen seconded. The motion carried. Dan Adam (Israel) and Joachim Nagel (Germany) abstained.

7. REPORTS FROM THE EDITORS 2000-2003

a. MBEC

Alan Murray (United Kingdom), the Editor of the Federation Journal, briefed his report and summarized that it remains healthy with good submission rates and impact factor above 1.00. Alan Murray stressed that everybody should see that their libraries subscribe to the Journal. He said that 228 papers have been submitted in 2002, which is the highest number ever and that 2003 has so far followed the same trend.

The on-line version of *MBEC* has been available since 2002 free of charge for individuals who registered on the IFMBE web site. The publisher agreed to continue the free access throughout 2003. The effect of access to the on-line *MBEC* is being assessed. Those who subscribe this year also have access to previous years now including 2000, 2001 and 2002.

Alan Murray said that the Editor is always on the look out for new referees. He asked the Delegates to inform their NMO about the need of referees and that anyone who would like to be a reviewer for *MBEC*, can email him at mbec@nuth.northy.nhs.uk together with their categories of expertise (e-form available on request).

b. Cellular Engineering

Cellular engineering papers have been incorporated in *MBEC* as a separate section since 1998. After a sparse period for cellular engineering papers in the years 2000 and 2001, the year 2002 saw a significant submission improvement, which has continued into 2003. Four scientific papers have been published in both the March and May 2003 issues, with a further two in July. Two of the three reviews published in 2003 were in cellular engineering.

c. IFMBE News

Ratko Magjarevic, the Editor of the IFMBE News briefed his report and said that the number of articles published has slightly increased and is now at 15 – 20 contributions per issue (24 – 30 pages if printed from PDF format). In 2003, the electronic version of the IFMBE News got the ISSN 1741- 0800. The ISSN enables tracking and citing of contributions published in the News. From May 2003, the layout of the printable (PDF) version of the News has been changed in order to present the information in a more appropriate way for the BME community.

He also told that in order to increase the interest for reading and publishing in the News, it was decided to print a limited number of copies of the publication and to present them during the WC in Sydney in the IFMBE booth. The IFMBE News has continued publishing reports presenting successful young scientists, award winners at different scientific events.

8. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORTS

b. Honorary Life Members

Jean-Pierre Morucci, the chair of the Nominating Committee presented the Honorary Life Members. The following persons were nominated and approved out of a number of candidates:

Fumihiko Kajiya, Japan

Richard Kirsner, Australia

Niilo Saranummi, Finland

MERIT AWARDS COMMITTEE

a. IUPESM Merit Award

There were 7 nominations for the IUPESM Merit Award (biomedical engineering). The awardee is **Robert M. Nerem, USA.**

c. Otto Schmitt Award

There were 4 nominations for the Otto Schmitt Award. The awardee is **Basil S. Proimos, Greece.**

d. Zworykin Award

There were 4 nominations for the Vladimir Zworykin Award. The awardee is **P. Åke Öberg, Sweden.**

e. Presentation of Awards

The awardees and the new Honorary Life Members present Robert M. Nerem, Basil S. Proimos, Fumihiko Kajiya, Richard Kirsner and Niilo Saranummi received plaques and diplomas. The nominations were endorsed by acclamation.

9. CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE

a. Changes to constitution and bylaws

There have been 7 ballots on proposed changes to the Statutes of IFMBE, all of which were agreed by the majority of the National Member Organisations (NMO) that voted.

1) It was agreed that electronic mail could be used in addition to postal mail and that the deadline for responding to electronic mail was set to 30 days.

2) It was agreed that there may be more than one IFMBE member organisation from a single country and that there may be individual IFMBE affiliated members in countries without an IFMBE affiliated MBE organisation or if the interests of the individual are not covered by the national society.

3) It was agreed that the position of an elected Council member failing to attend 2 consecutive meetings of the AC without reasonable excuse be declared vacant and that an AC member elected to fill a vacancy for less than 3.5 years be eligible for election for the next 6 year term.

b. New IFMBE members

The application for IFMBE membership from The Nigerian Institute for Biomedical Engineering and The French Society of Biomedical Engineering (SFGBM) were accepted after a ballot of NMO delegates to the GA.

There are pending expressions of interest or applications from 3 additional countries.

c. Members in Arrears

NMO in arrears of membership dues for more than 12 months lose the right to vote in ballots unless there are exceptional circumstances. The AC shall recommend to the GA that the membership of the NMO be terminated if it is in arrears for 18 months or more.

10. REPORT BY THE WORLD CONGRESS 2006

Sun I Kim, Korea, is the president of the WC2006. He gave a comprehensive presentation about the WC2006 in Seoul, Korea. The participation fee will be \$450 (early) and \$550 for members and \$200 for students. 3000 participants are expected to come to WC2006. More information is available on www.wc2006-seoul.org.

11. WORLD CONGRESS 2009 SITE SELECTION

Site selection World Congress 2009: Germany was the only candidate to organise the 2009 World Congress. Olaf Dössel, Germany, presented the plans for WC2009. The Congress is planned to be

held in Munich in September 13-18, 2009. The congress budget is between 2,5 and 3,1 million € The congress fee is €70 for members and €20 for students. The congress web site is www.wc2009.org.

Pascal Verdonck, Belgium asked why the date is set to mid September and if the organisers had looked carefully for alternatives. One reason was that the October festival in Munich starts after the WC2009, but this is not the main reason. There are many other meetings earlier in the summer and the end of August is vacation time in many of the European countries, which complicates for example the arrangement for accommodation.

Dan Adam, Israel, pointed out that the GA should vote not only for the site of the next world congress but also for the registrations fee, which he felt was too high. Dov Jaron said that the Administrative Council will discuss the WC2009 and that the registration fee will be negotiated during that time.

The GA approved unanimously the WC2009 site.

12. REPORT FROM THE IUPESM

Jean-Pierre Morucci, the president of IUPESM briefed his report that was attached to the material distributed before the GA. He stressed that the future of IUPESM is dependent on the active involvement of many members. The full membership of ICSU is an opportunity for our profession to interact and collaborate in a wider range of international science projects involving WHO, UNESCO and other International Bodies.

13. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approval of motions from the AC meeting

There were no motions from the AC meeting, but the GA considered that the audit of IFMBE finances should be done shortly after the WC2003 in Sydney.

14. ADDITIONAL NOMINATIONS FOR IUPESM COUNCIL, MEMBERS AT LARGE

There were no additional nominations.

15. ELECTIONS

a. Statements by the candidates

The candidates for the officer's posts presented themselves in alphabetic order. They also briefed the statements they wrote prior to the elections which have been posted on the IFMBE web and attached to the material for the GA.

b. Vote

Vice-President/President elect	Number of votes	
Walter Chang, China Taipei	17	
Makoto Kikuchi, Japan	42	Elected
Depei Liu, China	11	
Secretary General		
Ratko Magjarevic, Croatia	67	Elected for 3 years
Treasurer		
Shankar M. Krishnan, Singapore	63	Elected for 3 years

AC members		
Ofer Barnea, Israel	36	Elected for 6 years
Hermann Gilly, Austria	10	
Akos Jobbágy, Hungary	15	
Swamy Laxminarayan, USA	46	Elected for 6 years
Depei Liu, China	48	Elected for 6 years
Kalju Meigas, Estonia	7	
Heikki Terio, Sweden	49	Elected for 6 years
Katsushiko Tsujioka, Japan	20	
Jan Maria Wojcicki, Poland	30	

Election for the positions of board members (4) of the Division for Health Care Technology Assessment:		
	Number of votes	
Hermann Gilly, Austria	42	Elected for 6 years
Yimin Hu, China	34	
Kalju Meigas, Estonia	36	Elected for 6 years
Petar Milicic, Croatia	32	
Nicolas Pallikarakis, Greece	51	Elected for 6 years
Cheng-Yi Wang, China Taipei	44	Elected for 6 years

Election for the positions of board members (4) of the Clinical Engineering Division:		
	Number of votes	
Saide Jorge Calil, Brazil	7	Elected for 6 years
Hermann Gilly, Austria	9	Elected for 6 years
Guixing Liu, China	7	Elected for 6 years
Heikki Terio, Sweden	5	Elected for 6 years

16. PRESENTATION OF NEW OFFICERS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

President Dov Jaron passed on the presidency to Joachim Nagel, and expressed his gratitude to all AC members and the Delegates of the General Assembly.

The new Administrative Council

Officers:

President Joachim Nagel, Germany

Vice President Makoto Kikuchi, Japan

Past President, Dov Jaron, USA

Treasurer Shankar M. Krishnan, Singapore

Secretary General Ratko Magjarevic, Croatia

Ordinary Members of Council:

Ofer Barnea, Israel

A. Fernando Catelli Infantosi, Brazil

Didier Geiger, France

Swamy Laxminarayan, USA

Myoungho Lee, Korea

Depei Liu, China

Marc Nyssen, Belgium

Heikki Terio, Sweden

17. RECOGNITION OF RETIRING OFFICERS

Dov Jaron recognised the retiring Officers and the Past Presidents that have not been recognised earlier by distributing plaques.

18. STATEMENT BY THE NEW PRESIDENT

Joachim Nagel made a short speech (due to lack of time), however he said that his inauguration speech would be published in the IFMBE News. He mentioned that there are no specified duties for the IFMBE vice-president, but he has supported the Federation through his work in committees and AC. He invited all member organisations to actively contribute the IFMBE and all its activities. Joachim Nagel also acknowledged Dov Jaron for his contribution to Federation and gave him a plaque.

19. ADJOURNMENT

Dov Jaron
IFMBE President
Philadelphia, USA