

WOFAPS Executive Committee Meeting 21st June 2008 **Minutes - Istanbul**

Time: Opened at 13.00 hrs by President Prof. Prem Puri.

Venue: Fevzi Cakmak Room, Harbiye Cultural Centre, Istanbul

Apologies: Prof. Jay Grosfeld, Prof. David Sigalet, Prof. Afua Hesse

Attendance: Prem Puri (President)
Arnold Coran (Past-President)
Pepe Boix-Ochoa (Secretary-General)
Alastair Millar (Assistant Secretary)
Andrew Pinter (Hungary)
Sameh Shehata (Egypt / Middle East)
Silvo Lipovsek (Slovenia)
Ahmed Tabari (Iran)
Benno Ure (Germany)
Patrice Erpicum (Belgium)
Tomas Wester (Sweden)
Piotr Kalicinski (Poland)
Juan Tovar (Spain)
Jurgen Schleeef (Austria)
Essam Elhalaby (PAPSA/Egypt)
Daniel Aronson (Netherlands)
A.R. Mustafawi (Dubai)
J.M. Guys (France)
Massima Rivosecchi (Italy)
Mustafa Melioglu (TAPS)
Marian Vidiscae (Slovakia)
Gonca Tekant (Turkey)
Ubaid Ullah (Pakistan)
Sandeep Agarwala (India)
Algars Petersens (Latvia)
Vidmantas Barauskas (Lithuania)
Nemilova Tatavla (Russia)
Zarko Mikovic (Montenegro)
Ivan Fattorini (Croatia)
Adragan Vukanic (Serbia)
Alaa Hamza (Egypt)
J. L. Peiro (Spain)

1. Previous minutes.

Accepted.

2. President Prem Puri's report.

It has been a great honour to be elected President of the WOFAPS. I thank you all for your support and appreciate very much your willingness to place your trust in me. During the past 35 years, Professor Boix Ochoa and all the Presidents of WOFAPS have made enormous contributions towards the international development of paediatric surgery. WOFAPS has come a long way since 1974.

Present times are important for WOFAPS. We now have a major opportunity to translate WOFAPS into an effective organisation which will focus on improving paediatric surgical services and education everywhere particularly in the developing world. We will focus on new directions with the sole aim of improving surgical care of children throughout the world. WOFAPS Foundation is already functioning under the able Presidentship of Professor Jay Grosfeld and its goal is to raise funds to promote quality surgical care of children through various projects. As a registered charity we have to comply with the conditions set out by the charity Commissioners. I urge all paediatric surgeons and commercial organisations to contribute generously to the WOFAPS Foundation.

In order to provide quality surgical care to children, it is essential that we have highest possible standards of education, training and research. At the next meeting of WOFAPS Executive Committee, I intend to propose that we have WOFAPS subcommittees in education and research. The Education Committee will be responsible not only for organising training courses, arranging short term visits for trainees and paediatric surgeons from various parts of the world to centres of excellence but also arrange for senior surgeons to disseminate high quality surgical practice to various regions. There is a scarcity of research in our speciality. The Research Committee will be responsible for promoting translational as well as clinical research.

I look forward very much to working together with you for the good of paediatric surgery.

3. Secretary General's report.

Prof. J. Boix-Ochoa. It was noted that there were now more than 100 National Associations signed up as members of the WOFAPS. He reviewed the outstanding progress made under the presidencies of Takeshi Miyano (The Kyoto Declaration of Pediatric Surgery), Jay Grosfeld (marked increased membership and first steps towards the WOFAPS Foundation), Arnold Coran (registration of the WOFAPS as a legal and representative non-profit organization).

The WOFAPS Foundation was described briefly outlining its Constitution and aims. Prof. Boix-Ochoa noted that this was an historic moment with the New Constitution, ISSWeek in Adelaide 2009, representation on the Standing Committee of the IPA, embodied in the Constitution of that organization (article 4.8.1). Combined meetings/workshops/round tables, Symposia and involvement with the WHO and UNICEF paediatricians in all at the IPA Congress in Johannesburg (S.Africa), 5-9 August, 2010 (Prof. Alastair Millar - Coordinator).

He noted the confirmation of a permanent place on the Standing Committee of the IPA with a vote. The International Surgical Week Adelaide (Australia) September 6-10, 2009, where WOFAPS has been allocated one whole day with the Australasian Association of Paediatric Surgeons). International organizer: Jay Grosfeld and local organizer: John Hutson. International Surgical Week-Adelaide Australia 2009.

In the name of Prof. Grosfeld, Prof J. Boix-Ochoa spoke of the Meeting of the International Surgical Week (ISW) with an expected 1500 to 2000 delegates. He briefly reviewed the history of Paediatric Surgical involvement which went back to 1981 when Prof. J. Grosfeld had first presented at the Meeting and had realized that it was essential to have Paediatric Surgical representation at such an important international forum. The first time that WOFAPS had been on the programme officially had been at the 1985 Congress. Local involvement of the National Association of the hosting country was essential, particularly with regards to the social events as had been done in Durban in 2005 and again the Canadian Association was host on this occasion. The development of the World Congress might change this. The next International Surgical Society meeting would be in early September in Adelaide, (Australia). Although a succession plan would be needed in the future Prof. Grosfeld undertook to continue being the co-ordinator for the paediatric surgical section of the meetings. A vote was taken and the decision was approved unanimously.

4. Third World Congress.

A brief presentation was made by Devendra Gupta, local organizer for the Congress to be held in Delhi, 2010. Up to 2000 delegates are expected to attend with an emphasis on both register and trainee attendance as well as a robust Scientific Programme of Keynote Speakers and Round Table and Panel discussions. Minimal Invasive Workshops would be linked to multiple institutions.

There would be the opportunity for pre and post conference tours. All were encouraged to visit the website: **worldpedsurg2010.ind**. All national Associations were asked to encourage attendance at the congress.

Some discussion and advice followed:

* Parallel sessions should be kept to a minimum. Keynote speakers sessions should be timed for early in the morning.

* It was also suggested that speaker's presentations are to be made available to all attendees and should be placed on the WOFAPS website or on a CD. It was felt this could be difficult as there might be copyright issues and permissions would have to be given.

* Registration fees to be kept as low as possible.

* Countries in transition to be supported.

* Multicentre studies to be promoted.

5. IPA Conference 2010, Johannesburg South Africa.

WOFAPS involvement. Alastair Millar spoke of the welcoming attitude of the IPA scientific committee at the first meeting held in March 2008 and reported that the IPA would welcome WOFAPS representation in any area of surgical interest. A full report of the meeting was included in the brochure.

The IPA had asked for some representation on the WOFAPS. It was thought that initially observer status at any meeting would be welcomed.

6. PAPSA.

Essam Elhalaby represented Afua Hesse. The Pan African Association of Paediatric Surgeons was founded in 1995 at an inaugural meeting in Nairobi fully supported by the WOFAPS; since then there had been a further 6 meetings (Kenya 2, Egypt 3 and South Africa 2). The next meeting would be in Accra August 18-2, 2008. There would be workshops and a full conference. WOFAPS members were encouraged to attend.

7. WOFAPS Foundation.

This exciting development that had been created within the WOFAPS but with a completely independent financial structure was again briefly presented. Already \$33,000 had been promised from senior WOFAPS memberships and other organizations. The aim was to raise enough money to be able to only use the interest of the investment to sponsor workshops, travelling fellowships and short attachments. Short term attachments where food and lodging would be supported by the host center had been agreed to by the following institutions: Kansas City, Cincinnati, Washington, Hannover, Great Ormond Street Hospital, Glasgow, Munich, Marseille, Brussels, Madrid, Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital, Cape Town, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi, Barcelona and Juntendo University, Tokyo.

In the future the Foundation would support Research and Training Fellowships. Advertisement for these would begin in October and would be placed in the 3 main pediatric surgical journals (JPS, PSI and EJPS). This would also be placed on the WOFAPS website. Any application would need support from the Chairman of the relevant department as well as endorsement from the respective national association/society. A deadline of January for the first award was proposed. There would be strict criteria for application and a committee of Michael Hoellwarth, Tomas Wester, A. Yamakata, Prem Puri and José Boix-Ochoa would adjudicate.

Arnold Coran gave a brief resume of the WOFAPS Foundation, its aims and the importance of raising money. WOFAPS was coming to maturity and the Buenos Aires Congress, the 2nd World Congress had been a great success with over 1500 delegates and a high quality of scientific presentation.

The WOFAPS Foundation will report annually to the United States IRS an audit of the financial status to sustain the condition of Charity Foundation.

8. WOFAPS Sub-committees in Education and Research.

It was established that Benno Ure would become Chairman of the WOFAPS Sub-committee in Education and Agostino Pierro Chairman of the WOFAPS Sub-committee in Research. The proposal was approved unanimously. They would invite a further 3 members representatives of the world community of pediatric surgeons.

Comments were made that more should be done about the on-line education and E-learning. It was observed that it was not WOFAPS goal to be a World University but to be a facilitator for National Associations.

9. WOFAPS Website.

Alastair Millar. A brief presentation was made of the current website. Support was given to finances to upgrade the website and to employ a permanent webmaster. This would be done as a matter of urgency.

10 . Treasurers report.

The Secretary/Treasurer presented his report (attached). He emphasized that there was a need to raise money. All National Associations should pay their subscriptions. Money raised for the Foundation would stay there and would not be given to WOFAPS which was financially completely separate from the Foundation.

It was suggested to change the 1 US \$ / per member for 1 Euro / per member due to the currency value and the decrease in the WOFAPS incomes. The 2nd World Congress in Buenos Aires, didn't produce any money to the WOFAPS as there was no written contract between the Congress Organization and ourselves. A fact that will never happen again with the new Constitution Appendix B, where all the conditions by contract are explained very clearly. Therefore the next applicants to the venue of the future World Congresses will have to fulfil all the conditions to obtain the venue.

11. IPA Constitution and WOFAPS.

IPA Executive Committee Resolution 714 (Johannesburg) asks the WOFAPS to show a reciprocity of the same goals in the children's care and have a representative of IPA in the WOFAPS Executive Committee.

The Secretary General considers his petition to be a reasonable suggestion due to the constant support and recognition IPA has towards WOFAPS. This recognition is included in their Constitution that our Association will always have a representative in their Standing Committee. See following their Constitution:

4.8.1. In addition, the SC may invite representatives of other pediatric organizations as non-voting members of the SC. These shall include representatives of the World Federation of Pediatric Surgeons and the International Pediatric Chairs Association if representatives of these Member International Pediatric Specialty Society (WOFAPS) are not elected to the SC.

4.9. Mechanism of election of members to the Standing Committee: each of the seven IPA geographic regions will be represented on the SC by its President, and in addition will present a list of at least two candidates proposed by Member National Pediatric Societies of that region with due consideration of rotation of areas within the region. Each of the Member International Pediatric Medical and Surgical Specialty Societies will present one duly elected candidate. At least six months prior to the International Congress, curricula vitae of all candidates will be sent to the Administrative Office. At 5 the time of the International Congress, the CD will endorse the regional Presidents as members of the SC and elect one additional representative from each of the seven geographic regions, voting on the candidates presented by each region, and five members from the list of candidates presented by Member International Pediatric Medical and Surgical Specialty Society.

President Prem Puri finds very justified the demand and unanimously the Executive Committee Members and all the National observers Delegates voted unanimously to bring this amendment to the Constitution, to the Council of Delegates Meeting during the WOFAPS World Congress in 2010 New Delhi, for its approval.

11. Other matters.

The main Executive Committee Meeting will be during the 17-21 June, 2009, in Graz when the EUPSA and 56th BAPS combined Congress will be held (President Prof. M. Hoellwarth).

The next Executive Meeting / Asian Pacific World Area will be held in Hong Kong in May 2009 where the Pacific Association of Pediatric Surgeons (PAPS) will be holding its biennial congress (President Prof. P. Tam).

The Meeting closed at 14.20 hrs there being no more business to discuss.