Minutes of the General Assembly of the International Menopause Society
16.30, May 19, 2008
Madrid, Spain

Chair: Professor Amos Pines, President
Attendees: Over 120 IMS members, including: Amos Pines, President; David Sturdee, General Secretary; Martin Birkhäuser, Treasurer; Santiago Palacios, Chairman, 2008 Congress; Andrea Genazzani, Chairman, 2011 Congress; Alice MacLennan, CAMS Chairman; Jean Wright, Executive Director

1. Welcome by the President
The Meeting was opened by the President, Professor Amos Pines.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the last General Assembly
The Minutes of the last General Assembly in Buenos Aires, October 2005, and the Minutes of the Extraordinary General Assembly in Budapest, February 2007, were approved by the members and signed by the President.

3. Report on the last 3 years by the President
Professor Pines reported that membership numbers had increased from about 400 in 2002 to more than 600 in May 2008. The Society was expanding its activities, both scientifically and educationally. The 6th IMS Workshop, on Menopause and aging, quality of life and sexuality, was held in Pisa, December 2006. This was followed by the 7th IMS Workshop in Budapest in February 2007, with the title ‘Update on menopause management’, after which the Updated IMS Recommendations on postmenopausal hormone therapy were issued. Lastly, the First Global Summit on menopause-related issues was held in Zurich in March 2008, looking at ‘HRT in the early menopause: scientific evidence and common perceptions’. Both the 7th Workshop and the Summit were attended by many representatives from the CAMS member societies. IMS sessions had been given in the FIGO 2006 Congress, the South African Menopause Society congress and the Indian Menopause Society meeting in 2007, and further sessions of the IMS/WSSM were being planned in other congresses. A Rapid Response team had been formed to issue press statements in response to the publication of important studies. The Summary statement from the Global Summit had been released to the media that day and was now in the news all around the world and on the IMS website. The website was developing well and contained much more material and information. The membership of CAMS had increased from seven in Buenos Aires to 45 societies now; one of the great challenges for the next term would be to develop activities for CAMS. The Society was growing and Professor Pines hoped that the momentum would be continued in the next term. He thanked the Board, the Officers and Jean Wright for all their work. They had been a good team and he was looking forward to his work with the WSSM in the future.

The Treasurer’s Report was given by Professor Martin Birkhäuser. He showed the Accounts in slide form, demonstrating both the income and expenditure of the Society. Copies of the full Report, approved by the Society’s Auditor, were available from the Executive Director. Income had increased, from membership fees, journal royalties, the Buenos Aires Congress, and the workshops. Financially, the Society was in a
healthy position. Dr Wulf Utian proposed that the Report be approved; this was seconded by Professor Henry Burger and the motion was approved unanimously.

5. Report on the Society's Journal *Climacteric*
   The two new Editors of *Climacteric*, Dr Anna Fenton and Mr Nick Panay, gave brief reports on the journal. They thanked Dr David Sturdee and Professor Alastair MacLennan for handing the journal over to them in such good heart, and the Editorial Board for their continued support.

6. Approval of the revised Articles of Association
   Professor Pines announced that, in a postal ballot of members, the great majority of the members who had responded (> two-thirds) had approved the seven minor changes to the Articles. Accordingly, Professor Pines and Dr Sturdee signed the Revised Articles.

7. Proposal to award Honorary memberships
   The Board had proposed that Honorary membership be awarded to Professor Alastair MacLennan and Professor Hermann Schneider. This proposal was moved by Dr James Pickar and seconded by Professor Andrea Genazzani. The meeting gave its approval to this proposal with loud applause. Certificates were awarded to Professors MacLennan and Schneider, who expressed their sincere thanks for this honor.

8. Result of the ballot to choose the city to host the World Congress in 2011
   The President announced that, as the result of the election, the World Congress in 2014 would be held in Cancun, Mexico. The Congress would be organized by the Society, in collaboration with the Mexican Society, AMEC.

9. Result of the ballot to elect the Board for 2008–2011
   The President announced the results of the vote for the new Board members for the period 2008–2011. The members of the present Board who were re-elected were David Sturdee, President (who did not have to seek re-election), Regine Sitruk-Ware – General Secretary, Tobie de Villiers – Treasurer, Sven Skouby and James Pickar. New members elected to join the Board were David Archer, Roger Lobo, Konstantinos Tserotas, Paulina Villaseca, Ko-En Huang, Rod Baber, Camil Castelo-Branco, Rossella Nappi and Anne Gompel. In addition, the immediate Past President, Professor Pines, and the Chairman of CAMS would have voting positions on the Board.

10. Announcement of the President-Elect for 2008–2011
    Professor Pines announced that Dr Tobie de Villiers had been elected as the President-Elect and applause followed.

11. Invitation to the 12th World Congress in Madrid
    Professor Andrea Genazzani, Chairman of the Congress, invited everyone to the 13th World Congress in Rome, June 8–12, 2011.

12. Any other business
    Dr Barry Wren suggested that the Society needs a press officer to assist it in dealing with the media. Dr Sturdee answered that the Officers were currently considering the appointment of the person who had assisted the Society in the recent press releases.
13. The new President
Professor Amos Pines formally announced his retirement as President and handed over the duties of office to the new President, Dr David Sturdee. He thanked everyone for their help and promised Dr Sturdee his support.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 18.30.