Minutes

Attendees:

53 IMS members including Tobie De Villiers, President, Rod Baber, President-elect / General Secretary, David Archer, Treasurer, Andrea Genazzani, Chairman of CAMS, and Julio Morfin, joint Chairman of the Congress.

1. Welcome by the President

Tobie de Villiers officially opened the proceedings by welcoming the membership to the General Assembly.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the last General Assembly in Rome, June 2011

Approval of the Minutes was proposed by Victor Henderson and seconded by Nick Panay. The Assembly unanimously gave its approval and they were signed by the President.

3. Report on the last 3 years by the President

Tobie de Villiers reported that the past term had been challenging but also exciting and rewarding. Thanks were given to Lee Tomkins, the Officers, Rod Baber and David Archer, as well as all Board members and those who have donated time to IMS during this period.

The term started with two big challenges – relocating the administrative offices and a new Executive Director plus the organization of the Cancun congress, the first time IMS has been totally responsible for the meeting. The Board has also worked hard to fulfill the IMS remit of promoting knowledge and research for the health of adult women on a global scale. The success of meeting these aims can be judged by the educational activity undertaken during the past three years:

- Standalone activities which include a workshop in Paris 2012 to update the IMS guidelines.
- A hugely successful global consensus statement on MHT endorsed by all major international Societies including ASRM, APMF, EMAS, Endocrine Society, IOF, and NAMS, and published in both Climacteric and Maturitas.
- Inaugural regional conference in collaboration with the Indian Menopause Society in Mumbai, December 2013, to bring the latest science and research and to bring IMS closer to its members.
- And of course the 14th World Congress in Cancun - 1600-1700 participants and considered a success by all who attended.

Other educational activities have included:

- 9 one day meetings as co-host with the local menopause Societies in China, Russia, Ukraine, UAE and Peru.
- 15 educational sessions at major international congresses at ISGE, BMS, COGI-BCGIP meetings in Istanbul, Barcelona, Bangkok and Shanghai, and ESG, FIGO, AAPEC, EMAS, SIGMA and ASRM.
Thanks were given to Amos Pines, IMS Director of education, for his expertise in providing the educational resource for these meetings.

International awareness campaigns in the form of World Menopause Day have been created including a media pack, patient materials and publication of a white paper. Many of these materials are translated into in excess of 9 languages per year and have proved very popular with CAMS members.

Other recommendations have included IMS as a co-sponsor of the STRAW classification update with the Endocrine Society.

New initiatives have included a research bursary for young researchers in 2012 and 2014. Thanks to past President David Sturdee who initiated and developed this project.

Publications - most noteworthy is the new contract negotiated with Informa, our Publishers for the peer reviewed journal, Climacteric. Two issues of Climacteric highlights were translated into Chinese and a greener version (electronic only) has been introduced.

Organisational changes have included deregistering IMS as a Swiss entity and registering as a charity under the jurisdiction of British law, Swiss assets are being transferred to the new charity. Other organisational changes have included:
- Membership has voted in favour of a 2 yearly world congress cycle instead of triennially.
- Electronic voting has been introduced.
- Monthly activity report for Board members has been deployed.
- Board meetings held in Mumbai, Paris, Florence and London.
- New electronic payment facilities have been introduced.
- Membership numbers have shown strong growth in countries like Russia, China and Canada.
- A Wikipedia page has been introduced.

The President stated that this Board has furthered the aims of the IMS per its stated goals and maintained the best of previous activities whilst being innovative where appropriate.


   David Archer

   The treasurer’s report was given by David Archer. He outlined the Auditors Report for 2011-2013 which is available to any member wishing to see the accounts. IMS investments have met the criteria set for our bankers, Coutts, but these are being revised in 2014 to enable IMS investments to improve investment income.

   Financially the organisation is in a stable position and it is hoped that profits from the Cancun Congress will provide the operating income for the next two years, and will be used to further the IMS long term strategic aims, especially educational outputs.

   Roger Lobo proposed the report be approved, Jim Pickar seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.
5. Report from governance subcommittee on changes to the IMS Articles

Rodney Baber, General Secretary, reported to the Assembly that IMS now has its head office based in the UK and is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered under the jurisdiction of English Law and under the UK Charities commission. Total cost of this transition has been $19,500.

The process means that IMS now has two governing documents: a core Constitution which replaces the previous document and requires 75% of the membership who vote to approve any changes. The second document is a set of rules which govern the daily operations of the Society and which can be amended upon the decisions of the Board. These documents are available on the IMS website.

Other administrative changes to the Society
- Introduction of electronic voting to all eligible members to vote on issues relating to the Society including election of Office bearers and motions put by the Board or members. The Board believes this change and the safeguards linked to it will simplify and improve the democratic process within the Society. This change received overwhelming support by the membership.
- Change of cycle for World Congresses from every three years to every two commencing with the 15th World Congress in Prague. This was done to help ensure the future financial security of the Society and to offer added benefits to the membership.
- IMS Board Terms of Office. It was felt appropriate to link the terms of Office for Board members with the Congress cycle, so the two year cycle commences after the Cancun meeting.
- Planned introduction of different levels of membership which will include a non-voting category.

These recommendations of the Board have been submitted to the IMS membership, who voted overwhelmingly to approve the changes. Ratification of these changes was requested of the IMS General Assembly and unanimously agreed at this meeting.

6 Report on the IMS education initiatives

Amos Pines, Director of Education and Development, reported that 2011-2014 had been a busy time for education. 15 meetings have been organised for IMS sessions at major international congresses. 2 WSSM events, 10 meetings in collaboration with local menopause Societies and pharmaceutical support, one workshop and the inaugural meeting of a new concept, the regional conference, which was held in Mumbai, India in 2013.

The IMS global guidelines were updated after the Workshop held in Paris, 2012 and a global consensus statement was published in 2013, with the support and endorsement of 6 other international organisations with an interest in menopause.

Electronic communications like Menopause Live, InFocus and Our Menopause World continue and Spanish translation of key postings was introduced in 2013 for Menopause Live which has been welcomed by the membership. New speaker guidelines for all speaker engagements on behalf of IMS have been developed and use of IMS educational materials like slide kits and position statements is encouraged for all IMS events.

Amos Pines asked for more contributors to the educational work of IMS, particularly analysis and commentary for Menopause Live and In Focus.
Andrea Genazzani, Chairman of CAMS reported that a programme of interaction with CAMS countries had included a meeting in collaboration with the Colombia Menopause Society, CAMS and IMS. Many thanks were given to Camilo Rueda Beltz for the $10,000 donated to IMS and CAMS to attend the meeting which was very successful.

Two new members of CAMS, Korea and Mongolia were welcomed and CAMS was reported to be active to be added to the 48 current CAMS, and any other ideas of activities that would support the local menopause Societies in the future would be welcomed. Special thanks were given to Duru Shah and the Indian Menopause Society, for hosting the inaugural conference in India in 2013, which has provided the model for other CAMS to follow to support future regional conferences.

The Chairman was pleased to announce that after voting at the CAMS Assembly, Camil Castelo Branco was duly elected as the new Chairman of CAMS. Separate voting took place and Sunila Khandelwal from India was duly elected as General Secretary and Chui Kin Yuen from Canada as Treasurer. Congratulations were offered to all new Officers of CAMS.

Thanks were given to Julio Morfin Martin as head of the local operating committee for the Cancun congress and to welcome Tomas Fait, President Elect of Czech Republic, for hosting the next World Congress, in Prague 2016.

Andrea Genazzani reported it has been an honour to work closely with many CAMS in the past three years, and retirement from the role is only to give him more time to pursue other interests. However IMS will always be in his heart and he wished the Society well in all its future endeavours. Thanks were given from the President and the Assembly for all his hard work and commitment shown through the years of his association with IMS.

Nick Panay, co-Editor of Climacteric gave thanks to the Editorial team, current Editorial Board members since 2011 and a farewell to those members who had retired during this period.

He outlined key features for the journal which have improved over this period:

- Papers submitted have seen a 45% increase over the previous years.
- Turnaround times have improved from 42 days to 38 days from submission to first decision and from 52 to 49 days from submission to final decision.
- Impact factor has remained stable at around 2.
- Revenue is steadily increasing from supplements and reprints and advertising with an estimated income of £45,000+ in 2014.
- Readership figures and submissions to the journal have been improved with different initiatives.
- A Twitter account to raise awareness of the Journal’s new features has been developed and the possibility of an App is planned for the future.

New initiatives like the Chinese edition, with a local Editorial Board chaired by Professor Qi Yu has increased the profile of the journal in Asia, which is a primary growth area for manuscript submissions and has been very
successful with the possibility of a Spanish translated version currently in development. A Writers Guide is also now available for authors to optimize their manuscripts, and improve communication.

The Journal is in a very healthy position and it is hoped that future development will broaden its appeal and repetition as a quality peer reviewed journal.

9 Report on the 14th World Congress

Tobie de Villiers

The President reported that this congress has been a great challenge in terms of venue, logistics and creating an exciting programme to interest everyone in the menopause world. He believed that the meeting has been a showcase for IMS, is perceived as very successful in terms of ‘spirit and heart’ of the event, and excellent science has meant the sessions have been well attended which has followed through to enjoyment of all the social events.

Less delegates than anticipated have attended this meeting (approx. 1600-1700) but there has been a big change in terms of delegates, who have self-financed themselves to attend and far less pharmaceutical sponsorship of delegates - which is likely to affect all future congresses.

Estimated profits are in line with the expectation of a smaller congress especially as so many reduced registration rates have been offered to countries that would not normally be able to attend such a meeting, but it was agreed that profits will be enough to finance the IMS two yearly administration costs until 2016. It is likely that more delegates will attend the Prague event in 2016, with the respective increase in profits. All delegates were encouraged to give constructive feedback after this event which will be collated and lessons learned and built into the next congress management.

10 Proposal to award Honorary memberships

Rodney Baber

The President elect, Rodney Baber reported that the Board had been asked to consider a proposal for members to receive honorary life memberships as recognition of their outstanding roles in their roles and services to IMS. The candidates were: Tobie De Villiers, David Archer and Martin Birkhauser. The motion was moved by Nick Panay and Jim Pickar and members voted 52 yes votes and 0 no votes to pass the motion. David Archer gave thanks and commented how touched he was to receive the recognition and award.

11 Result of the ballot to choose the venue for the 16th World Congress in 2018

The President announced that, as a result of the electronic voting by all members eligible to vote, the 16th World Congress in 2018 will be held in Vancouver, Canada. The congress will be organised in collaboration with SIGMA, the Canadian Menopause Society. This result received applause from the Assembly.
12 Result of the ballot to elect the Board for 2014–2016
The President announced the results of the vote for the new Board for the period 2014-2016. The new Board comprises of: Rodney Baber, Victor Henderson, Mary Ann Lumsden, Peter Chedraui, Susan Davis, Steven Goldstein, Elaine Jolly, Nilson de Milo, Alfred Mueck, Faustino Perez-Lopez, Duru Shah, Tommaso Simoncini, Florence Tremolieres, Svetlana Vujovic and Tobie De Villiers.
Amos Pines will also attend as Director of Education, Nick Panay or Anna Fenton will attend as Co Editors of Climacteric and Lee Tomkins, Executive Director, will attend in advisory positions.

13 Announcement of the President-Elect for 2014–2016
The President announced that Mary Ann Lumsden has been elected as President-elect which was greeted with applause and congratulations. It was noted that Mary Ann will be the first ever female President of IMS. Tobie De Villiers also gave thanks to Victor Henderson for considering the role.

14 Invitation to the 15th World Congress in Prague, 2016
Rodney Baber, Tomas Fait
Rodney Baber commented that Prague was going to be an ideal congress venue, with generous benefits given to all delegates like free city transportation. Work by the Scientific Committee is already underway and the first plenary speaker has been invited. The theme of the congress will be Heart Health Matters. Tomas Fait of the Czech Republic Menopause Society extended an invitation to all IMS members to attend the 15th World Congress, which he hoped would be well attended due to its central European location and the beautiful city of Prague would provide a cultural experience to complement the educational content of the scientific programme.

15 Any other business
There was no other business and the meeting closed at 19.25

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Tobie de Villiers
IMS President
Friday 2nd May 2014