



EFIM
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President: Prof. Runolfur Palsson (Iceland)
President Elect: Prof. Nicola Montano (Italy)
Past President: Dr. Frank Bosch (Netherlands)
Secretary General: Prof. Xavier Corbella (Spain)
Treasurer: Prof. Valentin Kokorin (Russia)

EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF INTERNAL MEDICINE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 31 August 2017, Milan, Italy

Minutes

General Assembly

1. Welcome (R. Palsson)

R. Palsson welcomed the participants to Milan and expressed his gratitude to the representatives of the EFIM members' societies who travelled to Milan and attended the GA and the European Congress in Milan in such high numbers.

2. Report of the Treasurer and Approval of EFIM Annual Accounts 2016, Accounts 2017 and EFIM Budget 2018 (R. Palsson)

R. Palsson informed the GA members about the decision taken by A.M. Baptista to step down as an EFIM Treasurer, a post that he held for almost 3 years. R. Palsson thanked A.M. Baptista for his dedication and support to EFIM over the years and proceeded with the presentation of EFIM current financial affairs.

R. Palsson informed the GA members that the year 2016 will end with a positive outcome of **€25,588.01**, mainly due to the new membership structure and fees, a slightly positive income from the Amsterdam congress and royalties from EJIM. The end of the year results are better than initially forecasted.

The General Assembly unanimously approved the accounts for 2016.

Furthermore, R. Palsson presented the finances for 2017, informing the GA members that as per the results projected, the year would end up with a positive outcome of **€30,375.17**. The results will depend on the final balance of the ECIM 2017 congress in Milan. R. Palsson presented the membership situation for 2017 informing the GA Members about the predicted income for 2017 of **€129,250.80**. R. Palsson pointed out that the membership structure, which was implemented in the past 2 years, has been working well for the larger societies. However, the new

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structure turned out to be a challenge for the smaller societies. In order to support the operations of the EFIM office and the extended activities of EFIM, as well as to avoid further changes to the membership structure, the Executive Committee proposed a 5% increase of the membership fee for 2018.

The General Assembly unanimously approved the increase of the membership fee by 5%.

R. Palsson continued with the presentation of the 2018 budget, projecting a small deficit at the end of the year, amounting to €3,792.55, although depending to a large extent on the outcome of the ECIM 2018 congress. He also pointed out that there are many new projects lined up for EFIM in 2018 that will increase the activities of the office, resulting in a predicted increase of the expenses for 2018.

Members of the General Assembly unanimously approved the EFIM Budget for 2018.

3. Granting Discharge from Liability of Executive Committee Members for the Accounting that Ended on 31 December, 2016

EFIM Executive Committee members were granted discharge by the members of the GA for the accounting that ended on 31 December 2016, unanimously.

4. Elections

- Candidates for the Position of EFIM Secretary General: Dr. Xavier Corbella (R. Palsson)

R. Palsson informed the GA members that EFIM received two nominations for the Secretary General position, of Dr. X. Corbella from the Spanish Society of Internal Medicine and Prof. P. Portincasa from the Italian Society of Internal Medicine. Prof. P. Portincasa decided to renounce his nomination for the Secretary General position in favour of Dr. X. Corbella.

Prof. P. Portincasa thanked EFIM and the societies that supported his nomination for the Secretary General position conveying his best wishes to Dr. X. Corbella and confirming his willingness to continue to serve EFIM in the future.

R. Palsson invited X. Corbella to present his candidacy for Secretary General. X. Corbella is Head of the Internal Medicine Department at the Hospital Universitari de Bellvitge and Vice Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Universitat Internacional de Catalunya.

X. Corbella thanked the Spanish and the Portuguese Societies for nominating and supporting his candidacy for the Secretary General position. X. Corbella added that as a new member of EFIM Executive Committee, his purpose will be to actively

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reaffirm the role of internal medicine, contributing to face the current and coming key internal and external drivers which now challenge our health care systems. X. Corbella added that he is determined to reaffirm the internists' professional identity, maintain and improve the standards of European internists, in full collaboration with the members of the EFIM Executive Committee.

Voting Secretary General: Members of the General Assembly elected X. Corbella with unanimous vote for the position of EFIM Secretary General for a duration of 2 years.

- Candidates for the Position of EFIM Treasurer: Dr. Valentin Kokorin (R. Palsson)

R. Palsson invited V. Kokorin to present his candidacy for Treasurer.

V. Kokorin is an Associate Professor of the Hospital Therapy Department at the Pirogov Russian National Research Medical University in Moscow and holds a specialisation in internal medicine and general cardiology. V. Kokorin is the Scientific Secretary of the Russian Scientific Medical Society of Internal Medicine. His scientific interests are focused on cardiovascular medicine.

V. Kokorin thanked the Russian Scientific Medical Society of Internal Medicine for his nomination for the Secretary General position as well as the Polish, Serbian and Turkish societies for supporting his candidacy. V. Kokorin added that if elected as a Treasurer, he will contribute to maintaining a steady financial health of the federation, ensuring funds for the future development of EFIM. He will pursue a closer cooperation and collaboration between EFIM and the national societies and encourage EFIM to be active in the scientific and research directions as well as to produce guidelines for internists, including jointly with other societies.

Voting Treasurer: Members of the General Assembly elected V. Kokorin with unanimous vote for the position of EFIM Treasurer for a duration of 2 years.

5. Handover of Secretary General & Treasurer (P. Conthe & X. Corbella)

P. Conthe conveyed a word of gratitude to the Executive Committee members, present and past, who devoted their time and effort to shape and promote EFIM through the years. P. Conthe congratulated and thanked A. Trajkovska for her support during the past 4 years and for holding EFIM together, and handed his position to the newly elected Secretary General, X. Corbella.

R. Palsson and the rest of the EFIM Executive Committee members thanked P. Conthe for his vast support to EFIM in his capacity of Secretary General, as he stepped down from his position and will no longer be a member of the Executive

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Committee.

R. Palsson welcomed V. Kokorin to the EFIM Executive Committee as the new EFIM Treasurer, congratulating him on the election.

6. New EFIM Members Admission:

- Macedonian Association of Internal Medicine (FYROM)

The President of the Macedonian Association of Internal Medicine, Dr. Aleksandar Manolev, was invited to say a few words about the society, following a more thorough presentation given during the EFIM Day in March. Dr. Manolev thanked EFIM and the Executive Committee for the opportunity given to the Macedonian Association of Internal Medicine. Dr. Aleksandar Manolev briefly described the activities of the association, including their events and their involvement and collaboration with other scientific societies.

The EFIM General Assembly approved the membership of the Macedonian Association of Internal Medicine as an Ordinary Member of EFIM with a majority vote.

- Argentinian Society of Internal Medicine

Dr. Manuel Klein, the Past President of the Argentinian Society of Internal Medicine, was invited to present the society. Dr. Klein thanked EFIM for the opportunity given and presented the current activities, adding that the society is eager to collaborate closely with EFIM and participate in its events.

The EFIM General Assembly approved the membership of the Argentinian Society of Internal Medicine as an Associate Member of EFIM with a majority vote.

R. Palsson welcomed on board the two new members and presented them with EFIM certificate to officially declare their EFIM membership.

7. EFIM Bylaws Update (R. Palsson)

R. Palsson presented the current EFIM projects, focusing on the two new EFIM working groups, Professional Issues and Quality of Care and Choosing Wisely WG's, as well as the work of the European Board of Internal Medicine and the implementation of the European Curriculum of Internal Medicine. Due to the current changes and the active role of member societies in the work of EFIM, the internal EFIM Bylaws are currently being revised. R. Palsson added the updated version of the EFIM Bylaws will be presented during the EFIM Day meeting in March.

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8. European Curriculum Update (R. Gans)

R. Gans introduced the Road to an Education Centre for Internal Medicine in Europe to the GA members. R. Gans believes that EFIM should invest in this project and allocate a certain budget for implementing the programme. R. Gans presented the timeline of the project that includes full involvement of the national societies in creating the Education centre for Internal Medicine. This will include the implementation of the European Curriculum of Internal Medicine as well as creating European exam. R. Gans believes that a European diploma examination in internal medicine should be relaunched despite the earlier failure. R. Gans brought some new ideas as podcasting the presentations of the European Curriculum of Internal Medicine and videotaping the clinical case presentations at the schools which can be available for download on the EFIM website as a part of the future training programme. There were number of projects presented on the timeline for the Education Centre for Internal Medicine. R. Palsson congratulated R. Gans on the proposals and asked the national societies to look closely at the projected timeline and to discuss it further within their boards.

The European Education Centre for Internal Medicine will be discussed during the next EFIM Day in Brussels.

9. EJIM Future Editor-in-Chief (R. Palsson)

R. Palsson thanked Prof. P. Mannucci for the excellent work he has done as Editor-in-Chief of EJIM in the past years, adding that it will be a challenge for EFIM to find a successor who can follow in his footsteps.

Furthermore, R. Palsson updated the GA members on the progress with the Call for the EJIM Editor-in-Chief, stressing that the deadline for submitting an application had been extended till the end of September. R. Palsson informed the GA members that several applications had already been received and that the EFIM Publication Committee planned to review each candidacy in the month of October with an aim of selecting the future Editor-in-Chief by the beginning of 2018. R. Palsson asked the GA members to encourage potential candidates from their countries to apply for this prestigious position.

10. EJIM Report (P. Mannucci)

Prof. P. Mannucci presented the report on the European Journal of Internal Medicine (EJIM) and introduced the editorial board. P. Mannucci informed the GA that the number of submissions is increasing steadily. The leading country in submitting papers is Italy, followed by Spain, Taiwan, China and France. The number of rejected papers is still high at 84%, resulting from greater emphasis on the quality of the articles. EJIM currently ranks 28th out of 154 journals in the category Medicine, General & Internal, with the impact factor increasing in 2016 to 2.960. P. Mannucci emphasised that there are four special issues planned for 2017 -

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-2018 which will increase the visibility of EJIM. The special issues will cover the following topics: acute medicine, geriatric haematology, frailty and rare disease. EJIM was mentioned in an article from Elsevier as one of the six leading journals in general medicine. EJIM remains the flagship of EFIM.

11. EJCRIM Report (J. Kellett)

J. Kellett presented the progress of European Journal of Case Reports in Internal Medicine (EJCRIM) and introduced the editorial board. Ten issues were published in 2010 and there was a 10% increase in submissions. Portugal is leading in the articles submitted, followed by UK, Italy, US and Spain. J. Kellett added that although the EJCRIM does not aim at impact factor, 11 EJCRIM's case reports have been cited 20 times. In 2017, EJCRIM will apply for inclusion in PubMed Central. J. Kellett informed the audience that the journal allows the authors to easily share and link articles to their CV and is also available on the platform KUDOS. EJCRIM has been promoted at several international events in collaboration with the EFIM member societies and via social media. J. Kellett presented the Case Report Model and Flowchart which provides guidance for authors on how to write a case report, as well as video tutorial available on the EJCRIM website. J. Kellett is very proud of what EJCRIM has achieved so far and how the journal has grown.

12. ESIM Report - Winter School, 2017 (I. Ruza)

I. Ruza reported on the 3rd and final edition of the winter school in Riga, 5-11 February 2017. The school brought together 49 internal medicine residents from 24 European countries and 20 faculty members from 17 countries. The scientific programme included a varied mix of lectures, covering topics such as glomerulonephritis and obesity, as well as organisational aspects of internal medicine. Young Internists workshop, delivered by Mikko Parry from Finland, and the hands-on ultrasound workshop were the highlights of the winter school. One of the most educational and enjoyable parts were the cases presented by the trainees, ranging from sarcoidosis to pyroglutamic acidosis.

I. Ruza thanked the FDIME for supporting two trainees from Malta and Cyprus, with bursaries as well as the school organisers and the Lithuanian Society of Internal Medicine for supporting two additional trainees, who came from Lithuania and Georgia.

I. Ruza added that she was honoured to organise such a successful event that ended up with positive balance, without any pharma support, and having the pleasure to meet such an interactive group whose enthusiasm and professionalism gives hope for the future of the specialty and of the European Young Internists movement.

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R. Palsson and the EFIM Executive Committee thanked I. Ruza and N. Montano for the hard work and efforts they have put in organising of schools in the past 3 years and presented them with a small gift.

13. ESIM Report - Summer School, 2017 (R. Gans)

R. Gans was pleased to report on the first edition of the summer school that took place from 25 to 30 June 2017 in Ede, the Netherlands. The school gathered 34 trainees from 21 different countries, as well as 22 speakers. The school was organised under the theme “Internal Medicine in Harmony”, focusing on diverse roles the trainees have to assume besides the role of medical expert. The scientific programme was of very high quality and included several scientific sessions, hands-on workshops, inspiring sessions about art and medicine, interactive workshops, including the “art of presenting science workshop”. The case presentations by the trainees were highly popular, resulting in two winners who were offered to submit their excellent cases to the European Journal of Case Reports in Internal Medicine. The social programme was carefully selected by the organising committee, including bootcamp sessions, yoga, sightseeing tours, dinner cruise, visit of famous museum and cycling tours.

R. Gans was delighted to work with such an active group who took part in vivid discussions about various topics, and contributed their experiences from different cultural settings and educational programmes. To conclude, R. Gans invited the GA members to send more trainees to the summer school in 2018.

14. ESIM Progress Report - Winter School, 2018 (K. Petterson-Fernholm)

K. Petterson-Fernholm presented the progress of the winter school that will take place for the first time in the Finnish Lapland, presenting important facts about the area, the venue, Hotel Hullu Poro, located at the Levi resort, and the importance of selecting the trainees in time due to the limited flight options between Helsinki and Levi. Furthermore, K Petterson-Fernholm presented a draft programme which included lectures, clinico-pathological conferences, clinical case presentations and workshops.

K. Petterson-Fernholm invited the GA members to send many trainees to another successful edition of the winter school.

15. ECIM 2017, Milan, Update - (N. Cappellini)

N. Cappellini was very happy to welcome the members of EFIM GA to Milan, expressing her gratification for the number of participants attending the GA and the EFIM congress. N. Cappellini informed the GA members that 1088 participants from 57 countries worldwide had registered for the ECIM 2017 and that the number was expected to increase with the onsite registrations. Furthermore, 1326 submitted abstracts were received from 50 different countries.

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N. Cappellini added that it is important for future EFIM congresses to carefully plan the congress dates to make sure all EFIM member countries can participate. Unfortunately, the ECIM 2017 dates coincided with an important religious holiday in Turkey, Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria and, therefore, not many participants from these countries could be present. Nica thanked all EFIM member societies for encouraging their members to attend and contribute to a successful congress and welcomed the participants to the opening ceremony.

16. ECIM 2018, Wiesbaden, Update (P.-M. Schumm-Draeger)

P.-M. Schumm-Draeger presented the progress of preparations for ECIM 2018 to take place in Wiesbaden, Germany, from 30 August to 1 September. The theme of the congress will be “The art of managing clinical complexity: An integrated, patient-centred approach”. The ECIM 2018 will offer innovative and comprehensive overview of the treatment of complex, multimorbid patients. P.-M. Schumm-Draeger added that the ECIM 2018 will cover a wide range of topics like recent advances in diagnostics, limited available resources dedicated to healthcare, ethical aspects of clinical decision-making, as well as special areas of interest like gender- and age-related aspects, emergence of digital medicine and prevention, diagnosis, and therapy of the metabolic syndrome.

P.-M. Schumm-Draeger informed the GA members that Wiesbaden is the (Cradle)’ of German internal medicine and the city where the German Society of Internal Medicine was founded. The congress will take place at the Rheinmain Congress Center, which is Germany’s most innovative event center, currently being renovated and expected to open in April of 2018. P.-M. Schumm-Draeger welcomed the EFIM GA members to the ECIM 2018 in Wiesbaden and asked the presidents to spread the message across their societies and encourage their members to attend the congress in Wiesbaden.

17. ECIM 2019 Report (R. Palsson)

R. Palsson informed the GA members that the Portuguese Society of Internal Medicine had submitted a proposal to host ECIM 2019 in Lisbon under the leadership of Prof. Luis Campos, the current President of the Portuguese society.

The Executive Committee of EFIM was supportive of the proposal.

The members of EFIM GA approved the proposal to hold ECIM 2019 congress in Lisbon.

R Palsson congratulated L. Campos and officially declared Lisbon as the ECIM 2019 destination.

18. Report from the Choosing Wisely Working Group (N. Montano)

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N. Montano gave brief overview on the progress of the EFIM choosing wisely project following a meeting in Milan and the work in progress. N. Montano informed the GA members that there are 26 EFIM members' societies involved in the Choosing Wisely project and several more have expressed their interest to join the WG.

N. Montano explained that the first phase will involve publishing the TOP 5 lists from as many societies as possible, concluding with publication of a systematic review article in a scientific journal, preferably EJIM. N. Montano presented the timeline that included Less is More courses at ECIM 2018 in Wiesbaden and a one-day EFIM workshop on choosing wisely in 2018/2019.

19. Report of the Professional Issues and Quality of Care Working Group (L. Campos)

L. Campos reported on the 1st meeting of the newly founded WG on Professional Issues and Quality of Care that took place in Lisbon. L. Campos added that the WG on Professional Issues and Quality of Care is currently involving 15 national society members. L. Campos invited other EFIM members' societies to join the WG. The mission of the WG is to contribute to progressive thinking about the evolution of internal medicine in Europe, to improve the standards of education and to increase the scientific affirmation of the specialty.

20. Report from the Foundation for the Development of Internal Medicine in Europe (D. Sereni)

D. Sereni presented the main activities of the Foundation for the Development of Internal Medicine in Europe (FDIME), including the ESIM bursaries, the clinical research seminar, support of the EFIM Exchange Programme, and the research grants. D. Sereni provided an update on the clinical research seminar takes place each year in Paris with the support of Amgen Europe. This year 17 trainees (out of 43 applicants) from 13 different countries participated in the seminar. D. Sereni added that the evaluation score from participants is rather high with an average of 3.72 out of 4. As the clinical research seminar has grown to be very successful, the FDIME is considering to organise two courses per year. D. Sereni introduced the trainees who received the ESIM bursaries in 2017 - 2 trainees from Malta and Cyprus attended the winter school in Riga and 2 trainees from Serbia and Latvia attended the summer school in Ede.

D. Sereni was pleased to announce a new sponsor for the research grant as well as the new FDIME approach for visibility and fundraising.

21. Young Internists Report (I. Ruza)

I. Ruza, the Chair of the Young Internists Subcommittee, gave a short overview of the current YI activities. I. Ruza introduced the YI Assembly involving 27 members

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from 23 EFIM member national societies and 3 main officers (Chair, Past Chair, and Secretary).

The popularity of the YI Facebook page is growing. Furthermore, I. Ruza introduced the active participation of YI in principal EFIM activities as well as the launch of the new YI initiative on Gender Medicine. I. Ruza presented the Milan congress programme for the YI corner participating with 3 plenary sessions and 5 informal discussions during the congress breaks. I. Ruza thanked the Executive Committee and the members of EFIM GA for the support given to the YI and encourage the national societies to be actively involved and send YI representatives.

22. EFIM Day - 16 March 2018, Brussels (R. Palsson)

R. Palsson invited the members of the EFIM GA to attend the 4th EFIM Day to be held on **Friday, 16 March 2018, at the EFIM Headquarters in Brussels.**

23. Next EFIM General Assembly - 30 August, ECIM 2018, Wiesbaden

The following GA will take place on **30 August, 2018, during the European Congress of Internal Medicine in Wiesbaden, Germany.**

24. Any Other Business:

No further points were raised.

R. Palsson thanked all the GA members present at the meeting for their participation.

The GA was adjourned at 17h00.

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