



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ULTRASOUND IN OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Tuesday 9 October 2007

Palazzo dei Congressi, Florence, Italy

1. President's opening address

Kurt Hecher welcomed the members and thanked them for attending. The meeting was quorate (126 present) and was declared open.

Kurt Hecher reported on the activities of the Society over the year, thanking ISUOG office staff and committee members for their work in organising such a successful Congress in Florence that had seen record delegate numbers. He outlined the development of the new ISUOG website, due to be launched later in the year, and announced that the next World Congress would take place in Chicago from 24-28 August 2008.

2. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, London, 2006

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting in London were unanimously accepted without change.

3. Report and accounts for the year end 2006

David Nyberg reported on another profitable financial year for ISUOG, and noted particularly that the very successful Congress in London last year had ensured that the Society had a very healthy bank balance at the year end 2006. It was difficult to anticipate the success of the Florence Congress at this point. ISUOG's reserves were building up annually and an amount was now earmarked for investment in educational projects and further investment options were being investigated. David Nyberg confirmed that following the successful investment in the current office premises and the expansion of the office staff over recent years, the Society was also looking at investing in larger office space.

The accounts were circulated in the August issue of the Journal and at this meeting for members' interest. The accounts were unanimously accepted.

4. Appointment of the Auditor

In accordance with the increasingly strict regulations relating to charity audit, ISUOG had decided in 2006 to review its current accountancy and audit arrangements and decide whether there was a need to entirely separate out these functions. Following a review of the current service and alternative auditing options, the Board made the recommendation to the membership to retain Michael Jellicoe as both the accountant and auditor of the Society but to include an additional quality assurance measure. This would involve an independent assessment of the audit be carried out by Simon Erskine, of Gotham Erskine, who would also offer supplementary advice to the Society on key audit issues as and when required. The members were asked to accept the proposal and this was unanimously agreed.

5. Report of the Board and sub committees

Kurt Hecher confirmed that Gianluigi had been nominated as President Elect of the Society and his term would commence in August 2008. Ahmet Baschat had been elected as Chair of the Scientific Committee, Dario Paladini had been reelected as Chair of the Education Committee and Josh Copel had been elected as the new Treasurer of the Society.

Ahmet Baschat reported on the **Scientific Committee** activities for the year. He confirmed that abstract submissions were increasing annually. This year there were over 1000 submissions and the accepted abstracts had been allocated with 281 presented as oral communications, 300 as oral posters and 389 as electronic posters. Ahmet Baschat thanked everyone who had participated in the abstract review process for their time and efforts.

Dario Paladini reported on the **Education Committee** activities for the year. New to the ISUOG Educational program was the introduction of intensive London based courses. The first course would take place from 1-3 February 2008 and would include a Congenital Anomalies and Fetal Echocardiography element. The aim of the course was to attract young delegates and provide high quality education. Dario Paladini confirmed that the ISUOG approved courses continued to increase yearly and he thanked Sturla Eik-Nes and his team for their ongoing work with the South Africa Teacher Training Centre (TTC) and George Yeo for his work with the Singapore TTC.

Yves Ville reported on the **Journal's** activities as Editor-in-Chief. He thanked Sarah Hatcher for her hard work in the Editorial office where she was supported by a strong team of Adam Kaye and Heather Bhasin. It was encouraging to note that there was a continued increase in the number of manuscripts being submitted to the White Journal. There had been a 20% decrease in the acceptance of papers and a move towards the publishing of case reports as letters. A marginal decrease had been seen in the impact factor, primarily due to the addition of two obstetrics and gynecology review journals to the ratings. Yves Ville commented on the continued positive relationship with the journal's publisher, Wileys.

Ann Tabor gave her report on **Membership** as company secretary. Member numbers had increased in 2007 to nearly 3000 members, largely due to the high attendance at the Congress in London. The USA continued to contribute the highest member numbers. The largest numbers of delegates were from Italy and the second largest from the USA.

Ann Tabor also reported on the **Meeting Planning Committee** activities for the year. She acknowledged the crowding in the venue in Florence, confirming that it had been booked so far in advance that the current delegate numbers were not predicted. Future Congresses would not follow a set rotation between America and Europe and the venue would be the key deciding factor to accommodate the continued growth of the Congress. Ann Tabor thanked KY Leung for all his hard work in hosting the successful 3rd International Scientific Meeting of ISUOG in Hong Kong earlier in the year.

That concluded the reports from the ISUOG Committees. ***The members accepted the reports of the Board and the sub committees.***

6. Awards and acknowledgements

Kurt Hecher confirmed that Gianluigi Pilu had been awarded this year's Ian Donald Gold Medal and Bjørn Angelsen had been awarded the Ian Donald award for Technical Development. Both medals had been presented during the opening ceremony.

7. Appointments and retirements

Kurt Hecher confirmed that five members of the Board (Trustees) were required to retire by rotation at the AGM each year:

- **Alfred Abuhamad**
- **Rabih Chaoui**
- **Dario Paladini**
- **Dirk Timmerman**
- **Lil Valentin**

Kurt Hecher presented the names of the recommended appointments and reappointments to the Board and asked for the members' approval:

- **Alfred Abuhamad (reappointment)**
- **Rabih Chaoui (reappointment)**
- **Dario Paladini (reappointment)**
- **Dirk Timmerman (reappointment)**
- **Yves Ville**

The new Board members were unanimously approved by the members.

Kurt Hecher acknowledged Lil Valentin as the only retiring member of the Board and thanked her for her commitment to the Board and to the Society. She would continue to be fully involved with the Society through her role as an Editor of the White Journal. Lil Valentin was invited to collect her service award.

The members were invited to ask any questions.

Q1. How will the London courses work? How Interactive are they?

Dario Paladini responded to the member's question outlining the scope of the course and drawing attention to the program. He also highlighted that the course would be residential and include evening review sessions. If the course proved successful they would be a long term addition to ISUOG's educational program and the format may be used to organise courses in other parts of the world.

Q2. How does ISUOG intend to attract Sonographers to its meetings and to the Society?

Ann Tabor responded to the question outlining that the number of sonographers attending the World Congresses was increasing with over 100 people registered as sonographers in Florence. A special delegate rate had also been offered to sonographers attending the Congress. Furthermore, as Dario Paladini had mentioned, ISUOG was setting up courses which would be very attractive for sonographers, with the first course in London in February 2008, at a reasonable fee.

Kurt thanked the members for attending and the meeting was declared closed.