

INTERNATIONAL BALINT FEDERATION

Officers of the Council (since September 2009)

President: Henry Jablonski (Sweden)
Vice-presidents: Benjamin Maoz (Israel)
Donald Nease (United States of America)
General Secretary: Heather Suckling (United Kingdom)
Treasurer: Michel Delbrouck (Belgium)
www.balintinternational.com <http://www.balintinternational.com>

Meeting of the Council of the International Balint Federation

Held on Saturday 29th May 2010 at 14.30 at Hotel Tuchmacher in Gorlitz Germany

Those present:

Austria

Hans-Peter Edlhaimb

Czech Republic

Marian Ziss

Denmark

Tove Mathiesen
Jorgen Strobecch

Finland

Kristiina Toivola

France

Michel Nicolle
Marie-Anne Puel

Germany

Gunther Bergmann

Heide Otten

Ernst Petzold
Vivian Pramataroff
Olaf Templin

Israel

Benyamin Maoz
Andre Matalon

Italy

Anna Della Casa
Federica Menaldo

Netherlands

Marieke van Schie

Norway

John Nessa

Poland

Boguslaw Stelcer
Bohdan Wasilewski

Portugal

Jorge Brandao
Antonia Lavinha

Ukraine

Vladyslov Gozolyshyn

UK

Andrew Elder
David Watt

USA

Don Nease

1. Welcome

Benyamin opened the meeting with apologies from Board members who were not present. Andre Matalon asked that the Council send wishes for rapid recovery for Henry, Heather and Helena.

2. Remembering Balint friends: Margarete Stubbe & Kerstin Wijkmark

Heide read kind words from Henry regarding Kerstin, and we observed a moment of silence. Ernst spoke in remembrance of Margarete, and we also observed a moment of silence.

3. Apologies

These were received from: Russia (Vladimir Vinokour), Australia (Alexa Gilbert-Obrart), Romania (Tunde Baka), Hungary (Janos Major) and Switzerland (Philipp Portwich), in addition to our absent Board members, President Henry Jablonski and Secretary Heather Suckling, who each expressed apologies for not being able to be present.

4. Minutes of the meeting of the General Assembly on 8th September 2009 in Brasov (previously circulated)

Benyamin asked for corrections. None were forthcoming and these were approved.

5. Matters arising that do not appear elsewhere on the agenda.

Hans Peter wished to discuss the status of Psychosomatics as a specialty recognized by the European Community. This was placed on the Agenda at the end.

6. Report from the Board

Don spoke about visit to Australia in support of their Committee of Management in November 2009 and his trip to the Leadership Training meeting in New Zealand to come next month. Benyamin emphasized how the Board works very well in between meetings on the internet. Henry and Don along with Marie-Anne Puel and Andrew Elder have submitted two workshops on behalf of the IBF to the WONCA Europe meeting in Malaga in October, and both have been accepted.

7. Treasurer's report (including payment of fees)

All member societies are up to date, thank you very much, and balance totals were given by Don on behalf of Michel. The Board has decided to continue the current plan of investment in Belgium.

8. Secretary's report (including register of membership)

Heather is very sorry not to be able to be at the meeting in person, but is certainly with us in spirit and wishes all a very enjoyable and successful meeting.

a. Membership:

There are no new national Balint Societies who are members of the IBF, there are 22 including the AIPB which although an international society in its own right is affiliated to the IBF and is a valued and enthusiastic member.

We now have links with those running groups in Canada thanks to Miriam Salaman – I hope they will have their own society soon. We also know of Balint work in Iceland, Norway and Bulgaria thanks to Katrin Fjelsted, John Nessa and Viviam Pramataroff,

At the time of writing I am not aware of who has and who has not paid the fees for 2010 but am optimistic that the problem of collecting fees is a thing of the past. I am sure that the Treasurer will let you know. I just need to remind you that if you have not yet paid your fees, your membership will have lapsed and the name of your society will be removed from the website.

The rule is that those who have not paid *within 2 months of the due date* will be removed from the list of members and their representatives will be removed from the mailing lists. Any society which is removed may re-apply by submitting a new application and fulfilling the criteria of membership (including payment of the required fee.)

b. Accreditation of Leaders;

The Leadership group, under the chairmanship of Andrew Elder, has collected information about accreditation of leaders and will report to this meeting.

c. Reports from National Societies:

I have collated the reports that were received before 14th May.

d. Communication with the membership:

Maintaining an up-to-date list of contacts continues to present problems. Please let me know of new addresses and if you are in contact with the individuals, please inform them.

If you receive communications from the IBF and you are no longer in office, please pass on the information to your successors

When you receive an email it is your responsibility to disseminate the information to your members.

e. Deadlines:

Please note the deadline when I write requesting information. I try to include late entries because I know how busy you all are, but I am busy too! I try to set aside time for IBF work and it is frustrating if I am waiting for information or having to chase it. Your co-operation would be greatly appreciated.

f. The new IBF Board:

Elections for the IBF Board are due in 2011. The new Board will take over in September 2011 immediately after the International Balint congress in Philadelphia.

Voting is by email and the vote will be counted at the Spring 2011 Council meeting. Full information about nominations and voting will be sent out early in 2011.

Please start thinking about nominations now!

1. Wonca 2010 (Malaga) and other International meetings

Marie-Anne reported on plans for WONCA in Malaga, as well as the success at the WONCA meeting in Basel last September. Marie-Anne also reported that Henry came to Strasbourg in support of a meeting there. (need to get more information on this.)

Benyamin emphasized the importance of being active internationally and presenting our work. The UK now requires Balint work in Psychiatric training. Bogdan reports that Poland is the same. Benyamin and Eva Katz along with Don have an abstract submitted for the World Mental Health conference in Washington, DC in November 2010. Some discussion was held regarding the issue of Balint work within other disciplines.

2. Report for the International Leadership Group

Andrew Elder reported on the work of the Group so far. In Chicago the suggestion was made that the IBF work on this. In Brasov, Andrew, Heide, Michel, Andre and Don were nominated to begin the work. Frank Dornfest from the US has also been involved via e-mail. A survey has been circulated with responses from 13 countries, plus Norway and the AIPB. 5 countries described their accreditation process, and 4 are working on these. 3 countries have mainly GP leaders, 1 country mainly psychoanalysts, 1 country 50/50, most had a mix favoring co-leading between GP's and mental health professionals. US and Austria are countries which reported a formal training programs. Hungary also has 1 day a month for a year. Denmark has something as well. Most have workshops. There is generally a perceived need to share educational material, perspectives, perhaps a meeting to promote the sharing of ideas.

The Group made good progress in a meeting the day prior to the Görlitz meeting, and resolved to recommend to the IBF to support an international leadership seminar running every 2 years, alternating with the International Congresses. This would be a 2-3 day event, not so much for training but rather a place to explore and exchange ideas about leadership. There would be working groups as a part of the meeting, probably 12-13 in number, with a total of no more than 50, and actually might be less at the initial meeting. The Group also thought there should be space for seminar work, possibly workshops, in addition to the Balint groups. This would

allow a space for reflection to think about different approaches to leadership. They also saw a need to share information on leadership, possibly a paper on the development of leadership training. There was discussion about limiting attendance to accredited leaders from member societies and those recommended by a member society who might not be accredited but seen as on the way.

3. EURACT (including progress of Vasco da Gama}

Marie-Anne reported that there was an effort to meet with EURACT in Basel, but this was unsuccessful. These efforts will continue.

4. Ascona awards

Ernst gave a report on the history of the prize and the new book. A book has been produced of the recent award winners. 10 books were available at the meeting in Görlitz, and more copies are available for 8 euros plus shipping via books on demand. Interested persons should contact Heide Otten. The publication was supported by the IBF, as decided in Brasov, as well as by the German Balint Society and the Foundation for Social Medicine and Psychosomatics.

Note and discussion was held that the Ascona Foundation has decided to only take papers in English. Information is available on the IBF website.

5. e-international Balint Journal

Marie-Anne showed the new eJournal. It includes abstracts from member societies and several full articles. There are also references to articles published in other journals. A copy was passed around by Marie-Anne.

6. Progress of the Comprehensive list of Balint books and Articles

Don reported that work has progressed, albeit slowly, owing to the busy schedules of all involved. Don has been able to move the extensive list compiled by Leonie Sullivan of Australia into the database. This is a major step forward.

7. Translation Advisory Board

Don reported that the IBF Board has approved of the mission statement and request for proposals developed by the Translation Advisory Board. This will be posted on the IBF website at its next update, and the Board looks forward to receiving proposals.

8. Website for the International Balint Federation

16.20

Attendees were encouraged to send any updates to Henry as soon as possible.

9. Evaluation of the Brasov Congress

General approval was voiced by all, and there were many comments that there was a very good post Congress trip. It was positively felt that having the associated trip following the Congress allowed the fellowship and good exchange from the Congress itself to continue a bit longer.

10. Council meetings:

Autumn: 1-3 October 2010 Oxford, UK - David Watt reported on the plans for this meeting. It will begin at 6pm on the Friday, Council meeting on Saturday afternoon. Things will finish on Sunday prior to lunch. Goal is to mix the IBF delegates with the UK attendees. Information will be forthcoming soon. Venue will be at Oxford in a different college from previous, Corpus Christi, but looks very good. 250 pounds inclusive of room and food, 50 pounds extra if you want an in suite bathroom.

Spring 2011: Denmark proposes the last weekend in April. Poland proposes also for this in Warsaw in March or April. He makes the point that it might be cheaper in Poland than doing it in Western Europe, and this is an advantage for Eastern societies. Austria cannot do it. Benyamin proposes that we discuss the various proposals among the Board and make a decision as soon as possible.

11. International Congress 2011 in Philadelphia

Don gave a report on the planning process, and the proposed dates of 8-11 September or 15-18 September. **The Council decided on 8-11 September 2011.** Likely the opening reception will be held on the evening of Wednesday the 7th. A website has been reserved, hotel proposals are now being reviewed by the planning committee. Post Congress trips are possible to either Washington DC or New York. Washington DC seemed to appeal to many delegates.

12. Brief discussion about Reports from National Societies

Bogdan gave a report on developments in the Ukraine and reported that they have made an application to be a member society. The movement is very alive, and Bogdan would like to support the application of the Ukrainian society to join the IBF. The Ukrainian attendee (Heather please get his name off the attendance roster!) gave a brief report and thanked the Polish society for their support. They hope to submit their application soon.

Benyamin also reported on an upcoming meeting of the Israeli Society.

13. Any other business

Hans-Peter raised the problem of psychosomatics being only listed under Psychiatry for the EU. He would like to hear from other countries where psychosomatics is listed as an independent specialty in order to gain support for this. If 3 such countries could be found, this would require the EU to officially recognize the specialty.