

**MINUTES IFMBE COUNCIL OF SOCIETIES (CoS)**  
**Meeting in Tampere, Finland, Room Maestro**  
**13 June 2017 3-6 pm**

1. Welcome and Introduction of Executive Board: Monique Frize, Chair of the CoS, welcomed all in attendance and introduced the four Regional Group Representatives (RGRs). The Executive Board consists of the Chair, RGRs, President and Secretary General (SG) of the IFMBE. Blue cards were voting cards, with one vote per Society present (either their Ordinary Member (OM) or representative of OM); all participants introduced themselves briefly (name and country).
2. Roll Call (Ordinary Members) and Proxy votes – Timo Jämsä recorded the roll; the list is attached to the minutes.
3. Approval of agenda: H. Voigt moved, L. Lhotska seconded: - approved
4. Approval of minutes Cyprus meeting (March 30, 2016) – moved by A. Jobbagy, seconded by R. Magjarevic – approved.
5. Reports from the IFMBE Officers:  
James Goh, President – mentioned that he has frequent meetings with the officers of the IFMBE and he attends several of the regional conferences. He also mentioned that the two Divisions (CED and HTA) are working hard to advance their objectives. He spoke briefly about the new WHO book on Human Resources for Medical Devices, the role of biomedical engineers; this resource contains a description of academic programs, professional societies and relevant WHO and UN documents related to human resources for health. IFMBE contributed to the writing and publishing of this book. The International Labor Organization (ILO) needs to recognize Biomedical Engineering (BME) as an independent profession; at this time, BMEs are labelled as ‘Other’ in the list of professions. We need to count all BMEs, CEs, BMETs worldwide to be recognized; March 2018 is the deadline, and the next one is ten years later!!! We need everyone’s support to collect this information; Ernesto Iadanza is the person responsible for collecting these data. James Goh mentioned Japan as an example of a large number of BMEs; Japan claims to have 40,000 CEs. He also encouraged everyone to publish in our IFMBE journals – including IUPESM’s Health and Technology Journal.

James Goh introduced new organizations joining the IFMBE: Moldovan Society of Biomedical Engineering, Mongolian Society of Biomedical Engineering, MBE Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Latin America Regional Council on Biomedical Engineering (CORAL). Organizations that are in the pipeline to join include: Brazilian Society of Clinical Engineering (ABClin) and the Indonesian Association of Clinical Engineers (IACE). Also, interested societies include: the Georgia BME Society and the Uganda BME Society.

Ratko Magjarevic, Past-President – said he was glad to see a large number of persons at this meeting. He is responsible for the Nominating Committee and is seeking nominations for the following positions: President-elect, Treasurer, Secretary General, two positions on the AC to replace Mario Secca and Maria Siebes who are completing their second mandate; the Chair and the four RGRs of the CoS are also up for election or re-election. The Divisions will also have some open positions: – 4 out of 7 members of the boards are to be elected at WC2018. Ratko also mentioned that Honorary Life Members also go through a nominating process. The DEADLINE for all nominations is 25 October 2017. The Nomination Form can be found on the IFMBE website. He also mentioned that IFMBE has a form for application of proposed conferences.

Marc Nyssen, Treasurer- Finances – mentioned that the current financial contribution from societies is at one half of what is expected. He asked everyone to pay their dues so that they can participate in the voting at the General Assembly in Prague.

KP Lin, Secretary General – mentioned that IFMBE promotion materials were available here, so to pick these up and share them with their Society.

SM Krishnan, President-Elect – He attended a summer school in Warwick, a Stem Cell meeting in Aachen; he was at a meeting in Mexico, met with CORAL, and attended a meeting in Bosnia – Herzegovina. He Chairs the Awards Committee and said that the call for nominations has been sent. He listed the awards and suggested that everyone check the website for the nomination procedure; winners will be given an opportunity to speak during WC 2018. He attended the National Academy of Engineering (NAE) meeting and mentioned the upcoming student competitions. The DEADLINE for all nominations for awards is 25 October 2017.

6. Monique Frize, Chair CoS: Monique was elected in Toronto in 2015 and the RGRs were elected in January 2016. She summarised the CoS meeting held in Cyprus. She mentioned that there is to be a dinner after each CoS meeting for the Ordinary Members and a few guests. Monique also mentioned that there have been six teleconference meetings of the CoS Executive Board (EB) since Cyprus and briefly described the work done at these meetings.

Monique explained that the major goal for June 2016-2018 was to enhance communication between the Societies and the IFMBE, via strengthening relationships between Regional Group Representatives (RGRs) and Ordinary Members of each Society in their region, and with the Administrative Council (AC) officers. Specific areas of focus were: to ensure the IFMBE newsletter has news from each region; RGRs would attempt to organize CoS meetings with Ordinary members who are attending conferences within their region; there should also be an attempt to share good practices instituted by Societies. Monique said that 75 people from 40 societies attended the meeting in Cyprus.

MOTION: to hold elections for Council of Societies RGRs and Chair at the WC2018 in Prague, Czech Republic. – M. Frize proposed the motion; Mario Secca seconded – Mario suggested that it would be good if the RGRs stayed on for another term; MF said that the current RGRs can be re-elected. Motion was approved.

## 7. Reports from RGRs:

**H. Voigt:** North America: Herb summarized the objectives of the societies in his region: There is the American College of Clinical Engineering (ACCE); the Canadian Medical and Biological Engineering Society (CMBES), IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society (EMBS), and the American Institute for Medical & Biological Engineering (AIMBE). Herb chose to speak in more detail about one of these. The AIMBE, which represents the USA, aims to make significant contributions within the field of medical engineering stemming from a variety of industries e.g., academia, industry etc.... Additionally, AIMBE consists of four important pillars: The College of Fellows, The Academic Council, The Council of Societies, and The Industry Council; the Council of Societies has ~16 members including: The American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Bioengineering Division, and IEEE EMBS.

**T. Jamsa:** Europe-Africa: Timo mentioned that EAMBES has many national societies in Europe, some are affiliated with IFMBE and some participate in the IFMBE EU Parliament Working group. He reported an increase in membership: Bosnia and Herzegovina joined the region, and memberships from Malta, Georgia, Montenegro, and Turkey are in progress; 15 Societies have been identified in Africa. At this CoS meeting, there is a large group representing Ethiopia. He also said that thirteen of the European Societies participated in a regional CoS meeting; some of the topics discussed included: IFMBE collaboration with WHO, promotion of BME in Africa, role of EAMBES as an European alliance for promoting BME and European regional IFMBE conferences. EAMBES had a Fellows seminar. Timo mentioned that Professor Nicolas Pallikarakis, (Patras, Greece) won an EU award due to his dedication and passion for education in the field of BME and enthusiasm and commitment in promoting the Erasmus+ program in Greece and abroad.

There was an increase in activity within the region such as multiple capacity building projects headed by the African Biomedical Engineering Consortium (ABEC) and the African Biomedical Engineering Mobility (ABEM) group. Also, a proposal for an IFMBE African Activities Working Group (AAWG) has been drafted.

The relationship between the EU Parliament and the European Alliance of Medical and Biological Engineering and Science (**EAMBES**) is growing as technology advances within the medical field are placed under public spotlight. The EU Parliament has formed a Parliament Interest group on BME and have consulted EAMBES pertaining to the role of internet technology within the healthcare sector and medical device regulation. Also the EAMBES Policy Affairs Working Group (PAWG) has been formed and is headed by Leandro Pecchia. Future developments include looking to enhance recognition of BME as a profession and reinforce BME in Horizon2020. There was an AFROBIOMEDIC meeting in Nigeria.

The next European regional conferences have been decided:  
MEDICON 2019 – Coimbra Portugal, likely in September.  
Discussions about the possibility of a Nordic Meeting in June 2019. This will be confirmed later.  
EMBEC 2020 – Portoroz Slovenia.

**Min Wang:** Asia-Pacific Region: Min Wang could not attend this CoS meeting due to prior commitment to the Hong Kong Research Grants Council's meetings in the same week. He prepared the materials and the report for the Asia-Pacific Region was presented by KP Lin. The national societies in this region have been active (some are very active) in organizing various BME events, including summer camps for high school students, seminars, workshops, and national and international conferences. The Chinese Society for Biomedical Engineering hosted the China Biomedical Engineering Conference on April 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 in Beijing, China. It has also given the 2016-2017 "Huang Jiasi Biomedical Medical Award", which is the highest honor for a biomedical engineer in China. The Biomedical Division of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers hosted a AHWP Workshop on Medical Device Regulation & Regulatory Harmonization which took place on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 in Hong Kong. It supported the Engineering Medical Innovation Summit: Medicine for the Future and the student project competition, which was held on Aug. 20, 2016 in Hong Kong. The Korean and Malaysian societies have organized international conferences in 2016 and 2017. The Macao society organized BME visits of primary and secondary school teachers to mainland China. The Mongolian Society held its first BME conference in December 2016 in Ulaanbaatar and a delegation from IFBME attended this conference. The Singapore society has been always very active, organizing many BME activities and also making awards/medals to BME students. It also helps developing countries such as Vietnam and Myanmar in the development of BME in these countries.

**Guillermo Avendano Cervantes:** RGR for Latin America and CORAL:

Guillermo introduced a variety of events which took place in Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Columbia and Argentina. In Brazil, the 1<sup>st</sup> workshop on teaching biomedical engineering was hosted at UNICAMPS, the Brazilian Biomedical Engineering Congress and the National Science Strategy Technology and Innovation which took place at the Brazilian Society for the Advancement of Science. In Chile, there was the International Seminar Challenges of Regulatory Convergence and Access to Quality Medical Devices; a course on Hospital Design was introduced at the University of Valparaíso. A workshop on Telerehabilitation, the conference IBERSENSOR CHILE 2016 and the VIII Annual Congress of Biomedical Engineering and the HISMSS Chile Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society conference. In Cuba, there was the III International Congress of Bioengineering and the Sociedad Cubana de Bioingenieria. In Columbia, the Latin American Biomedical Engineering Congress (CLAIB) took place on October 2016. An online course called DQBITO centered on 3D technologies, concerning

biomaterials, biomechanics and telemedicine. Finally, in Argentina there was the Conference of Management of Medical Technologies and the III Tercer Congreso Argentino de Ingeniería.

8. Matters from Societies (Ordinary members with information other than reported by RGRs). There were none.

## 9. Division Reports:

**CED:** Ernesto Iadanza (Chair of CED), highlighted some of the projects recently done including: Global Clinical Engineering and Clinical Engineering Awards. These projects were headed by project heads and discussion on the next steps for these projects is scheduled via monthly virtual meetings which have been on-going since September 2016. The Division works with a large group of people which is wonderful!

**HTAD:** Leandro Pecchia (Chair HTAD) reported on the current activities. Some of the outlined strategic goals for the HTA concerning BME include: establish periodical training events on HTA for BME, develop and share free high-quality training material for on HTA for BME, create new spaces to facilitate BME publications on HTA, reinforce collaborations on HTA among BME and with other HTA experts and write IFMBE guidelines on HTA (i.e. HTA, early/predictive HTA, MCDA, HTA LMIC). The IFMBE HTAD eLearning module is accessible on <http://htad.ifmbe.org/elearning/> and includes more than 30 hours of lectures on HTA given by BMEs.

## 10. Working Group Reports

**Developing Countries Working Group:** Mario Secca (Chair of DCWR), horizontal organization – HTAD, CED are all needed in developing countries – the WG works together with the divisions – E-course is wonderful – pilot program in 3 countries.

AFROBIOMEDIC – 150 people – which was much lower than expected. Working group of IFMBE on African countries BME. Working with Anna Worm and Marc Nyssen– 17 nations – want to meet in Ethiopia. Once WG is established create a RG in Africa. There was much discussion at WHO Global Forum in Geneva.

Mario Secca is starting the first BME program in Mozambique.

**Women in Medical and Biological Engineering:** Eleni Kaldoudi (Co-Chair of the WiMBE) spoke about the Panel, Lunch and meeting to be held on June 14; she asked that participants register for the lunch to assess the number to be provided.

11. Update for WC2018 (Lenka Lhotska)

Lenka invited everyone to participate in WC2016. An important date is September 1, 2017: Call for Abstract and Registration. Some of the speakers are Professor Uwe Oelfke from the United Kingdom and Professor Russell Ritenour from the United States.

12. Regional Conferences and events (other than news from RGRs): There were none mentioned.

13. Springer representative, Christoph Baumann encouraged everyone to publish and to access the journals of the IFMBE and IUPESM. He said that Member Societies should have a free access to the journals. Societies need to provide some information.

14. Next meeting? WC 2018, June 4, 2018, in Prague.

15. Adjournment 17:22PM

Attachment: List of attendees and proxies.

Submitted by H.F. Voigt

Modified and Supplemented by \_\_\_\_\_