

## **Report from the Council of Societies**

June 2, WC 2018, Prague

### **Election of the Executive Board (EB):**

Monique Frize was elected as Chair of the CoS at the IFMBE GA in Toronto. The Regional Representatives were elected in January 2016: Guillermo Avendano (South, Central America, and Caribbean); Timo Jamsa (Europe and Africa), Herb Voigt (North America; Min Wang (Asia-Pacific). KP Lin (Secretary General) and James Goh (President) were ex-officio.

On a very sad note, we lost a most active member of the EB (the Vice-Chair and Secretary): Herb Voigt passed away suddenly a few days after our EB January 25 2018 meeting. We were really shocked and Herb will be very much missed! In April, a second member of the EB had major surgery; Guillermo Avendano is unable to continue as RGR South America.

In February 2018, the EB was fortunate to add Gilda Barabino (now past-president of AIMBE) as RGR for North America, and Eric Lacier from Argentina (the new Chair of CORAL). Andrej Linnenbank was the Past-Chair.

The CoS meeting in Cyprus was attended by 75 persons representing 40 societies; 45 persons attended the CoS hosted dinner that followed the meeting. At that meeting, the CoS emphasised the importance of enhanced communications between the CoS, the IFMBE AC, and the Societies. Another important goal was to plan the next meeting of the CoS in 2017. Tampere was selected by a majority of Ordinary members.

The RGRs maintain a frequent link with members in their region. For example, Guillermo represented the CoS at the October 2016 meeting in Colombia and produced a report of the CORAL meeting. James was also there. Min and James sent news of the numerous activities in Asia-Pacific: there were several conferences and a design competition in Hong Kong. Timo had meeting with EAMBES and received news from Mario and Marc about the African meeting in Nigeria. Herb was in contact with AIMBE, BMES, and EMBS; he provided news on North American events. Monique collected the reports and encouraged distribution as an article in the Newsletter; the RGRs sent the newsletter items to their regional members.

The process of running the Annual CoS meeting was refined and worked very well in Cyprus, and even more in Tampere. There were half of dozen meetings of the EB in 2017 (January, March, 2 in May, and in Tampere; these meetings helped the EB to stabilize and develop the proper functioning of the CoS. Regional news were reported at these meetings and RGRs sent these to their members. Timo should be thanked for having organised the schedule of the EB and CoS meeting and the facilities, including the dinner hosted by the CoS. Timo recorded all members present at the CoS meeting in Tampere, so the roll call was very efficient; Ordinary members signed in and were given a voting card. Invited observers were also recorded as present

but did not vote. The minutes from the Tampere meeting were distributed to all members by RGRs.

In 2017 and early 2018, Monique put forward an idea for future activities of the CoS: Collecting best practices. Some of the themes that were suggested for collecting good practices are: (i) Ethics for BME and CE – collect the various Codes from the different Societies; (ii) Patient Safety – a guideline and recommendations for optimizing the safety of patients; (iii) an education Committee – what are their good practices? (iv) developing countries and an African network; (v) data collecting methods, the new rules in Europe and existing rules in the US and Canada.

An event endorsed by the IFMBE, Monique and Tony Easty ran a successful workshop on patient safety in Ottawa (May 3 and 4 2018). Twenty experts (15 from Canada and 5 from Italy) presented current issues; small groups developed recommendations to be written as a guideline. Monique submitted a proposal for a special session at WC2018 to report on the results of the workshop. Her proposal was accepted for a panel of five on June 6 (14:00 – 15:30) in South Hall 2B. The Chairs of the CED and HTAD participated actively in the Workshop, which contributed highly to its success.