

# **World Association for Laser Therapy (WALT)**

**Minutes of the General Assembly**

**Held on Monday, October 20, 2008**

**During the 7<sup>th</sup> Congress of WALT,  
Sun City Hotel, Sun City, South Africa.**

## **Opening**

The General Secretary, Acting President, Professor Antonio Pinheiro opened the General Assembly. A count of members in attendance revealed a quorum. Consequently, the meeting was called to order. Dr Kevin Moore was then assigned to direct the meeting as master of ceremony whereupon he took the stand.

## **Apologies**

The following members sent apologies for not being able to attend the meeting. Prof Farouk Al-Watban, Dr Jan Tunér and Professor Aldo Brugnera Junior.

## **Minutes of the General Assembly held during the 6<sup>th</sup> Congress of WALT**

The minutes of the last General Assembly were read by Dr Moore. The approval of the minutes was proposed by James Carrol and seconded by Heidi Abrahase. The proposition was voted and approved by the majority of those present.

## **President Report**

None was presented

## **General Secretary Report**

Prof Pinheiro presented his report as General Secretary in which he reported his participation on the Meeting of the Dubai Dental Laser Association; on the Joint meeting of the AIOLA-SILO held in Florence, and on an Experts Panel organized by the Brazilian National Institute of Metrology. It was also reported that the membership survey carried out on 2007-2007 was not successful due to a disappointing participation of the members and recommended further efforts to attract more replays. It was also reported a get a member campaign carried out in Brazil in order to attract new members. The campaign was considered very satisfactory as many new Brazilians have joined the Association and that now Brazil has the highest number of members on the Association. He also informed that he has organized a Laser Meeting in Salvador in 2007 in which 190 participants were present and members of the Executive Council and Advisory Committee have participated on the meeting. The best presented papers were referred for publication on the PMLS, Brazilian Dental Journal and also on the Journal of the APCD. The General Secretariat has also received on due time the nominations from the membership for the position of President and President-Elected and also for the Advisory Committee.

None was presented

## **Financial Report**

Dr Moore gave a brief overview of the financial standing of the Association and to present the financial statement for the period of October 2006 to October 2008. Following the presentation, the Acting President asked the members of the Executive Council to approve the accountancy of the Association. The approval of the accountancy of the Association was proposed by Aparecida Marques and seconded by Ester Nicola. The proposal was voted and approved by the majority of those present.

### **Report of the Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Journal**

Professor Enwemeka commented on the achievements of the laser field over the past two years since Photomedicine and Laser Surgery became the official journal of the Organization and that both the increase in the number of papers on phototherapies and their high quality had certainly helped the health care professionals to positively change their attitudes in regard to photobiomodulation. He also provided a detailed report on his and Dr Rochkind activities as Editors of the Journal.

### **Scientific Secretary Report**

Dr. Bjordal commented on the need to provide the professionals with a recommended dosage table for oral disorders and another on wound healing. He mentioned that Dr Tunér and Professor Pinheiro together shall prepare a document on these matters. Dr Bjordal also suggested studies on the possibility and viability of setting up an educational programme to be provided by the Association in which the academic expertise of WALT members could be used.

### **Membership Secretary Report**

In the absence of the Membership Secretary, Dr Tunér, Prof Pinheiro read his report. A main question was raised by Dr Tunér's report, the decline on the number of members, especially in non-congress years. He also commented on the affiliation of a significant number of colleagues during the Congress

### **Executive Council Report**

Professor Antonio Pinheiro, General-Secretary announced the hiring of GBS Deizign to run the Secretariat of the Association for two year starting October 2008. The Associations dues for the next two years were approved as follows: Membership with journal (US\$ 190.00); Membership without journal (US\$ 80.00); Student membership with electronic journal (US\$ 30.00); Corporate Membership (US\$ 300.00). The Executive Council also received one bid to host the WALT 2010 from Norway. The members approved three main actions to be taken in order to increase membership: The Journal Editors shall make efforts to publish more clinical papers on the journal; WALT shall from now, promote training courses and award certification for users, being this carried out according to a minimal training programme to be presented by the Scientific Secretary as soon as possible; at least one of the Executive members shall be present to these courses, proposals shall be sent to the General-Secretary, recommended by the Scientific Secretary and approved by the Executive Council. It is mandatory that, on the cost of the registration, a journal membership to be added. In case of an already member, a discount could be provided. The other action should be on the improvement of the communication of the Association with its members and with the public, mainly via the website and other internet resources. A proposal received from the Laser Association of El Salvador for an agreement on Scientific Cooperation was discussed, voted and approved by the present. The Executive Council approved both the accountancy of the Association (Oct 2006-Oct 2008) and the nominations for President, President-Elect and Advisory Committee.

### **New Business**

#### **Elections**

Following the nomination of the candidate by Jan Tuner, seconded by Rodrigo Martins, Prof Jan Magnus Bjordal was elected by majority vote.

Following the nomination of candidate by Antonio Pinheiro, seconded by Chukuka Enwemeka, Prof Heidi Abrahamse was chosen President-elect by majority vote.

A question was raised as with the Election of Prof Bjordal the position of Scientific Secretary was declared vacant. As there is no provision for a new election on the bylaws of the Association, the name of Dr Rodrigo Martins was proposed by Prof. Bjordal to act as interim Scientific Secretary until new elections are held. The proposition was voted and approved by the majority of those present.

Nominations for the Advisory Committee were also presented by the General Secretary: Paul Bradley (USA), Roberta Chow (Asia-Pacific), Ester Nicola (Brazil), Il Soo Jang (Korea), Uri Oron (Israel), Carmen Todea (Rumania), Jon Joensen (Norway), and Reza Fekrazad (Iran). A block approval of these names was proposed by Jan Bjordal, seconded by Shimon Rochkind. The proposition was voted and approved by the majority of those present.

### **Presidential Handover**

Professor Tony Pinheiro handed over the presidency of the Association to Prof Jan M Bjordal. Dr Moore then handed over the chair to Prof Bjordal.

### **WALT 2010 Congress**

Prof Bjordal presented to the General Assembly his proposal to host the forthcoming Congress on behalf of Norway. Following the presentation the General Assembly the City of Bergen, Norway was proposed to host the WALT 2010 by Shimon Rockhind, seconded by Tony Pinheiro. The proposition was voted and approved by the majority of those present.

### **WALT 2012 Congress**

Dr Moore mentioned the need for a longer period for organizing the Meetings as, in many cases, two years may not be enough and reminded that the choice of location for other meeting done previously. Dr suggested that Prof. Pinheiro to organize WALT2012 in Salvador, Brazil. Dr Moore suggested that if no other bid is presented on a reasonable time, the proposal should be approved. The proposition was discussed, voted and approved by those present.

As no other business was proposed by the General Assembly, Prof Bjordal closed the General Assembly.

Minutes taken by: Antonio Pinheiro, General-Secretary  
Attested by: Jan M Bjordal, President  
Heidi Abrahamse, President-Elect  
Shimon Rochkind, Journal Editor  
Chukuka Enwemeka, Journal Editor  
Kevin Moore, Treasurer