

## **WORLD ASSOCIATION FOR LASER THERAPY (WALT)**

**Meeting of the General Assembly  
Held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2010  
During the 8<sup>th</sup> WALT Congress  
Bergen, Norway**

**The President, Jan Magnus Bjordal, opened the meeting and welcomed 28 WALT members to the General Assembly. He then handed over proceedings to the meeting co-ordinator Kevin Moore.**

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Farouk Al Watban and Tony Pinheiro.

### **2. Minutes of the General Assembly held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2008**

With the agreement of those present a summary of the minutes of the Assembly held in Sun City, South Africa was read and approved.

### **3. President's report**

The President, Jan Magnus Bjordal, reported on his 2 years in office and the progress during that time that had been made in promoting, encouraging and facilitating research collaboration. He referred to some of the most recent peer reviewed articles and papers supporting the clinical benefits of laser therapy.

### **4. Secretary-General's Report**

No report was presented.

### **5. Treasurer's report**

The Treasurer, Kevin Moore, presented the Financial Summary of the WALT accounts for the years October 2008 to September 2010. He detailed the income and expenditure and made particular reference to the developments and new initiatives on the website. The current WALT fund held \$23,651.33. The Financial Report was received and approved by the Assembly.

### **6. Membership Secretary's report**

Jan Tuner commented on the fluctuating nature of membership numbers and the need to introduce new recruiting measures, the upgrade of the E-newsletter to "The WALT Review", and a number of additions to the website including the new "Find a Laser Therapist" provision. The report was received by the Assembly.

### **7. Scientific Secretary's report**

Rodrigo Lopes Martins presented a report detailing the scientific advances achieved during the period since the last Congress. He made special reference to the recent paper on neck pain by Roberta Chow and her team published in The Lancet which had received wide acclaim and to the establishment in Sao Paulo of an important post-graduate research programme. The Assembly received his report.

## **8. Journal Report**

Chukuka Enwemeka, Co-Editor-in-Chief of the journal “Photomedicine and Laser Surgery” presented a detailed report. The increase in papers on photomedicine submitted to the journal had risen and now constituted 67% of all papers published in the journal. He made particular reference to the high number of papers received from Brasil and Turkey. He informed the members of the new publication schedule for the journal which would be monthly on-line commencing in 2011. The impact factor for the journal had risen to 1.756. The Assembly were pleased to receive his report.

## **9. Membership Subscriptions**

The Executive Council had recommended that subscription fees should remain at their current level.

Full membership with journal .....US\$190

WALT membership (no journal) ..... US\$ 50

Student membership ..... US\$ 40

Institutional membership ..... US\$250

The General Assembly ratified the recommendation.

## **10. Executive Council Elections**

In accordance with WALT Bylaws the Secretary-General, Treasurer and Membership Secretary had completed their terms of office and were not seeking re-election.

Having received written nominations the Executive Council made the following election recommendations to the General Assembly:-

Secretary-General ..... Rodrigo Lopes Martins

Treasurer ..... Nicolette Houeld

Membership Secretary ..... Rene Jean Bensadoun

The ExCo further recommended that Jan Magnus Bjordal, having stepped down as President, should resume the office of Scientific Secretary.

Having agreed the election of these officers en bloc the Assembly then approved their election.

## **11. Advisory Committee**

The list of 8 members of the Advisory Committee was read to the Assembly. The ExCo had recommended that their appointments be continued for a further 2 years and that the ExCo be delegated the authority to review the membership as appropriate. The Assembly authorised this recommendation and delegation.

## **12. Presidential Handover**

The President, Jan Magnus Bjordal, then handed over the Presidency and the President’s Medal to the incoming President Heidi Abrahamse who addressed the Assembly.

## **13. WALT Congress 2012**

The new President then invited Liisa Laakso and Roberta Chow to present the bid to host the 2012 Congress on behalf of the Australian Medical Laser Association. The

Executive Council had recommended that the Assembly approve the bid which they ratified.

The President then proposed , following the acceptance of the bid, that Liisa Laakso be elected President-Elect of WALT and that Roberta Chow be co-opted onto the Council. This proposal was ratified by the Assembly.

#### **14. WALT Congress 2014**

The President, Heidi Abrahamse, reported that there had been a provisional bid to host the 2014 Congress in Brasil by Rodrigo Lopes Martins. She invited additional outline bids to be forwarded to the President by the end of 2010.

#### **15. Any Other Business**

James Carroll suggested the formation of a sub-committee to make recommendations on a guideline checklist of dosage reporting parameters. He suggested that himself, Mike Hamblin, Lars Hode, Hans Romberg, Stefano Geuna and Juanita Anders would constitute the sub-committee. They would report back to the ExCo. The Assembly approved this suggestion.

**There being no other business the President declared the Assembly closed.**

KCM/2010