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NEWSLETTER *extra edition*

World Federation of Societies for Laser Medicine and Surgery

CONTENTS

- **Message from Secretary General**
- **Report on the meeting of the World Association for Laser Therapy (WALT), Brazil**
- **Re-formation of the International Laser Therapy Association (ILTA): Preliminary Announcement**
- **Rebirth of Laser Therapy, Official Journal of the new ILTA**

Message from Secretary General

Toshio Ohshiro M.D., Ph.D

First of all on this extra edition, I express deepest sympathy to the victims of the huge quake centered off the west coast of north Sumatra last December. As the secretary general of WFSLMS, I sent a letter to Dr. Peter Hassan and Dr. Narong Nimsakul, proposing a contribution to help people from this big disaster. In the reply from Dr. Hassan, he said, with the donations through the government from so many countries, they will overcome this catastrophe. I, from the bottom of my heart, anticipate the post-quake reconstruction.

Secondary, I have to inform you the status of World Association for Laser Therapy (WALT). Here is a report from Dr. Kubota, WALT Secretary-General on this edition, so please read it and understand what is happening in WALT.

Lastly, I am pleased to announce the 1st conference of WFSLMS will

take place in Tokyo in coming September. I would really appreciate your active participation. And also, in order to make the conference fruitful one, please bring your societies' information and the latest moves to exchange. I am looking forward to seeing each of you in Tokyo. To get more information, please go to our website;
<http://www.jmll.co.jp/English/index.htm>

Report on the meeting of the World Association for Laser Therapy (WALT), Brazil

Junichiro Kubota, WALT Secretary-General

The 5th WALT congress was held in the beautiful coastal resort of Guarujá, near São Paulo, Brazil, from November 25-27 last year under the presidency of Professor Also Brugnera, Jr. The congress was most enjoyable and was certainly a great deal of hard work for the organizers. A large number of presentations were given, representing the four corners of the world. However, there were a number of loose ends left untied by the end of the congress, and before WALT can advance into its next two years as a democratically run organization, they most certainly must be tied up.

Neither the WALT Board Meeting nor the WALT General Assembly was conducted according to the accepted parliamentary rules, and the agenda which was correctly proposed by myself was not made available at the General Assembly, nor were copies of the 2002-2004 financial reports for the Board Meeting or General Assembly. While informality in moderation is an excellent approach, informality in excess does not sit well with the democratic process. As a result, neither the WALT Board nor the WALT membership was able to vote on correctly proposed and seconded motions such as the location of the 2006 WALT meeting. The high point of the General Assembly was the celebration of the birthday of Dr Mary Dyson. Dr Dyson, an Editor of the world-famous Gray's Anatomy (Churchill Livingstone, UK) is a former president of the International Laser Therapy Association and one of

the strongest supporters of laser therapy, with many published works on phototherapy and photobiomodulation in cellular biology and wound repair. On behalf of all WALT members not present in Brazil, I wish Dr Dyson many more years of valuable work, good health and happiness.

At the end of the meeting, a list of the new WALT Executive and Council materialized from somewhere

(see http://www.walt.nu/secure/Executive_Council_Membership.htm),

Before any of the new officers can take their posts, however, with the exception of Prof. Aldo Brugnera, Jr as WALT President and the addition of Prof Hanaoka as Immediate Past President (strangely omitted from the Executive), there surely has to be an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) called to ratify all of the business which was not dealt with correctly. This includes the post of Honorary Treasurer, so ably filled by Dr Kevin Moore since the inception of WALT in 1994.

This lack of democratic process is very troubling, and WALT needs to deal quickly and correctly with the very serious points outlined above, otherwise this will taint what was a good meeting, but more importantly, will bring into doubt the very existence and integrity of WALT and its credibility as an international association to champion the cause of laser therapy, phototherapy and photobiomodulation.

Re-formation of the International Laser Therapy Association (ILTA): Preliminary Announcement

Professor Hayk Arakelyan MD PhD

ILTA President-elect

Many inconsistencies were sadly noted during the business meetings of the 5th WALT congress held in Brazil in November of last year, the report on which appears elsewhere in this issue of the WFLMS Newsletter. As a result of these, it has apparently been the opinion of many clinicians working in the field of laser therapy and associated disciplines that WALT is no longer able to offer the level of integrity,

professionalism and support which was previously the case.

Accordingly, a proposal to resurrect the International Laser Therapy Association (ILTA), which will have its first meeting (actual dates to be announced) in Armenia, has been put forward and announced by the interim ILTA Secretary-General, Dr Junichiro Kubota. The President-Elect is myself, Professor Hayk Arakelyan MD PhD, Dean of Pain and Clinical Research of the Department of UNESCO Chair in Life Sciences, and President of the Pan-Armenian Association of Laser Therapy and Integrative Medicine. I will try to be the ideal first ILTA president. With my excellent contacts within and without Eastern Europe, I plan to open up new fields of international research in phototherapy and photobiomodulation, hitherto confined to Eastern Europe. As further details become available, they will be given to this Newsletter.

The new ILTA will strive to uphold the rigorous professional standards of its illustrious predecessor through adherence to the due democratic process, and through the enrollment of a truly professional membership who are dedicated to all aspects of laser therapy, phototherapy and photobiomodulation. ILTA will soon invite interested professionals to apply for membership, with a proposed annual fee of US \$100 which will also include four issues per year of the official ILTA journal, *Laser Therapy*, which like the ILTA itself will arise like a Phoenix, proudly from the ashes.

Rebirth of *Laser Therapy*, Official Journal of the new ILTA

Hacop-M Medicoscientific Publishing House, Yerevan, Armenia

Until 1998, the journal *Laser Therapy* was the official journal of first the old International Laser Therapy Association (ILTA) from 1988 till 1994, and then the World Association for Laser Therapy (WALT) official journal from then till the final issue of Volume 10 (10:4, December, 1998). Volumes 11 to 13 appeared sporadically between then and 2001, with nothing thereafter. More recently, a new journal from the American publishers, Mary Ann Liebert, *Photomedicine and Laser*

Surgery (please note the absence of any mention of ‘therapy’) was adopted as the official journal of WALT by the WALT Executive and Council by a very narrow majority of 1: this decision was due for ratification at the WALT 2004 General Assembly, but was not in fact placed forward as a motion and therefore not voted on by the WALT membership due to the failure of the 2004 WALT GA to be held according to the official Agenda. Because of the lack of democratic process, and fears that the new journal would not meet the needs of an association dedicated to laser therapy, phototherapy and photobiomodulation, the Laser Therapy has been resuscitated, with a new Pilot Issue (Volume 14:0) prepared in time for distribution at the 2004 WALT meeting, and Volume 14:1 due out at the end of March of this year. Unfortunately, for various unexplained reasons, the issues destined for the WALT meeting were never released from the Brazil Customs Office and thus never made it to the congress.

Professor Hayk Arakelyan (Dean of Pain and Clinical Research of the Department of UNESCO Chair in Life Sciences, and President of the Pan-Armenian Association of Laser Therapy and Integrative Medicine, Armenia) has accepted the post of Editor-in-Chief, with the very able assistance of Professor G David Baxter, (Head of Research Graduate School, Faculty of Social and Health Sciences and Education, University of Ulster, Northern Ireland, UK) as co-Editor-in-Chief. The Editorial Board is currently under selection, and the full Board will be announced when the process is complete.