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1. The 1st International Medical Laser Specialists (IMeLaS)

On November 26 - 27, 2009, the inaugural teaching and examination course for the International Medical Laser Specialist initiative took place jointly overseen by the WFSLMS and ISLSM, and some 17 candidates from Thailand and Japan heard a full day's set of didactic lectures on laser basics and all aspects of laser safety from leaders in their respective fields. This was followed by an intensive hands-on learning session on actual surgical and therapeutic laser systems, including safety aspects, setting systems up, and manipulating beam parameters to achieve different clinical effects. There was then a written multiple choice style examination.

All 17 of the candidates successfully passed, and were subsequently awarded their certificates during the Tokyo Bay Cruise event on November 30 in the joint congress Laser Tokyo 2009. A total of 46 IMeLaS certificates were awarded, consisting of 22 at Hon-IMeLaS, 9 at P-IMeLaS (P = Physicist), 2 at I-IMeLaS (I = Instructor), 1 at A-IMeLaS, 4 at B-IMeLaS, and 8 at C-IMeLaS. The recipients' names are as follows:

Hon-IMeLaS	Isaac Kaplan, Kazuhiko Atsumi, Krishna Rau, Kendric Smith, Harubumi Kato, Gerald Glantz, Alfons Hofstetter, Narong Nimsakul, Ming-Chien Kao, Leonardo Longo, Shimon Rochkind, David Baxter, Mary Dyson, Vladimir Mikhailov, Peter Hasan, Mario Trelles, Jin Wang Kim, Fernando Soriano, Hong Sai Loh, Junichiro Kubota, Yoshimi Asagai, Toshio Ohshiro
P-IMeLaS	Tiina Karu, David Sliney, Hiroto Kuroda, Hiromasa Ishiwatari, Penny Smalley, Kunio Awazu, Makoto Kikuchi, Tsunenori Arai, Glen Calderhead
I-IMeLaS	Chiyuki Shiroto, Katsumi Sasaki
A-IMeLaS	Takafumi Ohshiro
B-IMeLaS	Waichiro Horiuchi, Bunjert Titapiwatanakun, Tavalida Vejjavanit, Yuki Taniguchi
C-IMeLaS	Hajime Takahashi, Virapun Bunmas, Cattaleeya Leelaruangsang, Yumi Ando, Chieko Mori, Palangrath Tongsant, Thapanee Benjamano, and 1 anonymouse

2. The WFSLMS Presentations at the Joint Congress Laser Tokyo 2009

The second day of the joint congress Laser Tokyo 2009, December 1st, started with the opening ceremony of the WFSLMS in the main congress hall, followed throughout the day with presentations from representatives from member societies, associations and countries. The following is the program of the presentations:

WFLMS NATIONAL & HISTORICAL PRESENTATIONS, and SPEAKERS (Dec.1st)

Chairpersons: Krishna Rau, President of WFLMS (AM)

Narong Nimsakul, Honorary President of ISLSM (PM)

No.	Name	Country	Title
WO-1	Krishna Rau	President of WFLMS	Opening Declaration of WFLMS
WO-2	Toshio Ohshiro	President of ISLSM	Certification of International Medical Laser Specialist
WO-3	Isaac Kaplan	Founder of ISLSM	History of International Society for Laser Surgery and Medicine
WO-4	Kazuhiko Atsumi	Founder of WFLMS	History of World Federation of Societies for Laser Medicine and Surg
W-1	Gerald Glantz	USA	History of American Society for Laser Medicine and Surgery
W-2	Narong Nimsakul	Thailand	History of Asian-Pacific Association for Laser Medicine and Surgery
W-3	Tetsuya Okunaka	Japan	History of International Photodynamic Association
W-4	Shimon Rochkind	Isreal	History of World Association of Laser Therapy
W-5	Chiyuki Shiroto	Japan	History of Japan Laser Therapy Association
W-6	Junichiro Kubota	Japan	History of International Association for Laser and Sports Medicine
W-7	Penny Smalley	Australia	History of International Laser Nursing
W-22	Abraham Baruchin	Isreal	History of Laser Medicine and Surgery in Isreal
WA-1	Abraham Baruchin	Isreal	Kaplan's Romance with CO2 Laser
W-9	Harubumi Kato	Japan	History of Japan Society for Laser Surgery and Medicine
W-10	Aisaku Fukuda	Japan	History of Japanese Society for Laser Reproduction
W-11	Umberto Rossi	Italy	The ESTM History and Experience
W-12	Kendric Smith	USA	History of American Society for Photobiology
W-13	Hayk Arakelyan	Armenia	History of Laser Medicine and Surgery in Armenia
W-14	Yoshimi Asagai	Japan	History of International Phototherapy Association
W-15	Hong Sai Loh	Singapore	World Federation for Laser Dentistry
W-16	Gu Ying	China	Present Status of Laser Medicine and Surgery in China
W-17	Sherif Awad	Egypt	Laser History in Dermatology in Egypt
W-18	Vasant Oswal	England	History of Lasers in England
W-19	Fernando Soriano	Argentina	History of Laser Medicine and Surgery in Argentina
W-20	Sharon Krishna	India	History of Laser Medicine and Surgery in INDIA
W-21	Peter Hasan	Indonesia	History of Laser Medicine and Surgery in Indonesia
W-8	Leonardo Longo	Italy	Laser Academy - Facts and Words for an Universal Specialization
W-23	Jin Wang Kim	Korea	History of Laser Surgery & Medicine and Phototherapy in Korea
W-24	David Baxter	New Zealand	History of Laser Medicine and Surgery in New Zealand
W-25	Vladimir Mikhailov	Russia	History of Laser Medicine and Surgery in Russia
W-26	Alfons Hofstetter	Germany	German Association of Laser Medicine (DGLM)
W-27	Ming-Chien Kao	Taiwan	History of Laser Medicine and Surgery in Taiwan
W-28	Tran Hau Khang	Vietnam	History of Laser Medicine in Vietnam
W-29	Jean Abitbol	France	History of Laser Medicine and Surgery in France
W-30	Adam Mester	Hungary	History of Laser Medicine and Surgery in Hungary
W-31	Jan Tunér	Sweden	History of Laser Medicine and Surgery in Sweden
W-32	Roberta Chow	Australia	History of Laser Medicine and Surgery in Australia
W-33	Vasant Oswal	England	History of European Laser Association

3. Online Journal *LASER THERAPY*

On March 12th, 2010, the quarterly journal *Laser Therapy* started to open to the public online in the website of J-STAGE (Japan Science and Technology Information Aggregator, Electronic), which is the sharing system of online journals run by Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST). *Laser Therapy* is the official journal of the WFSLMS and the other five societies and associations: the International Society for Laser Surgery and Medicine (ISLSM), the International Phototherapy Association (IPTA), the Asian-Pacific Association for Laser Medicine and Surgery (APALMS), the Japanese Society for Laser Reproduction (JaSLaR), the Japan Association for Laser Medicine and Sports Science (JALMSS).



Now the latest issue Vol.19 - No.1, March 2010 issue, is shown and will be followed by the next issue in June. We hope you will visit the site:

<http://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/browse/islsm>

For more information and subscription for the printed issues, please contact the secretariat of the IPTA:

TEL: +81-3-5269-1403, FAX: +81-3-5269-1410, Email: lasertherapy@jml.co.jp

We appreciate your continuing support for *Laser Therapy*.

4. The 13th Asian-Pacific Association for Laser Medicine & Surgery (APALMS)

The Asian Pacific Association for Laser Medicine & Surgery (APALMS) was officially founded in Tokyo in 1985, and the first scientific meeting was held in Tokyo (President: Kazuhiko Atsumi) that year. The purpose of the APALMS is not only to deliver academic information but also present technological, industrial and social innovations.

The 13th meeting will be held in Japan after an interval of 25 years. It is a great pleasure for me to announce that the 13th Congress of the APALMS will be held in the beautiful Japanese Alps from October 8th to 9th 2010, in Suwa City, Nagano Prefecture, a recent host of the Winter Olympics. Suwa City is famous as a summer resort and is situated on a beautiful plateau, with a lake and fantastic hot springs.

I am also proud to announce that the International Laser License System (ILLiS) initiative, which was revised from the 1st International Medical Laser Specialist (IMeLaS) course in the joint congress Laser Tokyo 2009 last November/December, will take place on October 6th and 7th, before the 13th APALMS. Full information on the IMeLaS course, including an application form, can be found on the website:

<http://shinanoiryo.heteml.jp/htdocs/apalms/>

October is a marvellous season in Nagano, with the wonderful colors of autumn reflected in the mirror-still lake on the shores of which the congress hotel is located. I heartily encourage you to attend this meeting to fill your mind with the intellectual fruits of the meeting, your stomachs with the tasty local delicacies and rice wines, and your eyes with the autumnal beauty of Suwa City in October. You will be made most welcome!



Yoshimi Asagai, MD

President of the 13th Congress of APALMS

Chairman of the Board, Shinano Handicapped Children's Hospital
Visiting Professor of Orthopedic Surgery, Tokyo Medical University

The 13th Congress of APALMS

Asian Pacific Association for Laser Medicine & Surgery

October 8th~9th 2010

**IN Suwa City,
Nagano, Japan**

**13th President
Yoshimi Asagai**



Congress Secretariat:
**Shinano Handicapped
Children's Hospital**



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<http://shinanoiryo.heteml.jp/htdocs/apalms/>

5. The International Laser License System (ILLiS)

The WFSLMS and the ISLSM jointly launched the International Medical Laser Specialist (IMeLaS) initiative, a new standardized international certification for qualified medical and paramedical personnel working in the medical and surgical laser field, at the joint congress Laser Tokyo 2009 last November. It was revised to the International Laser License System (ILLiS) and its course will be given in October, 2010, just before the 13th APALMS. For more information, see the Regulations of ILLiS below:

Regulations of the International Laser License System (ILLiS)

Section 1

GENERAL

Article 1: Purpose of the System

The purpose of the system is to offer an internationally-recognized licensure for all professionals working in any aspect of the field of medical laser.

Article 2: System Governance

The system shall be under the governance of the NPO World Federation of Societies for Laser Medicine and Surgery (NPO WFSLMS), the WFSLMS and the International Society for Laser Surgery and Medicine (ISLSM), under the auspices of the International Academy Laser Medicine and Surgery (IALMS). Control of the system shall be administered from the NPO WFSLMS Business Center, located at the offices of the Japan Medical Laser Laboratory.

Article 3: Qualifications

There shall be two types of qualification, namely the individual qualification for individual professionals, and the institutional qualification for participating institutions.

Article 4: Committees

The system shall be under the control of two types of committee, namely the International Laser License Committee (ILLiC) and the International Laser Safety and Education Committee (ILaSEC).

Article 5: The International Laser Specialist

There shall be six types of specialist, namely the International Medical Laser Specialist (IMeLaS), the International Dental Laser Specialist (IDeLaS), the International Veterinary Laser Specialist (IVeLaS), the International Laser Nursing Specialist (ILNuS), the International Laser Engineering Specialist (ILES), and Physicist International Laser Specialist (P-ILaS).

Section 2

THE INTERNATIONAL LASER LICENCE COMMITTEE (ILLiC)

There shall be two types of the subcommittee of the ILLiC, namely the Individual ILLiC and Institutional ILLiC. The ILLiC shall be subdivided into the International Medical Laser License Committee (IMeLLiC), the International Dental Laser License Committee (IDeLLiC), the International Veterinary Laser License Committee (IVeLLiC), the International Laser Nursing License Committee (ILNuLiC) and the International Laser Engineering License Committee ILELiC).

Section 3

THE INTERNATIONAL LASER SAFETY AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE (ILaSEC)

Article 1: The Remit of the ILaSEC

The remit of the ILaSEC shall be to oversee the organization and execution of the didactic and practical sections which form part of the overall ILLiS training, and the subsequent examination.

Article 2: The Didactic Section

The didactic section shall be designed in such a way as to give candidates a thorough grounding in the relevant photobiological basics, to enable an understanding of light-tissue interaction, and to grasp how to manipulate parameters to achieve specific photoeffects. In addition, theoretical and practical aspects of safety with all light sources used in medicine and surgery shall be taught, with specific attention to the treatment room and research laboratory where applicable. The responsibility of the ILaSEC shall include selection of the lecturers and verification of the adequate standard of the didactic lectures.

Article 3: The Practical Section

The practical section shall incorporate familiarization with the setting up of a variety of photosurgical and phototherapeutic systems; practical safety aspects of each individual system; and hands-on familiarization with manipulation and control of system parameters to achieve the desired range of tissue photoeffects.

Article 4: The Examination

On completion of the course, candidates shall sit a written examination, consisting of a series of multiple choice questions based on the contents of the didactic and hands-on sections. Candidates are required to pass the examination in order to be considered for ILLiS certification. In the case of a fail mark, candidates shall be required to retake the entire course and resit the examination.

Article 5: Exceptions

Note that any ILLiS candidates who have already taken the laser safety examination approved in their country, and passed, need not take either the ILLiS hands-on course or the written examination, but must attend the didactic sessions. If candidates already hold both a Medical Doctor's/Dentist's/ Veterinarian's License from their own country or state and a corresponding national or international Laser Specialist License, attendance at the examination and the hands-on training will be waived, but candidates must still attend the didactic sessions. In this case, the submission of certified copies of each license is required when registering for the ILLiS course.

Section 4

INDIVIDUAL ILLiS CERTIFICATION

Article 1: Grades of Certification

Individual ILLiS Certification shall be offered under the following grades for International Medical Laser Specialists (IMeLaS), International Dental Laser Specialists (IDeLaS), International Veterinary Laser Specialists (IVeLaS). (In ascending order), C-, B-, A-, and I-: ('I' denotes 'Instructor') Only one grade can be held at any given time. Candidates for the Instructor grade in each field and for P-ILaS can be recommended by the Executive Committee of NPO WFSLMS, WFSLMS and ISLSM. International Laser Nursing Specialists (ILNuS), International Laser Engineer Specialists (ILES) and Physicist International Laser Specialists (P-ILaS) shall have no grading system. In addition, any individual ILLiS certificate holder who dies while holding valid certification shall be indicated by the suffix (D) after their particular certification.

Article 2: Honorary Certification

Any outstanding contributor to the field shall be offered honorary certification in their specific area of expertise as in Section 4 Article 1 above. In the case of IMeLaS certification, Hon-IMeLaS shall be offered to the past president of any recognized international medical laser congress.

Article 3: P-ILaS

Physicist International Laser Specialists (P-ILaS) shall be entitled to teach any of the didactic courses for ILLiS certification.

Article 4: Mandatory Qualifications and Requirements

The necessary qualifications and requirements in the case of candidates for Individual ILLiS Certification are as set out in the following table.

Table a: ILLiS certification requirements

Item	Grade				ILNuS	ILES	P-ILaS
	C	B	A	I			
Application form ¹	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Licence to Practice	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Achievement	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Specialty certification	O	O	O	O	optional	optional	optional
Examination diploma ²	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Institutional certification ³	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
International laser congresses attended ⁴	1	2	3	5	1	1	5
ISLSM Membership ⁵	0 yr (join)	3	7	10	0 yr (join)	0 yr (join)	10

- 1: The application form can be downloaded from the WFSLMS website (<http://www.jmll.co.jp/wfslms/index.htm>) and sent by email to sec@jmll.co.jp
- 2: The ILLiS examination diploma is not required for candidates who have already passed their national equivalent certification. However, they must attend the didactic course, but need not attend the hands-on session or the written examination.
- 3: Written certification from institute director or equivalent
- 4: Certificates of Attendance required
- 5: Alternatively, ISLSM Life Membership is acceptable in all cases

Table b: Table of achievements in laser application

Item	Grade				ILNuS	ILES	P-ILaS
	C	B	A	I			
Years of laser experience	0	3	7	10	2	0	10
Case reports	0	0	10	10	0	0	0
Minimum Acquired points*	40	80	200	250	20	20	250

*Please calculate total points from the following tables. Please use the sum of all points acquired in all tables. Note that for Grades A and I, candidates must have published at least 2 case reports in a peer-reviewed international journal.

Table c: Congress Attendance Points

Congresses attended	Congress Attendances	Presentations		
		Symposium / Workshop etc.	Normal presentation* (1 st speaker)	Normal presentation* (2 nd or other speaker)
ISLSM	20	25	15	7
WFLMS	20	25	15	7
WALT	20	25	15	7
IPTA	20	25	15	7
IPA	20	25	15	7
APALMS	20	25	15	7
ELA	20	25	15	7
ESLAS	20	25	15	7
Laser Florence	20	25	15	7
IALSM	20	25	15	7
Didactic and hands-on courses for ILLiS certification	40	25	-	-
Any other laser-related international congress, symposium, etc. (medical, dental, etc.)	15	20	10	5

WALT, World Association for Laser Therapy; IPTA, International Phototherapy Association; IPA, International Photodynamic Therapy Association; APALMS, Asian-Pacific Association for Laser Medicine and Surgery; ELA, European Laser Association; ESLAS, European Society for Laser Aesthetic Surgery; IALSM, International Association for Laser and Sports Medicine.

* Includes industrial/commercial presentations

Table d: Written work

Type of Writing	Author					Coauthor				
	RP	OP	CR	BC	LE	RP	OP	CR	BC	LE
<i>Laser Therapy</i> (and any other major international peer-reviewed journal)	80	70	60	50	40	40	35	30	25	20
Book chapter	80	-	-	-	-	40	-	-	-	-
Whole book	160	-	-	-	-	80	-	-	-	-

RP, Review paper; OP, Original paper; CR, Case report; BC Brief communication; LE, Letter to the Editor

Article 5: Upgrade Policy

Upgrading from an existing grade to a higher grade will be possible once the appropriate criteria have been fulfilled, including the length of active ISLSM Membership. It will be possible to apply for initial certification at any grade from the 2nd to the 4th grades (A-IMeLaS – C-IMeLaS), but applicants for 1st Grade certification (I-IMeLaS) must first hold an A-IMeLaS (2nd Grade) certification. Notwithstanding the above, if a candidate joins the ISLSM as a Life Member, then the length of ISLSM membership criterion will be deemed to have been satisfied for all grades of IMeLaS certification.

Article 6: Certification Renewal

ILLiS certificate holders are required to renew their certification every 5 years until the age of 65, after which renewal is not required. To renew, candidates must satisfy all requirements for their grade as per Table b above, and in addition must attend the full educational and practical courses, but will not be required to sit the examination.

6. Minutes of the General Assembly of the 2nd WFLMS

The joint executive committee meeting of the 2nd WFLMS and the 18th ISLSM was held on November 29th, 2009, the first day of the joint congress Laser Tokyo 2009. The following is the minutes:

MINUTES OF THE JOINT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
of the 2nd CONGRESS of the
WORLD FEDERATION OF SOCIETIES FOR LASER MEDICINE AND SURGERY
and the 18th CONGRESS of the
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR LASER SURGERY AND MEDICINE
held during *Laser Tokyo 2009* in the Meiji Kinenkan, Tokyo, November 29th 2009

The meeting, being Quorate, was opened by Prof. Toshio Ohshiro, President-Elect of the 18th ISLSM congress and President of *Laser Tokyo 2009* at 14:10. He welcomed everyone present particularly those who had come from overseas, including a good number of observers who were not Committee Members of either organization. He pointed out that the Committee Members of both organizations were almost the same people, and that the main points for discussion were very similar, so he hoped that everyone would accept a joint business meeting. This was unanimously accepted.

Prof. Krishna Rau (India), President-Elect of the 2nd World Federation meeting, then asked leave to have the floor, which was granted. Prof. Rau had very kindly prepared Presidential Medallions and Chains for the Presidents of the ISLSM (Prof. Toshio Ohshiro), WFLMS (Prof. Kazuhiko Atsumi) and the *Laser Tokyo 2009* host society, Japan Society for Laser Surgery and Medicine (JLSM, Prof. Harubumi Kato). He then presented these to the respective recipients, and was roundly applauded.

Prof. Ohshiro then presented a comprehensive history of the achievements, aims and goals of both the WFLMS and ISLSM, showing how many of them intermeshed over the preceding years. His main point was the poor financial situation of both organizations, and one of their renewed goals was to make their financial situation more sound. He pointed out the differences between the ISLSM, the oldest laser society in the world, as attested to by Prof. Isaac Kaplan (Israel), the WFLMS and the NPO (non-profit organization)-WFLMS. Under the 2009 goals, the NPO-WFLMS would undertake and control the financial side of things, raise funds, and would disburse these to the WFLMS as one of the projects of NPO-WFLMS. At the very beginning, seed funds were donated by Prof. Kaplan, and the idea was to found the Kaplan-Atsumi Foundation. However under Japanese law, a Foundation must have funds running into the hundreds of millions of Japanese yen, so that was impossible. This latest approach is, however, possible.

Prof. Kaplan then made a suggestion. He had published two books as privately published volumes, *The Wondering Jew* and his most recent one, *Rhyme Time: an Apology for an Anthology*. He presented a CD-ROM with digital copies of these books to Prof. Rau, and offered Prof. Rau the publishing and sales rights in India, with all proceeds to go to the WFLMS funds. This generous offer was roundly applauded.

Prof. Ohshiro sincerely thanked Prof. Kaplan for this. He then proceeded with a history of the Committee members of ISLSM, ending with the proposed 2009 Council members, as in the table on the following page. The meeting agreed unanimously to accept that recommendation.

There followed a discussion on the IMeLaS proposal. Prof. Ohshiro reported that, on November 26th and 27th, the first initiative course had been held. Ohshiro further reported that 17 young medical doctors (6 from Thailand and 11 from Japan) had taken the course of didactic lectures being given on both days by R Glen Calderhead (UK & Japan), Penny Smalley (USA) and Profs Ishiwatari (Japan) and Sliney (USA). On the morning of the 27th

ISLSM Council, 2009-2011

Honorary Presidents	Isaac Kaplan (Israel) Kazuhiko Atsumi (Japan)
	The Executive
President	Toshio Ohshiro (Japan)
President-Elect	Jin Wang Kim (Korea)
Secretary-General	Abraham Baruchin (Israel)
Honorary Treasurer	Sharon Krishna (India)
	The Advisory Council
Past President	Leonardo Longo (Italy)
	Other members to be nominated and confirmed by the Executive

WFSLMS Executive Committee, 2009-2013

Honorary President	Isaac Kaplan (Israel)
Founding President	Kazuhiko Atsumi (Japan)
President	Krishna Rau (India)
President-Elect	Leonardo Longo (Italy)
Secretary-General	Toshio Ohshiro (Japan)
Assistant Secretary-General	Narong Nimsakul (Thailand)
Honorary Treasurer	Vasant Oswal (UK) Mary Dyson (Europe) Sherif Awad (Africa)
Honorary International Branch Members	Abraham Baruchin (Israel) Gu Ying (Asia-Pacific) David Sliney (North America) Fernando Soriano (South America)

Prof. Ohshiro oversaw a hands-on course with a variety of lasers at the Ohshiro Clinic, and after the didactic sessions in the afternoon the candidates sat a written multiple choice type examination. All candidates passed with an average score of around 67%, which was an excellent start. As to those eligible to take an IMeLaS certificate, there was some debate as to who should be in that group. Some did not like the idea of anyone without an MD or MB ChB, DDS, DVM or PhD being allowed certification, and the word 'paramedical' caused some problems. It was finally agreed to drop paramedicals from the eligible group. Prof. Jean Abitbol (France) insisted that we must not forget specialities like the ophthalmologists. It was agreed that the course should teach basic science and laser safety, what is often called 'core laser knowledge', so that participants would recognize and know how to achieve all basic laser/tissue interactions and be aware of how to use a laser safely.

On WFSLMS business, Prof. Leonardo Longo (Italy) was proposed as President-elect of the 2013 meeting, but as he was then given the task of sorting out the syllabus for the IMeLaS didactic courses, Prof. Abitbol was tentatively nominated. Both accepted their relevant and respective tasks. All were in agreement that it should be young doctors at whom the IMeLaS initiative is aimed, not the older laser doctor who is possibly too set in her or his ways. Prof. Abitbol agreed to send a copy of the French teaching system for our information whereby there is a series of prize medals and financial incentives for junior doctors who do especially well in the teaching program.

Returning briefly to the paramedical debate, Prof. Vasant Oswal (UK) reported that the British Medical Laser Association had just recently decided to disband their paramedical group which had run for some years, because it basically did not work out. Possible reasons included different levels of education, different goals and a different income level.

At this point Prof. Narong Nimsakul (Thailand) returned to the education program, and proposed that Prof. Longo be given full responsibility for putting one together for the IMeLaS initiative. Prof. Longo agreed, but he wanted to start with medical personnel and then expand

the scope to take in more types of qualified candidates. He said he already had the course drafted, and just needed to flesh it out and nominate instructors. He also said he wanted the young doctors, not older and experienced laser users, to participate.

On the subject of courses, Prof. Nimsakul suggested approaching industry for laser-specific sponsors to defray costs and increase income. This agreed to be one of the tasks of the WFSLMS Industrial Support Committee.

While the discussion was still on courses, Prof. Rau wanted candidates to get a list of required reading some time before the actual course, including text books and selected papers. Prof. Ohshiro pointed out that we had actually prepared a handbook for the current course, and copies of this were passed around for perusal. Prof. Oswal reckoned it was an excellent resource and could well form the basis for a first-class book. Prof. Abitbol suggested that the Handbook could be a source of income. Once it was published by a reputable publisher it could be offered to candidates as included in the course fees.

Prof. Ohshiro then moved on to the various committees within WFSLMS, some of which were proposed to have their names simplified: this was agreed, as was the list of responsible members for chairpersons as seen on the following page. The post of Chairman of the Industrial Support Committee was occupied by Prof. Nimsakul, but due to pressure of work he asked to be excused, and suggested Prof. Abitbol in his place. Prof. Abitbol accepted the post.

Prof. Kaplan then said that, as another avenue of education for young doctors, he had been trying to get universities to have laser basics as part of the standard undergraduate curriculum, but without success. Perhaps with the advent of the IMeLaS program that would change. It was decided to allot this task to the WFSLMS Education and Training Committee.

Prof. Atsumi mentioned that some people will have questions and requests for education & training system on WFSLMS, however everything has both sides, merit and demerit. He believed it had been difficult to start and would be more difficult to continue, and that we would be able to improve after our experience with the current system. He concluded that we were happy to have started and thanks were due for the great effort of Prof. Ohshiro.

Having covered items 1-3 of the Agenda, Prof. Ohshiro proposed moving on. Next to be discussed was membership fees for the ISLSM. The idea of Life Membership was very attractive as it cut down on both the cost of postage and chasing members up for non-payment of fees, but what to charge generated some lively discussion. There were two basic approaches: to include the cost of a printed edition of the journal *Laser Therapy* in with the fees, both for Life and ordinary Members, or to charge a lower fee but not include the printed edition of the journal unless the member paid extra. They would then access the journal through a password-protected area of the ISLSM website which would allow them exclusive access to the journal and enable printing off articles when required. The fee for Life Membership was proposed as US \$400 for members 60 years of age and over, and US \$1000 for those under 60. Prof. Abitbol made the point that good numbers of members tempted publishing houses, but that we should not undercharge. He suggested US \$800/2000 for life members who wished to receive the journal. It was decided to table that item for discussion by the ISLSM Executive and Advisory Council.

2009 Committee Chairpersons for various WFSLMS Committees

Committee	Chairperson
Executive Committee	Leonardo Longo
Membership Committee	Narong Nimsakul
Bylaw Committee	Abraham Baruchin
Financial Committee	Toshio Ohshiro
Scientific Programme Committee	Mary Dyson
Congress Organizing Committee	Jean Abitbol
Licence Committee	Toshio Ohshiro
Education & Training Committee	Yoshimi Asagai
Industrial Support Committee	Jean Abitbol
Laser B-SAC Committee	Umberto Rossi
Official Organization Committee	David Sliney

The revised ISLSM Bylaws were then read through and explained by Prof. Rau, and were unanimously accepted with minor alterations. The revised WFSLMS Bylaws were likewise

presented and ratified.

Under Any Other Business, Prof. Oswal felt that 'light therapy' should be included in ISLSM and WFSLMS communications and projects rather than laser surgery, as non-laser sources such as intense pulsed light systems were playing a larger and larger role. After some lively discussion, his suggestion was overruled.

Finally it was agreed that Prof. Longo would have the responsibility to come up with concrete proposals for a course curriculum in some 6 months' time, to be circulated to the committees of both societies. Everyone concerned would then have 4 weeks to make amendments or suggestions. Anyone not replying would be deemed to have accepted the proposal as is.

Finally, Prof. Ohshiro thanked everyone again for being present and closed the meeting at 16:05.

Respectfully submitted

Takafumi Ohshiro MD
Meeting Secretary

7. Minutes of the General Assembly of the 2nd WFSLMS

The general assembly of the 2nd WFSLMS was held on November 29th, 2009, the first day of the joint congress Laser Tokyo 2009. The following is the minutes:

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
of the 2nd CONGRESS of the
WORLD FEDERATION OF SOCIETIES FOR LASER MEDICINE AND SURGERY
held during *Laser Tokyo 2009* in the Meiji Kinenkan, Tokyo, November 29th 2009

There being a Quorum, the meeting was opened and called to order by President-Elect Prof. Krishna Rau at 16:35, who then welcomed the current President, Prof. Kazuhiko Atsumi. Prof. Atsumi expressed great pleasure that so many friends and colleagues were in attendance, and welcomed everyone with the hope that they would all enjoy Tokyo. Prof. Atsumi then handed over the President's Medallion and Chain to Prof. Rau, who then became the official President of the WFSLMS for the next 4 years.

Prof. Rau thanked Prof. Atsumi for a very successful term as President, starting in Chennai, 2001, and proceeding through the 1st WFSLMS meeting in Tokyo, 2005 to the present meeting. He then welcomed Prof. Atsumi into the Executive Committee as the Founding President. Prof. Rau also expressed gratitude on behalf of the Federation to Prof. Ohshiro for his tremendous support during this term, and of course as Congress President of *Laser Tokyo 2009*. The WFSLMS bylaws were then read and ratified. The 2009 WFSLMS Executive Committee was proposed and agreed as follows:

WFSLMS Executive Committee, 2009-2013

Honorary President	Isaac Kaplan (Israel)
Founding President	Kazuhiko Atsumi (Japan)
President	Krishna Rau (India)
President-Elect	Leonardo Longo (Italy)
Secretary-General	Toshio Ohshiro (Japan)
Assistant Secretary-General	Narong Nimsakul (Thailand)
Honorary Treasurer	Vasant Oswal (UK)
	Mary Dyson (Europe)
	Sherif Awad (Africa)
Honorary International	Abraham Baruchin (Israel)
Branch Members	Gu Ying (Asia-Pacific)
	David Sliney (North America)
	Fernando Soriano (South America)

Prof. Rau stated that the World Federation functioned as an umbrella Society, with the main aim of spreading laser use mainly to the developing countries, in some of which Profs Ohshiro and Nimsakul had already delivered lectures and run teaching courses, so the Federation had certainly started to achieve that aim.

Another major goal was the establishment of the new certification initiative for International Medical Laser Specialist (IMeLaS). On November 26th and 27th the first initiative course was held, and Prof. Rau called on Prof. Ohshiro for details. Prof. Ohshiro reported that 17 young medical doctors (6 from Thailand and 11 from Japan) had taken the course of didactic lectures being given on both days by R Glen Calderhead (UK & Japan), Penny Smalley (USA) and Profs Ishiwatari (Japan) and Sliney (USA). On the morning of the 27th Prof. Ohshiro oversaw a hands-on course with a variety of lasers at the Ohshiro Clinic, and after the didactic sessions in the afternoon the candidates sat a written multiple choice type examination. All candidates passed with an average score of around 67%. Prof. Rau thanked Prof. Ohshiro for his hard work, and asked when the certificates would be handed out. Prof. Ohshiro replied that they would be awarded during a Tokyo Bay Cruise the following evening.

Prof. Rau then announced that the next courses would be held during the 2010 13th APALMS Congress in Suwa City, Nagano, Japan, and the 2011 ISLSM congress in Seoul Korea, with the potential for other courses including Laser Florence in November 2010. He also announced that Prof. Leonardo Longo (Italy) had been tasked with charting out the IMeLaS academic course syllabus, to which Prof. Longo had agreed with a 6-month deadline having been set. During this time an information package would be prepared to be sent to young doctors to attract them to take the certification course. The course should have 2 components: a core laser knowledge syllabus for all participants followed by a more advanced speciality-specific course. Prof. Rau called for assistance for Prof. Longo, and especially for the speciality-specific course, WFSLMS members should rally round and help, which would be mutually beneficial both the IMeLaS initiative and the WFSLMS itself.

It was then announced that the 20th ISLSM and the 3rd WFSLMS would hold a joint meeting in 2013 in France, under the Presidency of Prof. Jean Abitbol (France), so that Prof. Abitbol's centre would become the nidus of all aspects of the laser in surgery and medicine. This was unanimously accepted. Prof. Abitbol was therefore the new President-elect. Prof. Rau asked everyone present to leave a note of their email address so two-way communication could be established. When asked how we should proceed during the next 4 years, Prof. Atsumi thanked Profs Ohshiro and Rau for organizing the current meeting, simply reinforced the idea that all present at the GA were in the project together, and that we should all therefore pull together and contribute what, and as much as, we could.

Prof. Rau then called on the 'Father of the CO₂ Laser', Prof. Isaac Kaplan (Israel), to say a few words. In his usual inimitable and wonderful style, Prof. Kaplan expressed his feelings in Rhyme, which was warmly applauded. He concluded by pointing out that when he taught 'how to use the laser' it has always been a core knowledge course, and did not think that we really needed specialty-specific breakouts. Mrs. Masha Kaplan then congratulated all the organizers of the joint meeting, but had a special word of thanks to Prof. Ohshiro for having put the meeting together in less than one year, instead of the usual two years.

Prof. Leonardo Longo was then asked to contribute. Prof. Longo agreed that finalizing plans for certification could be very difficult, as different laws and regulations existed in different countries. This could lead to fragmentation. However, provided the concept of an international laser specialist certification, such as the IMeLaS initiative, was correctly presented, then that would help bridge problems to offer young doctors a good basic grounding in the core laser knowledge. He thanked the meeting for putting the responsibility on his shoulders, and avowed he would do his best.

Prof. Narong Nimsakul (Thailand) spoke next. He reminded everyone that the main aim of the World Federation was to bring laser societies together under the same umbrella, and although members should of course include doctors, dentists, veterinary surgeons and research scientists, we should never ever forget nursing and allied health workers, so he reminded everyone that they had established the International Society for Laser Nurses and Allied Health Workers at the ISLSM meeting in 1983. He then called on the current president, Penny Smalley (USA) for her comments. Ms. Smalley pointed out that the first international society for laser nurses was established in 1983 in Detroit. She reminded all present that nurses were specialists, and collaborative partners with the laser surgeon. It is the job of the nurse to protect the patient during laser surgery, Ms. Smalley said, and if she or he did not know the basics of laser science and tissue interaction, they would not be able to do that. She asked the meeting please to bear that in mind when thinking of who could participate in courses.

Ms. Smalley handed the meeting back to Prof. Nimsakul, who asked Prof. Jin Wang Kim (Korea), President-elect of the ISLSM and congress president of the 2011 19th ISLSM meeting in Seoul, Korea, for a few words. Prof. Kim thanked Prof. Ohshiro for all his hard work in putting together such a superb congress in less than a year, and hoped that he would succeed as well. He asked for everyone's assistance, as the World Federation was the umbrella society for the ISLSM, and urged as many as possible to attend and bring friends and colleagues.

Prof. Yoshimi Asagai (Japan) was next asked to say a few words as the President of the 2010 13th APALMS meeting in Suwa, Japan. Prof. Asagai said how honoured he was to have been entrusted with the meeting, which would be held from October 8th – 9th 2010. He pointed out that Suwa is in the centre of Japan, and only 2.5 hours by train from Tokyo, so everyone should please attend his meeting!

Prof. Abitbol then addressed the GA. He looked forward very much to the meeting in 2013, and thanked Profs Rau, Atsumi and Ohshiro for all of their work to date. He pointed out that it was much more important to identify the things which we could not do, rather than those we could. He also noted that one man could not possibly handle everything alone, so he really expected teamwork from all involved. In 4 years' time there would be even greater technological advances, he added, so he needed help from everyone, worldwide.

Prof. Rau then called on Prof. Harubumi Kato, the President of the JSLSM, the host organization for *Laser Tokyo 2009*. After thanking and congratulating Profs Ohshiro and Rau for organizing what promised to be an excellent meeting, Prof. Kato stated that there was a fast-growing need worldwide for minimally invasive and high quality integrative medicine, so we therefore absolutely needed laser technology and surgical techniques to meet this need. He insisted that cooperation between laser societies in different countries was essential for this goal, so the WFSLMS had an absolutely pivotal role to play.

Prof. Vasant Oswal (UK), Treasurer of the Federation, spoke next. Prof. Oswal thanked Prof. Ohshiro for a really fantastic-looking *Laser Tokyo 2009*. He then announced that the European Laser Association was once again active with a great meeting planned for May in Tarragona, Spain, entitled *Laser Europe 2010*. This would bring together the British Medical Laser Association (BMLA), Spanish Medical Laser Association (the host organization) and the European Society for Laser Aesthetic Surgery (ESLAS) under the ELA banner, so please come. It would naturally be possible to run another IMeLaS course before or after this meeting, but now that the Federation had successfully run the first course in Japan other countries would follow suite. He asked if it was actually necessary for the WFSLMS to oversee every course, and wondered if courses could be run with the approval of the Federation, accredited by the Federation and with the WFSLMS logo on the certificates. Naturally there was a lot of work to formulate everything properly, Prof. Oswal added, and that had been laid on the shoulders of Prof. Longo. He pointed out that, in the case of the BMLA, they approved educational courses in the UK, and then reapproved the courses every three years to make sure that the latest core knowledge had been included.

Prof. Rau agreed that if all went well with Prof. Longo's team, we would have a much better idea for the approved syllabus in 6 months' time. Prof. Rau then noted that there were indeed many courses run by many societies. Following on from Prof. Oswal's suggestion, Prof. Rau agreed that such societies should be approached to affiliate their courses with the WFSLMS, and be granted the use of the WFSLMS logo to be used on their course literature and certificate of completion. Societies accepting this arrangement will be required to pay a nominal fee for the use of the logo. These societies would then forward their course materials to Prof. Longo for approval of the academic level of the contents. On the subject of courses, Prof. Abitbol put forward his course for affiliation with the WFSLMS, and further very kindly offered to reduce the cost of his course to WFSLMS and ISLSM members by US \$200, which was very gratefully noted.

Prof. Nimsakul then took the floor and agreed that we should consider Prof. Oswal's idea very carefully. For example, if Vietnam wanted such a course, it could well be run by the WFSLMS team. He added that in the next 5 years it was hoped to formulate an ASEAN charter which might well encompass pan-ASEAN certification. The WFSLMS should have an important role in that.

Prof. Longo took to the floor once again, insisting that the aim of the IMeLaS initiative was completely different from the courses which are run before almost any congress, and that IMeLaS courses must be much more substantial. They must have an initial basic course, the core laser knowledge, for young doctors, not experienced laser surgeons who are already set in their ways. This core knowledge course could then be followed some months later by a set of different speciality-specific courses. They must be excellent courses, and he said that we had to change the quality of the teaching. The didactic part would be handled by the International Academy, and

the entire concept must be a long-term consideration and not just one or two hours pre-congress.

Prof. Mary Dyson (UK) was then recognized. She expressed herself extremely impressed with all the suggestions, and with the progress that had already been made. Prof. Dyson suggested that we might consider putting some of the theory on the Internet so that courses which were difficult to get to could be avoided. She also wondered how best to test the practical skills of IMeLaS candidates, and said that only surgeons could do that. Above all, she did not want to see certificates as meaningless pieces of paper.

Prof. Rau made it clear that the current IMeLaS course was only a start, and simply looked at core knowledge. Even so, the didactic sessions were challenging backed up with an excellent handbook, coupled with a comprehensive hands-on, and the written multiple choice test was comprehensive and not so easy. In future iterations of the initiative, candidates would get the course handbook well before the course, with suggestions on which key texts to study so that the examination could be extended to involve long written answers, short written answers and the multiple choice section.

Prof. Vladimir Mikhailov (Russia) was next recognized. He agreed that the cooperative IMeLaS initiative between the WFSLMS and ISLSM was an excellent start which would only get stronger with the input from the International Academy and Prof. Longo. He then suggested the initiative would take another giant step forward with recognition of IMeLaS certification by Ministries of Health worldwide. Whether the national government recognized the course or the course was presented to the government by the course organizers, it is vital to get international recognition at a governmental level.

Prof. Abitbol then took the floor again. He reiterated his idea that we must look at the initiative as a team concept, that the diploma we offer currently was excellent, but did not go far enough. He asked if there could be a proctorship element to the second part of a two-stage course, similar in concept to what Profs Longo and Dyson had already suggested. However, he agreed that we must start somewhere and the current core laser knowledge course was an excellent start.

Prof. Ohshiro then added that a government-approved system, similar to what had been suggested, already existed in Japan with a 4-grade award system: in addition to being a plastic surgeon, a physician then becomes a Laser Specialist in Plastic Surgery. However, some countries have no standards, so the IMeLaS initiative offers standards. In those countries where standards already exist, then the IMeLaS initiative should be moulded to follow those standards. Prof. Mikhailov agreed completely with Prof. Ohshiro. If the government of one country were to give support to the IMeLaS initiative, other countries would follow. When no standards exist, then the IMeLaS standards would be an excellent starting point.

Prof. Oswal reminded everyone what Prof. Kaplan had said, that the laser was simply a tool and doctors should all be taught how to use that tool in a basic and safe way before even thinking about speciality-specific training. They should be taught first how 'to do' laser in general before being taught how 'to do' laser surgery. Prof. Oswal stated that he had run an intensive ENT course in the UK for 26 years with some excellent teaching tools. The participants got 20 questions before the course, and then the same 20 questions after the course: this way they know how much they had absorbed. He also wondered about CME credits for the current IMeLaS initiative.

It was then pointed out that pan-European certification was much simpler because of the Bologna Agreement. This would be equally the case if a pan-ASEAN accord could be reached.

Prof. Nimsakul then talked about disaster preparedness from the point of the need for many trained medical personnel. The IMeLaS course could be taken as basic requirements for surgeons in areas prone to catastrophic disasters, natural or otherwise. Then we could have medical teams who were laser cognizant, which would be a great step forward. That must also be a consideration of the WFSLMS goals.

Prof. Atsumi mentioned that some people will have questions and requests for education & training system on WFSLMS, however everything has both sides, merit and demerit. He believed it had been difficult to start and would be more difficult to continue, and that we would be able to improve after our experience with the current system. He concluded that we were happy to have started and thanks were due for the great effort of Prof. Ohshiro.

Prof. Rau stated that we had had a most fruitful discussion, and that we could expect to hear from him for our greater participation in WFSLMS activities. Prof. Atsumi agreed, saying that greater effort to obtain high level laser surgery should be made at a global level. Prof. Rau thanked Profs Ohshiro and Atsumi again for all their efforts, and said how much he was looking forward to the next 4 years. After thanking everyone for coming and participating, Prof. Rau closed the meeting at 17:40.

Respectfully submitted,

Toshio Ohshiro MD PhD,
WFSLMS Secretary-General.

8. WFSLMS Articles of Association and Bylaws

The following is the WFSLMS Articles of Association and Bylaws adopted on November 29th, 2009:

WFSLMS Articles of Association and Bylaws

1: Name & Address

The name of the Federation is the World Federation of Societies for Laser Medicine and Surgery (WFSLMS). The WFSLMS address will be the same as the current Secretary-General, and the WFSLMS will act as an umbrella society, with the International Society for Laser Surgery and Medicine (ISLSM) as the main partner society.

2: Aims

The WFSLMS aims are:

- to provide a forum for cooperation between Member Societies
- to promote laser medicine and surgery
- to promote medical laser research, development and education
- to provide internationally-recognized accreditation, together with the ISLSM, for medical laser specialists

3: Federation Membership

- a) WFSLMS membership is open to any recognised medical laser association, who must then apply to the WFSLMS to become a recognized Member Society.
- b) Any medical laser society is welcome to apply for WFSLMS membership, in writing, to the current Secretary-General. Once their application is accepted, the new Member Society must report the number of their members to the WFSLMS Secretary-General. If any Member Society behaves badly or causes problems for the WFSLMS then their membership can be withdrawn by the WFSLMS executive.
- c) The maximum representatives for Member Societies is 4, depending on the size of the society membership: from 100 to 600, 1 representative; 601 – 1100, 2; 1101-2100, 3 and over 2101 members, 4.
- d) Member Societies may resign from the Federation at any time, in writing to the Secretary-General.
- e) If the contact address of a Member Society changes, they must write to the Secretary-General with the new address.

4: Organization of the Federation

- a) Executive Committee
 - i: There will be 7 members in the Executive Committee: The President, Secretary-General, Assistant Secretary-General, Scientific Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, President-Elect and immediate past President, plus an international Council.
 - ii: The President will begin his term at the Representative Assembly of the meeting of which he is president, after approval of the Membership.
 - iii: All the Executive Committee members must be approved by the Membership, and will serve for 4 years except for the Secretary-General and Hon. Treasurer who will have 8 years, for the sake of continuity.
 - iv: Executive Committee members will be proposed in writing and elected by the members' vote at a Representative Assembly.
 - v: The job of the Executive Committee is to make sure the Federation holds regular meetings and to have a Representative Assembly every 4 years.
- b) If any subcommittee is required, the Executive Committee will appoint them, but all members must be representatives of a Federation Member Society.
- c) Each WFSLMS congress will have its own Organizing Committee, separate from the Executive Committee
- d) There will be two permanent standing subcommittees, one to look after the Bylaws, and one to look after the Federation's finances. The members will always come from the Executive Committee.
- e) Federation Representative Assembly
 - i: There will be a Federation Representative Assembly every 4 years.

- ii: The Agenda of the Assembly must contain acceptance of the Minutes of the previous Assembly, the President's report, the Treasurer's report, and the election of the new Executive Committee members.
 - iii: A list of new Federation Member Societies may be presented at the Representative Assembly.
 - iv: Changes may be made to the Membership fees at the Assembly.
 - v: The location of the following Representative Assembly will be decided, and its President, who will then join the Executive Committee as President-Elect.
 - vi: The new Executive Committee will take over their posts.
- f) Meetings
- i: The Federation President, or an elected representative from the Executive Committee, will chair all meetings.
 - ii: The Secretary-General must keep written records of all meetings (the Minutes). If the Secretary-General is not at a meeting, another member of the Executive Committee must take the minutes.
 - iii: If the vote at a meeting is tied, the President will always have the power to make the final decision.
 - iv: Voting at meetings will always be made by raising hands, except for secret voting for Executive Committee members.
All Member Societies can vote by written proxy if they cannot attend a meeting.
- g) Federation Projects
Federation projects shall be decided on a regular basis by the Executive Committee, and appended to these Bylaws as Schedule 1 below.
- h) Funding
Funding of the Federation will be realized from fees charged for IMeLaS certification and accreditation as set out in the document "World Federation of Societies for Laser Surgery and Medicine Certification: Criteria for INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL LASER SPECIALISTS" attached hereto as Schedule 2. Additional funding will come from a share of any net profits from WFSLMS meetings, as in Article 5(f) below.

5: Congresses

- a) The Federation Congress will be held every 4 years at the same time and usually in the same place as the ISLSM meeting, and will be run by the congress organizing committee.
- b) The choice for the next meeting in 4 years time, and its President, will be presented at each congress.
- c) The written proposal for each congress must be sent to the Executive Committee, and must include a Representative Assembly.
- d) The Organizing Committee must keep the Membership informed about their meeting, and must send out announcements to all the Membership at least one year in advance of the meeting.
- e) Anyone who pays the Congress registration fee is entitled to attend the Congress, but only recognized representatives of Member Societies can attend the Representative Assembly and vote at it.
- f) Each organizing committee is responsible for fixing their registration and other congress fees, and must report on the congress finances at least six months after the end of the congress. At least 50% of any profits from a congress must be paid into the Federation funds. The Executive Committee may offer funds in advance to a congress organizing committee to prepare announcements, *et cetera*, but these funds must be paid back after the congress.
- g) The official language of all congresses will be English, although simultaneous interpretation may be offered by each congress organizing committee.

6: Finances

- a) The Federation financial year is from January 1st to December 31st of the same year.
- b) The Hon. Treasurer is responsible for banking and managing the Federation funds.
- c) If the Federation decides to make any investments, they must be in the Federation's name, and all profits from these investments belong to the Federation. All investments must be signed by both the Hon. Treasurer and the President.
- d) If the Federation is closed down, any excess funds will be donated to a charity chosen by the Executive Committee.
- e) The Federation will be organized as a non-profit group.

7: Federation Newsletter

The Federation will issue a Newsletter to keep the Membership informed about Federation events.

8: Voting and Changes to the Bylaws

- a) Voting will be by the majority decision. In the event of a tied vote, the President has the power to make the final decision. If a Member Society representative cannot attend a meeting, they can send in their

proxy vote in writing, and indicate who they wish to hold their vote (usually the President or Secretary-General).

- b) Changes to the Bylaws
- i: Changes to these Bylaws can only be made and voted on at a Representative Assembly.
 - ii: Any proposed change has to be made in writing to the Secretary-General at least 3 months before a Representative or Special Assembly. Any change has to be voted on at the meeting.
 - iii: These bylaws cannot be changed without an advance written note to the Secretary-General.
 - iv: Only if the majority of representatives (more than 50% of those present who are entitled to vote) vote for any change, then the Bylaws can be changed.

SCHEDULE 1 to the WFSLMS BYLAWS

Planned Projects of the World Federation of Societies for Laser Surgery and Medicine

1. Grant Project for International Medical Laser License (GP-IMeLL)
2. International Project of Medical Laser Education & Training (IP-MeLET)
3. International Project of New Laser Treatment (IP-NeLT)
4. International Supporting Project of Medical Laser Related Societies (ISP-MeLRS)
5. International Supporting Project of Medical Laser Related Industries (ISP-MeLRI)
6. International Project of Laser Blood Saving Campaign (IP-Laser B-SAC)
7. International Cooperation Project of World Official Organizations and Social Groups (ICP-WOOS)

SCHEDULE 2 to the WFSLMS BYLAWS

World Federation of Societies for Laser Surgery and Medicine Certification Criteria for INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL LASER SPECIALISTS

General Information

The WFSLMS will certify and grade candidates for International Medical Laser Specialist (IMeLaS) certification according to the following three criteria:

- 1: Attendance at, and Membership of, international laser societies and associations.
- 2: The candidate's experience in laser surgery and/or medicine since attaining membership of their respective laser societies.
- 3: The candidate's contributions to laser surgery and medicine through oral presentations at the congresses of their respective laser societies and associations, and their contributions to the laser medicine and surgery literature.

Grading System

The Grading System is tentatively divided into 4 ranks, namely Grades 4 to 1, starting from the lowest to the highest grades. The ranks and titles of IMeLaS grading are as follows, from highest to lowest:

1 st Grade:	I-IMeLaS– Certified IMeLaS Instructor
2 nd Grade:	A-IMeLaS – Class A IMeLaS
3 rd Grade:	B-IMeLaS – Class B IMeLaS
4 th Grade:	C-IMeLaS – Class C IMeLaS

Requirement for application to the appropriate grade (*starting from the lowest*)

See also Table 1 below. *Please note that in the case of published articles, any article written as the first author will count as 2 oral contributions, and only as 1 oral contribution for the 2nd or subsequent author of an article.*

- 4th Grade, C-IMeLaS:** The applicant must be a licensed medical doctor of the country or the region in which he or she is practicing.
- The applicant is required to be a Member in Good Standing of the International Society for Laser Surgery and Medicine (ISLSM).
 - The applicant is required to pass an examination after participating in a course of instruction in laser safety, and a practical hands-on session.

3rd Grade, B-IMeLaS: In addition to the requirements for the 4th Grade Certificate, the applicant must fulfil the following:

- At least 3 years of active membership of the ISLSM.

- At least 3 oral presentations at the his or her respective international laser societies and/or associations, or literary contributions to recognized journals.

2nd Grade, A -IMeLaS: In addition to the requirements for the 3rd Grade Certificate, the applicant must fulfil the following:

- At least 6 years of active membership of international laser societies and/or associations.
- At least 6 oral presentations at his or her respective international laser societies and/or associations, or literary contributions to recognized journals.
- The applicant is required to submit medical records of 10 cases treated by the applicant with lasers. The records should include photographs to clearly show the aptitude and competence of the applicant.
- The applicant should have made at least one presentation at an international congress as a symposist, invited speaker, tutorial lecturer, keynote lecturer, or special lecturer.

1st Grade, I-IMeLaS: In addition to the requirements for the 3rd Grade Certificate, the applicant must fulfil the following:

- At least 10 years of active membership of the ISLSM.
- At least 10 oral presentations at his or her respective international laser societies and/or associations or literary contributions to recognized journals.
- At least 3 presentations at international meetings as a symposist, invited speaker, tutorial lecturer, keynote lecturer, or special lecturer.

Upgrade Policy

Upgrading from an existing grade to a higher grade is possible once the appropriate criteria have been fulfilled, including the length of active ISLSM Membership, and on payment of the appropriate fee (Table 2). It is possible to apply for initial certification at any grade from the 2nd to the 4th grades (A-IMeLaS – C-IMeLaS), but applicants for 1st Grade certification (I-IMeLaS) must first hold an A-IMeLaS (2nd Grade) certification. Notwithstanding the above, if a candidate joins the ISLSM as a Life Member, then the length of ISLSM membership criterion will be deemed to have been satisfied for all grades of IMeLaS certification.

Renewal of Certification

Certification at any grade is valid for 5 years, always provided the holder remains as a Member in Good Standing of the ISLSM. After that 5-year period, a renewal fee will be required to maintain certification (Table 2). On upgrading from any grade to a higher one, the 5-year period of validity will start from the date of the upgrade.

Table 1: Certification criteria summarized

Grade	Medical Laser Safety Course and Examination	Hands-on Session	Membership of ISLSM (minimum)	Oral Presentations [†] & Written Papers*	Submission of 10 Cases	Symposia, Special Lectures, Etc.
C-IMeLaS	R	R	0 years**	NR	NR	NR
B-IMeLaS	R	R	3 years	3	NR	NR
A-IMeLaS	R	R	6 years	6	R	1
I-IMeLaS	R	R	10 years	10	R	3

R: Required NR: Not required

[†] Must be **first author** of the oral presentation, but not necessarily the presenter

*First author of written article = 2 oral presentations; 2nd and following author of written article = 1 oral presentation

** ISLSM membership required before certification can be issued

Table 2: Fee structure for ISLSM and IMeLaS (in US \$)

Item	C-IMeLaS	B-IMeLaS	A-IMeLaS	I-IMeLaS
ISLSM Admission Fee*	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
ISLSM Annual Dues	\$100	\$100 (x3)	\$100 (x6)	\$100 (x10)
ISLSM Life Member (< 60 years of age)	\$1000	\$1000	\$1000	\$1000
ISLSM Life Member (60 years of age and over)	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400
Medical Laser Safety Training Fee	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
Hands-on Training Fee	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
Examination Fee	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300
IMeLaS Certification Fee	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
IMeLaS Certification Fee Renewal (after 5 yr)	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300
Upgrade to Next Certification Level	\$500	\$500	\$500	–

*Once only payment

SCHEDULE 3 to the WFSLMS BYLAWS
New Committees of the
World Federation of Societies for Laser Surgery and Medicine

Executive Committee
Membership Committee
Bylaw Committee
Financial Committee
Scientific Program Committee
Congress Organizing Committee
License Committee
Education & Training Committee
Industrial Support Committee
Laser B-SAC Committee
Official Organization Committee