

MINUTES OF THE JOINT BUSINESS 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 Professor 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.

Professor 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 (Professor Toshio Ohshiro), WFSLMS (Professor Kazuhiko Atsumi) and the *Laser Tokyo 2009* host society, Japan Society for Laser Surgery and Medicine (JLSM, Professor 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 WFSLMS 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 Professor Isaac Kaplan (Israel), the WFSLMS and the NPO (non-profit organization)-WFSLMS. Under the 2009 goals, the NPO-WFSLMS would undertake and control the financial side of things, raise funds, and would disburse these to the WFSLMS as one of the projects of NPO-WFSLMS. 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 WFSLMS 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)
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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. Professor Jean Abitbol (France) insisted that we must not forget specialties 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, Professor 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, Dr 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