

MINUTES of the Board Meeting of the FESTMIH

St. Deiniol's Library, Hawarden, North Wales, UK (23rd February 2002)

Present: Pierre Ambroise-Thomas, Martin Boeree, Marcel Hommel, Rolf Korte, Dominique Le Ray, Pascal Magnussen

Absent with notice: Louis Loutan

Agenda

1) *Apologies for absence*

Apologies for absence were received from Louis Loutan. It was mentioned that he was very busy and may possibly wanted to be replaced in the Board. **MH to find out.**

2) *and 3) Minutes of Board 20-09-2001 and matters arising*

- The annual fee for the Dutch society was waived for 2000 and not for 2001 as was minuted.
- RK noticed that Dr Beran, according to FESTMIH regulations, could not be a co-opted Board Member. It was suggested that he could be invited as an observer.
- The minutes were approved

4) *Secretary Report*

The matters of this report are all related to the Lisbon Conference (see item 7).

5) *Report of the Treasurer*

See appendix 1

At present the balance is € 28,000.-

In Lisbon, an extensive report of the Treasurer will be presented with the result of the audit of the previous years and a up-to-dat statement. Not all the fees were payed; the President will make a letter to all the Member Societies for payment of the fees. (**MH to write**).

An updated list of the Member Societies, their representatives, the Council Members and the Members of the Scientific Committee will be created by the Secretary (**PAT to make**)

6) *Future activities of the FESTMIH*

- An important focus of the FESTMIH should be *the organization of congresses* in tropical medicine and international health. Forthcoming conferences are :
2002: Lisbon
2005: Marseille
2007: The Netherlands
 - These congresses will be organised by the a local scientific committee installed by the local Society and in consultation with the Board of the FESTMIH.
 - On the website of the FESTMIH will be links to the websites of the different congresses.
- **Website/portal FESTMIH:** The development and the structure of the website has stagnated. This is mainly due to a lack of input and content.

In the discussion it is mentioned that the website software is not too difficult. It was suggested to have the technical effort done by “clic” an organization of websites. The name for such a website should be www.festmih.org. All Board members are asked to try to identify possible persons to carry the website. **MH to initiate.**

- ***New Member Societies:*** Several new potential member societies are discussed.
 - MH checked Ireland. There is an Irish Travel Medicine Society, but in contacts there was no response yet. MH will pursue this.
 - DLR has made inquiries for the Portuguese society of Parasitology as a potential new member. They haven't applied yet, but will apply probably before the Congress in Lisbon.
 - DLR has written a letter to Prof Zbigniew Pawlowski, Chair of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine, Poznan, Poland. No reply.
 - The Finnish Society (Dr Heli Siikamaki) was present in Liverpool and invited to join the Federation. No contact after that.
 - The meeting agreed that for the time being the efforts should be restricted to Europe and that these efforts should be proactive and not passive (**All Board Members**)

- ***Representation of the FESTMIH in TropMedEurop, TMIH Editorial Board, TropEdEurop, etc***
 - *TropMedEurop:* MH wrote a letter about this issue. In the future upgraded website TropMedEurop should be present with a link.
 - *TM&IH Editorial Board:* no representative necessary, because the TM&IH is formally not the FESTMIH Journal. However, because of the historical link of many societies with the Journal still efforts should be made to maintain this link for example to publish the activities of the FESTMIH in the Journal's editorials. **MB to pursue this**
 - *TropEdEurop* There is no representation of the FESTMIH in this body. It is felt that no specific representation is needed, because TropEd is a spin off of TropMed, but is relatively independent.
 - *The World Federation IFTM.* There is no formal representation. PAT is a member on personal title, but it is felt that there should be an observer on behalf of the FESTMIH in this body. **MH to write a letter with this request.**
 - *SHARED.* RK updated us on the status quo of www.shared.de. They commercialised their software (Colexis). They are going to establish a secretariat, they try to increase the awareness of the website to make it more efficient and more user-friendly. Furthermore, they want to make it more formal with statutes and an international advisory committee. The meeting feels there should be a linkage with the FESTMIH's website to be.
 - *The Help Desk.* The suggested help desk discussed in the last meeting has not been established. MH suggests as a service copy editing of papers and maybe the FESTMIH could pay for that as a service to authors from low-income countries. RK points out that this may be politically incorrect because of the North/South dominance.. This subject should be discussed in a next meeting.

▪ *Sponsorship*

- Generally, the FESTMIH could facilitate activities in the interest of Tropical Medicine and International Health. The Federation could mediate in sponsoring to and fro related institutions, members, projects. The FESTMIH could also facilitate activities such as publication of guidelines of malaria prophylaxis in Europe, WHO recommendations and the like. Another example of sponsorship could be the above-mentioned copy editing. Educational activities are another possibility to mediate sponsorship.
- In relation to this issue a concrete proposal was discussed that the malaria prophylaxis guidelines could be published in TM&IH and on the websites of the FESTMIH and www.malariajournal.com. The costs were estimated at € 2,000.-. MB and PM made some reservation by stating that this specific topic is more on the area of the Travel Medicine. This decision will be taken on the next meeting

7) *Lisbon Congress*

The whole afternoon session was spent on brainstorming on the next Lisbon Congress. On request of the Organising Committee the various sessions were evaluated. Suggestions for chairmen and possible key note speakers were discussed. PAT and DLR were asked to join the Organising Committee and MH and MB to join the Scientific Committee if needed.

A FESTMIH & Sanofi Synthelabo Award “Fighting Malaria” will be given to outstanding research in malaria. A jury will be formed by PAT, MH, PM, a Sanofi representative and member of the Portuguese Committee (suggested was Virgilio Rosario)

8) *FESTMIH Council Meeting*

The next council meeting will be held during the Lisbon Congress. A letter of invitation and a agenda will be sent to all Council members by the President after an inquiry is made to identify the current Council members. **(MH to write, make the agenda and sent it after consultation of the Board members).**

9) *Any other business*

There was none

10) *Next Board Meeting*

The next Board Meeting will be in Lisbon, the 9th September 2002.