



XVI WFNS World Congress
First Executive Committee Meeting
Hotel Hilton Bosphorus
August 20, 2017

1. Call to Order and Welcome: The meeting was called to order at 2:30 pm by President Yong- Kwang Tu. He reported that there will be 3 Executive Committee (EC) meetings at this World Congress. The first meeting will include reports from chairmen of Standing Committees. The second will include AC officer reports. The third EC meeting will include voting: for new member societies, amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws and elections of officers, honorary presidents and officers of the next World Congress.
2. Establishing a quorum: Dr. Tu declared this not necessary, because no vote is taking place.
3. Appointment of Parliamentarian: Dr. Basso was not present; therefore, Dr. Tu appointed Dr. Arraez.
4. Review and Approval of Agenda: **Motion approved.** Review and Approval of Minutes of 2015 EC Meeting in Rome, Italy: **Minutes approved.** Both documents previously distributed to all delegates.
5. Memoriam: A Minute of silence was observed for all who passed away since last meeting.
6. Reports of Standing Committees:
 - a. Congress Local Arrangements, Istanbul: Mehmet Zileli summarized the local preparations. The committee sent promotional e-mails to over 20,000 WFNS member society neurosurgeons, sent delegations to multiple regional and continental meetings, and received special support from the Turkish Neurosurgical Society. The Congress website, opened in

2013, received visits from 46,000 users from 76 countries. The World Congress is providing financial support for 100 young neurosurgeons. Sponsorship has been provided by 38 companies and foundations. Organizational meetings with the local mayor and governor took place, at which the governor promised extra, top- level security. The local government will sponsor the Presidential Dinner.

- b. Report of Scientific Program Chairman Ihsan Solaroglu: Dr. Solaroglu thanked the chairmen of all committees who helped his Scientific Program Committee prepare the World Congress Program. Invitations were sent to national and continental societies, as well as to WFNS committees, and some individual invited speakers. He presented the Program-at-a Glance for the week. There were 164 registrations for pre-meeting courses; 165 total sessions; and 877 talks. He noted there were 1975 abstracts submitted, 846 oral presentations, and 1119 poster presentations; all graded by 190 reviewers. The distribution of abstracts and speakers was from 105 countries. The World Congress is accredited for European CME credit. Suggestions for future meetings include WFNS speaker pool, learning objectives for talks (required for CME credit), and feedback system.
- c. Audit Committee: Dr. Ibrahim Sbeih presented the names of the members of his committee. Dr. Sbeih presented the history of his 4 years as Chairman of the Committee, appointed by Dr. Tu in 2013. He noted that he was not invited to the AC meeting, as was customary. Dr. Tu explained that the chairman of the Audit Committee was not invited to the AC meeting to save money and time. Dr. Sbeih noted that financial documents were delayed in delivery to the Audit Committee prior to the Interim meeting in Rome. Dr. Sbeih stated that his 2015 report in Rome indicated an unexplained and unacceptable delay in receiving financial reports. Prior to the 2017 World Congress, he again wrote to the Central Office, asking for financial documents. There was again a delay in getting the auditor's reports. He received the Auditor's Report on July 14, 2017. He showed copies of the Auditor's Report, which found payments of some size and importance were transferred to questionable accounts or paid in cash. He gave, as an example, the notation that the Treasurer's stipend was paid in cash twice. Another example was the transference of the secretary's stipend to the overseas accounts of another family member, which Dr. Sbeih noted was felt by the auditor to be an action which "seriously compromises audit principles." Dr. Sbeih said he wrote to the officers involved, and presented screen shots to the EC of the e-mail responses of the President and Secretary. He reported no response from the WFNS Treasurer. Dr. Sbeih conferred with his Audit Committee members and the WFNS Lawyer, who advised further investigation to retrieve all facts surrounding these money transfers. Another letter was produced from Alexander Swart, who also recommended internal

investigation. Dr. Sbeih then asked if he could present these facts to the AC, but reported he was denied. Dr. Sbeih consulted WFNS lawyer Thomas De Rave, who recommended official response from Dr. Tu. Dr. Sbeih showed email response from Dr. Tu.

The Audit Committee Report concluded: there has been an unexplained and unacceptable delay in receiving the Auditor's Report, which should be rectified in the future, by sending reports in a continuous and open manner. The Audit Committee Chairman should be included at AC meetings. The WFNS financial statements were in good order on Dec 31, 2016. The payments by cash should be rectified. The practice of issuing payments to family members is a transgression of sound accounting principles. Payments to other societies should not occur. The Audit Committee advises that a further investigation be conducted by the WFNS lawyer; the officers involved must fully account for these financial transfers. Finally, the Audit Committee recommends there must be new rules for handling officer stipends and new standards for ethical financial behavior must be established. They recommend that the next Audit Committee must take on these tasks.

Dr. Tu explained he used his \$20,000 for his secretary and translator, and for fundraising for projects in developing countries. Dr. Servadei sees this as reimbursement for expenses. He noted that the WFNS needs to approve self-disclosure and provision of receipts. Regarding the past, the WFNS has had external audits. He noted that payments in cash for non-profits is no longer accepted practice. He agrees that the procedure needs to be changed for the future. Regarding the problem of avoidance of federal taxes, reimbursement of expenses is the accepted rule of non-profit organizations. Andrew Kaye stated, as past Chairman of the Audit Committee, that this was an in-depth report. First, he noted, the role and duties of the Audit Committee needs to be clarified. Secondly, he noted that the processes are archaic and need to be modernized. He recommends a professional accounting firm become involved. Dr. Arraez provided the history of the role of the external auditor. He expressed the strong view that the WFNS and WFNS Foundation are financially very clean organizations. He also described the personal contributions of many of the officers of the WFNS for the Foundation. Dr. Sbeih responded by saying he is not against anyone; he is repeating what the Auditor and Audit Committee have recommended. Dr. A. Samii wanted to be sure that no one left the room with the feeling that these 3 officers have done something illegal. Dr. Misra emphasized there is no corruption; this is a stipend. Dr. Misra reported that he gave his first year stipend to the Foundation; 2nd year stipend to Nepalese earthquake relief, but kept one year's stipend for young neurosurgeons needing financial assistance to attend a neurosurgical meeting.

d. Nominating Committee: Dr. Kaye presented the committee's recommendations for officers and noted that the Nominating Committee had 2 suggestions: (1) having the option of meeting by video conference, instead of in-person, and (2) role of Nominating Committee be changed to vetting of nominations, but not to put forth a slate. He noted that this option exists today. In addition, his personal

recommendation is that, if this is adopted, an additional bylaw be considered, that no more than 2 AC members may be from same region.

7. Ad-Hoc Committees:

a. Skull Base Surgery Committee:

Dr. Kyu-Sung Lee presented the activities of the Skull Base Committee. There were 73 committee members when he received the list 4 years ago; he replaced these with 3 additional members: Sebastien Froelich, James Liu, and Ashish Suri. He also replaced those members who died: Albino Briccolo (Verona), Chun Siang Chan (New York), and Nobutaka Kawahara (Yokohama). He described a skull base course the committee sponsored, suggested additional courses and discussed the WFNS training Centers. He wondered what role the WFNS Training Centers should play in the work of this committee. In the Rome Interim meeting, it was decided to not issue Fellowship Training Certificates. He announced a new skull base lab in Jordan and summarized 8 courses held in the past 4 years. He highlighted a joint meeting with the Anatomy Committee in 2017 in Nepal. The next courses for 2017 will be held in Alexandria, Egypt and Amman, Jordan. He summarized his suggestions, which included naming 2 chairmen of the committee, as the workload is heavy, with more than 20 courses/year. He also noted difficulty in getting industry support and the increasing costs of cadavers. He encouraged an active role for the WFNS Training Centers. Drs. Tu and Servadei both noted the recommendation for 2 committee chairs and Dr. Servadei said he will follow this recommendation. There ensued discussion about the pros and cons of encouraging all courses be WFNS-sponsored, with Dr. Andrew Kaye presenting the point of view that not all international courses must be co-sponsored by the WFNS.

b. Spine Committee:

Dr. Enrique Osorio-Fonseca presented the officers and activities of this committee. The mission and vision were presented. The first book written by the committee, primary editor Dr. Ramani, was presented in 2013. The bi-annual conference of this committee was in Cartagena in 2014. In addition, there was a course offered in Cochabampo, Bolivia in 2014, with 60 participants, as well as a pre-Congress course in Rome in 2015. A summary of all other spine courses offered by the committee followed; these include a spine course in India, and a course on pedicle screw fixation for residents in Cuzco, Peru. A course is planned for 2018 in Tanzania; additional courses in Africa are planned. A combined course with the Neurotrauma Committee, chaired by Andrew Maas, was held. Finally, Dr. Osorio urged adoption of the Bogota Declaration, in support of WHA Resolution 68.15. The last symposium of this year will be in Perraira, Colombia in October. An additional 4th book on spine surgery is in press. Committee membership grew from 21 to 43 members, and additional countries are now represented. The finances of the Spine Committee allowed it to contribute \$31,308 to the WFNS, as a result of the Cartagena

Conference in 2014. He gave thanks for the opportunity to have chaired this committee.

c. Peripheral Nerve Surgery Committee:

Dr. Lukas Rasulic presented the members and activities of this committee. The Chairman is Mariano Sokolovsky. It was noted that relatively few departments in the world have adequate case volume to train neurosurgeons in this subspecialty. The committee has published a book in Spanish on peripheral nerve surgery techniques; it has recently been published in English. A new book is published by Springer-Verlag and presented at this World Congress. The title is "Manual on Peripheral Nerve Surgery." Multiple additional meetings presented by the committee were described. Upcoming events for 2017 include conferences in Romania, Montenegro and Serbia. Finally, EANS has recently created a section on peripheral nerve surgery.

d. Neuro-rehabilitation Committee:

Dr. Wai Poon presented the activities of this committee. A number of monographs have been published. He cited, in particular, the monograph published as a result of meeting organized by Dr. Massimiliano Visocchi after the Interim Meeting in Rome.

e. Awards to Young Neurosurgeons:

Dr. Joao Paulo Farias presented the results of his committee's selection of the 5 best papers by young neurosurgeons 64 in Rome, 102 in Istanbul. Each submitted paper was reviewed by two committee members. Every committee member read and selected the final 5 from the semifinal group of 20. The 5 best papers receive a financial award and a certificate at the World Congress. He thanked all the committee members.

f. Medals of Honor Committee:

Dr. Takeshi Kawase presented the members of his committee and their activities. They selected neurosurgeons who have made strong contributions to education and/or strong impacts on neurosurgery. The bylaws rules are that Honorary Presidents are excluded and there should be 1 honoree from each continent. Those members to be honored in Istanbul: Ossama Al-Mefty,(AANS), USA; Abdessamad El Azhari ,(CAANS) ,Morocco; and Dr. Ram Prasad Sengupta ,(EANS), from the UK. Three other Medal of Honor Awardees were presented in Rome. Dr. Tu noted that he was given the opportunity to choose the 6th awardee, after the committee chose an awardee from each continent. Dr. Tu explained he chose Dr. Sengupta because he is from Asia but had his neurosurgical career in Europe.

Coffee Break

g. Young Neurosurgeons Forum:

Dr. Ganesalingam Narenthiran presented the list of the members of his committee and a brief summary of their activities.

h. Women in Neurosurgery Committee:

Dr. Nadia El Abbadi presented the activities of the Women in Neurosurgery Committee (WINS). The Executive Board of WINS was presented, including Vice Chairman Nelci Zanon (Brasil) and Coordinator Claire Kazeki (Rwanda). WFNS-WINS meetings were summarized, including a meeting in Rabat in 2014.

Dr. El Abbadi reported there are about 150 women in women in neurosurgery in Africa, more than 70% are from North Africa. In 2014, at the AANS meeting in San Francisco, Dr. El Abbadi met with American WINS. The WFNS WINS met at the first meeting of the Mediterranean Neurosurgical Society, WINS also met at 1st CAANS meeting in Algeria in May, 2014; this was organized by Souad Bakti. A Middle East WINS meeting took place in Abu Dhabi. She emphasized that women who aspire to neurosurgery in Africa face additional problems compared with women elsewhere. Additional WINS meetings took place at the Societe de Neurochirurgie de Langue Francaise (SNCLF) and Societe Neurochirurgicale Francaise (SNCF) meeting in Casablanca. At the WFNS Interim meeting in Rome, AANS 2016, and at 2nd CAANS conference in Capetown in 2016, there were WINS meetings. Mentorship of younger women neurosurgeons is a frequent topic. Dr. El Abbadi was also a member of the WFNS delegation to the World Health Assembly in Geneva for Global Neurosurgery. The priorities of WINS are to promote a supportive environment, create opportunities, support female residents, and lobby for international fellowships

i. Fund-raising Committee:

Dr. Yoko Kato presented the equipment available and fund-raising efforts for the WFNS Foundation. She thanked Dr. Scott Robertson for all his efforts in fund-raising.

j. Military Neurosurgeons:

Dr. Uwe Max Mauer presented the activities of this committee. He summarized the 3 meetings the committee has organized, in Germany, India and Benin. The latter was the first neurosurgical conference held in this location. He also noted that there is an increasing number of blast injuries in the civilian world.

k. Committee on International Initiatives:

Dr. Robert Dempsey presented the report on the Coordinating Committee for International Objectives. Basic to the mission is to address the worldwide disparities in neurosurgical care. The case for the essential participation of neurosurgery has been advocated with increasing recent frequency: he cited as evidence the Lancet Commission Report on Global Surgery and World Bank Disease Control Priorities. He reminded the EC that Dr. Tu had declared a need for a neurosurgical Peace Corps. Dr. Dempsey reviewed the history of episodic care and stressed the need to “train the trainers” for sustainability. He noted that the strengths of the WFNS include: training centers, equipment and the Africa 100 Program. These efforts lack good follow-up and there is a need to coordinate the existing programs of individual universities. WFNS-FIENS should work to find solutions through strategic partnerships. An international curriculum is available at

www.fiens.org He continues to champion the creation of dyads: partnerships between training programs in the developing and developed worlds. He supports the concept of boot camps, which standardize training and helps to train trainers. These boot camps have been held in Bolivia, Zimbabwe, and Myanmar. A laptop-based didactic program has been developed and is in pilot testing. He stressed the importance of developing partnerships to create infrastructure to focus humanitarian efforts. Goals for 2018 include balancing participation by both dyads and individuals, and increasing scholarships.

l. Neuroendoscopy:

Dr. Henry Schroeder presented the membership of the neuroendoscopy committee. He recommended the new chairman remove inactive members. He reported that recent past efforts to establish guidelines were abandoned, as there is no level 1 evidence on these procedures. Their major effort has been courses: 9 were offered in 2016 and 7 in 2017. He agrees with Dr. Lee, who feels there should be collaboration with WFNS Skull Base Committee. He also agreed that costs for cadavers and equipment use are rising, presenting some difficulties in offering courses. He presented a schema for a training curriculum in endoscopy. He thanked all members of his committee and for the opportunity to serve.


m. Neurosurgical Anatomy:

Dr. Vladimir Benes presented the members and activities of his committee. The committee typically presents 2 courses/year. There were 2 courses in 2015, but there has been a significant increase in courses recently: they held 7 courses in 2016; 9 have already occurred in 2017 and 4 more courses are planned. This has been a total of 16 courses during the past 2 years, 2015-2017. The courses were hands-on and well received. Ten courses are planned for 2018. To date, about 500 participants have enrolled in these courses.

n. Neurotraumatology: Dr. Andrew Maas' report was presented by Dr. Tariq Khan. There will be two important meetings in Cambridge in September: the Launch Meeting of the National Institute for Health Research Global Health Research Group on Neurotrauma and the International Consensus Meeting on the role of Decompressive Craniectomy in the Management of Traumatic Brain Injury. Goals for the future work of the committee include additional efforts in promoting injury prevention.

Dr. Tu stopped further discussion because of time. The 2nd EC meeting will be at 0830 on August 22, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,



Gail Rosseau MD
WFNS Assistant Secretary