**General Assembly**

**28th October 2019**

**Grand Hyatt Bogota (Colombia)**

**13.15-14.00**

**Present:** Society President Sten Olsson, and approx. 100 members of the Society and delegates ISoP 2019.

**Chair:** Society Secretary General Mira Harrison-Woolrych

**Agenda**

1. Welcome and approval of Agenda and Minutes GA Geneva
2. Fellowship awards
3. Financial position and membership fees for 2020
4. Highlights since Geneva (governance, partnership, meetings, chapters and SIGs)
5. ISoP Advisory Board Elections 2019
6. Planning for the future
7. Any other business

**I/ Welcome**

President Sten Olsson and Secretary General Mira Harrison-Woolrych (2016-2019 period) opened the General Assembly by welcoming members and requesting approval of the agenda, as well as approval of the Geneva GA minutes which were accepted by the General Assembly (the Geneva GA minutes have been posted on the ISoP website).

**II/ Fellowship**

Fellows of the International Society of Pharmacovigilance are members who have demonstrated significant achievement and distinction in their field, including peer recognition in pharmacovigilance. Our Fellows have made substantial contributions to the discipline of pharmacovigilance through their work (including publications or similar outputs) and have also shown service to the Society, for example by involvement in ISoP meetings, and/or by leadership of ISoP Chapters and Special Interest Groups (SIGs).

In his last General Assembly meeting as President, Sten Olsson announced the first cohort of Fellows of the International Society of Pharmacovigilance. They are:

- Deirdre McCarthy, BSc, MSc
- Luis Alesso, MD
- Priya Bahri, BSc, PhD
- Giovanni Furlan, BSc
- Mira Harrison-Woolrych, BM, DM, FRCOG
The new fellows received their certificate from Sten Olsson.

III/ Financial report

Treasurer Jean-Christophe Delumeau presented an overview of the current Society’s finances prepared by the accountants in Geneva with the balance showing a surplus of EUR 66'000 as at 30 September 2019 compared to an increase of EUR 36'239 at the same time last year.

The main driver of these figures is the positive financial outcome of successful ISoP events (EUR 53'443 compared to EUR 24'016 during the previous period) combined with continued healthy membership and cautious spending policy e.g. minimising travel costs etc.

These sound financial figures permit a higher level of financial risk-taking when organising Symposia & Chapter Trainings in locations where the Society may be at risk of a deficit.

Jean-Christophe Delumeau asked if there were any questions from the General Assembly.

Priya Bahri (Netherlands) spoke about leveraging existing training sessions to other regions to be resource-efficient and at the same time tailoring them for local needs, both with a view to achieving similar levels of capacity across the world in line with the WHO-ISoP curriculum.

The accounts were accepted by the General Assembly.

The Executive Committee proposes the Society’s membership fees to be kept unchanged for 2020. Consequently, membership fees as of January 2020 will continue to be 215 EUR (with Drug Safety online) and 95 EUR (with Drug Safety online) for members from emerging countries/ Low/Medium Income countries, students and retired individuals.

The proposal was approved by the General Assembly.

IV/ Highlights since Geneva

ISoP Governance (2016-2019 period) and organisation

Executive Committee
Sten Olsson, President
Ian CK Wong, Vice President
Mira Harrison-Woolrych, Secretary General
Jean-Christophe Delumeau, Treasurer
Advisory Board
Hilda Ampadu, Brian Edwards, Deirdre McCarthy, Jan Petracek, Phil Tregunno, Marco Tuccori

* Ian CK Wong and Hilda Ampadu were not present at ISoP 2019 and at the GA but sent their apologies.

The ISoP management
Organized monthly EC teleconferences and 2 Advisory Board meetings per year.

President S Olsson thanked Sophie Spence particularly for her work regarding the training courses and membership administration. He also thanked Geoffrey Bowring’s contribution from UMC for some specific tasks.

Membership
ISoP now has over 830 members, its highest membership total ever.

The President then outlined some of the activities that had occurred during the year:

- New membership management system launched
  - Rolling 365 day membership cycle
- ISoP fellowship system defined and launched
- Professional conference organizer for annual meetings
  - Contract with 'C-IN' signed
- Planning for annual meetings and training courses 2019 - 2021
- Election of new ISoP Advisory Board & President
- Election of new EC of African chapter
- Negotiations with SpringerNature re. new agreement for Drug Safety journal

ISoP Events

Sten Olsson thanked the ISoP 2019 organizers for their work in making this annual meeting a great success: Brian Edwards, Chair of the Scientific Committee and Angela Caro Roja, Chair of the Local Organizing Committee with her team.

- Intelligent automation in pharmacovigilance, Boston 3-4 December 2018
- Mid-year training in Nairobi, Kenya 6 – 8 May, 2019
- Planned ISoP – UMC training in Shenzhen, China, September 2019, moved to Guangzhou, November 11 - 12

Partnerships

CIOMS
CIOMS Working Group XI - Patient Involvement in the Development and Safe Use of Medicines

- ISoP representatives Sten Olsson & Brian Edwards
  - Geneva 1 – 2 May, 2019
  - Basel 16 – 17 October, 2019

Springer Nature

Webinars offered by Editor-in-Chief Nitin Joshi (webinar videos now available on the Member Section of the ISoP website)

Prospects for year ahead/ Training programme

ISoP Seminar in Boston on automation in PV (02-03 December 2019)
Mid-year training course in Moscow, Russia (27-29 April 2020)
20th ISoP annual meeting in Muscat, Oman (12-15 October 2020)

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

Official launch and welcome to the new SIG:
- Vaccine Surveillance
  Co-ordinator: Dr Rebecca Chandler

Social media

Currently our social media presence consists of: Twitter (@ISoPonline) and LinkedIn (ISoP Group) and ISoP International Society of Pharmacovigilance

V/ ISoP Advisory Board Elections 2019

President Sten Olsson (2016-2019 period) addressed the results of the election for the Advisory Board as well as the election of the new President (2019-2022 period).
The election process was conducted by Prof. Hervé Le Louët (Chair of the Nominations Committee and Past President).

The results of the new board were announced as follows: Among the 21 pre-selected candidates, the following 10 received the highest number of votes and were considered elected as Board Members of ISoP.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name, Given name</th>
<th>Number of votes</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Chandler, Rebecca</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>Elected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Delumeau, Jean-Christophe</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>Elected</td>
</tr>
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Elections of the new President by the Advisory Board:

**ISoP President**  
**Harrison-Woolrych, Mira received 5 votes**

Chandler, Rebecca received 4 votes  
Petracek, Jan received 1 vote

Prof Hervé Le Louët warmly congratulated Dr Mira Harrison-Woolrych, the new ISoP President (the first woman to hold this role).

Further to the Advisory Board elections, the new Governance structure of ISoP includes the following Board (elected in September) and Executive Committee members.

The General Assembly welcomed the new elected Board members and the Executive Committee as follows:

**ISoP Executive Committee**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harrison-Woolrych</td>
<td>President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chandler, Rebecca</td>
<td>Vice President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCarthy, Deirdre</td>
<td>Secretary General</td>
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<tr>
<td>Delumeau, Jean-Christophe</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
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</tbody>
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**Advisory Board**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Caro Rojas, Angela</td>
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<tr>
<td>Petracek, Jan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarapués, Monica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trifiro, Gianluca</td>
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<tr>
<td>Younus, Manal</td>
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<td>Zhang, Li</td>
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* Jan Petracek and Li Zhang were not present at the 2019 ISoP Annual Meeting and, for this reason, were not able to attend the General Assembly but sent their apologies.

The following persons are no longer members of the Executive Committee and Advisory Board:
Sten Olsson (who becomes Past President), Ian CK Wong, Hilda Ampadu, Brian Edwards, Phil Tregunno, and Marco Tuccori.

Sten Olsson thanked all out-going members of the Executive Committee by distributing a certificate to each of them.

He then warmly congratulated the new ISoP President Dr Mira Harrison-Woolrych who was ISoP Secretary General 2016-2019 and wished a successful work to the new Executive Committee and Board. The new President Dr Mira Harrison-Woolrych thanked also Sten Olsson as outgoing President and the previous Executive Committee members to have paved the way to the ISoP future.

During her first Presidential address, the newly elected President Dr Mira Harrison-Woolrych outlined her vision for ISoP and pharmacovigilance during the next three years, in the context of patient-centred care. She also introduced the new members of the ISoP Executive Committee and Advisory Board, explaining their new roles in the Society.

Mira Harrison-Woolrych explained also her wish to appoint two ISoP Regional Leaders for each of the 8 global areas where members live and work. The idea is that these regional leaders - liaising with ISoP local Chapter Heads and the ISoP Advisory Board- will work to recruit new members and represent existing ISoP members in the region, for example in suggesting possible meetings or other ISoP activities.

- Africa  
  Sten Olsson and African chapter rep
- Asia  
  Jean-Christophe Delumeau and Li Zhang
Remarks from the audience

Prof. A. Dodoo (from Ghana) queried why there is no African representative from the list of the Regional leaders in Africa on the new ISoP Board. S Olsson explained that unfortunately no African candidate was elected at the Advisory Board election last September, but as confirmed by Dr Mira Harrison-Woolrych, ISoP will work with the new elected Executive Committee of the African chapter to select one representative from that Committee to join Sten Olsson in representing the Africa region in the new structure.

Prof. Rachida Soulaymani (from Morocco) expressed her views about the origin of the African chapter and the use of the ASoP acronym which makes no distinction between the African chapter and ASoP which she is leading as a separate organization from the Africa chapter. She contended that ISoP therefore should not attempt to change the management of ASoP or conduct elections which would affect ASoP.

The discussion to clarify the confusion about ASoP and the African Chapter continued after the General Assembly.

We are looking forward to seeing all members and other colleagues at the next ISoP Annual Meeting in Muscat, Oman 12 to 15 October 2020.

The meeting closed at 14.00

Signature:          Date:

Sten Olsson, President             Mira Harrison-Woolrych, Secretary-General