



## World Association of Societies of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (WASPALM)

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#### President Elect

Masami Murakami, Japan

#### Secretary Treasurer

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#### Past President

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Robby Bacchus

#### Vice President

Roberto Verna

#### Treasurer

Henry Travers

#### Secretary

Lai Meng Looi

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# MINUTES WASPALM House of Representatives Meeting Wednesday November 18, 2015 Cancun, Mexico



## World Association of Societies of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (WASPALM)

### Minutes of the WASPaLM House of Representatives Meeting

1130-1345 ET, Wednesday November 18, 2015

Contoy Room, Cancun Centre, Cancun, Mexico

Present: Dr. Lai Meng Looi, Chair  
Dr. Stewart Bryant  
Dr. Jagdish Butany  
Dr. Nairo Massakazu  
Dr. Marilene Melo  
Dr. Gamze Mocan  
Dr. Massami Murakami  
Dr. Michael Oellerich  
Dr. Jorge Olmedo  
Dr. Roberto Ruiz-Arenas  
Dr. Dobrin Svinarov  
Dr. Pete Travers  
Prof. Roberto Verna  
Dr. David S. Wilkinson  
Dr. Dogan Yucel, Turkish Biochemical Society; by proxy to Dr. Gamze Mocan

Invited Guests: Pamela Lyons, WASPaLM Administrator

#### 1. Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 1130, Dr. Looi and Dr. Murakami presiding as co-chairs.

A minute of silence was observed for the victims of the recent terrorist attacks in Paris.

#### 2. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was adopted with addition of item 9 Awards Committee.

#### 3. Presidents Report

Dr. Looi provided a summary of the activities over the past year.

Committees are encouraged to use the resources of the administrative office.

#### 4. Secretary Treasurers report

There has been a significant effort over the past year to propose revisions to the By-laws. These will be presented to the membership for voting prior to the next election process.

The association is in a positive financial position and the financial results for the year are in line with the budgeted amounts.

## **5. World Pathology Foundation**

Two Gordon Sydney Fellows have been selected for 2016. In addition, a third Fellow will be supported for 2016. This additional Fellow is a person from Nepal who was originally chosen for 2015, but due to the earthquake was unable to participate. The WPF agreed to support her to do the training program in 2016.

The Gordon Sydney Fellow application form will be modified to require copies of credentials, a C.V., and a letter of reference from their current training program. The applicants will also be asked to disclose additional sources of support for the training program.

The stipend has been increased to \$7,500 – the additional \$2500 is discretionary which the trustees have the option to grant for training over 3 months.

## **6. Update on the International Education Activities/Program**

Dr. Looi presented a chart of the activities over the 2013-2015 term.

There have been quite a number of educational activities around the world in the past few years and there are plans to continue activities next year.

## **7. WASPaLM By Law Changes and Updates**

The By-laws committee has been active over the past year. The substantive changes proposed are:

The substantive changes are:

1. Change of the name of the Nominating Committee to Elections Committee, Chaired by the Secretary-Treasurer
2. Office Bearers: the Past-President would no longer be a member of the Bureau
3. The Directors would represent the six WHO regions and one for North America
4. The Membership in WASPaLM would be of two categories:
  - i) Constituent Societies
  - ii) Associate Member Societies
5. The Election process would be cut back to a more streamlined one, which would last no more than four months.
  - a) Process to be completed at least 2 months prior to the next World Congress
6. The WASPaLM Bureau would have the right to nominate a member society to sit on the Bureau, if there were no candidates submitted from that region.

Two concerns have been raised:

- Lack of succession planning if don't have directors at large and only have regional representatives
- Split feelings on whether the Past President should have a role

It was agreed that the changes will be further discussed by the new Bureau, and then sent to the lawyer for compliant wording.

The Constituent Societies will then be asked to vote on the changes.

## **8. Introduction of the New WASPaLM Bureau**

Members of the Bureau 2015-2017:

President – Dr. Masami Murakami  
President Elect – Dr. Roberto Verna  
Past-President – Dr. Lai-Meng Looi  
Secretary Treasurer – Dr. Jagdish Butany

Director – Australia – Dr. Peter Michael Stewart  
Director – Africa – Dr. Izak Loftus  
Director – Latin America – Dr. Marilene Melo  
Director – Europe – Dr. Michael Oellerich  
Director – Asia – Dr. Annie Cheung  
Director – North America – Dr. David Wilkinson  
Director at Large – Japan – Dr. Toshiyuki Yamada  
Director at Large – Dr. Michael William Harrison  
Director at Large – Dr. July Kumalawati  
Director at Large – Dr. Dobrin Svinarov

## **9. Remarks by Dr. Murakami, New WASPaLM President**

Dr. Murakami noted increased participation by members in Japan. He would like to expand membership to more societies and increase in corporate sponsorship.

Dr. Michael Oellerich will chair the Sponsorship Committee.

WASPALM needs to maintain communications with international organizations (WHO, IFCC, etc.)

Dr. Murakami will continue to work on visibility and growth of the organization.

## **10. Other Business**

WASPALM will create a calendar of events of Constituent Societies and other major meetings (IFCC) for the website.

It was suggested that WASPaLM representatives participate in regional meetings.

Dr. Looi was thanked for her great contributions to WASPaLM over her 2013-2015 term of President.

The meeting was terminated at 1345 ET.