

International Society for Social Pediatrics and Child Health (ISSOP) Annual General Meeting 2012

Gateway Centre, University of St Andrews
St Andrews, Scotland

September 7, 2012

1. Welcome

- a. President Nick Spencer welcomes those present for the 1st Annual General Meeting (AGM) of ISSOP. Congratulates the organisers of the annual conference for an excellent conference and for establishing that good presentations can be held with Skype, a way forward to improve contacts across continents. Further, Nick and some present members present apologies for absent members.
- b. In total, 30 persons are present, including some non-members.
- c. Minutes from AGM 2011 are accepted by acclamation.

2. President's Report

The President presents his Annual Report that beforehand has been circulated among members. Here are some of the highlights of the Report and ensuing discussions.

a. *Transformation of ESSOP to become ISSOP*

At the AGM 2011 ESSOP was transformed to become ISSOP, and is now a registered NGO in Switzerland. Further, the Executive Board and the Council have discussed its strategy document that was circulated to members in May 2012, and later finalized (see below). The constitution has also been revised accordingly.

A major move forwards has been to engage the organisation Kenes in Geneva, Switzerland to take over membership management, to support ISSOP in the recruitment of new members and getting sponsorship consistent with ISSOPs criterias. This move was deemed necessary if ISSOP is to stand the chance to develop as an organisation. At the same time it is recognised that the move has its associated risks because of costs, e.g., if member recruitment fails. With the current assets of ISSOP, in the worst case scenario this will be sufficient to run ISSOP for up to three years.

b. *CHILD2015*

ISSOP has increased its visibility in the CHILD 2015 discussion forum. Some members have actively participated and thus strengthened the perspectives of social pediatrics. The President reminds all ISSOP to register and take part in the discussion.



www.issop.org

c. *Collaboration with Jeff Goldhagen, USA*

Jeff Goldhagen (USA) is leading the preparation of a *Community and Societal Pediatrics* e-curriculum within the American Pediatric Association. Some ISSOP members will be contributing as authors, and there are plans for a webinar with ISSOP to inform members of proposed contents and following dissemination.

In the AGM there was no objection to the curriculum, and it was found positive for ISSOP to collaborate on its development. There was however raised concern that the name *societal* in the name of the curriculum could endanger our role as social pediatricians, to the detriment of the profession as a whole in some member countries. Thus, as a collaborating partner we should call Jeff's attention to our concern and propose a change to *Community and Social Pediatrics* e-curriculum.

The President informed that the above concern had already been raised, but our American colleagues had decided to stick to their former decision for domestic reasons. At the same, he stressed that the name is not our decision, but the Americans. The President was requested to inform Jeff that this concern had been raised in the AGM, and he will circulate around a proposal of a letter regarding this issue. Further, it was proposed to have a discussion on this within the Core Executive Committee.

d. *Participation in meetings*

Two ISSOP members represented the organisation in the annual meeting of Russian social pediatricians in February 2012. The AGM was informed by the Russian representative that since then they have formed the Russian Social Pediatric Association, and there is an interest to strengthen the links with ISSOP and become an associated member.

Two members will participate in the forthcoming ALAPE meeting in Columbia in November.

e. *Position Papers*

Three *Position Papers* are now completed, and are found on our website (Child health inequalities, Breastfeeding promotion, and Migrant's children; the two first are published in *Child: care, health and development*. Tony and Gonca are about to finalise a statement on children's rights, and it will be circulated to the membership for comments. The aim is to have it published as well. The President urges members to come up with suggestions for more *Position Papers*.

3. Report of the General Secretary

General Secretary Geir Gunnlaugsson informs, in addition to the President's Report, that the Executive Board and Council has held regular meetings since the last EC. The number of participants has varied but has included members across continents and many European countries. In total 11 members have actively participated in these virtual meetings on Skype or Flash. These meetings have mostly been technically successful.

4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer Olivier Duperrex presents the financial report (in French). It is in the name of ESSOP as the year 2011 was the last year we functioned under that name. The Report has been externally reviewed by ECG Fiduciaire in Geneva with the conclusion that all information had been provided and everything was in order. A copy of the Report was available for consultation. At the end of 2011, there were about 11,000 CHF (about 9,000 euros) on our accounts, while income in 2011 was only 1800 euros as only 32 members paid their fees. Payment can be done through the PayPal system or bank transfer. In case of problems, members are guided to contact Kenes, not the Treasurer.

The Treasurer urges members to pay their due fees. They can go to our website and renew and revise their membership status, e.g., regarding email address. A new option is to include members CVs. The database has been cleaned several times, but now it is up to the members to monitor their membership status and do the cleaning with the support of Kenes.

Current expenses include those on CHILD2015 and Kenes. In addition, ISSOP provided financial support for the current Annual Meeting to cover costs of required pre-payment to the St Andrews university for the conference venue. This will now be refunded. In the following discussion it was stressed that organisers of coming annual meetings will have to rely on their own resources because of our financial commitments with Kenes.

Regarding new members, if the AGM will accept a change in the Constitution regarding membership (see below), applications of new members will be assessed by Kenes, and discussed by the Core Executive Committee before formal approval.

5. Website

Olivier Duperrex has been responsible for the website. The website has improved, and it is informed that all presentations of the current meeting will be placed on it. Further, relevant social pediatric literature has been put into Zotero, and members stimulated to call attention to relevant literature to be included on the website. A link can be found on the Tools section of www.issop.org .

6. Constitutional change

The President proposes a constitutional change of Paragraph 5 of the Constitution to facilitate membership recruitment. At the same time we need to be careful about whom we accept so as not to have members with business links who might be interested to become involved in our work.

The main changes proposed are:

Art 5 - The Core Executive Committee has the authority to accept new members and to work with the professionals managing the membership for the organization.

Proposal for new active membership should be accompanied by curriculum vitae including list of publications of the candidate.

Art 8 - Delegates the approval for the admission and expulsion of members to the Core Executive committee;

The proposal is accepted by acclamation of those present.

7. Election to Core Executive

According to ISSOP Constitution there are two main bodies of ISSOP, i.e., the Core Executive Committee and the Council. The Core EC is expected to meet every month while the Council meets twice a year, i.e. once at the AGM and once in-between conferences.

The President Nick Spencer, the Secretary General Geir Gunnlaugsson and the Treasurer Olivier Duperrex are confirmed in their roles. On behalf of the Executive Committee, the President proposes five candidates for the Core EC, based on their active participation in the Executive Committee during the last 1-2 years. The names of those five were decided on the basis of prior consultation of total 11 members who had actively participated in virtual meetings. Those proposed to be members of the Core EC are Luis Martin (Spain), Zsuzsanna Kovacs (Hungary), Gonça Yilmaz (Turkey), Tony Waterston (UK), and Manuel Katz (Israel). In line with the constitution, in the first election to the Core, two candidates sit there for two years. The proposal is accepted by acclamation.

The President proposes a more thorough discussion on the composition of the Council. Members need to consider, e.g., regional representation, national societies, and co-opted members. The President will circulate around some ideas on the composition of the Council, after discussion in the Core EC.

8. Melbourne meeting 2013

As decided in earlier AGM, ISSOPs annual meeting will be held in Melbourne, Australia, August 24-29, 2013, i.e., during the bi-annual conference of the IPA – International Pediatric Association (see <http://www.ipa-world.org/page.php?id=160>). The President urges members to accept our participation as a challenge for ISSOP. The conference will be embedded within the IPA conference activities. This is a major opportunity to expose ISSOP and its activities to a large group of pediatric health professionals and work closely with the pediatric colleagues in Australia.

It is suggested by members that reminders about the IPA conference should include reference to the embedded ISSOP conference. The President will contact Niel Wigg (Australia), an ISSOP member and in the local IPA organising conference, regarding this issue. There are suggestions to focus ISSOP conference activities on disability (e.g., based on the recently released World Report on Disability, see http://www.who.int/disabilities/world_report/2011/en/index.html), social circumstances of children, and child protection issues.

The President has been in close collaboration with the local organisers, and participated in their meetings, last time in November 2011. ISSOP has suggested that one of the key note speakers of the IPA conference should be professor Lennart Köhler. Lennart informs those present that he has still not been approached. It is highlighted that next year Lennart will be 80 years and that his input to the IPA conference thus highly relevant and illuminating for the social pediatric cause. The President will follow-up on this with the conference organisers.

Members are urged to follow deadlines for active participation in the conference, including abstract presentations.

Shanti Rahman (Australia) expresses interest in organising something for ISSOP members in Sidney either before or after the conference, if reasonable number of people are interested.

9. ISSOP meeting in Sweden in 2014

Anders Hjern, Lennart Köhler and Staffan Jansson invite ISSOP to held its conference in Sweden in 2014. It is suggested by Lennart that the theme of the conference to be that of measurement and indicators on the child health in various settings. The use of measurement will be used as an umbrella and allow participants to penetrate the issues deeper and analyse in the social pediatric context. It is left up to the organisers to decide where to have the meeting while the first choice is within the premises of the Nordic School of Public Health in Gothenburg. Yet, cities like Stockholm and Malmö are also possible candidates. Also, it is left to the organisers to decide which time to have the conference (June-October) with the aim to attract most attention from local social pediatric practitioners.

10. Summer School in Zagreb in November 2012

Milivoj Jovancevic (Croatia) invites members to the coming 4th Course of the European School of Social Pediatrics, held in Zagreb, Croatia Nov 15-17, at the Zagreb School of Medicine (<https://www.quovadis.hr/issop/>). The theme is „Adverse factors influencing early child development“. Brochure on the conference is distributed to present members and all invited to participate

and/or distribute information to fellow colleagues. All professionals working with children are welcome.

11. CHILD 2015

Tony Waterston (UK) presents the website that currently includes more than 2000 members. There has been discussion on many interesting topics, such as baby boxes, medication on diarrhea, and social determinants, with input from ISSOP members. ISSOP members have organised two webinars in June 2012 and another on overmedication is in the pipeline. Further issues to address include advocacy for child rights and health, research, etc. Tony urges members to bring up topics that could be used for recruitment to ISSOP, as there is interest out there.

Members call attention to the importance to merge different platforms on related issues to ease the burden of letters in discussion forum like CHILD 2015.

12. Leonardo application

Tony presents to the AGM that our second application for Leonardo funds for e-learning programme on Children's Rights was not successful despite receiving high score. Only two countries (UK and Spain) accepted to fund the program, but at least three are required. The group of ISSOP members behind the application met during lunch earlier today where it was decided to revise the application in line with received comments and apply for the third and last time.

13. ISSOP/ECPC survey

Luis Martin (Spain) presents the ongoing work regarding a survey on the work of primary health care pediatricians. It will be directed principally towards pediatricians working in Central and Eastern Europe. This work was initiated under the umbrella of the ECPCP (European Confederation of Primary Care Paediatric Organizations). The survey questionnaire will be circulated among ISSOP members. In addition to Luis, then Manuel Katz (Israel) and Zsuzanna Kovacs (Hungary) will collaborate on this survey in the name of ISSOP.

14. Any Other Business

As the conference venue had to close, there was no time to discuss AOB.

St Andrews, September 7, 2012

*Geir Gunnlaugsson
General Secretary*