Minutes of Board Meeting of IFAO during the ASAIO congress

Hyatt Regency Hotel in Chicago

7-9 PM, June 23, 2017

Attendees:

Board Members: Profs. Stegmayr, Masuzawa, Ash (non-voting), Matsuda, Schima, Fissell, Wearden, Slaughter.

Invited Guests: Profs. Peter Ivanovich, Yoshiyuki Taenaka, Akjo Kishida, Jennifer Conway (ASAIO Board Member) and Ms. Angela Hadsell (Executive Editor of Artificial Organs)

1. Opening of the meeting: Prof. Stegmayr opened the meeting with words of welcome and thanks for the Board’s support of IFAO.

2. Report of activities through 2016/2017: Prof. Stegmayr distributed a report on activities IFAO in the years 2016-2017, as follows:

“IFAO governors and representatives have participated and presented at many meetings of our member societies:

ASAIO congress in San Francisco June 2016

A 30 minutes session included:

**IFAO-1 Hemodialysis in Japan**

*Kenichi Matsuda , Yamanashi, Japan (JSAO)*

**IFAO-2 ESAO-Congress information Warsaw 2016**

*Dimitrios Stamatialis, Enschede, Netherlands*

**IFAO-3 IFAO and ESAO Joint Congress- September 2017**

*Heinrich Schima, Vienna, Austria*

ESAO congress in Warzawa September 2016

a 45 min session was included:

**IFAO-1 DEVELOPMENT OF VARIOUS AUTOLOGOUS BIOPROSTHETIC GRAFTS WITH A UNIQUE IN-BODY TISSUE**

**ENGINEERING**

*Takewa Y, National Cerebral and Cardiovascular Center, Osaka, Japan*

**IFAO-2 WHY IS SURVIVAL ON HEMODIALYSIS DIFFERENT IN JAPAN, EUROPE AND USA? PLAUSIBLE OPTIONS**

*Stegmayr B, University Hospital of Northern Sweden, Umea, Sweden*

**IFAO-3 HEMODIALYSIS IN JAPAN**

*Matsuda K, University Yamanashi School of Medicine, Yamanashi, Japan*

JSAO congress in Yonaga November, 2016

a 2 hour slot was prepared:

**IFAO-1　Hemodialysis in Japan**

*Kenichi Matsuda (JSAO)*

**IFAO-2　Apheresis data from the World Apheresis Registry**

*Bernd Stegmayr（Department of Public Health and Clinical Medicine, University of Umea, Sweden）*

**IFAO-3　An evaluation of four modes of low-dose anticoagulation during hemodialysis**

*Bernd Stegmayr（Department of Public Health and Clinical Medicine, University of Umea, Sweden）*

**IFAO-4　New arterial cannula design for bidirectional peripheral perfusion**

*Saad Abdel-Sayed（Research laboratory, Department of cardiovascular surgery）*

ASAIO congress in Chicago June 2017

a 1 hour slot was prepared:

Chairs: Bernd Stegmayr, Umea University, Umea, AC, Sweden and Marvin Slepian, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

**IFAO-1 Biomedical Application of Decellularized Tissues**

Akio Kishida, Tokyo Medical and Dental University, Tokyo, Japan –representing JSAO

**IFAO-2**  **Effectively Increasing Safety and Survival of VAD Patients**

Heinrich Schima, PhD, Medical University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria - representing ESAO

**IFAO-3 Academia-Industry Collaboration for Medical Device Innovation Supported by Government Strategy in Japan**

Yoshiyuki Taenaka, MD, PhD, National Cerebral & Cardiovascular Ctr, Suita, Osaka, Japan

A symposium is planned for the JSAO congress in Tokyo September 2017. A joint program is under preparation with congress president Heinrich Schima for the ESAO-IFAO congress to be held in Vienna, September 2017.

We have had excellent help in book keeping by the Treasurer, Karen Burke (Executive Secretary of ASAIO). Secretary Ash has kept contact with the Board Members, arranged IFAO meeting activities, and performed home page updates.

The amount of 25,000 USD has been transferred to the ESAO-IFAO Congress to be held in Vienna in September, under direction of President Heinrich Schima. Travel costs for invited speakers from JSAO and ASAIO speakers will be partly covered and travel support (scholarship) to young investigators from JSAO and ASAIO and from other international locations will be supported from the other part.

The membership invoices have been paid for 2016. New invoices for 2017 are under way. The amount to be paid has not changed from a yearly 2,500 USD amount. This represents for each member society a total of 15,000 USD/6 years. This amount is repaid to the congress organizer of the member society holding the joint IFAO meeting (every 6th year) with an additional 10,000 USD (total 25,000 USD), as outlined in our Policies for Operation.”

3. Financial Report: Dr. Ash presented the summary of financial status of IFAO, as prepared by Karen Burke and our investment firm, Merrill Lynch. The overall assets of IFAO have been relatively stable since 2015. Expenses of IFAO in the past year have included only the cost of our Board Meeting/Dinner in June of 2016, payment for a website host and transfer of 25,000 USD to the ESAO-IFAO congress in Vienna 2017. Income has been from the member society dues, above described.

Action: The governors voted and decided that the book keeping was in good order.

The governors voted and decided that the amount paid yearly by each Society (2,500 USD) can be kept the same until a new decision is made.

4. Gratitude to speakers at the IFAO-session at ASAIO in Chicago: Prof. Stegmayr thanked Profs. A. Kishida, H. Schima, and Y. Taenaka for their presentations at the special IFAO session, held on Saturday, June 24. The session was well attended and the lectures were excellent.

4. Concept of future activities of IFAO: Prof Fissel and others reported of discussion held during ASAIO regarding the Kidney Health Initiative. This is a cooperative program between the American Society of Nephrology and the U.S. FDA, designed to encourage innovative news of kidney disease (https://www.asn-online.org/khi/). Other members of KHI include:

Patient organizations

Health professional organizations

Research institutions

Foundations

Pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies

Device manufacturers

Dialysis providers

US and international government agencies

Professional Societies (non-profit)

Several members of ASAIO and ESAO are active in this organization, and one particular focus of KHI has been the development of highly portable artificial kidney devices. ASAIO has decided to join KHI.

One reason for the activities are the disappointing results of prognosis of hemodialysis patients and also the increased extent of costs that the patients suffering from kidney diseases burdens budgets of the various nations. It is urgent to perform a constructive plan of action to improve the activities and increase efficacy of treatments. The initial proposal of action was for USA. However, the problem is valid also globally and therefore the KHI and FDA mentioned that the initiative will most probably be expanded to a global level.
The Board discussed whether IFAO should also support KHI in some manner. Prof. Stegmayr has initiated an e-mail contact with the key member of KHI Melissa West regarding cooperation. Discussion will continue at our next Board meeting.

During the ASAIO board meeting it was mentioned that the prognosis of VAD was different in various parts of the world. The following discussion resulted in a recommendation that future IFAO presentations focus on various fields of artificial organs where there are obvious differences in outcome in the continents even if industrialized countries are compared.

Action: To propose to the Society boards that the IFAO session during the upcomming intermediate congresses is at least 60 minutes, allowing presentations of 20 minutes from each one representative of JSAO, ASAIO and ESAO to enable comparisons and subsequent analyses of reasons for differences of outcomes in artificial organ therapy. Joint publications are suggested to be offered to the IFAO yellow Artificial Organ journal.
The first topic to be analyzed are the differences in outcome of patients on hemodialysis in the various continents. Further topics should be suggested by board members and a focus theme kept for such IFAO symposium.
Prof. Fissel suggested a more global approach to compare various data from stored blood samples and in addition investigate the possibility of a global funding, where IFAO could be one active partner.

Stegmayr will address the presidents of the Societies regarding the IFAO-slot.

5. State of the ESAO-IFAO congress in Vienna September 5-9, 2017: Prof. Schima described the plans for the ESAO-IFAO meeting. The program appears to be highly educational and stimulating, and the social program is very appealing. Many of our Board members will attend.

6. IFAO participation at the JSAO meeting in Tokyo September 1-3, 2017: The agenda for the JSAO meeting in Tokyo is completed. IFAO does plan to have a presentation session at this meeting, but details are still pending. At least Prof. Stegmayr will participate.

7. Program drafts of the next biennial meeting to be held in Japan Osaka November 28-30 in 2019: Plans for the JSAO-IFAO meeting in Osaka are being finalized. Dr. Sawa or other JSAO representative will give a presentation on the details in our next Board meeting in Vienna.

8. Structure of grants from IFAO to meetings of artificial organ societies that are not members of IFAO: IFAO has offered travel grants to national societies that are not members of IFAO, in order for them to invite speakers from our member societies to speak at their meetings. These grants have been for $1000, and have been requested infrequently but have been awarded in the past to societies in Turkey and India. The Board discussion indicated agreement that we continue to offer these grants. Appications should be received by regional IFAO Board Members, who can then to make a recommendation regarding support of each application. The board of governors then will decide by voting (can be made by e-mail).

9. Current status of Asia-Pacific Society for Artificial Organs: Prof. Mazusawa described the relationship between JSAO and other artificial organ societies that cooperate in APSAO. JSAO has taken the lead in organizing scientific meetings of APSAO, in conjunction with the JSAO meeting, or separately.

10. Cooperation between IFAO and national and regional artificial organ societies that are not members of IFAO: Board discussion indicated agreement that the individual member societies should proceed to build relationships with regional artificial organ societies in neighboring countries or continents.

11. IFAO Official Journal report (Artificial Organs): Ms. Hadsell presented a short report on the status of the Artificial Organs journal, which is doing very well. In summary:

- AO is proud and privileged to be the official journal of the IFAO

- Manuscripts submission have continued to increase year over year and we had our highest number of submissions in 2016

- AO's rejection rate has been over 50% for the last three years

- AO's circulation is over 12,000 worldwide to institutions, academic libraries, and individuals

- AO is part of the Wiley Transplant Peer Review Network

- AO's recently received Impact Factor for 2016 is 2.403

- We encourage submission of Pioneer Editorials in an effort to preserve and document as much history as we can.

12. State of INFA: The International Faculty for Artificial Organs held a meeting in September, 2016 in Dolgoprody, Russia. Various societies are able to invite speakers from IFAO and INFA on behalf of artificial organ education. The inviting society must take full responsibility for the costs, however.

13. Website improvement (ifao.org): Secretary Ash gave a short summary of the status of the website ifao.org. He updates the information on the website whenever he receives a notice from one of the member societies. He reminded the Board that the website has capability to display whole pages of information and artwork from member societies. If these are forwarded to him he will have our website designer place them in the website.

14. Plans for the Official board meeting in Vienna: We will have an Official IFAO Board Meeting during the meeting in Vienna.

Action**:** The board decided that the official boardmeeting will be held on Wednesday September 6, 2017 at the Congress site in Vienna. The time suggested is 13.30 (1.30 pm) until 15.30 (3.30 pm). The opening ceremony of the congress starts at 16.00 (4.00 pm).

15. Yearly Board Meetings: It was decided that in conjunction with the yearly ASAIO meeting an IFAO intermediate boardmeeting should be held. The Constitution states “Meetings of the Board of Trustees will take place at least once per year.” This is also necessary for the formal arrangements with the Merrill Lynch and accounts.

There being no further new business, the meeting was adjourned at 9 pm.

Stephen R. Ash, MD, FACP

Bernd Stegmayr, MD