



Minutes of the General Meeting September 4th, Amsterdam, Germany

Present: Maria Arvio (boardmember Finland), Roger Banks (boardmember UK), Eric Boot, Linda Boudwijns, Mieke Bouma, Heleen Evenhuis, Talitha van den Heuvel, Hilde Hoving, Helen de Kuijper, Arjen Louisse, Karla Magilsen, Frieda de Meij (minutes), Madzy Rispens, Frans Scholte (President, The Netherlands), Janneke Swinkels, Monique Veendrick, Marianne Vink, Joyce Voeten, Channa de Winter, Maaïke de Wit

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The president welcomed all members present, especially possible potential members. A short introduction round was held. Apologies for absence were received from Marijke Meijer, Katharina Kiss, Eva Olah, Liesbeth Sjoukes, Peter Martin (boardmember Germany), Thomas Dorn (boardmember Switzerland), Jeannie Bormans and Frans Ewals.

2. Minutes of the meeting in Zurich, November 21st, 2008.

The minutes were agreed by those present.

3. Matters arising.

Future of MAMH

Board members are expected to step down after three years. They are eligible for re-election up to a maximum of nine years. In 2011 Frans will have to step down. The board suggests asking an East European member who is active as an ID-physician to join the board. This will also give us an entrance to Eastern Europe. Frans will take action in this. Another suggestion is to appoint as co-opted members who would have no voting status but who would be available for specific tasks. The participants agree with this proposition.

4. President's report

- connection with Eastern Europe
- connection with the European Union

These topics will be discussed under point 6.

5. Treasurer's report

Maria Arvio, treasurer of MAMH, informs the members on the financial situation, which is stable. We have a small negative result, mainly caused by non-paying members and last years travel costs. Also the membership fees of 2009 have not yet been collected.

Income	
Membership	2331,00
Interest	299,13
	2630,13

Expenses	
Bank, transfer & payment charges	69,20
Memberships	65,53
Travel cost	3342,07
	3476,80

Net result	- 846,67
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6. Strategic plan

Proposal best practices (Maria Arvio):

All new ID-physicians are asked to do a presentation on their quality project during Bridge 2010.

Maria will start collecting best practice examples. All present are requested to let us know if best practices are available. It would be preferable if these could be translated for our Eastern European colleagues. Translation however is very expensive. Roger suggests that we should try to get a grant for translation. He will try to put Frans in touch with some people in the UK who might be able to help.

Heleen reminds the participants that there is a format available for best practices.

Roger also suggests sending a letter to our members to ask for their specialties and special interests so that networks and special interest groups (on topics such as osteoporosis or autism) could be formed. We could put this information on the website together with a picture and some information on the member's specialty dependent on having their permission for this information to be shared publicly.

Education of doctors (Peter Martin):

This subject started in 2006 in Maastricht to improve medical training for doctors. Unfortunately due to difficulties in communication this initiative did not succeed. Next year a working group will start to formulate what every doctor should know about ID-medicine. In the UK Roger worked on an initiative of MENCAP. They provide a basic checklist of what an ID-physician should know. Maybe we could do something similar and formulate some basic principles that can be incorporated in the curriculum of doctors.

European contacts

Frans does a presentation on the recent contacts in Eastern Europe. The fact that most Eastern European doctors do not speak English well enough, makes it hard to make contacts in this part of Europe. Last year Frans visited Bulgaria and Rumania. In Rumania Frans was very happy with the help of Thalita van den Heuvel, a Dutch ID-physician who lived and worked in Rumania for a while. We will keep trying to attract Eastern European doctors.

Finding your way in the European Union is very difficult as there is no separate department that deals with intellectual disability. We will keep making effort to get in touch with the right persons. In any case we will invite Mrs. Lynne of Intergroup for Bridge

2010 and Roger will keep sending her information. Roger will ask his contacts in the UK for their connections in the EU.

Involvement of members (Thomas Dorn)

Thomas sent a PowerPoint presentation on how to increase the involvement of our members (*enclosure*). He made a lot of suggestions, which have to be worked out by the Dutch members. Unfortunately there is not enough time to show the presentation. Suggestions from our members are welcome.

Profiling of MAMH (Roger)

Roger was informed on an international initiative on learning disability leadership. "Exchange meetings with "leaders" in intellectual disability are held on a regular basis. We could try and have MAMH take part in the information exchange. It is possible to join for free by completing an on-line questionnaire on <http://www.iimhl.com/>

Roger informs the participants of a WHO initiative, supported by the Romanian Government, to establish a declaration and action plan for the health care of children and young people with intellectual disabilities and their families in Europe. A steering group has been set up representing 52 states. Roger is a member of the drafting group. Once the action plan is set up he will pass on the name of MAMH to them and hopefully they will invite a representative of MAMH for an NGO meeting in November 2009.

Unfortunately we do not have much time left for discussion so Roger asks the members present to approve of the board's proposal to rename MAMH and at the same time launch a new logo. Suggested is "IDM" (intellectual disability medicine). This name however has to be checked first on Google.

7. Bridge 2010

See above

8. New activities

See above

9. Closure of the meeting

The president thanks those present for their contribution and closed the meeting.