

Minutes of the ICRS General Assembly 2022

Hotel Intercontinental Berlin – Room Bellevue
Thursday, April 14, 2022, from 17:30-19:30

Quorum & Absolute Majority on April 14, 2022

Total Members with voting rights: 942

Quorum: 5% (47 Members)

Total Members physically present: 81

Absolute Majority: 42 Votes

Opening Notifications

Tom Minas welcomed all those present to the General Assembly (GA) 2022 and thanked everyone for attending the ICRS 16th World Congress in Berlin. 81 members with voting rights were present at the start of the GA, meaning that there is a valid quorum to proceed. Tom informed that there were 700 participants from 41 countries registered at the 16th World Congress, which is a great success considering the past COVID situation. He also gave an overview of the several Covid measures taken in 2020 and 2021 to overcome a very difficult situation.

Approval of Minutes of the Vancouver General Assembly 2019

Motion: A motion was called to approve the minutes from the last GA, held in Vancouver. A vote was held and the GA minutes from Vancouver were approved unanimously.

Fellowship, Scholarship & Research Committee Report

Aaron Krych gave a short summary on the two actual ICRS travelling fellowships and thanked Vericel and ON Foundation for their financial /organisational support. He also acknowledged the two Godfathers Roland Jakob (Clinical) and Anthony Holland (Science) for their important contribution.

- **ICRS/Vericel/Lars Peterson Travelling Fellowship Report 2022**

Reza Ojaghi gave a short presentation on behalf of the ICRS/Vericel Travelling Fellowship, which took place from April 3 to 15. The group visited several centres in Milan, Utrecht, Antwerp, and Berlin. The awarded Travelling Fellows were Camila Cohen Kaleka (BR), Martin Husen (US) & Reza Ojaghi (CA)

- **ICRS/ON Travelling Fellowship Report 2022**

A short video presentation on behalf of the Science ON/ICRS Travelling Fellowship was shown which took place from April 1 to 15, 2022. Several centres in Vienna, Milan, Zurich, Basel, Utrecht, Regensburg and Berlin were visited. The awarded Travelling Fellows were Jasmijn Korpershoek (NL), Sathish Muthu (IN), Emanuel Novais (PT) & Gwenllian Tawy (UK)

Report on Elections of New EB/GB Officers 2022-2023

Executive Board Elections: Elizaveta Kon went through the recent election process for the Executive Board and presented the election results. There was only 1 candidate (Jos Malda) for the position of Secretary General, therefore, Jos Malda was elected by acclamation. There were 3 candidates for the position of Treasurer (Stefan Marlovits, Emmanuel Papacostas & John Lane). Therefore an electronic vote was carried out among our membership with voting rights and Stefan Marlovits won this election by a majority of votes. Consequently, the Executive Board 2022-23 will consist of:

- President – Elizaveta Kon
- First Vice President – Daniel Grande
- Second Vice President - Christian Lattermann

- Secretary General – Jos Malda
- Treasurer – Stefan Marlovits
- Past President – Tom Minas

Standing Committees Elections (General Board): The existing committees were invited to elect new chairs among themselves for the upcoming term of office as it is required by our bylaws. The following Standing Committee chairs were elected and will be automatically part of the General Board:

- Basic Science Committee: Susan Chubinskaya
- Communication & Publication Committee: Massimo Berruto
- Education & Meeting Committee: Fabio Sciarretta
- Fellowship, Scholarship & Research Committee: Giuseppe Filardo
- Membership & Bylaws Committee: Deepak Goyal
- NextGen Committee: Ignacio Dallo
- Registry Steering Committee: Mike McNicholas
- Regulatory & Industry Liaison Committee: Simon Goertz
- Finance Committee: Emmanuel Papacostas
- Emeritus Committee: Daniel Saris

Elizaveta went furthermore through the new composition of all standing committees.

Motion: A motion was called to approve the election process 2022-2023. A vote was held, and the election process was approved unanimously.

Reports of the Treasurer

Since this is the first General Assembly held since Vancouver 2019, the Treasurer Christian Lattermann presented two different Financial Reports for the years 2020 and 2021, both years negatively affected by the COVID pandemics due to the impossibility to organize physical educational events, a major source of income for our society.

Balance Sheet as per 31.12.2020

• Assets	CHF	1'054'871
• Liabilities	CHF	251'294
• Society Equity 01.01.2020	CHF	988'740
• Net Result 2020 (Loss)	CHF	<u>(185'153)</u>
• Society Equity 31.12.2020	CHF	803'587

Balance Sheet as per 31.12.2021

• Assets	CHF	1'076'439
• Liabilities	CHF	373'473
• Society Equity 01.01.2021	CHF	803'587
• Net Result 2021 (Loss)	CHF	<u>(100'621)</u>
• Society Equity 31.12.2021	CHF	702'966

Independent Auditor Reviews for the years for 2020 and 2021 have been completed by our Auditing Company BDO and were presented to the General Assembly. The report shows that nothing irregular has been found and that the accounting has been done according to Swiss law. *"...based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the accompanying financial statements do not comply with the Articles of Association and Swiss law, Zurich".*

Motion: A first motion was called to approve the financial report 2020 and to grant discharge to the EB/GB and Executive Office. A vote was held, and the Financial Report 2020 was approved and discharge to the Directors was granted unanimously.

Motion: A second motion was called to approve the financial report 2021 and to grant discharge to the EB/GB and Executive Office. A vote was held, and the Financial Report 2021 was approved and discharge to the Directors was granted unanimously.

Venue Selection for ICRS 2023

Tom Minas explained that the next World Congress normally should take place in the USA but due to the very high costs in potential US host cities and due the inability for the Office to travel for site visits, the EB and GB also looked at alternative possibilities in Europe where financially successful ICRS World Congresses have already taken place in the past. Sitges/Barcelona 2010 and Sorrento 2016 were the most successful events in numbers of participation and have therefore been approached again by the office to evaluate costs for 2023. Sitges/Barcelona turned out to offer the most favourable conditions with the expectation to stabilise our finances. EB and GB have then unanimously approved Sitges as a potential venue for the ICRS 2023 Fall World Congress and recommended to the General Assembly to approve as well.

Motion: A motion was held to approve the Host City Sitges/Barcelona for the World Congress in September 2023. A vote was held, and the host city was approved.

Finance Committee Report

Bill Bugbee reinforced that the COVID pandemic has put unprecedented stress on the financial health of the ICRS due to disruption of traditional revenue streams but nevertheless the Executive Office, under the leadership of Stephan Seiler, has done an exemplary job of managing the financial activity of the ICRS during the last 2 years. However further actions were taken trying to improve our financial health. The Finance Committee has been asked to investigate the contractual relationship of ICRS with Sage regarding the journal "Cartilage". Although ICRS had a share of 50% we have always been treated as a "Junior Associate" and the finances, managed entirely by SAGE were not transparent. The finance committee tried very hard to renegotiate a better contract with SAGE for 2 years without any success. This situation resulted in the EB decision to sell the ICRS 50% ownership to Sage for 125 K US and to initiate the creation of our new Open Access Journal "Cartilage and Joint Preservation" 100% owned by the ICRS. There was an extensive discussion about the process handling and a request to involve overall membership in the future for such important actions.

Proposal for Adjustment of Membership Fee for 2023

Bill Bugbee presented a proposal on behalf of the finance committee to adjust membership fees as from 2023 to around 15% after 8 years without any increase to cover at least past inflation. New Membership Fees 2023 were suggested as follows:

- Ordinary Members from € 220 to € 250
- Junior Members from € 100 to € 120
- Corporate Members from € 3000 to € 3500

Motion: A motion was held to approve the new fees for the year 2023. A vote was held, and the new fees were approved.

New Journal of Cartilage & Joint Preservation (JCJP)

Lucienne Vonk presented on behalf of the Editor in Chief Rachel Frank the progress of the new official ICRS journal JCJP. This new Open Access journal has a strong emphasis on joint preservation, including cartilage restoration techniques such as microfracture surgery, drilling, abrasion arthroplasty, autologous chondrocyte implementation, osteochondral autograft transplantation and osteochondral allograft transplantation. 33 articles have already been published (including editorials). Time from author submission to first decision is 34 days and time from first decision to final publication is 49 days. JCJP was already accepted within the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) in 2021

and has been submitted for indexing in PubMed. An Answer is expected by September 2022. An application for indexing within Scopus for Citescore has also been submitted and the answer is expected for December 2022.

New ICRS / ISAKOS Book Series

Alberto Gobbi reported that in close collaboration between ICRS and ISAKOS, 3 new Books have been published in 2021 by Springer and the E@Books are available free of charge for ICRS Members to be downloaded through the ICRS Member Area. Those are:

- **Cartilage Injury of the Knee**
State-of-the-Art Treatment and Controversies
Editors: Aaron J. Krych, Leela C. Biant, Andreas H. Gomoll, João Espregueira-Mendes, Alberto Gobbi, Norimasa Nakamura
- **Orthobiologics**
Injectable Therapies for the Musculoskeletal System
Editors: Giuseppe Filardo, Bert R. Mandelbaum, George F. Muschler, Scott A. Rodeo, Norimasa Nakamura
- **Early Osteoarthritis**
State-of-the-Art Approaches to Diagnosis, Treatment and Controversies
Editors: Christian Lattermann, Henning Madry, Norimasa Nakamura, Elizaveta Kon

New Meniscus Discovery Series

Elizaveta reported on the progress of the ICRS Meniscus Discovery Series which is a video production according to the concept of the documentary films and which is dedicated to young physicians as well as in a certain extension also to patients. There will be 3 episodes with a duration between 50' to 75' each:

1. Normal Meniscus: Anatomy & Basic Science
2. My Meniscus is Torn: What to do (injury, degeneration & preservation)
3. So now what, I lost my Meniscus (substitution & regeneration)

Registry Steering Committee Report

Mike McNicholas gave an overview of past activities of the ICRS Patient Registry and explained the process to participate. The registry is now available in 11 languages and the number of participating clinicians has increased from 97 in 2018 to 186 in 2020 in 30 countries. The Pathway Volume has increased in 363% with a total of 1945 knee pathways at the moment. Mike encouraged all present to make use and participate in the registry.

Education Committee Report

Fabio Sciarretta reported on past educational events which had to be held in the virtual world. There were 10 free ICRS webinars which attracted almost 3500 participants from all over the world, including viewers from Mongolia, Nepal, Yemen, and Somalia! Furthermore, 2 virtual conventions took place which attracted 460 participants and generated a small income to the society.

Upcoming events include: **ICRS Focus Meeting Cartilage & Sports**, "The Impact of Sports in Cartilage - How Much is Normal?" June 23 - 25, 2022 | Thessaloniki, Greece
ICRS Focus Meeting Ortho-Biologics - From the Laboratory to the Clinics October 06-07, 2022 | Bologna, Italy
6th ICRS Summit 2022 - Joint Preservation - Where are we in 2022? November 17 - 19, 2022 | Miami, USA
6th ICRS Surgical Skills Course - January 26 - 28, 2023 | Doha, Qatar

Membership and Bylaws Committee Report

John Lane reported on the committee plans to change the current Executive Board Member Election process to increase diversity and inclusion (Clinician and Scientist / Geographic distribution / Ethnicity and gender). Therefore, the committee proposes the Creation of Nominating Committee which will require a bylaws change approved by the General Assembly. The role of this Committee would be to evaluate potential candidates for the executive board beforehand and to provide a slate of suitable candidates for a final vote by the General Membership during the world congress. There was an extensive discussion about the possible composition and functioning of such a nomination committee. The floor requested further discussions and that the committee considers further input from members before final voting on the proposal. **Action:** The Membership and Bylaws Committee may invite a few selected members (Daniel Saris, Gerjo Van Osch and Anthony Hollander) to get further input and discuss details of the new election proposal. John Lanes remains as an ex-officio consultant to the new membership committee in charge for this project. The Membership Committee should prepare a new version and present to the EB for consideration in due time.

Communication Committee Report

A recorded video report was shown, since Massimo Berruto was unable to attend Berlin in person. Three newsletters have been produced in the past term and the next one is in preparation. He also informed about the committee plans to improve furthermore the publication.

NextGen Committee Report

Seth Sherman informed about the activities of the NextGen Group with organisations of webinars, social media and the well attended happy hour which took place yesterday.

Emeritus Committee Reports

Daniel Saris reported on behalf of Bert Mandelbaum that the Emeritus Committee is happy with the F2F meeting in Berlin with great attendance and outstanding programme. The committee was also happy with the past virtual presence of the ICRS in the past 2 years. The committee however was quite surprised by the selling of the Journal Cartilage. A better communication and involvement of the Emeritus Committee would have been desirable. The committee also would like to be more involved in the future management strategy, election process and venue selection for the world congress.

Address by the Incoming President

Elizaveta Kon gave a short overview of the goals during her presidency with importance for improved collaboration, communication and inclusion.

AOB

There were no further questions. The executive board thanked all present and the General Assembly was closed by Elizaveta Kon at 19:30.

Minutes recorded by Anouk Bürgisser and Stephan Seiler
Approved by the ICRS Executive Board 2022-2023