

**Osteopathic International Alliance (OIA)
Draft Annual General Meeting
The SMC, Ionic Room
Sydney, Australia
18 October 2009**

Full Members Present:

American Osteopathic Association (AOA-US) – Dr Larry Wickless
Australian Osteopathic Association (AOA-AU) – Mr Michael Mulholland-Licht; Mr Antony
Nicholas
German-American Academy of Osteopathy (DAAO) – Dr Peter Adler-Michaelson
German Association for Osteopathic Medicine (DGOM) – Dr med Johannes Mayer
German Osteopathic Association (VOD) – Ms Marina Fuhrmann
General Osteopathic Council (GOsC) – Ms Evelyn Gilvarry
Osteopathic Society of New Zealand (OSNZ) – Mr Max Belcher; Ms Sarah-Jane Attias

Associate and Partner Members Present:

American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) – Dr Stephen C. Shannon
American Osteopathic Information Association (AOIA) – Mr Mike Zarski
AVT College of Osteopathic Medicine (AVT) – Professor Dr Matthias Beck
British Osteopathic Association (BOA) – Mr Melvin Jessup
British School of Osteopathy (BSO) – Mr Charles Hunt
Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM) – Dr Dean Sutphin; Dr Jan
Willcox
Institut Supérieur d'Osteopathie – Lyon – Mr Jean-Pierre Dessaint
Japan Osteopathic Federation (JOF) – Mr Keiichi Hagiwara
Lincoln Memorial University, DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine (DCOM) – Dr Gerald
Osborn
Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine (MSUCOM) – Professor Reza Nassiri
National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners (NBOME) – Dr John Gimpel
Norwegian Association of Osteopathy (NOF) – Ms Ingunn Backe Wennberg
Society for the Promotion of Manual Practice Osteopathy (SPMPO) – Ms Gail Abernethy
World Osteopathic Health Organisation (WOHO) – Melvin Jessup

Board Members in Attendance:

Mr Clive Standen, Chair
Dr Peter Adler-Michaelson, Vice-chair
Dr Boyd Buser, Secretary-Treasurer
Mr John Crosby, JD
Mr Simon Fielding
DrMed Johannes Mayer

Ms Bonnie Koenig, OIA Consultant
Ms Linda Mascheri, Secretary
Mr Joshua Kerr, OIA Secretariat

Board Members Excused:

Dr Peter Ajluni

Dr Ted Findlay

Other Organisations in Attendance:

Syndicat Francais des Osteopathes (SFDO) – Mr Philippe Sterlingot

Institute of Osteopathic Medicine (IOM) – Irina Egorova

Board and Member Introductions

The Chair opened the meeting with introductions of the OIA Board members and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

Approval of Minutes

The **Full membership moved, seconded and approved** *the minutes from the 2008 Annual General Meeting as presented.*

Board Reports

Mr Standen gave a Chair's report, discussing the fact that the OIA is now beginning the third phase its incarnations:

1. The Steering Committee began as an appointed group to study the importance and need for an Alliance
2. The Schlangenbad Conference formalised the Alliance and its membership
3. Sydney begins the first time all of the Board of Directors are fully elected officials, which lends credibility and legitimacy to the OIA as it moves forward for the profession

World Health Organisation (WHO): The Board is working with members of the WHO to move forward with the publication of the *WHO Guidelines on Basic Safety and Training in Osteopathy*. It was reported that the coordination of the OIA's letter writing campaign to the World Health Organization (WHO) regarding the publication of the *WHO Guidelines on Basic Training and Safety in Osteopathy* resulted in more than a dozen OIA member organisations sending letters to Dr Zhang, urging publication of the document. The WHO noted that they plan to publish by the end of 2009.

OIA Secretary-Treasurer Report

Dr Buser presented the Secretary-Treasurer report (see Addendum I), noting that most of the expenses incurred for the Sydney Conference are not included in the report. The OIA continues to operate on dues and conference fees, without an AOA-US grant, however the OIA is still receives from the AOA-US staff, office space, some travel, and supplies gratis. The Board has requested a breakdown of AOA-US contributions, including indirect costs related to AOA-US staff support and will be analysing the information in the next year. Mr Mulholland-Licht questioned if the Board has considered seeking financial support from commercial sponsors. Dr Buser replied that while the Board has explored the possibility of commercial support, it has not pursued this at this time.

Mr Crosby and Dr med Mayer raised their concern about OIA being tied to particular companies regarding the idea of "product approval" versus "endorsement". There have been discussions with pharmaceutical companies in the past, but with new regulations in the States (where the OIA in

incorporated) there are concerns. The Board is also looking into developing an extended business plan for OIA to become more fiscally solvent.

Ms Gilvarry requested more information about the expenses tied to consultation. Dr Buser explained that those expenses reflect Ms Koenig's work with the Alliance and her dedication to the foundation of the Alliance.

The **Full membership moved, seconded and approved** *the 2009 Secretary-Treasurer Report as presented.*

Committee Reports

Internal Affairs Committee: Dr Buser noted that there is no updated information from the Clearinghouse or Development committees.

External Affairs Committee: Dr Adler-Michaelson reported that the Board is considering a new name for this committee, "Communications". The Committee worked on increasing relations with WOHO this year, resulting in the proposed bylaws change, adding a tenth Board seat for organisations like WOHO. The committee is also overseeing the implementation of a membership newsletter that will highlight news in the profession and membership organisations.

Membership Committee: Mr Fielding reported on the ratification, by the Board, of its new members; Full membership: German Osteopathic Association (VOD); Associate membership: Canadian Federation of Osteopaths (CFO), The Consiglio Superiore di Osteopathia (CSdO); and five Partner memberships: American Osteopathic College of Occupational and Preventive Medicine (AOCOPM), Centre International D'Osteopathie (CIDO), College Osteopathique de Provence (COP), Registre des Osteopathes du Quebec (ROQ), Sutherland Cranial Teaching Foundation Belgium (SCTF Belgium).

Mr Kerr reported that the IAO-AR, ISO Aix-en-Provence (ISO-Aix) and the University of Medicine and Dentistry-New Jersey College of Osteopathic Medicine (UMDNJ) have not renewed their memberships at this time.

Mr Standen added that the ISO-Aix has changed its leadership and it appears the new leadership did not recognise the importance of maintaining its membership in the OIA. Mr Standen indicated that he would talk to them in Sydney.

Mr Kerr reported that while the Dean of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) was interested in maintaining its membership, the new President felt that based upon their current financial situation, it could not continue its membership at this time.

Ms Gilvarry and Dr Wickless requested that new member applications be posted on the OIA Web site, which could help to promote interest in its membership.

The **Full membership then moved, seconded and approved** *ratification of the new members added since the last AGM (see Addendum II).*

Ratification of Bylaws Changes

Mr Standen reviewed the following proposed changes to the OIA bylaws:

1. Bylaws Change One: Creation of an additional Board seat
The Board presented, for the Full membership's consideration, the addition of a tenth seat on the Board to include the largest international organisation with the most multi-national members.
2. Bylaws Change Two: Chairmanship
The Board put forth a proposal to make it desirable that the Chairmanship will alternate terms between an osteopath and osteopathic physician.
3. Bylaws Change Three: Length of Officer Term
The Board put forth a bylaws change recommending all OIA Board officers (Chair, Vice-chair, Secretary-Treasurer) hold a two-year term.

The membership discussed the bylaws changes and Dr Wickless requested that the third bylaws change be editorial change to include wording that limits the officer term so that it cannot extend beyond Board terms.

The Full membership moved, seconded and approved bylaws changes 2 and 3, with the proposed editorial changes to Item 3.

Proposed Bylaws Change #1 – Creation of an additional Board Seat: The Board members discussed the background to this proposed change, the current lack of an individual membership within the Alliance and the discussions of a possible merger with WOHO, which was decided not to be feasible at this time. The Board recommends giving a seat on the OIA Board to the largest multinational individual member organisation. Mr Mulholland-Licht noted that WOHO was a good way for individuals to make contacts on their own which could eventually lead to the foundation of an organisation and then becoming a part of the OIA in time.

Dr Wickless spoke against the proposed bylaws change, noting that a great deal of thought and effort was put into setting the initial structure. There is a process in place to elevate an Associate or Partner member but what would the ramifications be once other Partner members become aware of the WOHO Board seat? It is problematic to pander to one organisation – an issue that the OIA has worked to stay away from. The wording would essentially allow the Board to appoint individuals to the Board, which could be the beginning of a slippery slope. The current process in place should not change because there will be a backlash and potential consequences.

DrMed Mayer noted that the seat goes to the multi-national individual group and is not an exclusive seat for WOHO but for the group that best fits the definition. If another group was formed and became a member that better fit the definition, the seat would go to that organisation. There has been a great deal of discussion over the last year with the idea being to give a voice to an individual membership. Mr Hunt noted concern that WOHO should take the seat when the largest section of Partner members is educational organisations, who may be more deserving.

Dr Wickless noted that there is no explanation of how this membership seat works and urged the membership not to go forth with this seat. Dr Wickless questions what would happen if some other group that fits the criteria approaches the Board for the seat, which would just create headaches for the Board.

Ms Gilvarry noted that the wording in the proposed bylaws change is not transparent and could create dissent among Partner members. Dr Wickless asked the Board to carefully consider what would be gained compared to the potential issues that it could create. There is not enough detail in the proposed change. Following further discussion, the *Full membership moved seconded and approved tabling the vote on the proposed bylaws change for Item 1, Creation of an additional Board seat.*

Mr Standen stated that the Board will review this proposal and revise it appropriately for future discussion.

Candidate's Forum

Based upon the previous discussion to table the proposed bylaws change in Item 1, Creation of an additional Board seat, the WOHO representative asked that Raimund Engel's name be removed from the ballot.

Candidates Comments:

Dr Adler-Michaelson introduced and asked all Board candidates to speak briefly to the membership about why they should be elected to the Board of Directors:

1. Boyd Buser (AOA-US – second guaranteed seat)
2. Evlynn Gilvarry (GOsC – filling vacant seat and term)
3. Michael Mullholland-Licht (AOA-AU)
4. Gerald Osborn (DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine)
5. Clive Standen (UNITEC)

Following their remarks, ballots for voting were distributed to the Full Voting Members.

Board Elections Voting

Dr Adler-Michaelson reviewed the voting structure pertaining to Board elections for the members. The structure is based on membership numbers, where each country has a minimum of two votes. One additional vote is accumulated per every 2,000 members, with no organisation having more than 33% of the total votes. Currently the Australian, Canadian, and New Zealand delegations have two votes, the United Kingdom and German (delegation shared by DGOM, DAAO, and VOD) delegations have three votes, and the American delegation is capped at six votes.

Dr Buser, per the bylaws, was elected by acclamation because he took the second of two seats reserved for the largest osteopathic physician member, which is currently the AOA-US. Ms Gilvarry was elected by acclamation to fill the remaining term of the empty GOsC seat which will expire at the 2010 AGM. Mr Standen was re-elected to the Board and Mr Mulholland-Licht was elected to the Board. All but Ms Gilvarry's seat are three-year terms.

General Questions and Answers

The membership requested that copies of the bylaws be attached to the AGM booklet at future meetings.

Mr Standen adjourned the OIA 2009 Annual General Meeting.

OSTEOPATHIC INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE

Statement of Activities
For the Years 2006 to October 2009

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS		\$42,691.98	\$86,300.04	\$85,995.51
APPROPRIATED FOR CONTINGENCIES:				
Revenues:				
Membership Dues				
Membership Dues	\$31,400.00	\$43,608.00	\$43,608.00	\$52,369
Conference Fees	10,450.00		14,780.00	0
AOA (USA) Grant Income	37,776.10 ¹	29,992.36 ¹	35,620.05 ¹	-
Non Refundable Membership	<u>2,000.00</u>	<u>\$1,300.00</u>	<u>\$600.00</u>	<u>100.0</u>
Application Fees				
TOTAL REVENUE	\$81,626.10	\$73,600.68	\$94,608.05	\$52,469.00
Expenses:				
Administrative				
Conference Calls	\$630.64	768.36	203.00	(not yet billed)
Office Supplies	0	1,144.49	1,160.67	0
Delivery Service/Postage	163.88	195.59	0	1.26
Bank Fees	42.50	0	14.35	0
Printing	513.00	513.00	2,483.21	29.85
Legal Fees	7,454.91	816.30	1,183.55 ²	1,269.29
Consulting	5,471.96	8,313.36	7,417.26	7,595.88
Meeting Facilities	11,290.10	5,836.37	43,440.92 ³	3,555.92
Administration staff costs	Not quantified ⁴	Not quantified ⁴	Not quantified ⁴	Not quantified ⁴
Board Travel ⁵	<u>12,209.11</u>	<u>12,405.15</u>	<u>39,009.62</u>	<u>10,611.27</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$37,776.40	\$29,992.62	\$94,912.58	\$23,063.47
NET ASSETS	\$42,691.98⁶	\$86,300.04⁷	\$85,995.51	\$115,401.04⁷

¹ AOA-US provided funds to underwrite the initial financial outlay required to establish the OIA and support its early activities. These funds reflect the portion of the \$55,000.00 grant spent in 2006-2008.

² Charges for tax returns.

³ Note: as host organisations, the AOA-US paid for the gala dinner and CCOM provided the conference rooms for the Educational Forum gratis.

⁴ In addition to note (1) above, all costs relating to administration staff & their travel, office space, websites, office equipment, running costs & depreciation, have been met by the International Division of the AOA-US.

⁵ The AOA-US has covered a significant amount of the expenses for its representatives serving on the OIA Board of Directors.

⁶ Although the Financial Summary shows a net increase in assets for this period, the figures do not reflect the *true* cost of running the OIA for a year, including OIA staff travel.

⁷ This reflects a minimal amount of costs for the 2009 Sydney Educational Forum and AGM

2009 New Members Approved by Full Membership

Full membership:

German Osteopathic Association (VOD) (Associate: March 2006/Full: September 2009)
Ms Marina Fuhrmann, DO, President; Richard Weynen, DO, Vice-President
Untere Albrechtstrasse 15
D-65185 Weisbaden
GERMANY

Associate membership:

Canadian Federation of Osteopaths (CFO) (April 2009)
Mr Brad McCutcheon, President
9 Sugarbush Road RR#4
Coldwater, ON L0K 1E0
CANADA

Consiglio Superiore di Osteopatia (CSdO)
(September 2009)
Eduardo Rossi, President; Simon Duncan,
DO., BSc(Hon.) Ost.
Villa Casati Stampa
Piazza Soncino, 3
Cinisello Balsamo, Milan 20092
ITALY

Partner membership:

American Osteopathic College of Occupational And Preventive Medicine (AOCOPM) (March 2009)
Jeffrey J. LeBoeuf, CAE, Executive Director
PO Box 16687
Jackson, MS 39206
USA

College Osteopathique de Provence (COP) (March 2009)
Michel Coquillat DO, Chairman
50 rue louis Grobet
Marseille 13001
FRANCE

Centre International D'Osteopathie (CIDO) (March 2009)
Patrick Feval, DO, CEO
Rue Pablo Neruda
SAINT ETIENNE 42100
FRANCE

Registre des Osteopathes du Quebec (ROQ) (March 2009)
M. Yves Desjardins, Director
1600 av de Lorimier, bureau 382
Montreal, (Quebec) H2K 3W5
CANADA

Sutherland Cranial Teaching Foundation Belgium (SCTF Belgium) (March 2009)
Daniel Ronsmans, DO, President
77 Chene Au Corbeau
Lasne 1380
BELGIUM