

ISL NEWS

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF LYMPHOLOGY GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES September 15, 2023 · Genoa, Italy

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order with a welcome to all by President M Amore. The minutes for the last General Assembly in Buenos Aires were published in Lymphology 52 (2021) 214-216. Minutes were approved as published.

2. Elections:

Nominations were solicited from the floor to add to the slate proposed by the Nominating Committee. There were none. The Nominating Committee composed of ISL members-at-large F. Boccardo (Italy), A. Pissas, (France), President M. Amore, Past President A. Szuba, and Past-Past President S. Michellini proposed the following slate of officers: President-Elect: Corrado Campisi (Italy) was the sole nomination for President. Executive Committee: F. Boccardo (Italy), P. Borman (Turkey), P. Bourgeois (Belgium), S. Hayes (Australia), N.F. Liu (China), and T. Yamamoto (Japan). Nominating Committee: G. Manokaran (India) and A. Pissas (France). Auditors: M. Cestari (Italy) and E. Okada (Japan). The voting proceeded and the Nominating Committee slate was elected.

3. Reports:

a. Presidential Report (M. Amore):

President Amore thanked the assembly for the honor of being President of the ISL.

b. Treasurer's Report – 7/1/21-6/30/23 (A Pissas):

The UBS Swiss account has been stable since the last General Assembly report of 15,525 SF in Athens in 2021 with a June, 2023 balance of 14,442 SF (the bank takes a charge each month for service fee). The Central Office has broken even during the past two years based on substantial reduction in Journal production/handling costs and optional online conversion and has not needed transfer of funds for annual allocation for Journal production/ handling, complimentary E/H memberships, and 2021 ISL Presidential Prizes awarded in Athens.

c. Secretary-General's Report (M Witte):

1. The Society has 187 members from 35 countries (159 active members, 10 honorary members, 6 emeritus members, 10 young lymphologists, and 2 associate members). In the course of this business period, 32 new members have been accepted and 54 memberships were discontinued due to non-payment of dues, retirement, resignation, or death. The nations represented by this membership are as follows:

Argentina 6	Finland 1	Japan 17	Scotland 1
Australia 8	France 5	Korea 2	Singapore 1
Austria 3	Germany 5	Mexico 3	Spain 1
Belgium 7	Greece 4	Netherlands 4	Sweden 5
Brazil 5	Hong Kong 1	Panama 1	Switzerland 6
Canada 4	Hungary 1	Philippines 1	Thailand 2
China 3	India 5	Poland 1	Turkey 2
Colombia 3	Iran 3	Russia 3	United Kingdom 7
Czech Republic 1	Italy 15	Saudi Arabia 1	USA 54

2. The 28th World Congress of Lymphology that was held September 20-24, 2021, in Athens, Greece was a great success. Basic science sessions were complemented by panels, oral presentations, and posters on latest advances in basic and clinical lymphology including management of lymphedema particularly imaging and surgical approaches. The meeting venue and arrangements were congenial and the dining and sightseeing options diverse.

3. Two meetings of the Executive Committee were held during the 28th Congress on 9/21 and 9/23/21. In addition to the reports of the President, Secretary-General, Treasurer, and Editor, the Executive Committee discussion items included the annual budget and proposed expenditures, status of Lymphology, membership, the Consensus Document, Young Lymphologists, collaborative research projects, and future meetings.

4. Nominations were solicited from the floor to add to the slate proposed by the Nominating Committee. There were none. The Nominating Committee composed of M. Andrade, C. Papendieck, President A. Szuba, Past-President S. Michelini, and Past-Past President N.F. Liu proposed the following slate of officers: President-Elect: E. Dimakakos (Athens) was the sole nomination for President. Executive Committee: H. Brorson (Malmö), S. Michelini (Genoa), E. Okada (Toyama), S. Thiadens (Vallejo), S. Daley (Los Angeles), and S. Leong (San Francisco). Nominating Committee: F. Boccardo (Genoa) and A.

Pissas (Bagnols sur Cèze/Montpellier. Auditors: M. Bernas (Fort Worth) and S. Dessalvi (Genoa). The voting proceeded and the Nominating Committee slate was elected.

5. The ISL website has been revised and updated and is now accessible at isl.arizona.edu.

6. A revised up-to-date ISL Membership List containing names, addresses, telephone and FAX numbers, and E-mail addresses in alphabetical order (with key research/clinical interests) along with a listing of ISL members by country is available in pdf format at the ISL Membership table. The ISL Membership Directory is provided to ISL members only, and the listing should not be used for commercial purposes. The list should not be reproduced by members and/or sold or distributed to non-ISL members or other groups or associations. Please update personal information at the Central Office desk or send e-mail to grace@surgery.arizona.edu.

d. Editor/Journal Report (M Bernas):

<https://journals.uair.arizona.edu/index.php/lymph/index>

Since our last meeting in 2023 at the 28th World Congress of Lymphology in Athens, Greece, the journal *Lymphology* has continued to function well with the printing and editorial offices housed in Tucson, Arizona, USA. The journal layout has been successful, and most

articles require considerable editing for clarity as well as most requiring work on the figures and reference format. Between 2021-2023, 144 new articles were received, 33 articles were published (including previously received articles), 62 articles were rejected and 9 article withdrawn by the authors after receiving the first review. Sixty-eight (68) additional manuscripts are either in press, accepted, or in various stages of review. Almost all of these have required further revision or review. Turnaround from receipt and acceptance to appearance in print has averaged 3-6 months with some publications expedited due to high interest as judged by outside reviewers and the Editors and also requiring substantially fewer editorial changes. E-mail submission has continued and is efficient. We tend to have longer review times than other journals since we prefer to use senior reviewers who frequently have more crowded schedules and take longer to return their reviews, and often the authors are asked for further revision(s) before acceptance instead of outright rejection. In addition, we also sometimes send back articles to reviewers for a second look after the first author revision. These practices serve a particularly valuable function for ISL member authors and are appreciated. The average number of pages per issue continues at 50-60, which at the current level of operation and finances is the optimal size that can be processed every 3 months.

The Journal continues to represent an important tangible benefit of ISL membership and the vehicle for dissemination of ISL and regional chapter news and information. Because *Lymphology* publishes the ISL News, the cost of a separate ISL Newsletter previously published by the Central Office has been eliminated while retaining this important Society news feature within the Journal. It should also be reemphasized that funds contributed from ISL membership dues pay only a portion of the costs of producing and maintaining the Journal. Costly editorial and computerized typesetting tasks such as revision, proofreading of manuscripts, layout of the Journal, and handling are absorbed by the Tucson office as

are equipment updates and repair as well as other technical aspects of editorial production. There is no salary or other remuneration for the Editorial Board, Editor, or Executive Editor.

The Journal's impact factor is respectable (currently 2.3 – the highest in the field of Lymphology) for a small specialty society, non-commercial publication especially considering that methods to artificially inflate ("game") the score are not used by us, such as frequent review articles or excessive self-citations in articles or editorials. Not practicing these "gaming" techniques may tend to restrict the impact factor but do provide a valuable service and publication outlet for our members and, therefore, are vital to our Society. Possibly the most impressive information about our impact factor is its cited half-life which has climbed to greater than 10 years (the maximum score) meaning that our articles remain relevant for a long period of time. Addition of online access to current and back issues of *Lymphology* (discussed below) has had a positive effect on our Journal impact. Renewed efforts by the federal repository to correct delayed uploading of journal articles and 2016 requirement of journals founded before 1988 have been successfully completed.

The *Lymphology* Journal website (<https://journals.uair.arizona.edu/index.php/lymph/index>) is now fully functional and currently includes *Lymphology* articles (in pdf format) dating back to vol. 1 (1968) are now fully uploaded and publicly accessible. Because the uploading process undertaken by the Journal is comprehensive, all titles, subjects, and authors are fully searchable. *Lymphology* is now available through Free Access. All article information is uploaded on PubMed where *Lymphology* is an official journal. Information about the Society including a short history, the aims, membership information and applications, subscription information, current administration, etc. will continue to be found on the original website pages through a link. A dedicated page for the Consensus Document is still included on the Society's

website, although it is also now searchable on the new website (isl.arizona.edu).

Among sad notes to report is the death of lymphological greats who passed away since our last meeting and contributed to the Journal and biennial Proceedings. These luminaries include Hugo Partsch (Austria), Oldřich Eliška (Prague), Claude Jacot (Switzerland), Ruben Koehler (ISL President 1975-77) (USA), Anatoliy Gashev (USA), Judith Casley-Smith (Australia), and Michael Dictor (Sweden). They all lived long, productive, and exemplary lives.

The Editor and Executive Editor once again thank their Co-Editors, members of the expanded Editorial Board and their colleagues, and particularly the contributing external reviewers for assistance in reviewing manuscripts as this function is indispensable for assuring quality articles as well as service to ISL members. Continued submission of high-quality articles remains the chief priority as it can only strengthen the reputation and impact of the Journal and the Society while promoting greater worldwide interest in the discipline of lymphology. We hope to see our members submitting their best work to *Lymphology* for future issues. The Editors and Editorial Office continue to serve the Society and our members by striving to produce articles of the highest quality and of the most relevance to our Society in the international Lymphology.

e. Young lymphologists - no formal meetings were held at this Congress but many young lymphologists presented and interacted (some online) during the meeting in Athens.

f. Chapters and Regional Societies – With Dr. Latorre, a Pan-American Society has been created which recently held their first meeting.

4. Future Congresses:

a. 2025 - 30th Congress. Dr. Pinar Boreman made presentation for Anatolia, Turkey, which was unanimously approved.

b. 2027 - 31st Congress. Suggestions were made for Colombia, Philadelphia, or Russia (Alexandra Rovnaya made Russian presentation).

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Young Lymphologist Mitchell Bartlett (University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ) was presented the 2023 Presidential Prize. Many more Young Lymphologists were provided Congress Awards.

2. Miguel ends his Presidency and introduces Evangelos. Evangelos starts with music and then walks down the aisle to podium as new President. He provided some remarks thanking Miguel and big congratulations to Corrado for the successful 2023 meeting. He further thanked the ISL for this honor and provided three things that he will focus on in the next two years: a) education, b) research collaboration, and c) funding for the Society.

3. Corrado thanks everyone for attending the 2023 Congress as his first large meeting organization with special thanks to Evangelos and Marlys. He closed the Congress and said he will continue to increase the web presence (IG already has 500 people) and wished everyone a safe return.

4. Miguel Amore recognized the contributions of Grace Wagner, ISL Business Office/*Lymphology* manager and then thanked the attendees for their participation in the General Assembly. Evangelos Dimakakos officially closed the General Assembly session.



NEW MEMBERS

Dori Yoav, MD, PhD
Professor of Pediatrics (Cardiology)
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP)
University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine
Philadelphia, PA USA

Erin M. Pinto, MSN, RN, CCRN, FNP-BC
Cardiology Outpatient Team Lead
Cardiac Center
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP)
Philadelphia, PA USA

Christopher L. Smith, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics (Cardiology)
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP)
University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine
Philadelphia, PA USA

Art. 6—ISL Constitution: Membership in the Society can be obtained on the basis of a written application. Names of new applicants will be published in the Society's Bulletin. Any member who objects to the admittance of a candidate must state their objections in writing to the Secretary-General no later than one (1) month after publication of the Bulletin. The reasons for the objection must be stated...