
IHS Annual General Meeting

Minutes

Wednesday 8 September 2021, 15.30 BST
Virtual meeting

IHS Board of Trustees

C Tassorelli (President-elect)
L Edvinsson (Past-President)
S Evers (Secretary)
W Thomas (Treasurer)
F Ahmed
G Coppola
M J Lee
M Peres
P Pozo-Rosich
K Skorobogatykh

Members

A Carmine Belin
J Hoffmann
(see note)

Note: Due to the nature of the virtual meeting the full list of attendees is not available. IHS confirms the meeting was quorate.

The meeting was Chaired by Cristina Tassorelli, President-elect, who represented IHS in place of President Messoud Ashina who was unable to attend. She opened the meeting at 15.30 BST and welcomed all attendees.

Apologies were received from Messoud Ashina and Anne MacGregor.

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 5 October 2020

The minutes were approved as presented.

2. Presentations from:

The President

Messoud Ashina was unable to attend the meeting. Cristina Tassorelli took the role as Chair.

2021 saw a 38% increase in the number of IHS members from 2020 (1,658 vs 1,202), and a 10% increase on 2019 numbers (1,517) which had been a record year. The number of Associate Members (free of charge members from lower-income countries) increased by 30% (1,586 vs 1,218). IHS has members in 141 countries – the highest number of paying members comes from USA, UK, Denmark, Brazil, Italy, Australia, South Korea, Japan, Netherlands; Associate members from India, Russia, Iran, Colombia, Pakistan, Egypt, Ukraine, Nigeria. Overall there are over 3,000 members; it is very important for the society to have good worldwide member representation. The rise in members was due in part to a strong membership campaign championed by Messoud Ashina and assisted by the Board.

Several initiatives have also assisted in attracting new members including the new IHS website launched in June 2020, several new educational initiatives launched on the online learning centre,

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awareness videos – a three-part series on different headache disorders in 15 languages – and a strong social media presence over several platforms with increased number of followers.

The International Headache Congress (IHC) 2021 is the first joint congress with the European Headache Federation. The congress was organised during the COVID-19 pandemic and difficult decisions had to be taken, but the result was a congress which attracted many registrations and strong support from sponsors.

The Secretary

Stefan Evers re-iterated the good increase in member numbers during the year. There were no new Affiliate Member Societies in 2021 – IHS currently has 54 Affiliate Member Societies representing 53 countries. It is hoped more societies will be formed in Central and South America who will then join IHS.

Membership numbers are increasing and the Board has agreed to keep the membership fees stable in 2022. There has been a good number of new members in 2021, which is as expected in a congress year. There is an especially high number of new Junior members who were offered complimentary registration for IHC 2021.

There was a 38% voting turnout for the elections for the new Board Trustees; this is lower than in previous years but still good for a scientific society. The new elected Trustees are: Rami Burstein (President-elect); Andrea Carmine Belin, Jan Hoffmann and Aynur Özge (Elected Trustees).

Cephalalgia had another successful year. The Impact Factor increased to a new high of 6.292. The last time the Impact Factor was over 6 was in 2015 2 years after publishing the International Classification of Headache Disorders (ICHD)-3-beta. This increase is in part due to publication of the ICHD-3 final version. The journal is well placed in the lists of clinical neurology and neuroscience journals (28 of 208 clinical neurology journals; 48 of 273 neuroscience journals).

Unfortunately Cephalalgia Reports, the online silhouette title to Cephalalgia, has not yet been accepted by PubMed; work will continue to have the journal accepted in the next 2 years. The journal is listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) and Scopus.

Due to COVID-19 many educational activities were cancelled or deferred.

The MENA meeting will take place as a virtual meeting in 2021. The Visiting Professor project was put on hold but two are planned for when travel is possible. IHS offered Masters grants to students to attend the Copenhagen University Master of Headache Disorders course, and also the Master of Migraine and Headache Medicine hosted by the University of Kiel, Germany. The 8th Asian Regional Consortium for Headache (ARCH) meeting took place in April 2021 as a hybrid meeting which resulted in several new member applications from the Asian region. A new initiative, the IHS Online Learning Institute will be launched in 2022.

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IHS continued collaboration with Lifting the Burden on the worldwide childhood epidemiological studies; some of the country studies have been successfully completed and papers published or submitted for publication.

The next IHC will be held in Seoul, Korea, in 2023 and the Scientific Programme Committee has been formed. IHC 2025 will be held in Sao Paolo, Brazil – the first time an IHC has been held in Latin America.

Despite COVID-19, IHS funded three Fellowships in 2021, three junior research grants, and two young headache scientist awards, awarded during IHC 2021.

The Treasurer

The accounts for 2020, presented in statutory format, have been approved by the IHS Board and are in the process of being audited. The accounts will be signed by Messoud Ashina and Wendy Thomas and submitted to UK Companies House and the UK Charity Commission, and will be publicly available on their websites.

- 2020 income: £ 666,315
- 2020 expenditure: £ 466,162
- Surplus: £ 200,153

Income (% of income):

- Cephalalgia royalty: £ 283,628 (43%) – a record high for the journal royalty
- Corporate Roundtable: £ 204,146 (31%) – four Platinum and four Silver industry members
- Membership: £ 102,108 (15%)
- Investments: £ 55,944 (8%)
- Other: £ 20,489 (3%)

Expenditure (% of expenditure):

- Support (administration, finance, governance (Board), website): £ 181,056 (39%)
- Committees: £ 83,877 (18%) – lower than expected as activities cancelled or postponed due to COVID-19
- IHS Trading: £59,208 (13%)
- Fellowships/grants: £ 50,100 (11%)
- Cephalalgia: £ 49,517 (10%)
- Education: £42,404 (9%)

Investment income has increased over the years.

Membership numbers are steadily increasing – the type of membership (print copy, online only) changes with fewer members wanting a print copy of Cephalalgia.

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Over the past 10 years IHS has recognised a healthy surplus; by December 2020 the society had reserves of £ 2.4 million.

Wendy Thomas thanked Adam Speller and Paul Astwood of the Migraine Trust for managing the accounts over the past 10 years.

3. Report and Audited accounts for year ended 31 December 2020

The accounts were approved as presented.

4. Re-appointment of the auditors

IHS will send out a request for proposals for the audit of the 2021 accounts. The current auditors have handled the IHS audit for the past 10 years and it is prudent to change auditors periodically.

Post-meeting note: Due to the change in the financial management, the Board agreed to retain the current auditors, MacIntyre Hudson, for the 2021 audit.

5. Appointment of the Board of Trustees

The following members have been selected by the members through an online or postal ballot to join the Board of Trustees:

President-elect: Rami Burstein
Elected Trustees: Andrea Carmine Belin
Jan Hoffmann
Aynur Özge

The following members will be automatically re-elected to serve a second term on the Board of Trustees:

Fayyaz Ahmed
Gianluca Coppola

A motion to elect the new Trustees was unanimously approved.

6. Election of Honorary Members

The following members were proposed as Honorary Members:

Professor Lars Edvinsson (IHS Past-President)
Professor Vincenzo Guidetti (IHS Special Recognition Award)
Professor R Allan Purdy (IHS Special Recognition Award)
Professor Patrick Humphrey
Professor Pramod Saxena

The proposal was unanimously approved.

7. Date of next meeting

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The next AGM will be held in 2022, date to be advised.

Thanks were offered to Board members leaving the Board: Lars Edvinsson, Mario Peres, Patricia Pozo-Rosich (although Dr Pozo-Rosich will be proposed as Secretary to the new Board), Todd Schwedt, Mi Ji Lee, Marco Lisicki, Kirill Skorobogatykh

Thanks were also offered to Stefan Evers (Secretary) and Wendy Thomas (Treasurer) who are retiring having held their respective positions for 10 years.

Messoud Ashina's hard work over the last 2 unprecedented years during the COVID-19 pandemic was commended.

The meeting was adjourned at 16.10.