



## **International Society of Doctors for the Environment**

17 April, 2008

**DRAFT**

Meeting of the Directing Board, Grand Hotel Terme Astro, Tabiano, Italy

Attending: Vyvyan Howard (UK)- chair, Roberto Romizi (Italy)- host, Hanns Moshhammer (Austria)- president elect, Peter Kaelin (Switzerland)- treasurer, Lilian Corra (Argentina)- international coordinator, Peter Vanden Hazel (Netherlands), Philip Michaels (Ireland), Cathey Falvo (USA)

Guests: Guy Magnus (Belgium), Abdille Djouher (Algeria), Roberto DeBono (Malta), Jason Bonnaci (Malta), Ernesto Burgio (Italy), Valerio Gennaro (Italy), Peter Orris (USA)

Excused: Peter Rudnai (Hungary), Lew Gerbilsky (Ukraine), Michael Wong (Asia), Raul Harari (Ecuador)

The meeting was opened by our host Dr. Romizi with welcoming remarks and a vision for ISDE to work more closely with other medical and health related organizations including strategic locations for meetings to enhance interest in ISDE's work: 2010 in South America, 2011 in Genoa (southern Mediterranean).

The minutes of the DB meeting in Vienna 9 June 2007 were accepted unanimously.

Report by President Dr. Howard: work on nanotechnology related to the International Forum for Chemical Safety (IFCS) has been a priority. Also addressed during the first year of his presidency were food additives, areas for fund raising the most likely are training activities and implementing individual membership, and expanding the personnel base for international work.

Report of International Coordinator Dr. Corra: emphasis on children's environmental health and chemical safety. The South American study of environmental indicators is available on the ISDE website and the ISDE South America site ([www.aamma.org](http://www.aamma.org)) ISDE had representatives on all 4 IFCS study groups and has an active role in keeping health a focus for the SAICM process. In 2009 both the World Health Assembly and SAICM will focus on safe chemical management. UNEP has given South America a grant to evaluate mercury sources.

Recommendation: the 2009 ISDE GA be in Geneva at the time of the WHA; ISDE member countries in the EU need to address coordination of EU wide and country issues.

New Members:

-Countries: Algeria and Malta presented all necessary documents for country membership. Dr. van den Hazel proposed membership for Algeria and Malta; seconded

by Dr. Moshammer; approved unanimously. The proposals will be presented to the next GA for final approval.

-Individuals: accepting individual members was approved by the GA in 2007. Full individual membership will be open to physicians, associate membership to all others having an interest in environmental health and at least some post baccalaureate training in a health related field. The fees will be based on relative purchasing power in each country. The treasurer will make a proposal.

National Reports:

-USA, Dr. Falvo: PSR focus is on climate change and reduction/riddance of nuclear weapons. Dr. Peter Wilk, a psychiatrist from Maine and former president of PSR, will replace Dr. Michael McCally as executive director of PSR.

We have been invited to write a brief paper on the health effects of climate change for the UN Department of Public Information to be included in the report of their 2008 annual conference. Dr. Falvo will write the report and circulate for comments.

-Ireland, Dr. Michael: primary issue is climate change; other issues of concern include nuclear energy, PVC phase out, EM, GMO, incineration and mercury. Contact with ISDE/Sweden and MEDACT to discuss increasing their activity with ISDE was made.

-Belgium, Dr. Magnus: the Dutch and French groups in Belgium are working together for more advocacy. A description of the European Society for Research and Prevention on Environmental and Health (SREH) was given.

Agreement: the two Belgium groups will send only one representative of their choosing to ISDE DB.

-Malta, Dr. Bonnaci: focus on capacity building and physician education

-INCHES, Dr. van den Hazel: 10 years old in August. Next conference January 2010 in Bangalore, India. Poland has been proposed as the coordinating secretariat; additional training programs are being developed.

-Italy, Dr. Burgio: next conference in Arezzo in November on danger of heavy metals and other environmental toxics on neonatal and childhood central nervous system development/damage. A focus will be the epigenetic/genomic damage caused by these environmental toxics.

-World Federation for Public Health, Dr. Orris: working toward global consensus with IPEN and others to create advocacy statements for international signatures. World Medical Association is becoming interested in environmental health issues.

Finances: report by Dr. Kaelin (see attached file: ISDE finances4-08)

-our financial statement does not reflect 'in kind' support, for example the maintenance of the website by Argentina. The treasurer needs to be made aware of all such support.

-charges by our bank seem quite high. The treasurer will explore options

-fees for individual members, based on relative 'dollar' value of their country will be set by the treasurer. Appropriate application of fees which can not be moved out of member's country will be delineated (in kind for developing country activities)

-cost effective ways to transfer payments internationally need to be found. Dr. Falvo will send information on non-profit organizations in the USA which can accept and transfer credit cards payments.

Next meeting:

-DB: Skype conference call during IFCS forum in Dakar 15-19 September. Dr. Corra will coordinate

-DB and GA 2009, around 11-14 May in Geneva when the World Health Assembly, Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, the Second International Conference on Chemicals Management and IPEN will be having meetings. No dates from any of the organizations have been published yet. Dr. Falvo will report on dates as soon as they are published.

Respectfully submitted

Cathey E. Falvo, MD, MPH

Representing Physicians for Social Responsibility/USA

23 April 2008