IFEA Secretary report 2020

BOD meeting and AGM

ZOOM,

Sunday, September 06 and13, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

It is with pleasure that I present the Secretary report for 2020. It has been a great privilege to have the opportunity to serve as the IFEA secretary for the past 2 years.

I would like to thank the other members of the Executive Committee, led by our President, Luke Sung Kyo Kim, President-elect, Dr Catherine Ricci, and Past-President, Dr Mark Wotzke, for their hard work, support and dedication to IFEA.

We were all saddened and concerned to hear about our previous Treasurer’s (Terry Fermakis) motor vehicle accident, where he suffered injuries. Terry was unable to continue as IFEA treasurer and earlier this year he ceased being the treasurer of IFEA. The position has been temporarily carried out by Dr Mark Wotzke and Dr Catherine Ricci and they have been working tirelessly trying to reconcile and reorganize the financial aspects of IFEA. This has been a difficult period for IFEA as Dr Terry Fermakis, did not provide us with all the necessary details under his jurisdiction as treasurer.

I would like to add a further special thank you to Dr Mark Wotzke, who, after 18 years will be stepping down from the Executive Committee of IFEA. Not only has he dedicated 18 years of his life to IFEA but he has gone beyond his call of duty in all his roles - Oceania Regent, Treasurer, President-Elect, President and currently Past-President. As mentioned above, Mark, together with Cathy, volunteered to carry out the role of interim Treasurer to deal with all the outstanding treasurer issues. IFEA will forever be in his debt for all his efforts and generosity with his time. Personally, I will miss having him around. He has been a great mentor and friend and he really deserves all the accolades bestowed on him. I wish him well in the future to spend quality time with his wife, Adele, and family.

I would like to thank the Education Committee Chair (Dr Gopi Krishnan), the temporary Research Committee Chair (Dr David Jaramillo) and all members of the committees for their ongoing efforts for IFEA. The position of Research Committee Chair has been temporarily filled by Dr David Jaramillo as the previous Chair, Dr Christine Berthold, was unable to fulfill her commitments to the position, There have not been many applications for our research grants and I urge all Country representatives to encourage their membership to apply for these grants if suitable.

I would like to thank the members and BOD who have provided great support and advice throughout the year.

Finally, I would like to thank Karen and Joe Maggio for their ongoing management of the IFEA office in the USA. As always, they are managing the office perfectly.

The last BOD meeting was held in Vienna, Austria during the ESE, however, unfortunately the AGM (GAM) was adjourned as there were insufficient attendees to constitute a quorum. The Secretary report for 2019 can be found on the website. Additions to the By-Laws review have been made to hopefully avoid a repeat situation in the future.

The most significant issue this year, of course. has been the COVID-19 Pandemic. This pandemic has affected us all, detrimentally, in many ways. Some of us and/or our families and friends have suffered from the disease and our hearts and thoughts are with all of you whom have suffered in this way and lost loved ones.

As health care providers, we have been on the front-line and have had to cope with the lockdowns, closure of practices, and financial stress, not to mention the added concerns with the way we work and treat patients to avoid being infected with the virus and passing it on to others.

IFEA has been pro-active in providing support and information to our members and I would like to thank the IES and BES for their help in this regard.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 and the resultant global restrictions, the WEC in Chennai has been postponed to 2021, although it will also be held as a virtual conference in 2020. Dr Gopi Krishnan has been outstanding in his hard work and effort to make this WEC a success in the face of adversity.

Since the last BOD meeting (Vienna, Austria) and the last AGM (Seoul, South Korea), there are several ongoing issues.

* Further additions to the By-Laws review have been made, as alluded to above, and I hope that these changes can be finalized at our AGM today.
* The Executive committee is still working on Insurances for the BOD and Contracts for the WEC’s.
* The Research and Education grant guidelines and applications have been finalized and can now be found on the IFEA website.
* Bidding for the WEC in 2026, from the Oceanic region, will occur at this AGM with Australia being the only bid received from this region.
* A formal application for membership from the Netherlands has been received and will be voted on at the AGM.
* Changes to Officer positions will be voted on as per the information provided to the membership

Finally, it has been a most challenging and tumultuous year for IFEA from many fronts as I have mentioned, and I look forward to a better year to come with the pandemic hopefully behind us.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Nerwich

IFEA Secretary 2018-2020.