

**Meeting-Minutes Report**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ASSEMBLY OF THE IALMS**

Held during the 19 th International Congress Laser Medicine

(Laser Florence 2004)

At Villa Viviani, Florence, Italy

October 29 th, 2003 Meeting commenced: 17.30

Present:

President: Leonardo Longo

Secretary General: W.Waidelich for A. Hofstetter

Treasurer: Mariano Postiglione

Attending were: J.Anders, B. Azaz, AM Baruchin, G.D. Baxter M. D'Ovidio, V.Jeganathan, K.Khatri, I.Kaplan, A. La Torre, R. Lubart, L Navratil, V. Oswal, M.L. Pascu, P.Smalley and A. Vaitkuvieni,; J. Vaitkus, A. Makela, L. Gasparyan attended as observers.

### 1. **Opening positions.**

President Longo opened the meeting with a welcome to the new and old committee members

He reported that this year meeting was attended by 304 participants from 42 worldwide countries . 120 young specialists took part in conference, 60 granted within the Programme of European Union of Marie Curie Projects.

Consolations were extended to the members who are missing for health reasons (E.g.Raphaela Waidelich, Alberto Sona, Gary Lynn-Powell).

The principal focus of this meeting should be on the Agenda item 1, 2 relating primarily to the planning priorities e.g.: election and budget.

The Agenda was discussed and approved.

The Agenda document was noted to also include the treasurer contact list, guidance on responsibilities and functions of the position.

### 2. **Apologies, working. Methods, administrative matters (including IALMS Bylaws)**

Apologies were noted from: C. De Lorenzi, L. Kozma, R. Lanzafame, N. Nimsakul, M. Trelles, A Rubinov, R.Waidelich

E-Mail is the main working method, thus each IALMS member should endeavor to keep their contact details up to date.

### 3. **Elections, nominations**

Longo emphasizes the considerable presence of the Lithuanian Laser Society who is now affiliated with IALMS as well the Israeli Laser Association, the Rumanian Laser Society and the Australia Laser Society.

Leos Navratil, will take care of the Newsletter replacing Longo .

### 4. **Finances**

The Executive committee has confirmed the membership dues for 2005 at 100 Eurodollars, paid directly to the treasurer

Treasurer Postiglione read a short interim report of the financial states, emphasizing that the money is not the prime goal of the Academy but fuels the activities , although needed and essential, the main aim is knowledge exchange as well as scientific communication. Laser Florence is more than a conventional congress, it is also a manifestation of friendship and will continue with this spirit.

### 5. **Honors & Standardization**

Longo reminds that in 2003 and 2004, CORDIS, the European Community's Research and Development Information system, has mentioned Laser Florence as a High-level Scientific International Conference .

Laser Florence 2004 obtained a scientific score of 90/100 by the European Community. Our Conference has been judged by the EC the best Conference on Laser Medicine in Europe and one of the best Conference in the world. The EC taken Laser Florence as conference leader in Europe.

We report below the judgement of the European Community on Laser Florence 2004

**CONSENSUS OVERVIEW OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY**



## Recommendations

In general terms, the scientific and technological content of the proposal is very important in several aspects: it is highly relevant as a major technical problem to transfer the scientific research results into the practice and safety for using laser technology. The Annual International event on the latest developments of laser applications in human sciences will include the latest research in laser medicine and surgery; laser diagnosis and treatment, plenary sessions and working groups in various specialist fields reviewed by outstanding international scientists. The proposal with a high quality scientific and technological content, Pre-Congress courses with emphasis on clinical applications will demonstrate practical use of the laser on specific pathologies.

### 1. Scientific Quality of the Project

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It is noted that the main scheme/goal of this project is technical: the practical utilization of lasers. This is not classical

science, unless we redefine science as the art of utilizing technology in medicine for better health care. Evidently, this is a high-level technology applied in a high risk human environment, and must, therefore, be taken as an important element in the medical science. The question of competence is, therefore, the critical question, and the success of the proposed

endeavor depends on the quality of the lecturers and the relevance of the topics. However, successful past experience

suggests that these aspects are well taken by the Int. Acad. Laser Med. & Surg in Florence. The approach is well defined

and the organizers/lecturers are well qualified.

The scientific and technological topic of LF04 is of high quality .Laser technology has the great advantages of clean and

limited area of surgery with minimal damage of the surrounding tissue and with reduced potential of infection. The topic

addressed is timely and highly relevant for the E.C. (health and related economical issues).

This is an interesting proposal that focuses on the correct use and the safety norms of laser technology. This area of

research is relatively new and rapidly evolving. Qualified experts in the field will address important problems but

apparently without sufficient concentration on the planning. In general terms, the scientific and technological content of

the proposal is very as a major optical problem for vision problems. The Conferences include the applications of optical and electronic instruments and the chemical substances used with lasers. Topics to be discussed uses of lasers in Medicine,Surgery, Biology, Veterinary, Basic Research, Physics and Engineering, encouraging correct use, especially regarding safety norms. A plenary session will Emphasize possible side effects and complication of laser uses, comparison betweenlaser/light sources and traditional tools, drugs, instrumentation, and the scientific bases of non surgical laser - bio-modulation.

The main focus is on the correct use and the safety norms of laser technology rather than theoretical research/scientific skills. Prior to and during the conference 11 basic courses offering some hands on experience will be available.

All in all, the approach is well defined and the organizers / lecturers are well qualified for the job at hand.

### 2. Quality of the Research Training

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The LF04 training addresses the needs of junior medical staff that will use laser technology, will promote the correct

uses and the safety norms of lasers and light sources for the diagnosis and treatment in medicine and surgery. LF04 aims

to provide a coherent high quality training addressing both theoretical and practical aspects of laser technology. The

conference program is contemplating teaching activities for master's or doctoral degrees as well as specialized training for

all participants directly or indirectly involved in the project of the proposal, mainly devoted to methodological and



# International Academy Laser Medicine and Surgery

practical aspects. The conference program and objectives are very broad, the scientific environment of the host institution

provides a wide spectrum of technology for laser application. A very exciting list of conference Scientific Board Members exists.

The Basic Courses are organized by a highly respected faculty, including pioneers in the use of laser in medicine and

surgery. Industries will give their instrumentation for hands-on experience. In conclusion, the training mainly addresses

the needs of junior medical staff who will use this technology, but also suitable for other researchers from across Europe.

LFO4 will transfer mainly practical (clinical application) training, but with some theoretical knowledge related to the use

of laser techniques including experience in treating clinical cases.

### **3. Coordinator of the project**

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Professor Leonardo Longo, the coordinator of the project, has an outstanding experience in laser technology and who has an impressive history as a director of a Laser Center, Siena University, and as president of the previous LF meetings. He has experience, mentoring capacity, facilities and infrastructure to provide a very organization of this conference. The host institution ILM (Florence, IT) is well recognized and experienced in Laser related International conferences. organized since 1997 national and international workshops and courses in this field. The scientific board is very large, including scientists from Europe and USA that will allow a valuable exchange of ideas, experience and training methods. The expertise of each participating member of the conference is good and there is wide complementary and overlapping expertise among these members

### **4. Management and Feasibility**

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The coordinator demonstrated good management capabilities in previous similar actions. He assembled a large scientific board with great interest in this field and numerous co-sponsors and cooperating organizations, some of them being involved in collaborations in research projects and training laser issue. The team leader has a proven track-record of managing successfully commercial or scientific national and international projects. The project is feasible and has a

planned strategy for the effective dissemination of project results and achievements. The management plans are well

designed and are of high quality. They include the cooperation with the host Institution as well as with many other

institutes, shown in a list of the Scientific Board Members. Organization & Management is by the Int. Acad. Laser Med.

& Surg and the Int. Laser Med. (ILM) Florence, well experienced in organization and highly qualified professionally This

framework will take care of dissemination of abstracts in the J Laser Med Sci. Participation fees and hotel costs from the

EC requested for 30+30=60 'researcher' participants for a total of E100,000, which seems rather high (Form A1 relates to

80 person of 300 participants).

### **5. Relevance to the Aims of the Action**

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LF04 as an international event will promote mobilization and development of human resources in the area of research,

diagnosis and surgical use of laser for the benefit of human health and welfare The project field is rapidly expanding and it is therefore likely that the training will be beneficial not only for the participants, but also for the dissemination in general The practical and scientific impact of laser technology on human health is high all over the world. Research achievements in Europe, both for diagnosis and treatment of diseases, as well as for industrial development in production of new, cheaper, safer and more effective devices, as well as improvements of research activities Europe, would certainly mean greater benefit to human health in the world and wider economic achievements in Europe.

The expected audience at Laser Florence Conferences and Courses is composed by professionals of both sexes, young in age and/or experience. The majority comes from European countries and many from countries that are economically less fortunate. The meeting support motivated young women and men. Special prizes for women are foreseen for the best presentations and best posters in the Conference. In conclusion, this meeting should make a good contribution to training in Laser application within Europe.



## 6. Community Added Value

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The conference will disseminate medical, practical and scientific knowledge of laser technology both at a European and international level. The higher level of education of the specialists in the field and of the population in general is a basic element for building up the infrastructure necessary for economic excellence. In conclusion, this meeting will disseminate medical, practical and scientific knowledge of laser technology. The proposal has an Added value for several reasons: the applicants come from EU-member countries, and it Boosts up international co-operation. European cohesion and attractiveness will benefit from this proposal. The program contributes to the development of human resources in the field of medical and industrial laser research and clinical practice. It provides social and economic impact in the non-invasive diagnostics and treatment of diseases and aesthetic medicine and surgery. Training, basic or in-service or continuing education, is proposed and encouraged for women. Trained people using new technological developments, are building up the infrastructure necessary for economic excellence and to compete on the international market successfully. Women are the main beneficiaries of laser research and special poster and presentation prizes are proposed. 30% of invited Speakers are women.

## 6. Webpage and Official Journal

The website welcomes all members of IALMS. This website reinforces the already functioning IALMS web. site [www.ialms.org](http://www.ialms.org), totally available to regularly paying members.

The IALMS annual budget is published on the web, in the member's area, as well as the list of the members and their position in the Academy. Longo suggests that we should continue our relations with SPIE, although promised, no contribution has already given by them. Reza Malek, will contact them upon his return to the States, and will see to it.

Nevertheless SPIE is doing a great job by publishing our papers and therefore, serves as an important media for IALMS.

The suggestion is approved unanimously

Longo reminds that Elsevier's journal "Laser Medical Application" is the official Journal of IALMS and ELA. It Bears the logo on the cover and some members of the IALMS Committee are included in the advisory and editorial board of the journal.

This journal now is published with late. On the other hand this journal is very important.

Longo's suggestion to continue our association with this Journal is unanimously approved

Therefore we shall not pay but rather wait and see.

## 8. Meetings & Congresses.

Longo remind his willingness to host the ISLSM congress in Florence in 2007, linked with Laser Florence Conference.

## 9. Next meeting

Longo announced the next Laser Florence meeting to take place between 10-12 November 2005, and the Pre-congress Courses the day 9th November

It has to be so due to the proximity with the 2005 Tokyo 16th World Congress of ISLSM and the 1st Congress of WFSLMS (between 7-10 September 2005).

**The Reporter (Abraham Baruchin)**

Rapport on Laser Florence 2004  
(By Leos Navratil)



# International Academy Laser Medicine and Surgery

In the days of October 28th– 30th, 2004 was held in Florence, Italy, already 19th International Congress of Laser Medicine, which has been organized by International Academy for Lasers in Medicine and Surgery (I.A.L.M.S.). Professor Leonardo Longo, M.D. was President of this Congress.

The Congress presents in Laser Medicine an action with longest tradition. It takes place many of years not only in the same town but also in the same halls. The connection of monumental town's atmosphere, in which the history pulsates with each walk, with the scene of magnificent Renaissance small castle providing an exquisite view on the town, touches on majority of participants as a magnet, which attracts them every year in October-November into the town upon the river Arno.

Every year many specialists studying possibilities to use lasers in experimental as well as in clinical medicine meet here and many personal friendships between them were taken up.

As in every years so in this many prominent specialists in laser therapy took part in honourable as well as in organizing and scientific committees.

**Program Chairpersons** were K. Khatri, MD, M.L. Pascu, PhD, W. Waidelich, PhD\_

**Honorary Committee** were M. D'Ovidio, MD; A. Hofstetter, MD; I. Kaplan, MD; R. Malek, MD; V. Oswal, MD; M. Postiglione, MD ; A. Sona, PhD.

**Scientific and Organizing Committee** were J. Anders, PhD; B. Azaz, MD; G.D. Baxter, PhD; A. Baruchin, MD; P. Bugli, MD; S. Gabay, PhD; V. Jeganathan, MD; A. La Torre, MD; G. Lynn-Powell, DDS; R. Lubart, PhD; M. Marumo, MD; M. Marchi, PhD; L. Navratil, PhD; T. Oshiro, MD; P. Smalley, TN; E.P. Tomasini, Eng; J. Vaitkus, PhD; A. Vaitkuvienė, MD

On the whole 304 participants from 42 worldwide countries took part in the Congress. 120 young specialists took part in conference, 60 granted within the Programme of European Union of Marie Curie thanks to indomitable effort of the President of Congress .

Congress passed under the sponsorship of important Italian and foreign institutions and municipal celebrities, as the North American Consul in Florence, the Vice-President of the Honorary Consuls in Italy, the President of the Florence Medical Association, the representant of the Major of Florence.

The conference was divided in 14 sections: laser safety; PDD/PDT; basic research; laser and light biomodulation; conventional and laser methods – comparisons and controversies; orthopaedics; laser diabetology; phlebology and vascular lesions; laser, light and skin; laser rehabilitation and sport medicine; urology; ophthalmology; dentistry; resurfacing and rejuvenation. 96 lectures have been reported, and 11 posters demonstrated. The programme has been supplemented by 2 workshops.

It was sometimes difficult to take decision what would be the most interesting, because the programme had 3 parallel sections. Some of the themes were quite new! Par instance the study bearing to mechanism of light and therapeutic laser action on tissue. Further the possibility of laser using in therapy of diabetes mellitus, contribution of therapeutic laser in healing of traumatogenic lesions of spinal cord and others.

International symposium was supplemented traditionally by educational courses above all for young specialists. They can in this manner acquire a complete information in given problems and meet with prominent world-known specialists.

A session of committee I.A.L.M.S. (Executive Committee Assembly) was also part of special programme. Participants of the session became acquainted with economic situation of the Academy and its projects above all in the sphere of young specialists education. A vital discussion was dedicated to the possibility of own journal issue, eventually connection of the Academy with some of already editing laser titles. New members acquisition above all young colleagues personates a task for all Academy members. The Academy has at





# International Academy Laser Medicine and Surgery

present 264 members and five special cooperative societies from Rumania, Israel, Lithuania, Australia and Czech Republic.

The special programme was supplemented traditionally by the opulent social programme. Congress opening was realized in the fascinating Palazzo Vecchio, which had been built in the years 1299 – 1314 as residence of City Corporation, which lasts for today. All participants was fascinated by its great hall (Salone dei Cinquecento), which is 53,7 m long, 18 m wide and 22 m high. Its decorations had been created above all from Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo Buonarroti. The President of the Health Commission of the Common of Florence, madam S. Agostini, MD, gripped all participants with her excellent speech by the ceremonial opening. Excursion along Florence was also unforgettable. Participants admired not only the town but also Medicean treasure in Archaeological museum or Palace Pitti. The dinner in Toscana style was delicious too. The summit of congress was the Gala evening in one of medieval palaces in Florence. The authors of the best lectures and posters and also of those, who had merit in development of laser therapy, were here rewarded.

This year's following Authors were rewarded in particular categories:

- **Michelle Copeland**, MD: *Radiofrequency energy as non-surgical alternative for facial rejuvenation.* (Mount Sinai Hospital, New York - USA)
- **Ali Gur et Al**, MD, PhD .*Comparison of efficacious of low power laser and physiotherapy in the management of painful knee osteoarthritis: a single-blind, randomised and placebo controlled trial.* (Medical Faculty of Dicle University, Diyarbakir, Turkey)
- **M. Matsutomo et Al**, Eng *Development of brain tumor demarcation technique using two-colour laser-induced fluorescence.* (Yamagouchi University 2.16.1 Tokiwachi, Japan)
- **K. Moghissi**, MD, PhD *Photodiagnosis (PDD) and photodynamic therapy (PDT) in oncology with particular reference to lung cancer.* (Cardio-thoracic Surg,Clin., Yorkshire Laser Center, London, Great Britain)
- **S.V.L.G. Naidu et Al**, MD *The Use Of Low Output Laser Therapy To Accelerate Healing Of Diabetic Foot Ulcers. A Randomized Prospective Controlled Trial* (Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, Seremban General Hospital, Seremban, Malaysia)
- **Lenka Veverkova et Al**, MD *Morphological changes in rabbit's vein following laser therapy.* (Ist. Department of Surgery, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic)
- **Augustina.Vila Echaque et Al**, MD. *Multiple apocrine hidrocystoma of the face treated with smoothbean laser.* (Wellman Laboratory of Photomedicine- MGH, Boston - USA).  
The poster of authoresses from Czech Republic was evaluated as the best:
- **Helena Jelinkova, Tatiana Dostalova et Al**, MD.: *Interaction of ER:YAG laser radiation with ureter tissue.* (Czech Technical Univ. -Nuclear Sciences Phys.Eng., Prague, Czech Republic)  
These Authors could come back in Laser Florence the next year free of the charge.

Special awards for their continous high level scientific contribution were given to:

**Penny Smalley**, TN, *TCI Chicago, USA*

**Joe Niamtu**, MD, *Maxillofacial & Cosmetic Facial Surgery, Richmond, USA*

**John Chiu**, MD, *California Center for Minimally Invasive Surg., Thousand Oaks, USA*

**Giuseppe Tam**, MD, *Udine, Italy*

**Masashi Marumo**, MD, *Marumo Clinic, Osaka, Japan*

Perhaps only weather didn't favour for the participants, because it was raining often.

Interjection „Vivat Laser Florencia 2005“ encouraged participants of Congress by leave-taking.

**Regarding Laser Florence 2005, the next November 10th -12th 2005, there will further news.**

**Vasant Oswal offer a grant of Eurodollars 250 for the best lecture of the years 2005-2006, as Vasant Oswal Foundation.**

**The IALMS propose further Eurodollars 250 for the best lecture of the same years.**

**In addition, special awards were assigned for the best presentations of each Conference session, included free subscription for the next conference.**

See you to Florence the next November!



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Type of membership	Eurodollars
<b>Founding:</b> are members who have participated in the act of foundation or who will be admitted as such, up until 31 December 2000.	<b>50</b>
<b>Honorary:</b> are nominated by Executive Committee for very high scientific and cultural merits. They do not pay the subscription fees.	<b>Nothing</b>
<b>Fellow:</b> after five years of membership, or after <i>three</i> presentations at different Academy Congresses and/or publications in the Academy Journal. Fellowship is by application to the Executive Committee	<b>50</b>
<b>Ordinary:</b> all the other members. Members are expected to pay the admission fees prevailing at the time of their admission.	<b>100</b>
<b>Scientific Societies and Associations :</b> these pay one USD for each of their member, and each Society with minimum of 200 members can have one representative in the Executive Committee upon application.	<b>1 for member</b>
<b>Manufacturers:</b> they cannot have a member in the Executive Committee; They can use the logo of the Academy on their brochures, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.	<b>500</b>
<b>Student:</b> , based upon presentation of the curriculum vitae ;	<b>50</b>
<b>Citizens of Countries with low economic level:</b> the subscription fee for these countries will reduced. .At this moment, these countries are East Europe, Central Africa, Central Asia.	<b>10</b>
<b>Laser in Medical Science 2005 subscription (4 issues and 1 Supplement) – Springer London Publ., included postage</b>	<b>100</b>





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