



World Glaucoma Association

The Global Glaucoma Network

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Irene Koomans
Marije de Graaf

Meeting : Global Outreach Committee
Date : Wednesday, June 24, 2020
Time : 6:00 PM CEST
Location : Online via Zoom
Present : Vijaya Lingam, Ronnie George, Winnie Nolan, Suman Thapa, Luis Abegao Pinto
Executive Office: Irene Koomans (minute taker and vote counter)

Minutes

1. Welcome
2. Progress from October 2019
 - a. The new South and Southeast Asia Fellowship Program has been put on hold due to COVID-19.
 - b. There are two new potential glaucoma society members for the World Glaucoma Association (WGA):
 - i. Glaucoma Group of the Ophthalmological Society of Ghana
 1. Positive recommendation from WGA Executive Committee, will be put to vote at next Board of Governors meeting.
 - ii. [Sudanese Glaucoma Association](#)
 1. Via former ICO-WGA Fellow, will be discussed at next WGA Executive Committee on July 2.
 - c. Interest from glaucoma group of the Emirates Society of Ophthalmology (ESO) to join the WGA. We were supposed to partner for their annual conference October 2020, but their meeting has been postponed to 2021 due to COVID-19.
3. Evaluate current goals
 - a. Fellowship Program
 - i. There were 3 inaugural ICO-WGA Fellows in Helsinki (Finland), 5 in Melbourne (Australia) and there will be 10 for Japan in



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2021. The Executive Committee has expressed that their goal for the WGA to stay more in touch with the Fellows and to assist them more when they are back in their home country. With equipment for instance, linking them with industry partners to make that happen. Such as the 2019 Fellow from Ethiopia who now has a [SLT in her hospital](#). The ICO-WGA Fellowship Program is run by the ICO and they request feedback from both Fellow and host institute directly after the Fellowship. The Fellows are requested to submit an evaluation report 1 year later as well and are invited to various alumni events.

- ii. Winnie explains the program they are running, where Fellows need to audit 20 cases once they return to their home country and report back to the host institute. This works well. When reaching out to industry to donate equipment, there has been little success for this program however.
- iii. The same goes for the WGA: especially in the current pandemic it has been difficult to get industry support for equipment/material. The WGA has recently established a [Development Committee](#) to focus on fundraising for the association. It would be good for the Global Outreach committee to team up with them. Some good news: Novartis is going to financially support the ICO-WGA grant for 4 Fellows in 2021.
- iv. Ronnie mentions that an ICO-WGA Fellows Alumni network would be beneficial. We can ask the senior Fellows to assist us in setting this up, with a Facebook group for instance or another way of connecting via social media. Irene to look into the options.
- v. In Melbourne, the committee discussed the possibility of a curriculum for the Fellowship program. There is currently no



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curriculum for the ICO-WGA Fellowship Program. The ICO in general does not have a curriculum for the program, as every candidate has a different skill set and different focus on what to achieve when starting the Fellowship.

- vi. Winnie explains that their 10-14 day residential course does have a curriculum, which includes dry and wetlabs, which gets impressive results.
- vii. Irene adds that part of the curriculum could be a 'closing event' which the Fellows had in Australia. This was highly appreciated by the Fellows and included presentations by them, their mentors/other experts, wetlabs as well as social activities.
- viii. The objective of the ICO-WGA Fellowship Program is very broad: to help promising young ophthalmologists from developing countries improve their practical skills and broaden their perspectives of ophthalmology and glaucoma.
- ix. Luis asks if the WGA is able to certify other Fellowship/Training Programs. As the WGA 'stamp of approval' for various programs will help the fellows/trainees in their career. All agree that currently the WGA doesn't have the (human) resources to undertake such a certification.

b. New Member Societies

- i. Discussed at agenda item 2.b.

4. Identify action plan for next 12 months & divide responsibilities

- a. Winnie and Ronnie will share the curriculum they have for their respective programs with the committee members, to:
 - i. Establish a clear objective/statement for the ICO-WGA Fellowship Program
 - ii. Draft guidelines for a curriculum for the host institutes of the 2021 program



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- iii. Also connect with previous Fellows, such as Farouk Garba, for their feedback and input.
 - b. Irene to work on alumni event at WGC-2021 with committee members and WGC team.
5. Identify needed funds & time from Executive Office
6. Any other items
7. Closure