



World Glaucoma Association

The Global Glaucoma Network

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Neeru Gupta (CA)
President
Fabian Lerner (AR)
Immediate Past President
Keith Martin (AU)
Past Past President
Arthur Sit (US)
Treasurer
Shan Lin (US)
Executive Vice President
Kaweh Mansouri (CH)
Associate Executive Vice President
Ningli Wang (CN)
President-Elect

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Vijaya Lingam (IN)
Pradeep Ramulu (IN)
Lisandro Sakata (BR)
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Fotis Topouzis (GR)
Anja Tuulonen (FI)
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Remo Susanna Jr. (BR)
Ivan Goldberg (AU)
Robert Weinreb (US)
Roger Hitchings (UK)

Board of Governors Meeting Minutes – June 27, 2023

Date : Tuesday, June 27, 2023
Location : Hilton Eur La Lama, Rome, Italy
Present Governors : Neeru Gupta, Fabian Lerner, Nkiru Kizor-Akaraiwe, Vijaya Lingam, Winifred Nolan, Arthur Sit. Robert N. Weinreb (IGR Representative)
Executive Office : Shan Lin, Kaweh Mansouri, Liezl Botha, Fatima Azzahra
Apologies : Anja Tuulonen, Fotis Topouzis, Ingeborg Stalmans, Keith Martin, Lisandro Sakata, Makoto Aihara, Pradeep Ramulu, Xinghuai Sun

Welcome

Dr. Neeru Gupta, President of the World Glaucoma Association (WGA), welcomed all to the WGA Board of Governors meeting and expressed gratitude and excitement for the upcoming 10th World Glaucoma Congress.

Report of the Executive Vice President

Dr. Shan Lin thanked everyone for coming to the 10th World Glaucoma Congress and mentioned that WGA is in the final steps of the merger of THGF-WGA. The 2023 World Glaucoma Congress was still legally and financially organized by THGF due to Italy VAT reasons. After the congress, THGF will be dissolved, and WGA will legally and financially organize the World Glaucoma Congress.

He welcomed the newest Silver Glaucoma Industry member: Viatrix and the Bronze Glaucoma Industry members: Glaukos, BVI Medical, Oculus, Nova Eye, Heidelberg Engineering, Belkin Vision, Elios Vision, Eyetronic, OPTOPOL, Olleyes, Omikron Italia, Seonix Bio, VISUfarma, and NIDEK. Dr. Gupta thanked Dr. Lin for his efforts to secure 14 new industry members.

WGA milestones were shared, such as Social Media growth and WGA Global Webinars achievements and thanked everyone involved. Dr. Lin mentioned that there will be more WGA Global Webinar this year after the World Glaucoma Congress.

Extraordinary achievements of the 10th World Glaucoma Congress on registrations, abstracts, and sponsorships numbers were reported. Dr. Lin acknowledged all Program Planning Committee members for their hard work. Dr. Gupta thanked him for outstanding efforts to ensure a successful Congress.



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Treasurer's Report

Dr. Arthur Sit, WGA Treasurer, provided an update on the finances of the WGA organization as a whole. Dr. Sit shared the 2018-2022 WGA Reserves which have remained stable.

Dr. Sit showed the WGA income after congress expenses with breakdown of each item, which shows the growth of Industry membership income in 2023. The income and expenses of the World Glaucoma Congress throughout the years were shared and Dr. Sit pointed out that the 2023 World Glaucoma Congress is expected to be profitable despite higher expenses.

Education

Dr. Pradeep Ramulu apologized for not being able to be physically in the meeting but will meet everybody for the rest of the congress. Dr. Ramulu thanked the education committee members for their hard work and pointed out the goals of the education materials are to be the resources for professionals, including the courses in glaucoma, global webinars, fundamental questions in glaucoma, and surgical grand rounds.

Dr. Ramulu mentioned that there has been a request to translate the course into Punjabi and asked the Board of Governors for their opinion. Dr. Vijaya Lingam indicated that Punjabi is not a widely used language.

The idea of a "Question-based Learning of Glaucoma", where expert-validated questions are collected, implemented into a presentation, and link the answers to the WGA contents was raised. In the long-term, a WGA portal for this may be needed.

World Glaucoma Week

Dr. Lin presented the World Glaucoma Week update on behalf of Dr. Lisandro Sakata. Dr. Lin thanked patient committee members for their work on the 2023 WGW. Dr. Lin especially thanked Dr. Ki Ho Park in his success in engaging Korean celebrities which helped raising awareness of Glaucoma and generated traffic to the WGA social media during the campaign. Dr. Lin announced the next World Glaucoma Week which will be held on March 10-16, 2024.

International Glaucoma Review

Dr. Robert Weinreb thanked the Board of Governors for the opportunity to continuously serve WGA and thanked the contributing editors and publisher of the International Glaucoma Review. Dr. Weinreb mentioned that the abstracts reviewed are increasing over the years and received positive feedback from the experts.



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Dr. Weinreb welcomed six new editorial board members per January 1 and introduced new digital object identifiers (DOIs) for IGR comments to allow better linking and findability per August 1.

Dr. Gupta thanked Dr. Weinreb indicating that the IGR has helped to bring the community together for the WGA as an invaluable resource that keeps us abreast of new developments in the field.

Journal of Glaucoma

Dr. Gupta provided updates regarding the Journal of Glaucoma and mentioned free access for the first 30 days upon issue release. In 2022, an increase in unique visitors was shown in addition to an increase in number of countries reading the journal from 155 countries in 2021 to 177 countries in 2022.

Dr. Weinreb thanked Dr. Gupta for everything she done with the Journal of Glaucoma in a short period of time.

Nomination Committee

Dr. Lerner opened the nomination committee presentation by mentioning the past presidents list from the beginning of the World Glaucoma Association and their countries of origin. The nomination process for President-elect was summarized. Nominations were solicited from Board members via an online nomination process. All candidates were considered by the Nominating Committee during an online meeting taking place on June 22, 2023. After careful consideration of the contributions to the WGA and the field of glaucoma by the various candidates, Professor Ningli Wang was overwhelmingly recommended to be the WGA President-Elect. This was approved by the Executive Committee for presentation to the Board for approval.

His numerous leadership positions, contributions to glaucoma and the WGA, and to ophthalmology were summarized as follows:

- Director of Beijing Tongren Eye Center
- Vice President of Beijing Tongren Hospital
- Past President of Chinese Glaucoma Society
- Former member of the WGA Board of Governors
- Past President of Chinese Ophthalmological Society
- Immediate Past President of Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology
- Disseminated Glaucoma Consensus and Guidelines (Chinese translation)
- Leading clinician-scientist – ranked fourth in academic impact (Asia-Pacific)
- “Most cited Chinese Researcher” for 9 years



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- “Top 100 Power List” for 5 times

The Board was asked to vote for the recommendation of the nominations committee to have Prof. Wang as the WGA President-Elect 2023. The Governors unanimously approved the recommendation.

Additional Business

Before closing off the meeting, Dr. Gupta thanked Drs. Lin and Mansouri for being the Executive and Associate Executive Vice President for the past 7 years, and for their dedicated efforts to successfully grow the WGA. She shared that Dr. Lin will be stepping down as EVP at the end of the year with the need for a new EVP and continuity for the WGA.

Given that Dr. Mansouri has been working alongside Dr. Lin for the past 7 years as Associate EVP with intimate knowledge of the workings of the WGA, he would be well suited for this leadership role as EVP. This was discussed at the executive committee meeting with full support for the recommendation.

Dr. Mansouri was asked to step out of the meeting room before Board members were asked to share their views. There was unanimous support and approval for Dr. Mansouri to take on the role as EVP by the Board. Dr. Gupta thanked the Board and indicated an official start date of January 1st, 2024.

Dr. Gupta pointed out that WGA regulation article 1.1a below has not been historically practiced, and would require a second meeting of the Board before the New Year and a request to vote again:

“The nominations shall be certified by the President, the Executive Vice-President, and the Associate Executive Vice-President who shall send written notice of the nominations to the Board of Governors at least sixty (60) days prior to the meeting at which such officers and committee members are to be elected.”

The following amendment was proposed:

“The nominations shall be certified by the President, the Executive Vice-President, and the Associate Executive Vice-President. ~~who shall send written notice of the nominations to the Board of Governors at least sixty (60) days prior to the meeting at which such officers and committee members are to be elected.~~”

All Governors were in favor and there was no objection to this change.



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The idea of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Association Management after the Congress was raised, and all Board Members were in agreement.

World Glaucoma Congress 2025

Dr. Gupta announced that the recommendation from the Executive Committee for the 11th World Glaucoma Congress was Honolulu, Hawaii, USA, from June 25-28, 2025.

The rotation of regions for WGC-2025 was for the Americas. Several locations were proposed by members of WGA leadership including Vancouver, San Diego, Fort Lauderdale, and Honolulu. Convention center bureaus were contacted in each of these cities for availability and proposals.

Potential dates in 2025 for WGC were not available for San Diego. Because of weather, financial, and accessibility concerns, Fort Lauderdale and Honolulu were considered the leading candidates. Official detailed proposals from both cities were obtained and presented to the Executive Committee. Honolulu was selected based on more favorable weather patterns in June, hotel availability and access, and financial incentive package. The board agreed and voted in favor of Honolulu, Hawaii, USA.

Next Meeting

The next Board of Governors meeting will be at the AAO Annual Meeting in San Francisco.