



World Glaucoma Association

The Global Glaucoma Network

Board of Governors Meeting Minutes – October 29, 2022

Date	:	Saturday, October 29, 2022
Location	:	Online via Zoom
Present Governors	:	Makoto Aihara, Neeru Gupta, Nkiru Kizur-Akaraiwe, Fabian Lerner, Vijaya Lingam, Winnie Nolan, Keith Martin, Pradeep Ramulu, Lisandro Sakata, Arthur Sit, Ingeborg Stalmans, Xinghuai Sun, Fotis Topouzis and Anja Tuulonen
Audit Committee	:	George Spaeth
Executive Office	:	Shan Lin, Kaweh Mansouri, Carolina Fontbote, Marije de Graaf
Absent	:	Robert N. Weinreb (IGR Representative)

1. Welcome/minutes approval

Dr. Neeru Gupta, President of the World Glaucoma Association (WGA), welcomes all to this WGA Board of Governors meeting. Approval is requested on the minutes of the previous Board of Governors meeting (April 30, 2022). The minutes are approved anonymously.

2. Report of the Executive Vice President

Dr. Shan Lin thanked everyone involved for the hard work on the Executive Committee and Board, as well as the MCI team, and mentioned that WGA is in the final steps of the merger of THGF-WGA. WGA will legally and financially organize the World Glaucoma Congress (instead of THGF).

Dr. Lin welcomed the newest Glaucoma Industry members: Olleyes Inc. and BVI Medical. The WGA membership keeps growing every year. Dr. Lin also mentions that since the pandemic, WGA website visitors and Social Media numbers keep growing.

Additionally, Dr. Lin gave an update on other WGA activities and milestones. 8 WGA Global Webinars were organized so far during the past 2 years which all have been a major success. The next Global Webinar will take place on Saturday, November 5, and will be about Minimally Invasive Glaucoma Surgery. Dr. Lin encourages all governors to attend this webinar.

20 fellowship awards will be made available in 2023, applications are being reviewed as we speak. Apart from focusing on the Sub-Saharan Africa region, fellowships are also made available for ophthalmologists in the South-East Asia region for the first time in 2023.

3. Education

Dr. Pradeep Ramulu shared about all educational material available for WGA members and mentioned what is new this year (2022). The Fundamental Questions in Glaucoma will be a collection of 5-7minute presentations of speakers answering 30 fundamental questions about the practice of glaucoma. Will be expanded to include “how to” videos for 20 basic procedures. As of the beginning of 2022, the video lectures had a total of 944 impressions and 285 views.

Dr. Ramulu also mentioned the Surgical Grand Rounds, which is a new webinar series launched in 2022 focussing on surgical challenges. The webinars are organized quarterly and the next one is planned for December 8, 2022.

Additionally, Dr. Ramulu introduced a new idea that the WGA Education Committee could potentially work on in the future: “Question-based Learning of Glaucoma”. The idea includes generating a bank of expert-validated questions across topics. The questions would be linked to the WGA/WGC content, to make it easier to find learning content. Multiple governors share they think this is a great idea.

Dr. Gupta thanked Dr. Ramulu for the important work he is doing for the WGA and for sharing his new idea.



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4. Treasurer's Report

Dr. Arhur Sit, WGA Treasurer, provided an update on the finances of the WGA organization as a whole. Dr. Sit shared the 2021 balance and total Assets, Liabilities & Equity as of 31.12.2021.

Dr. Sit shared about the Tax Exempt Status of the WGA Foundation, which retained earnings/reserves have remained stable in the past years. Dr. Sit also mentioned there haven't been issues with compliance with Swiss tax authorities.

Dr. Gupta informed all governors that the WGA Foundation 2021 Financial Statements have been shared with all governors up front. Dr. Winnie Nolan raised two questions: who are the 'Shareholders' and from whom does the WGA Foundation receive donations? Dr. Gupta informed Dr. Nolan that the WGA Executive Office will share the answers to her questions by email. After that, approval for the WGA Foundation 2021 Financial statements was requested. The WGA Foundation 2021 Financial Statements were approved unanimously.

5. Audit Committee

Dr. George Spaeth, chair of the Audit Committee, was invited to share an update about the Annual reports of WGA Foundation & THGF. The Audit Committee reviewed the Annual Financial Statements of the WGA Foundation for 2021 and mentioned that no formal Audit was performed in 2021, and the Committee recommended an audit in 2025.

Dr. Gupta informed all governors about the 2-years serving a period of members on the Audit Committee and that new members need to be elected for 2023-2024. Dr. Gupta introduced Dr. Tanuj Dada and Dr. Anja Tuulonen both as potential candidates. Both Drs. Dada and Tuulonen have already been approached with the request and both are interested to serve on the Audit Committee when this is approved. Dr. Gupta asked for approval to select Dr. Tanuj Dada and Anja Tuulonen as new Audit Committee members. Dr. Keith Martin commented that both Dr. Dada and Tuulonen are great choices. There are no objections from the Board and Dr. Dada and Dr. Tuulonen were approved to serve on the Audit Committee in 2023-2024.

6. Associate Advisory Board

Dr. Gupta informed all governors about the purpose of the WGA Associate Advisory Board (AAB) and thanked all governors for the nominations all governors submitted for the 2023 WGA AAB nomination process.

The below nominations were recommended to be approved by the WGA AAB.

- Hitomi Saito (Japan)
- Maria Jesus Rodrigo (Spain)
- Nazlee Zebardas (United States)
- Aakriti Garg Skukla (United States)
- Jiun Lap Do (United States)
- Sunee Chansangpetch (Thailand)

Dr. Neeru Gupta asked for a motion to approve the recommended nominations. Motion is given by Dr. Fabian Lerner and seconded by both Drs. Nikru Kizur-Akaraiwe and Winnie Nolan.

7. World Glaucoma Week

Dr. Lisandro Sakata shared an update on the activities that took place during the 2022 World Glaucoma Week (WGW). For the 2023 WGW edition, a meeting is planned with the co-chairs of the WGA Patient Committee to discuss the approach. One of the ideas is to focus more on targeting glaucoma patients and their families directly and providing them with relevant information.

Dr. Gupta thanked Dr. Sakata for the update and his hard work and encourages all governors to send ideas to Dr. Sakata to boost the 2023 WGW even more.



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8. World Glaucoma Congress®

Dr. Kaweh Mansouri, Associate Executive Vice President of the WGA, shared an update on the upcoming World Glaucoma Congress (WGC-2023), which will take place from June 28 – July 1, 2023, in Rome, Italy.

Abstract Submission is currently open and will close on January 16, 2023. Dr. Mansouri asked all governors to activate their network and invite them to submit abstracts via the WGC website.

In addition, Dr. Mansouri shared a few facts about the congress venue, how the marketing and promotion campaign are going, and mentioned that promotion at related congresses has also started and is going well. Regarding the program, Dr. Mansouri mentioned that the Program Planning Committee is currently finalizing the scientific program, and that speaker invitations have been sent.

9. WGA Awards

Dr. Gupta shared what WGA Awards are normally presented at the World Glaucoma Congress. For WGC-2023 three recommended award winners (found below) are presented to the WGA Board of Governors. Dr. Gupta asked for a motion to approve the recommendations of the WGA Executive Committee. A motion is made by Dr. Nikru Kizur-Akaraïwe and got seconded by Dr. Fotis Topouzis. All governors approve the recommended award winners.

- Laureate Award: Robert N. Weinreb
- Founders Award: Ningli Wang
- Special Recognition Award: Tanuj Dada

10. International Glaucoma Review

Dr. Shan Lin shared an update on the International Glaucoma Review (IGR), in Dr. Robert N. Weinreb's absence. The latest statistics on the IGR were presented and Dr. Lin thanked the IGR team for their hard work, giving credit to Simon Bakker from Kugler Publications, the publisher of IGR.

11. Journal of Glaucoma

Dr. Neeru Gupta mentioned the milestone of the JOG celebrating 30 years. The submissions remain stronger every year and they continue to increase. Dr. Gupta shared that the number of countries submitting has gone up, reaching all corners of the world, and making international readership grow.

Dr. Gupta thanked all the Editorial Board Members and asked the Board of Governors to please encourage Journal submissions to keep growing.

12. Other businesses

None.

13. Next meeting

The next WGA Board of Governors meeting was proposed to be scheduled in person in Rome, Italy, during the WGC 2023 (June 28 – July 1, 2023).