

Minutes of the SIG on Pain from Torture, Organized Violence, and War Business Meeting

20th August 2008, 16.30-17.30, during IASP 12th World Congress
Gala 2, SECC Glasgow, Scotland

Chair: Amanda C de C Williams

- 1 **Attendance:** 42 people attended the meeting. Apologies were received from Carlos Nebreda (outgoing treasurer), and several members of the SIG who were attending other SIG meetings at the same time.
- 2 **Minutes** of the last meeting (Sydney, at IASP 11th World Congress, 2005) had been circulated by email after the last meeting, and were agreed.
- 3 **Matters arising** - none other than those on the agenda.
- 4 **Elections:** outgoing officers were thanked, and incoming officers welcomed:

	<i>Outgoing</i>	<i>Elected 2008</i>
<i>Chair</i>	Dr. Amanda C de C Williams, UK	Dr Kirstine Amris, Denmark
<i>Chair-elect</i>	Dr Kirstine Amris, Denmark	Prof. Fernando Cervero, Canada
<i>Secretary</i>	Richard Payne, USA	Prof. Richard Payne, USA
<i>Treasurer</i>	Dr. Carlos L Nebreda, Venezuela	Dr Dominic Aldington, UK

There were no ongoing committees.

- 5 **Report from the chair.** The SIG now has 63 members, with more joining at the Congress. Members come from 44 countries, and represent 35 disciplines. The SIG Council Liaison member, Harald Breivik, was welcomed to the meeting. Activity over the years since 2005 had been the production of two newsletters per year, mailed and emailed to members and available on the web and via IASP (and at the Congress) to anyone, and the gradual building of the website with resources for members and others. The website will move to the IASP website shortly, with all other SIGs. Members were reminded that there was a workshop on pain from TOVW at the Congress, unfortunately on the last afternoon. The plenary by Inge Genefke at the Congress had been very well received and publicised the needs of people who have been tortured.
- 6 **Report from the treasurer:** Dominic Aldington gave the details of SIG finances at 30th June 08. All of our revenue has come from the "Dues" paid; US \$1100 in the last year. Most of our expenditure is on the newsletter and the secretarial costs. At 30 June 2008 we had a balance of US \$3,246 in our account held by IASP.
- 7 **Revision of bylaws** in line with the change of World Congress from every 3 to every 2 years. The SIG adopted its bylaws in 2006 in relation to a 3 yearly timetable. The following changes were agreed: new wording in *italics*, old wording in [].

Article 1 – Membership – no changes needed

Article 2. Meetings. 2.1. *Business Meeting.*

The SIG will hold a business meeting every [third] *second* year in conjunction with the IASP World Congress on Pain. Extraordinary meetings occurring in other years will be at the discretion of the Executive Committee, or at the request of 25 or more members of the SIG.

Article 3 Officers 3.2. *Terms of Office.*

The term of all Officers shall be [three] *four* years. Terms will end at the close of the *second* IASP World Congress of Pain following the one at which they were elected. Officers may be re-elected after a lapse of [three] *two* years.

Article 4 Committees 4.2. *Appointment in Committees.*

All members to committees will be appointed by the Executive Committee. The term of the Committee members is [three] *four* years. Committee members may be re-appointed. In the case of the Executive Committee, they may be re-elected according to article 3.2.

8 Any other business.

8.1 There was a proposal to write a section on pain from torture, organized violence and war within the IASP curriculum. Initial advice from the IASP secretariat was that this would probably be welcomed, and Amanda Williams undertook to approach the Curriculum Committee to establish the status of the curriculum, which was revised some while ago, to ask what the procedure was, and to feed back to members. There was some concern about how much the curriculum is actually used, and the suggestion of investigating liaison with the Developing Countries section where there is mention of survivors.

8.2 A second proposal concerned encouraging liaison within each country to a member belonged with the organisations in that country which worked with survivors of torture, organized violence, and/or war. These could be accessed using details in the directory held by IRCT (www.irct.org) which supports projects and programmes worldwide. Members would both offer teaching, case discussion, or other liaison to that organisation, and invite staff from the organisation to teach, discuss cases, or otherwise liaise over providing best care in pain clinics for survivors.

In Denmark and in the UK initial work had established good links and mutual training. Bengt Sjolund (RCT, Denmark) brought members' attention to the recently published *Field Manual for Rehabilitation*, available and downloadable from the RCT website (www.rct.dk). This encourages training of lay people to provide the support needed, given that most survivors remain in the developing world and only a few reach countries with well established health care, a point endorsed by a member from Bangladesh. There was discussion about targeting primary care health workers, rather than focusing on secondary or tertiary care, which was acknowledged.

8.3 A third proposal was to carry out a survey among organisations worldwide which treat survivors of torture, organized violence and war, asking their views and practices on pain and pain treatment. This would be a better version of that carried out in 2000 and published in the Proceedings of the 9th World Congress.

8.4 There was also concern that the SIG does not ignore the issue of doctors and other health professionals who collude in torture.

There was general agreement that these issues needed further consideration and discussion, in the next newsletter, and involving members unable to attend the Business Meeting. There was enthusiasm for promoting the aims of the SIG and raising its profile, both within and outside IASP, and through publication in refereed journals. Phil Lacoux agreed to support Kirstine Amris in steering these discussions on strategy and activities.