2: President's Report

The key focus in the past year has been preparing for the changes that will be implemented to establish the “new” ISCMR. This organization we all cherish has been through important discussions and deliberations starting prior to the 2014 Miami ICCMR congress. We are now hoisting our sails and embarking on the next phase of ISCMR.

1. Establishing the renewed ISCMR

The following steps have been taken in the process of establishing the renewed ISCMR. Not all pieces are in place yet, but we have moved a long step forward since we last met in Jeju, Korea.

a. *New by-laws implemented on an interim basis.* ISCMR had lost its legal status in the United States, and has now been re-established as a non-profit society under Canadian jurisdiction. The by-laws have been adjusted to meet the Canadian requirements. The by-laws working group has also drafted a number of additional changes to our previous bylaws. Since the previous legal status had been lost, the BOD has chosen to implement the revised bylaws as interim until the AGM can make a final vote at our upcoming AGM in Las Vegas in May, 2016.

b. *Reduced size of the BOD.* Our new by-laws require the BOD to have 9 or more members. The by-laws also require that “the BOD must always represent a minimum of three (3) continents, and can have no more than three (3) members from any one country—as well as represent the different strengths and diverse backgrounds needed for advising and leading the work of the Society.” If the AGM refrains from replacing outgoing BOD members, the BOD will be downsized to 10 members, while still fulfilling the requirements set out in the by-laws.

c. *Reduced membership fee for low-income countries.* The new by-laws enable researchers in low-income countries to become ISCMR members based on a membership fee tailored to their home country’s World Bank economic ranking. This has already been implemented and appreciated by colleagues.

d. *Changes to structure and revenue sharing with ISCMR Chapters.* The Canadian Interdisciplinary Network for Complementary and Alternative Medicine has been accepted as the Canadian chapter of ISCMR, and the transition will take place on May 1, 2016. This Canadian chapter stands as a model for other countries or regions in their development of local ISCMR chapters.

e. *New ISCMR website.* The ISCMR website has undergone a major facelift. As a spinoff of INCAM entering ISCMR as a chapter, INCAM generously offered their modern website framework. ISCMR has adapted it to be the official ISCMR website with INCAM as one of our regional chapters.

f. *Temporary working groups.* In addition to the bylaws working group we have had two additional working groups concentrating on the ICCMR conferences and a possible new name for ISCMR. A new name is under discussion as an agenda item for this AGM. The conference working group is still in the deliberation process.
2. **Annual ISCMR Scientific Article Award**

The first ISCMR Scientific Article Award was awarded to Dr. Tobias Sundberg at the Jeju conference. The nominations for 2016 have resulted in a tight competition. The jury has made its choice which will be announced Thursday May 19. The winner will also be featured in a newsletter sent out shortly following the Congress.

3. **The ISCMR Executive**

The executive has had several teleconferences throughout the year. All executive members contribute their specific and general expertise to the day-to-day running of the society. I would like to thank the members for their inspiration and work. A special appreciation needs to be extended to our secretary Antony Porcino. He carries the main burden, and this has been particularly heavy this last year with all the paperwork needed for revisions and contracts.

4. **ISCMR Congresses and the Dr. Marja Verhoef ISCMR Lectureship**

The ICCMR congresses have been the society’s main meeting place, and some years also our main activity. I am proud of all the hosts that over the years have contributed to uphold a high scientific standard, and I look forward to the plans and suggestions from our conference committee on how we can uphold this stronghold.

   a. 2016 Congress May 18-20 in Las Vegas, USA (www.icimh.org): ISCMR is pleased to be collaborating with the Academic Consortium for Integrative Medicine and Health to host the 11th International Congress on Complementary Medicine Research. As part of the Congress, ISCMR is hosting several workshops; sponsoring the third annual Dr. Marja Verhoef ISCMR Lecture; helping to organize the ISCMR Poster Prize Competition and will be announcing the winner of the second annual ISCMR Scientific Article Prize.

   b. 2017 Congress in Berlin, Germany: ISCMR is pleased to be collaborating with the Institute for Social Medicine, Epidemiology, and Health Economics at Charité – Universitätsmedizin to host the 2017 Congress. Planning is well underway and we look forward to seeing many ISCMR members in Berlin.

   c. 2018 Congress. ISCMR has again received a proposal from the Academic Consortium for Integrative Medicine and Health in North America for their 2018 conference. The venue for this conference is still being considered. Input from the ISCMR is currently being sought via an online poll and voting to identify opinions will be completed at the AGM in May. A final decision about accepting this application will be made at the ISCMR Board of Directors meetings in May or June this year. Results will be announced in an upcoming ISCMR Newsletter.

5. **ISCMR Special Interest Groups**

The ISCMR Research Methods and Qualitative Methods Special Interest Groups have been quieter this past year—for their activity details see their individual reports, below. Provisions in the new bylaws should better support the SIGs in achieving their aims. The new bylaws have moved the “regional SIGs” into properly structured Chapters. We welcome the
Canadian Chapter to ISCMR, and note that the European and Asian SIGs are in discussion about formally establishing their Chapters.

As President, I would like to also thank the Board of Directors and our Scientific Advisors for their thoughtful recommendations and exciting ideas.

It has been a pleasure to serve as ISCMR President this past year. I look forward to seeing many ISCMR members at the May Congress.

Vinjar Fønnebø,
ISCMR President
20 April 2016


1. Banking Information
   • ISCMR checking account is at DNB, Norwegian bank
     o The treasurer is the signer on the account.
     o Membership payment through PayPal
   • ISCMR accepts Master card, Visa, Discover, and American Express credit card payments. All credit card transactions can be conducted directly on the ISCMR website (www.iscmr.org).

2. Membership fees
   • To encourage international participation, members’ fees will be based on their primary country of work. The country categories are high, upper middle, and a combined lower-middle and low according to the World Bank economic rankings of countries.
   • Individual membership fees: 1 year/3 years
     o $100 USD / $260 – High income
     o $50 USD / $125 – Student/Trainee/Reduced fee
     o $20 USD / $50 – Upper-middle income
     o $5 USD / $12.50 – Low-middle & Low income
   • Group memberships:
     o annual membership fee of $500 USD for a maximum of 10 members
Table 1. Receivables and payables for 04/01/2015 to 03/31/2016

Starting balance 04/01 2015

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Balance 03/31.2016:

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Agnes Fjeldstad,
ISCMR Treasurer
19 April 2016
4: Membership Report

As of March 31 (reporting period: April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016)

While we usually report a break-down by country, we are having some difficulties with the reporting system on the new website. This should be remedied by the AGM, and the details will be included in the minutes.

Antony Porcino
Secretary, ISCMR
April 18, 2016

5: SIG Report: Research Methodology Training (RMT)

Chair: Claudia Witt

The overall aim of the research methodology training is to train physicians, practitioners and other people interested in complementary and integrative medicine research methods.

The SIG RMT provides the two training types: 1) stand alone research methodology training courses, and 2) research methodology congress workshops.

The SIG RMT will provide at the 2016 ISCMR Congress in Las Vegas a half-day pre-congress workshop on Health Economic Studies (Title: Policy and the Economics of Integrative Medicine”). The aim is to give attendees a strong conceptual foundation on the use of economic evaluation (e.g., cost-effectiveness, cost-utility and cost-benefit analysis) in healthcare policy, and on the proper application and interpretation of these techniques for complementary and integrative medicine.
5: SIG Report: Qualitative Methods  
Chairs: Cheryl Ritenbaugh & Sonya Pritzker

After the workshop on qualitative research methods at the meetings in Korea last year, the qualitative research interest group has been mostly dormant. We had hoped to begin activating more of a presence on the ISCMR website during this last year, for sharing resources such as bibliographies on relevant methods topics and exemplar research examples, as well as curricula and other updates. With the anticipated launch of the new website, we hope to get more involved in that in the coming year.

Leadership transition: Cheryl Ritenbaugh has now retired, and Sonya Pritzker has moved into a non-medical position at the University of Alabama. While Sonya is willing to maintain her position as Co-Chair of the SIG, we would be very interested in finding someone who is more directly involved with qualitative research in integrative medicine/CAM to be Chair or Co-Chair.

6: Report of the European Chapter of ISCMR for the year 2015

Chair: Wolfgang Weidenhammer

The basic structure of the chapter was reconsidered in early 2015 and mutually discussed in the steering group (Skype conference May 5, 2015). The group decided to quit the segmentation of the chapter into an ancillary taskforce group and to come back to one organizational body. This will facilitate organization as well as external communication. In the meanwhile the justification of this specific task force group as a bridge builder from the terminating CAMbrella project had run out.

As part of the ongoing work of the ISCMR European Chapter, we have been keeping an eye on EU research funding developments. In April 2015, we informed a greater CAM research community in Europe of a first draft of the Horizon2020/Health call 2016/17 comprising a potentially interesting topic which fitted well with CAM/IM in general. So, interested researchers were early enabled to prepare and develop a research idea.

The European Chapter was represented at ISCMR Annual Meeting in Jeju, Korea on May 14, 2015 by steering group member Ursula Wolf.

In 2015, the annual meeting of the European Chapter took place in September on occasion of the 8th European Congress for Integrative Medicine in Helsingor, Denmark. Main topic of the meeting has been the new bylaws of ISCMR with respect to the regional chapters. The implications on the European Chapter’s further development were discussed. Due to this upcoming significant change we postponed the election for the steering group’s next period to the date when the new bylaws are fixed. Thus, the steering group remains unchanged with the exception that Vinjar Fonnebø (ISCMR presidency) and Klaus von Ammon stepped down. At the end of 2015, members of the steering group were: Wolfgang Weidenhammer (chair), Nina Nissen, Bettina Reiter, Nicola Robinson and Ursula Wolf. Wolfgang Weidenhammer submitted his resignation from the steering group in early 2016.
6: Report of the Asian Chapter

Chair: To be elected

The Asian SIG was established in 2012. On September 17, 2012, the first meeting of the Asian Chapter took place at the Korea Institute of Oriental Medicine (KIOM) in Daejeon, Korea, with all steering group members attending the meeting. We had 3 more official meetings and sessions in Seoul, London, and Miami. It contributed to having ICCMR 2015 in Jeju, Korea, and has established research networks in Asian countries.

Since the conference last year, the SIG has not been very active, but we have started the discussion of organizing a new Asian Chapter, and look forward to member participation in that process this year. We look forward to receiving opinions and ideas from all members in the Asian Chapter countries.

For more information, or to share your thoughts, please feel free to contact the Asian Chapter Secretary, Myeong Soo Lee, by email at drmslee@gmail.com or mslee@kiom.re.kr.

7: ISCMR Elections

The Nominations Committee did not receive any responses from notices to members in the newsletters to join the Board of Directors (BOD), and did not actively recruit members for consideration. The 2016 BOD will consist of 10 active members. There will be elections in 2017, and any member wishing to be involved is invited to contact the Nominations Committee (via secretary@iscmr.org).

8: ICCMR 2017 presentation

— Preparations are progressing well.
— Details will be provided at AGM
— Website: http://www.ecim-iccmr.org/2017/

9: 2018 ICCMR Presentation

Executive Summary

The International Society for Complementary Medicine Research (ISCMR) is an international professional, multidisciplinary, non-profit scientific organization that is devoted to fostering complementary and integrative medicine research and provides a platform for knowledge and information exchange to enhance international communication and collaboration. It has a longstanding tradition of hosting annual international conferences and is soliciting applications for hosts for the 13th Annual International Congress on Complementary Medicine Research (ICCMR) in 2018.
The Academic Consortium for Integrative Medicine & Health (the Consortium) is a non-profit organization that currently includes 69 academic institutions and health care systems in North America. Our mission is to advance integrative medicine and health through academic institutions and health systems by disseminating information on rigorous scientific research, educational curricula in integrative health, and sustainable models of clinical care. The Consortium convened the 2006 North American Research Conference on Complementary and Integrative Medicine in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, where discussion ensured between leaders of the Consortium and ISCMR to align both organizations in future conferences. At the 2009 North American Research Conference on Complementary and Integrative Medicine, held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA, ISCMR held a one-day pre-conference symposium prior to the meeting and discussions continued on how to best partner. Starting with the 2012 International Research Congress for Integrative Medicine & Health in Portland, Oregon, USA, the Consortium has closely linked with ISCMR in staging the research conferences. The 2012 Portland Congress was co-sponsored by ISCMR and functioned as the 7th Annual ICCMR. The following year, 8th ICCMR held in London, England, continued our close collaboration with members of both organizations on the planning and program committees, and also by extending 'member' registration rates to individuals from both organizations. This continued with the 2014 9th Annual ICCMR held in conjunction with the IRCIMH in Miami, Florida, USA, and the 2015 10th Annual ICCMR held on the beautiful island of Jeju, Korea. Lastly, the Consortium is making final preparations for its upcoming International Congress for Integrative Medicine and Health, to be held May 17-20, 2016 in Las Vegas, NV. We were delighted that ISCMR was willing to partner with us to organize the research track of this meeting. Moreover, we are honored that the ISCMR Board of Directors approved the Las Vegas meeting to serve as its 11th Annual ICCMR. The ISCMR logo is prominently displayed on the home page of the Congress website and all printed materials. We look forward to continued collaboration as key members of the Consortium (Drs. Rick Hecht, Aviad Haramati, and Rob Saper) are closely involved in the planning of the 2017 ISCMR meeting in Berlin, Germany.

With this application, the Consortium is proposing to continue to partner with ISCMR and host the 2018 13th Annual International Congress for Complementary Medicine Research. The basis of this proposal is the strong belief that a truly global effort and partnership between our two organizations is needed to transform health care through rigorous evidence-informed complementary and integrative medicine research. We propose that the 2018 International Congress for Integrative Medicine in Health convened by the Consortium will also be cosponsored by ISCMR and serve as its 13th ICCMR. The Conference would include peer-reviewed oral and poster abstracts presentations, investigator-led symposia and workshops, keynote and plenary sessions, and panel discussions coordinated by key faculty members.

The dates, city, and venue of the 2018 Congress are currently being determined. We hope to have these finalized in order to announce at the Las Vegas Congress and describe them to you in more detail at your annual meeting held during the ICIMH. We anticipate the meeting to be scheduled as in the past during the spring. We have solicited proposals from venues in Boston, Massachusetts; Baltimore, Maryland; Nashville, Tennessee; and the greater Phoenix, Arizona area which includes Scottsdale, Arizona. The Consortium is financially strong with substantial reserves and is prepared to assume full financial responsibility for the meeting. Registration fees will be discounted for ISCMR Members and are anticipated to be in the range of our 2016 Congress fees. Although the Consortium and ISCMR will be the convening and cosponsoring organizations, respectfully, other organizations with missions and goals aligned with the
Conference may be invited to sponsor and exhibit. Members of ISCMR will be invited and strongly encouraged to participate fully in the Congress planning including active participation on its organizing, program, scientific review and other committees.

10: New ISCMR Bylaws

The new society bylaws were accepted by the Board of Directors as interim bylaws at the BOD meeting in January, for vote by the membership at the AGM.

The bylaws have been available for review on the ISCMR website since that meeting, and can be reviewed under member’s area, documents.

VOTE: Yes or No: Do we accept the proposed bylaws be adopted as the official bylaws of the Society?

11: Proposed Name Change

VOTE: Yes or No: Do we accept the following item to be adopted as the new name for the Society:
ISCMIHR: International Society of Complementary Medicine and Integrative Health Research

VOTE: Yes or No: Do we accept the following to be adopted as the Tagline for the Society:
ISCMIHR: Supporting researchers of complementary medicine and integrative health since 2003

Details:

At the 2014 ISCMR meeting in Miami, the issue of changing ISCMR’s name and/or adding a tag line to incorporate the term “integrative health” was discussed. A group, led by Sonya Pritzker and consisting of Alan Benoussan, Marja Verhoef, George Lewith, Brian Berman, Jianping Lu, Peter Fisher, and Antony Porcino, was formed to look further into this issue. After discussion, the group has agreed that, given the importance of emphasizing health as well as allied health professionals (beyond “medicine”), it is indeed advisable to add “integrative health” to ISCMR’s name in some capacity. After several discussions, the proposals were as follows:

(1) Changing the name of the organization to International Society for Complementary Medicine and Integrative Health Research (ISCMIHR), which would offer a similar sounding acronym while incorporating “integrative health.” Other proposed name changes, which were not favored by the smaller group, included Integrative Society of Complementary Medicine Research (ISCMR), which preserves the acronym but excludes both “international” and “health”; and International Society of Integrative Medicine Research
(ISIMR), which also neglects to include “health” and was felt not to be as strong-sounding as the others.

(2) Formalizing a tag line that can be used to complement the name: ISCMHIR: Supporting researchers of complementary medicine and integrative health since 2003.