



# INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF MANUAL/MUSCULOSKELETAL MEDICINE

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**To: Members of the International Academy of Manual/Musculoskeletal Medicine**

Dear Colleagues,

## **The relationship between the Academy and FIMM**

As most of you will know, the Academy was instituted in September 2004. It developed as the semi-autonomous scientific arm of FIMM, as agreed at the FIMM General Assembly (GA) in Bratislava 2004. The Academy, which has its own statutes ("Articles of Association"), was to be supported financially by FIMM for 4 years. Under these Articles, it is stipulated that the Academy is an individual membership organisation, whereas FIMM offers membership to national societies only. Academy membership is open to any clinician from the medical and allied professions whose experience in scientific work or education in Manual/Musculoskeletal Medicine satisfies the Membership committee. During the last 4 years, FIMM has been able to exercise control over the positions of three of the four officers of the Academy Executive Board (Chairman, Finance Officer and Administrative Officer).

At the most recent landmark annual FIMM GA in Varna, Bulgaria in September 2008, it was decided *nem con* by the national society representatives that the Academy should become fully independent of FIMM. This decision was tied to other decisions, the "package" of agreements being as follows:

- The Academy is now fully independent of FIMM. This independence includes both fiscal independence and independence of control of any type by FIMM over the Academy
- FIMM will not pay its final (2008) annual financial instalment to the Academy
- FIMM and the Academy will work closely together in other respects, supported by a Memorandum of Understanding.

I wish to inform you that in view of the difficulties experienced by FIMM over the last year or two, about which I have kept you informed in letters during the course of 2008, I believe the decisions made by FIMM GA concerning the relationship between FIMM and the Academy are definitely for the best. Hopefully, the decisions will allow FIMM to achieve greater stability and allow the Academy to move forward and prosper.

My four year term of office as Chairman of the Academy Executive Board has come to an end. According to the Articles of Association, the FIMM GA would have been responsible for the election of a new chairman. In the event, as the Academy became independent of FIMM control at the recent FIMM GA, an election was not undertaken. It is important of course that the due processes of democracy prevail, and that the Academy membership is given the opportunity to elect my successor at the Academy General Meeting in Prague, May 2009. In the intervening period, I am very happy to report that Lars Remvig has agreed to take over the position of (provisional) Chairman of the Executive Board – to the entire satisfaction of the other officers and associate members of the Board. The Articles of Association will need to be amended – by a vote of the Academy membership in Prague 2009 - to accommodate the changed circumstances.

The next meeting of the Academy Executive Board will take place in London at the end of this month (November 2008) when the Agenda items will include:

- Revision of the Articles
- Proposal for Officers of the Executive Board
- Memorandum of Understanding

We will of course keep you informed of any further developments, for instance the final terms of the Memorandum as soon as they are agreed by the Executive Boards of FIMM and the Academy.

I am confident that the Academy is well placed under these changing times to progress as intended, and to develop into a truly influential and esteemed international organisation. I have enjoyed my role as Chairman of the Executive Board, and I am entirely confident that Olavi (Airaksinen) as Scientific Director and Lars (Remvig) as Chairman will take the Academy forward with skill and energy, fully supported by Viktor (Dvorak) as Finance Officer.

Thank you for the confidence demonstrated by you all during my term as Chairman of the Executive Board of the Academy since its inception. I will of course continue my membership, and participate as you all do in the affairs and work of the Academy!

***Mike Hutson***  
***Retiring Chairman of the Executive Board***