



Happy New Year to those of you that recently celebrated New Year's and Chinese Spring Festival, and the same best wishes to those celebrating Rosh Hashanah next September.

Much has happened since the last UIP General Council meeting in Roma in April. The UIP Executive Committee, working on behalf of the UIP General Council has made great progress on a number of projects, about which I would like to bring you up to date.

Foundation update

First, as you remember, the General Council voted to approve the Feasibility Study for a proposed UIP Foundation. That study is designed to establish whether such a foundation is feasible and sustainable for the UIP. The UIP Executive Committee met in December in Paris and unanimously voted to approve the concept of a UIP Foundation as a separate entity from the UIP itself, under separate governance to establish a firewall between the funding entity of the UIP and the research and educational projects desired by the UIP. This firewall is vital to prevent bias from funding entities encroaching on the academic integrity of research and educational projects.

The Feasibility Study will be conducted by Trident Development Services with oversight from a UIP Foundation Project Committee to include Marianne de Maeseneer (Belgium), Malay Patel (India), Andrew Bradbury (UK), Oscar Bottini (Argentina) as physician members and Sandra Lesenfant (Medtronic), Uwe Meyer (medi), and Simon Hogan (BTG) representing the three Angel Investors for the Feasibility Study.

The study will be completed and results delivered to the UIP Executive Committee in May, 2017. Also included in that report will be a full accounting of all expenditures from the €90,000 Angel Investment fund used for the development and conduction of the study.

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Executive Committee Members at the Paris 2016 Meeting
(Left to Right: **Standing**: A. Cavezzi, M. Patel, A. Schapira, M. de Maeseneer, M. Meissner, E. Tkach, K. Parsi. **Seated**: PL Antignani, A. Scuderi, N. Morrison)

UIP Certificate of Knowledge Update

During a meeting in Paris in December, 2016, the UIP Executive Committee voted to approve the development of a UIP Certificate of Knowledge.

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UIP World Congress/Regional Meeting Reorganization

A vote by the General Council will be taken at the next UIP World Congress in Melbourne in February, 2018 on a proposal to restructure future UIP World Congresses and Chapter Meetings.

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Additional UIP Activities

The following meetings have received the UIP auspices since April, 2016

- Symposium of the Scientific Society of Clinical Phlebologists, Moscow, Russia, Oct 25-27, 2017
- VI International Interuniversity Meeting in Phlebology, Lymphology and Aesthetic Medicine, Albarella Island (Venice), Italy, Sep 6-9, 2017
- St Petersburg Forum, St Petersburg, Russian Dec 2016
- 2nd International Meeting on Continuing Medical Education in Phlebology, Cancun, Mexico, Sep 10-15, 2016

Foundation Update – Cont'd

If the study finds the foundation to be a viable entity, the Executive Committee would vote to direct a UIP Foundation steering committee, chaired by Giovanni Mosti of Italy and to include important UIP leaders and industry supporters, to solicit funding for research and educational projects submitted from the UIP. Solicitation of funding will take place between July, 2017 and February, 2018. The entire project will then be presented to the UIP General Council for a final vote on acceptance or rejection during their meeting in Melbourne, February, 2018.

If the UIP Foundation is approved by the General Council, any research or educational bid submitted to the UIP would be vetted first by a new Research subcommittee, to be chaired by Mark Meissner (Vice President for North American region of UIP), and then forwarded to the entire UIP Executive Committee for rejection or approval. Approved bids would then be sent to the Board of Directors of the UIP Foundation, again for rejection or approval.

The UIP Executive Committee will meet again in person and by teleconference during the EVF meeting in Porto, Portugal in June, 2017, and a follow up report may be anticipated in the next UIP Newsletter on the outcome of the Feasibility Study and the Executive Committee vote.

Certificate of Knowledge – Cont'd

This certificate will be granted to those individuals successfully completing an English-language, computer-based examination based upon the American Board of Venous and Lymphatic Medicine examination. Qualifications to sit for the examination are currently being developed and holders of the UIP Certificate will be introduced at UIP World Congresses and UIP Chapter Meetings. As curricula and examinations are developed in other regions, it is anticipated that these would be incorporated into the UIP certification process.

Conclusion

So as is evident, your UIP Executive Committee has been working diligently to enhance and modernize the UIP for the benefit of UIP Member Societies.

Meeting Reorganization – Cont'd

This restructuring was outlined in a presentation to the General Council by Kurosh Parsi during his Treasurer's report given in Rome in April, 2016.

Up to the present, the UIP itself has had no scientific or financial control over its own UIP World Congresses and Chapter Meetings. It is felt by many that the scientific quality of our meetings has been uneven. Furthermore the UIP has derived no financial benefit from its own meetings as is routine for any society's meetings. Consequently the UIP has very limited resources to conduct its business, with barely enough money to allow for only one Executive Committee meeting annually. And even then the Executive Committee must align its meetings with a member society's congress and is still dependent upon the Member Society for support to stage its working Executive Committee meeting.

For these reasons the Executive Committee will submit the proposal outlined by Dr. Parsi to stage the first World Congress in 2021 in accordance with the restructured model. It is felt by the Executive Committee that these changes are in the best interest of the UIP and will lend great stability for the Member Societies that present the winning bid for future official UIP meetings.

In brief the new model will be a joint venture between the Member Society and the UIP in organizing the official UIP meeting. Scientific content will be determined by the newly-created UIP Education Committee in cooperation with the Member Society organizing committee. And the financial responsibility for the meeting will be taken on by the UIP itself, with a share of any profits generated by the meeting to be distributed to the Member Society organizing committee. In addition the Member Society will be indemnified against any loss generated by the meeting, and any such loss will be the responsibility of the UIP, not the Member Society. This will allow any of our smaller societies to submit bids for UIP meetings without incurring any financial liability and to share in any profit generated from the meeting.

This will mean that Member Societies wishing to submit a bid to host future UIP official meetings, beginning with the 2021 UIP World Congress, will need to develop their bids keeping in mind that if the restructuring proposal is passed in Melbourne, the UIP and the Member Society will share the responsibility. If the proposal is not passed, the former model will continue to be employed, whereby the entire scientific and fiscal responsibility will rest with the Member Society. Voting on the restructuring proposal will, of course, be taken before the vote for bids to host the 2021 UIP World Congress.

Further explanations and details will be provided to all Member Societies by February, 2017, with the deadline for bids May, 2017.



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