

OIFE Annual General Meeting (AGM18), 28th – 29th May 2010 in Rome, Italy

This time delegates from Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Sweden and The Netherlands met in a nice hotel outside Rome for the AGM.



From left to right: Karsten Jensen, Denmark; Marlene Oberle, Germany (assistant); Stefanie Wagner, Germany; M. Céu Barreiros, Portugal; Rune Mogensen, Denmark; Carina Svenheden, Sweden; Anna Rossi, Italy; Trond Gården, Norway; Niels Christian Nielsen, Denmark; Taco van Welzenis, The Netherlands; Ute Wallentin, Germany; Filip de Gruytere, Belgium; Maija Karhunen, Finland; Laurette Paravano, France

As often is the case several different OI meetings were organised at the same time, our host, the Italian OI association As.It.OI had its own member meeting in the same hotel. Furthermore a topical meeting for orthopaedic specialists was organised by the La Sapienza University and As.It.OI which took place at the University in downtown Rome. Some of the OIFE delegates arrived earlier or stayed longer so they could attend part of this topical meeting and visit the “Eternal City”.

On Thursday evening, several OIFE representants were invited for dinner by the University of Rome La Sapienza, together with the participants of the topical meeting.

OIFE’s AGM started Friday afternoon and was continued the whole Saturday.
Here are some major results:

- The new edition of the OIFE pass is in preparation. It will contain two more languages (Romanian and Chinese) and some additional information
- Thanks to the invitation of the American OI-Foundation (OIF) to its 40th anniversary in July 2010 which will be held in Portland, Oregon, Ute was asked to give a 1-hour speech on the situation of OI-people outside the U.S. in collaboration with Patricia Osborne, the new director of the Brittle Bone Society (UK)
- OIFE was offered support and collaboration by EFORT (European Federation of Orthopaedics) and will take this chance.
- Céu, the Portuguese delegate and the Portuguese OI-association (APOI) have initiated a psychosocial study on OI

- The International Youth Weekend 2011 will be held in The Netherlands, the one in 2012 probably in Germany
- The next OIFE Topical Meeting will be about psychological issues in OI and take place 2012 in Denmark
- Taco van Welzenis is working on organising an international meeting for OI adults
- The Cardiovascular Committee will work out a more detailed proposal about the study on the relation between heart disease and OI
- Work on the DVD translation project will start in 2010
- We welcome M. Céu Barreiros to the Executive Committee who was elected as our new treasurer
- New committees were installed: A poster committee and a medical questionnaire committee
- The Student Exchange program will become more active before the start of the autumn term

On Friday evening the OIFE delegates were invited by As.It.OI to a delicious dinner together with the orthopaedic surgeons who participated in the topical meeting. This get-together offered a good opportunity to exchange information, plan next steps and talk to each other.

On Saturday morning, one hour before the OIFE AGM would continue OIFE joined the presentation of the results of the topical meeting which was held in Italian, but with translations into English. After an exhausting but very efficient and constructive AGM everybody was looking forward to the gala dinner. OIFE was again kindly invited by As.It.OI and together with the Italians we enjoyed this festive evening and listened to the nice music of an Italian band.

During these few days the weather was mild enough so we could sit outside in the evenings. As many of us only meet once a year for AGMs it is important to use these possibilities for private talks and to get to know each other better.

The next AGM will most probably be held in Dubrovnik, Croatia, in October 2011.