

To all Member Societies

This is to give formal notice that at a meeting of the Council of the World Federation held in Dubai on April 20th 2011 the following was agreed. “It is proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that the current quadrennial (every four years) scheduling of the World Congress should move to a biennial (every two years) schedule following the 11th World Congress in Durban in 2013”. This means the next World Congress following Durban will be in 2015 and then 2017 initiating the new biennial meeting cycle of 2017, 2019, et seq. This will provide an exciting opportunity for interested societies to host the 2015 meeting; please note the process to apply in the following correspondence.

As this is clearly a very significant event in the evolution of the World Federation, Council wishes to take some time to explain the rationale for this recommendation.

- 1. The level of interest from Member Societies in bidding to host a World Congress has increased considerably. To date 9 Societies have indicated that they will be submitting a bid to host the 12th World Congress in 2017. Council is greatly encouraged by this positive development and therefore wishes to respond to this “demand” for a World Congress by making available an increasing “supply” of World Congress.**
- 2. The increasing pace of change in intensive and critical care medicine, the emergence of new technologies and equipment are equally important drivers to increase the frequency of our global meetings. The transition to a biennial schedule will create more frequent global forums to share knowledge, skills and expertise with the overall aim of improving the care of patients.**
- 3. In recent years, Council has become more aware of the important need to be active and to be represented in all the regions of the world. This has prompted further discussions to change the composition of Council to ensure it is truly representative of all the regions of the developed and developing world. (Proposals are being developed to enhance the “regionalisation” of World Federation representation). More frequent World Congress are seen as one way in which the World Federation presence can be spread more widely and more inclusively to all the regions of the world. Since 2006, the World Federation has organised one “International Symposium” in each year and has therefore been moving towards an increasing frequency of meetings for some time. The proposal to increase the frequency of World Congress is a natural extension of this direction.**
- 4. In a review of other worldwide scientific organisations it has been noted that the majority have now moved to a biennial World Congress. While web-based technology is making it easier than ever for professionals to collaborate, Council also believes that an increase in the opportunity for face-to-face collaboration is important and should be encouraged. More frequent World Congress would allow the hosting of collaborative meetings with other scientific Societies and alliances such as the Global Sepsis Alliance and the InFACT collaborative.**

5. The overarching goal of the World Federation is to promote the highest standards of Intensive and Critical Care Medicine for mankind, without discrimination. One of the pre-requisites of this goal is to create more opportunities to raise awareness of the organisation and to increase its worldwide presence. In addition to a new website with greater functionality, Council believes that a more frequent World Congress will make a significant contribution to raising awareness not just among the professional healthcare community but among governments, NGOs and charitable Foundations.
6. The income generated by each World Congress has been the principal source of funding for the World Federation since its establishment in the early 1970s and this will continue. However this also means that at the end of each current 4 year cycle a lack of funds can significantly constrain the work of the World Federation. Therefore the opportunity to put the World Federation on more sustainable financial foundation will be supported by this change.
7. This proposal requires no changes to the current constitution of the World Federation which was agreed with amendments in Florence, Italy in August 2009. There are no proposed changes to the period of office for Council members. It will simply mean that elections for 8 Council members are held at every alternate World Congress.
8. Due to the high interest in hosting the 2017 World Federation Congress, we are looking forward to a vigorous response to the call for the newly created 2015 meeting and are happy to provide this earlier opportunity to host our increasingly popular and important event. Despite the earlier date, there will be four years in which to compete for (bid preparation and Council acceptance) and host the 2015 meeting.

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President

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