



## ASIF News

### Update

ASIF have had a very successful few months and we thought it a good time to update you on developments.

### Committee

In October 2016 a new Committee was appointed, they are: Zhivko Yankov, Bulgaria (President), Hedley Hamilton, UK (Vice-President), Andri Phoka, Cyprus (Secretary), Tuncay Duruöz, Turkey, Seung-Ho Lee, South Korea, Ruta Grigiene, Lithuania, Raj Mahapatra, UK.

We said goodbye to two long-standing members of the committee, Seirse Smith and Michael Mallinson. We are very lucky that now that Michael has retired from the Ankylosing Spondylitis Society in Canada, he has agreed to help ASIF on a voluntary basis.

### New Executive

This year the Committee appointed Jo Davies as Executive Support to the Board. Jo will be the main contact for all ASIF business and can be reached on [asintfed@gmail.com](mailto:asintfed@gmail.com).

The board is also supported by Simon Frost, in the role of Treasurer.

### Council Meeting, China, 2018

Plans are underway for our next Council meeting which will be in China on 11-13 October 2018. Professor Gu is leading arrangements for the conference which is being hosted by our Chinese Member organisation: Association of Chinese AS Patients and Medical Advisory Board of Chinese Health Promotion Foundation.

The meeting will be held either in Shenzhen or Guangzhou. The exact location will be confirmed very soon, both cities are served by international airports. We are starting to develop the programme which will include a variety of speakers and discussions. If you are interested in attending or have an idea for a presentation, please contact Jo by email on [asintfed@gmail.com](mailto:asintfed@gmail.com).

Please watch our website [www.ASIF.info](http://www.ASIF.info) for information updates.

### Charity Registration

ASIF is now a charity registered with the Charity Commission of England and Wales, charity number 1173902. Our new registered address is:

Ankylosing Spondylitis International Federation  
27 Old Gloucester Street  
London WC1N 3AX  
United Kingdom

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Registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales: Charity Number 1173902

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President: Zhivko Yankov (BULGARIA) | Vice President: Hedley Hamilton (GREAT BRITAIN) | Secretary: Andri Phoka (CYPRUS) Seung-Ho Lee (SOUTH KOREA) | Prof. Dr. Tuncay Duruoz (TURKEY) | Raj Mahapatra (GREAT BRITAIN) | Ruta Grigiene (LITHUANIA)

Executive to the Board: Jo Davies, [office@asif.info](mailto:office@asif.info) [www.asif.info](http://www.asif.info)

## **Business Plan and Budget**

ASIF have created a business plan and budget covering the years 2017 and 2020. This sees an ambitious growth in what ASIF will deliver. The first elements have been delivered already with the appointment of our first executive member and also of a Treasurer to ensure sound financial management.

We are pleased to say that we have secured funding from Novartis, UCB and Janssen.

The Business Plan includes the ambitions for a number of projects and fund-raising is underway to get these projects financed. They include:

*Website development* – To update the website, to create a platform for the best and latest information. To create a space for members to share information and have discussions – to develop collaboration on projects. We also hope to get the website translated into other languages.

*Information and awareness* – We want to increase awareness and reduce the time to diagnosis. This will involve media campaigns and the development of information leaflets and presentations that will be available on the website and able to be easily translated. We will create a library of the best information available worldwide.

*Increasing membership of ASIF* – We have 36 members in 34 countries. If we increase our membership we will increase our voice on advocacy matters and increase awareness across the globe. We want to create tools to help the development of new societies in countries where there is no patient representation.

## **Activities**

We have partnered with walk as One, to promote awareness in the weeks around World AS day. This year was the first in that partnership, and we hope to make this a global focus with further activities and awareness campaigns organised around this time each year. World AS day in 2018 will be on 5<sup>th</sup> May.

ASIF had a presence at EULAR in both 2016 and 2017. In Madrid in 2017 the opportunity was taken for the Committee to meet. There were also many meetings over the 3 days with other patient organisations, e.g. PARE and with industry partners including, Novartis, UCB, Janssen and Abbvie.

In furtherance of the business plan, we currently have 4 projects underway.

## **Press**

An article that first appeared in Euler's magazine, Breakthrough Issue 12, about ASIF and its President: <http://www.asif.info/en/index.cfm/asif-news/>

## **Keeping in contact**

There has been a gap of some years since the ASIF news was distributed, but we plan to remedy that – and as you can see from this edition, we have already taken the first steps.

We have already updated the ASIF website, and there is more to come. Please keep an eye on progress here as this will be the main channel for news and updates.

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However, keeping in contact is not a one way thing and we hope that you will feel free to contact any or all of the committee and executive. Their contacts are all shown below. If you have any news from your country organisation that you think would be of interest to other members, please do send it to Jo at [asintfed@gmail.com](mailto:asintfed@gmail.com) for inclusion in the next newsletter.

[Jo Davies](#), Executive to the Board  
[Zhivko Yankov](#), President  
[Hedley Hamilton](#), Vice-President  
[Andri Phoka](#), Secretary  
[Lee Seung-Ho](#), Trustee  
[Dr Tuncay Durouöz](#), Trustee  
[Ruta Grigiene](#), Trustee  
[Raj Mahapatra](#), Trustee

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