

Minutes of the World Congress Committee Meeting November 19, 2004

Held at the Annual Convention of the Association for Advancement
of Behavior Therapy, New Orleans, USA

Representatives Present

Rod Holland (standing in for Lars-Göran Öst, EABCT)
Robert Leahy (IACP)
Arthur M. Nezu (AABT outgoing)
Christne Maguth Nezu (AABT incoming)
Arthur M. Nezu (outgoing AABT and outgoing WCC Chair)
W. Kim Halford, Ph.D., FAPsS (ACBTA)
Junko Tanaka Matsumi (ASIA)

Guests

Yuji Sakano (ASIA –outgoing and WCBCT 2004 Organizer)

Highlights

1. Art Nezu, WCC Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.
2. Art Nezu, having previously distributed the minutes of the November 2003 meeting by email to all committee members, asked for any additions/changes. No changes were requested and they were voted as being a part of the official record. Art also previously distributed a user friendly copy of the WCC constitution and Guidelines for Hosting a World Congress. Finally, Art provided a list of the current membership and contact information for each representative (see revised list at end of the report).
3. Art Nezu provided a summary of activities and closing comments with regard to the end of his tenure as WCC chair, as well as the representative for AABT. Christine Maguth Nezu will serve as the new representative for AABT. He indicated that a first order of business would be for the committee to elect a new Chair, and provided suggestions for discussion to be placed on the meeting agenda. These included:
 - ✓ A report on the WCBCT 2004
 - ✓ A discussion of WCBCT 2007 to be convened in Barcelona
 - ✓ A discussion of bids for the next scheduled WCBCT (2010)
 - ✓ A discussion of problems resulting from lack of participation from the Southern African Association for Behavior Therapy (SAABT). Specifically, after repeated attempts over three years to contact the representative, or find contact information for the association, he has received no communication from either the representative or the association. This creates a predictable absence in meetings and increases the risk for an insufficient number of voting members needed to hold a meeting.
4. New WCC Chair: After discussion, the committee agreed through consensus to change the term of the WCC chair from a term of 3 years to a term of one year, with various individuals indicating that they would be willing to serve as chair, if each commitment was for 1 year at a time. The Committee voted for **Kim Halford to serve as WCC Chair** for the next year.

- Chris Nezu agreed to record the minutes of this meeting.
5. Yuji Sakano, Chair of the Host Committee and Organizer for the 2004 WCBCT in Kobe, Japan, expressed his appreciation to the WCC and provided a detailed summary of the congress. He provided data with regard to attendance (approximately 1,400), the number of countries represented (approximately 27), descriptions of programs, and reported a strong consensus for a very successful congress (an overall assessment of 5.1 on a 6 point scale). As part of this discussion and feedback, we reviewed difficulties of communication with the international community early in the conference as well as funding challenges. These challenges suggest that the WCC needs to consider in its discussion of the 2010 proposals the cash flow that is required of the sponsoring organization in order to secure speakers and market the conference to the international community.
 6. Rod Holland, Chair of the organizing committee of the WCBCT 2007 in Barcelona, Spain (hosted by EACBT), reported on their committee's response to the WCC's previous requests and additional details regarding their plans. He reports that the budget for the congress is improving but they continue to explore sponsorship. However, the current budget is not dependent on sponsorship. The Spanish and Catalan Organizations are all reported to be "on-board."

The Scientific Committee will be chaired by Philip Tata. The congress plan will be organized around several key themes with reviewers assigned from representative organizations for each theme. Approximately 1/8 of the program (running across themes) will be in Spanish. The first brochure is out and there will be a marketing schedule soon. The committee viewed a short video describing the conference venue.

7. WCBCT 2010 discussion: Due to the current lack of formal bids (and the time and cash flow required to develop bids), the committee agreed to put out a call for proposals to host the next conference in either 2010 or 2011, to all of the WCC organizations.
8. Discussion of the Southern African Association for Behavior Therapy (SAABT): after a review of the organization's history of absent representation, there was a consensus to place their membership in the WCC on a probationary status. This decision was so that SAABT attendance would not be required for quorum vote. Various WCC members indicated that they would attempt to investigate and support SAABT to fully participate in the committee and regain their full status.
9. Website Discussion: a consensus was reached to develop a website and Kim Halford will investigate the matter. Additionally, the group suggested that link to the WCBCT website be developed with all member organizations.
10. The meeting was adjourned by Kim Halford. The next meeting is planned for Washington DC at the AABT convention in November 2005.

*minutes submitted by C.M.Nezu, 12/9/04)