

Newsletter No.1 of January 7, 2013

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1. Letter

Trento, January 7, 2013

Dear Colleagues,

this is the first Newsletter issued by the newly elected president and secretary-treasurer.

Please let me go directly to the point: **ISIMM is not at its best**, and some work is facing us in the next months.

Elections of the Executive Committee (EC). The last elections of the EC were held in 2007, and concerned just half of the members (e.g. I was elected in 2001, and on this basis (!) I still am in the EC, after more than a decade of service.) *We urgently need a renewal of the EC.*

According to our present constitution (which is available on the ISIMM web-page), the EC consists of *three officers* (namely, the president, the vice-president – who is the most recent past-president – and the secretary-treasurer) and ten elected *ordinary members*. Half of the ordinary members should be elected every second year, and each member should serve for four years.

According to our present constitution, the process of nomination of the candidates and of voting should take almost one year. Our activities cannot wait that much. In the transient we must then test an alternative procedure. Here below I suggest a scheme: we shall start implementing it, if no better alternative is suggested.

Transitory procedure for the election of the Executive Committee (EC).

As soon as possible we shall elect ten ordinary members.

By the end of 2014 we shall have mid-term elections, and elect five more ordinary members.

By the end of 2016 we shall elect the new president and secretary, and replace the ten 2013-elected members by five new members.

We should then go on electing five EC ordinary members every second year, as prescribed by the present constitution.

Until the 2013 elections have been completed, I ask the present members of the present EC to remain in office. After those elections they will all retire from that office (some of them after eight years or more of service).

Notice that at each election the number of elected members might be smaller than indicated, depending on the number of candidatures. (Hopefully, there will be enough candidatures to exclude this event!)

Candidatures for the Executive Committee (EC). Every member may candidate for the EC, provided that he/she is not a member of the present EC. As prescribed by the present constitution, there will be first a selection by the Nominating Committee; the members of the society will then vote.

Candidates should submit a one-page CV in pdf by email to

Wolfgang.H.Mueller@TU-Berlin.de

within January 21, 2013.

Organization of the next Symposium on Trend in Applications of Mathematics to Mechanics (STAMM). These symposia are a core activity of our society. They have a scientific content, and offer also the opportunity for meetings of the EC and for having an assembly of all the ISIMM members (next time at least we shall have it).

According to our constitution, these symposia must be held every second year, and so far it has almost always been so. The last one was held in Haifa in September 2012, and the next one should take place in September 2014.

We are looking for the organizer(s) and for an appropriate venue.

Unfortunately ISIMM cannot provide any financial support for this conference; funds should then be raised by the organizer(s). They might also ask participants to contribute a fee; anyway this fee should be as low as possible, in order to allow junior members to take part (as it was the case for the 2008 and 2010 STAMMs).

We encourage ISIMM members to submit proposals. These should indicate the organizers, the venue, the estimated budget. Proposals should be addressed to

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possibly by the end of January 2013. A first evaluation will then be done within a short delay.

Fees. ISIMM is a low cost society. There is a recommended yearly contribution of about 30 E. Anyway there is no obligation. (This also explains why our society suffers a persistent lack of funding.)

Some personal considerations. It is a great honor to have been elected by this society, which has a distinguished tradition and has applied sciences and applied mathematics as its core activity.

I thank Wolfgang Müller, who promptly accepted to form with me the ticket president-secretary.

I also thank Kolumban Hutter and Hans-Dieter Alber for accepting the proposal of the candidature committee. Our small society should again take advantage from their help.

I also thank Lev Truskinovsky and Davide Bigoni for taking the burden of the direction of ISIMM respectively as the last president and secretary-treasurer.

Last but not list, I wish to thank Ingo Müller, also a past president and a recent awardee of the ISIMM prize, for his constant advise and friendship.

I also wish to thank Guido Harneit from Wolfgang Müller's laboratory in Berlin, who installed the ISIMM webpage and sent out emails. I am confident that other members of the society will also cooperate, and thank them from now.

Soon we shall come back with a second Newsletter, addressing issues like ISIMM-forum, ISIMM-history, ISIMM prize, other ISIMM activities.

With my best wishes for the New Year,
Augusto Visintin

2. Obituaries. Obituaries concerning members of ISIMM will be published in this Newsletter.

Obituary for Krzysztof Wilmanski (1940 - 2012). Krzysztof Wilmanski studied civil engineering in Kielce (Poland) and then joined the Institute of Fundamental Technological

Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences, where he quickly became an outstanding member of a sizable group of young scientists involved in research on thermodynamics and continuum mechanics. He went to Moscow and Baltimore as a post doctoral fellow in the 1960s in order to finish his scientific education. In Baltimore, at the Johns Hopkins University, he joined the group of Professors Ericksen and Truesdell and came to appreciate the use of rigorous mathematics to mechanics.

Afterwards he participated in a joint program between the governments of Poland and Iraq and accepted a two-year teaching appointment in Damascus. When I met Krzysztof in 1977 he was planning the application for a von Humboldt scholarship, a proposal which I supported whole-heartedly. The move proved essential to Krzysztof's further career. He came to join me in Paderborn (Germany) and later in Berlin, i.e. Westberlin at the time, where we collaborated successfully, mostly on shape memory alloys; and that was a time when few people in continuum mechanics appreciated the pregnancy of those materials for the further development of continuum mechanics. Together we organized a Euromech conference on the subject in Jablonna, near Warsaw.

Afterwards Krzysztof was invited for a year to the Institute of Advanced Studies in Berlin, a remarkable institution whose only requirement on the invited fellows is that they share lunch every day. So, this left us enough time to continue our collaboration; we worked on thermodynamics of rheological fluids and suggested a method to incorporate that theory into the mathematical theory of hyperbolic equations.

In some ways Krzysztof's life and scientific career was determined by the cold war. The growing economic calamities of the Eastern block forced him to stay in Germany and he began a veritable scientific odyssey throughout West Germany: Paderborn, Berlin, Hamburg, Essen, and Berlin again. Sometime along the line he became a German citizen. In Essen he improved the then prevailing theory of porous and granular media, in Hamburg he became an expert on plasticity and on the development of texture by plastic deformation. Eventually he found a secure and stimulating scientific home at the Weierstrass Institut in Berlin, where he concentrated his research on surface waves in porous media in close collaboration with civil engineers involved in off-shore wind turbines.

In the period between 2000 and 2004 he served ISIMM as secretary.

Krzysztof retired from the Weierstrass Institut in 2006. But that was by no means the end of his scientific career. Krzysztof's passion for science and academia did not allow him to stay idle for long. So he accepted an appointment at the newly founded University of Zielona Gora in Poland where he spent the last years of his life in scientific research, teaching and administration. The faculty in Zielona Gora was lucky to have him, a man of vast experience gathered in many countries in a lifetime devoted to science.

At the end still working and publishing and full of enthusiasm and energy he had to succumb to the perfidious sudden attack of the disease that threatens all of us.

I mourn for him.

Ingo Müller.

Obituary for Mariolina Padula. On September 29, 2012 Mariarosaria Padula, Professor of Mathematical Physics at the University of Ferrara and member of the Executive Committee of ISIMM, passed away. Everyone who had the pleasure to know Mariolina could experience her enthusiasm for research, and her generosity and kindness.

Mariolina studied at the University of Naples, and since 1994 was full professor at the University of Ferrara. Her research activities covered various fields of mathematical fluid dynamics.

In particular, significant were her contributions to the qualitative study of compressible viscous fluids, stability, problems with free boundary.

She collaborated with many foreign scientists, acquiring international reputation. Even in her long illness, she continued to study with undiminished passion. Among the several initiatives that she carried out, it should also be remembered that until her death she was director of the mathematical section of the journal *Annali dell'Università di Ferrara*, which she transformed from a local Journal into an international publication.

We shall definitely miss her.

Tommaso Ruggeri