ICF: The International Congress on Fracture

Final QuadCo Report

ICF Quadrennials Advisory Committee

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QuadCo Chair 2013-2017

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(1) As with the Olympics the most significant decision of Council, in session, is regarding the future Quadrennial Conference: its location, autonomy, leadership, programme, structure, MoU. Council decisions are paramount every four years. Many other decisions will be taken by Council on June 20 2017 at ICF14. These include the competitive election of a new CEO following my retirement as CEO after eight quadrennia; competitive election for a new President 2017-2021; various ExCo elections; decisions on IQ/RegCo, WebCo, NomCo, AwardCo. The decision on ICF15 Atlanta June 2021 simply requires ratification of the change of location and new management structure/sponsorship - and in particular regarding the MoU ICF/ICF15. The key decision of Council at ICF14 is regarding ICF16. The process involves submission of full bid documents by May 12 2017, 10-minute presentations in person by each Bid Team with 10 minutes in each case for Q&A - followed by Council discussion and secret ballot voting with decision via a "simple majority process" - the details to be decided on by Council ahead of this item on the Agenda.

(2) ICF0 was an independent decision of a small group mainly at MIT to hold a micro/macro International Fracture Conference in Swampscott, USA in 1959. Therefrom Ben Averbach invited Takeo Yokobori to host such a micro/macro conference in Sendai, Japan via a de facto International Committee: ICF1 in 1965.

(3) At ICF1 the UK was invited by the de facto International Committee to host ICF2 in Brighton in 1969. At ICF2 ICF was formally established de jure with Statutes & Bye-Laws. West Germany was simply invited by the new de jure Council to host ICF3 in Munich, 1973. This early informality was understandable in our origins. ICF has continued the best features of this "harmonious clubbiness" in our very friendly, democratic Culture de facto.
(4) A major change occurred at ICF3 in Munich, West Germany. Whereby there was an open democratic competition between Canada & USA for ICF4. This was decided by vote of the new ICF Council in Munich: Canada won - and hosted ICF4 in Waterloo in 1977 with government, university and industry support including via ICF representatives Ben Averbach and Jerry Swedlow. ICF4 was organized with a very wide-ranging, multi-stranded structure beyond the original micro/macro fracture duality - with various other innovations including full six-volume Archival Proceedings, peer-reviewed and internationally published; Honour Lectures; Honorary Fellow Awards; the Cottrell Fracture, Politics & Society Round Table; the Open University Education Round Table, a strong social programme including a Shakespeare theatre trip and entertainment.

(5) Ever since 1977 we have had a very strong competition for each quadrennial - decided on by democratic (secret ballot) Council vote on general & technical merit. And an outstanding series of multi-stranded, memorable Quadrennials - Honour Lectures, additional Awards/Medals with ICF4-ICF14 setting a world-class benchmark for these global conferences. There have been issues/crises at various stages - from which the work of QuadCo has learnt and benefited.

(6) It is the fundamental task of QuadCo to encourage strong, autonomous bids for our flagship quadrennials in an orderly, impartial manner. Without world-class quality bids well managed by ICF within our Statutes & Culture ICF would flounder. QuadCo works impartially and is a key Council Committee.

(7) At ICF14 we are fortunate to have four strong bids for ICF16. These bids did not arise from thin-air but via the work of QuadCo over many years - and a long-term strategy even looking at ICF17 2029, ICF18 2033 ideas.

(8) Since ICF5 we have largely followed the policy guideline of geographical rotation. This policy is not absolutely rigid as outlined in the CEO Report and it is balanced via the introduction at ICF5 of Interquadrennial Conferences (IQ). The first IQ was in Beijing in November 1983. The IQ programme has developed strongly since 1981 and especially since ICF12 and this is now an active component of the work of ICF.

(9) Since ICF11 we have incorporated the policy that the decision on quadrennials should be on an eight-year cycle.

(10) Since ICF12 we have incorporated the ICF MoU protocol. This MoU process usually takes a year or two to finalize after the decision on the location - ensuring the optimum structure and autonomy of our quadrennials
within the ICF Culture as addressed in the CEO Report. The MoU is ratified by four years prior to the conference (ICF/ICF15 MoU to be ratified at ICF14). QuadCo oversees this process.

(11) The MoU protocol is an essential feature of our Culture to robustly guard against untoward “take-over” of the management of our quadrennials. ICF15 in 2021 in Atlanta USA is an autonomous university-supported Pan-Americas quadrennial on the model of ICF4. This is the positive outcome of the MoU policy and the work of QuadCo.

(12) ICF needs to take a long-term view in QuadCo towards Quadrennials in Africa and Latin America as well as Interquadrennials. QuadCo could perhaps continue in its present form for 2017-2021 continuity - if endorsed by the new President/ExCo 2017-2021.

ICF QuadCo 2013-2017 (Quadrennials Advisory Committee) comprises:

**David Taplin, Chair (ICF4) Canada;**
Ashok Saxena (ICF15) USA;
Emmanuel Gdoutos (ICF14) Greece;
Shouwen Yu (ICF13) China;
Mimoun ElBoujdaini (ICF12) Morocco;
Alberto Carpinteri (ICF11) Italy;
Robert Ritchie (ICF10) USA/UK;
Namrata Gundiah (ExCo) India.

The four ICF16 bids are in alphabetical order:

Bengalaru, India - ICF16 2025 Bid Chair: **Raghu Prakash**;
Berlin, Germany - ICF16 2025 Bid Chair: **Dietmar Klingbeil**;
Melbourne, Australia - ICF16 2025 Bid Chair: **Raj Das**;
Paris, France - ICF16 2025 Bid Chair: **Thierry Palin-Luc**.

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