1. **COMMITTEE NAME:** International Relations Committee

2. **REPORT DATE:** May 14, 2015

3. **SUBMITTED BY:** Ron Maughan, PhD, FACSM, Committee Chair

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**ACTION ITEMS FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION**

**SHOULD BE SUBMITTED ON THE ACTION ITEM FORM**

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4. **PROGRESS UPDATES IN REGARD TO SOAR:**

   The following items were identified in the November 2014 IRC SOAR Key Directions report:

   **Committee will work to increase ACSM’s international e-membership (membership for professionals in developing countries) through increased marketing efforts and connections with national and international organizations.** Status- International E-membership increased by 16% from March 2014-March 2015. Additional strategy ideas will be discussed at the in-person IRC meeting.

   **Committee will continue to develop relationships and/or partnerships with international organizations such as RAFA, FIMS, PAHO, and ICSSPE.** Status- This item is on-going. A list of current relationships/partners is below.

   **Increasing opportunities for non-US members to be engaged in ACSM (including improved communication of ACSM projects & programs).** Status- ACSM is conducting a member satisfaction/engagement survey in the summer of 2015. International members will be included in the survey and results will be cross-tabulated so that International member responses can be isolated. The committee will review results and make recommendations based on the results.

   **Increasing involvement of non-US attendees at the Annual Meeting.** Status- A survey on non-US Annual Meeting attendees is planned for the summer of 2015.

   **Committee will develop suggestions of items that should be included in the plan and work with the International Board Task Force Group and other relevant committees to create the plan. The committee will implement and areas of the plan placed under its jurisdiction.** Status- This item has not yet been initiated. The committee will address is during the in-person committee meeting.

5. **OTHER ADDITIONAL UPDATES:**

   **International Trustees-**

   The committee was pleased that the 6th International Trustee was elected during the spring 2015 election. Luis Fernando Aragon-Vargas, PhD, FACSM, will serve on the Board of Trustees for the next three years. He joins Mark Hargreaves, PhD, FACSM, who was elected as International Trustee in 2013 and Willem van Mechelen, MD, PhD, FACSM, who was elected International Trustee in 2014.
Oded Bar-Or International Scholar Award-
The International Relations Committee selected Dr. Linda Ernstsen from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Norway as the 2015 Oded Bar-Or International Scholar Award recipient. She will complete a visit to the University of South Carolina under the guidance of Dr. Steve Blair.

ACSM International Clinical Scholar Award
Dr. Ramona Ritzmann from the University of Freiburg in Germany was selected as the recipient of the 2015 ACSM International Clinical Scholar Award. Medical representatives on the ACSM Program Committee worked with the IRC to select his submission as the top clinical submission for the 2015 ACSM Annual Meeting.

International Student Award-
The International Relations Committee received 57 applications that met all requirements for the 2015 International Student Award. As all applicants are required to be members, ACSM gained several new international members through the process. Recipients will present their abstracts at the upcoming Annual Meeting. The following individuals have been selected as award recipients:
- Alis Bonsignore from Canada, Abstract Title: “Assessment of Cardiovascular Reserve in HER2-positive Breast Cancer Survivors”
- Yi-Yuan Lin, China, Abstract Title: “Anti-apoptotic Effects of Exercise Training on Ovariectomized Spontaneously Hypertensive Hearts.”
- Michael Williams-Bell, Canada, Abstract Title: “Is Cognitive Function Impaired While Working in a Climate Chamber at 30°C in Fire Fighters?”

International Team Physician Course-
The IRC continues to work with the Medical Education Committee to offer the International Team Physician Course around the globe. The 2015 course will be held in South Africa with Jon Patricios, MD, FACSM serving as the host organizer. ACSM Faculty members for the course will include: Cindy Chang, MD, FACSM; Aaron Baggish, MD, FACSM; Lyle Micheli, MD, FACSM; and Karim Khan, MD, PhD, FACSM. The 2016 course has been approved and will be held in China for the first time. The application resulted from productive discussions with a delegation from the Chinese Association of Sports Medicine (CASM) at the previous two ACSM Annual Meetings.

International Partnerships-
The following are International partnerships and/or projects with which ACSM is involved:
- Continuing partnership with the International Paralympic Committee
- ACSM is a member organization of FIMS (Federation Internationale de Medecine du Sport) and enjoys a positive relationship with the organization. ACSM continues to work with the FIMS leadership to determine how the organizations can work together more closely and strategically. Additionally, ACSM & FIMS hosted an Expert Panel on Pre-Participation Examination issues from a global perspective on June 1, 2013 during the ACSM Annual Meeting. The group finalized the consensus document, and it is in review by each organization’s journal. A preliminary teleconference was held to identify the next topic for collaboration.
- ACSM recognized as an NCD Alliance Common Interest Group Member
- Member of ICSSPE (International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education).
- Active participating organization for the Physical Activity Network of the Americas (RAFA/PANA) with leadership role in the Objectives & Planning Committee.
- The ACSM Committee on Certification and Education continues to develop workshops and certification programs around the world.
- ACSM offers a complimentary e-membership for those individuals residing in low income and lower middle income economies as defined by the World Bank. Members continue to join via this special membership program.
- ACSM continues to explore and expand upon opportunities to expand the “Exercise is Medicine” program around the world, specifically through the launch of several regional EIM centers.
• ACSM significantly increased the international scope of the Annual Meeting by adding the “World Congress on Exercise is Medicine” to the regular program. The committee is represented on the World Congress planning committee by Jim Skinner, PhD, FACSM.

• ACSM signed a “Memorandum of Understanding” with O Centro de Estudos do Laboratório de Aptidão Física de São Caetano do Sul (hereafter CELAFISCS). ACSM and CELAFISCS have identified a number of collaborative areas to improve the health, safety, and performance of athletes and the general population through professional education, programs, and other efforts.

• ACSM signed a memorandum of agreement with the European College of Sport Science (ECSS) that outlines how the organizations will collaborate in the future.

• On the day prior to the UN Secretary General’s Climate Summit in New York in September 2014, the health and public health community engaged through a civil society event, co-hosted by the American College of Sports Medicine, Public Health Institute, the Global Climate and Health Alliance and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The conference focused on the tremendous health benefits of climate mitigation and the pathway toward a sustainable and healthy future. Acting U.S. Surgeon General Boris Lushniak, Dr. Carlos Dora, health policy expert with the World Health Organization and Dr. Richard Horton, editor of The Lancet, led a dynamic program that engaged thought leaders at the intersection of climate change and health.

6. **INDICATE IF THERE ARE SIGNIFICANT VARIANCES FROM BUDGET FOR THE COMMITTEE’S ACTIVITIES:** None at this time.