



Beirut, September 22, 2021

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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Dr Yehia KHATER  
**Past President**

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**Arab Medical Union**

**Arab African Regional Sections AARS**

**World Federation of Societies of  
Anesthesiologists WFSA**

**Dear Representatives (President and Board members) of the Member Societies of the Pan Arab Federation of the Societies of Anesthesia, Intensive Care and Pain Management (PAFSA),**

As announced previously, and after completing a very successful 13th Pan Arab Virtual Congress of Anesthesia in collaboration with the Lebanese Society of Anesthesiologists, it is time to move to the elections of the next PAFSA Board.

As you all know, the actual Board (President, Vice-President/President Elect and 8 members) was elected in Nov. 2018 during the General Assembly held along with the 12th Pan Arab Congress in Dubai.

According to the bylaws (doc attached), the term of the Presidency and Vice Presidency is 2 years (2018-2020), while the term of the rest of the members is 4 years (2018-2022):

- **In Nov 2020, if elections were possible** : I should have stepped down from the Presidency but stayed in the PAFSA board for 2 more years, as Past-President.
- Dr Shawagfeh, would have been automatically confirmed as the new President for two years.
- A new Vice-President/President-Elect should have been elected to replace Dr Shawagfeh in this position.
- The rest of the Board members would have stayed the same until 2022, except Pr Yehia Khater who would have ended his 2 years term as Past-President and would be replaced in this position by myself.

***Please allow me to take the opportunity of this announcement to salute Pr Yehia Khater, Past-President of the PAFSA and active member of the PAFSA and the WFSA for many years. I wish to thank him for all his efforts and achievements for the Arab Anesthesiologists and for our specialty during all these years.***

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences on all the countries with a slowdown of all the activities worldwide, it was not possible to hold the congress and elections in 2020.

With the agreement of the PAFSA Board, everything was postponed for one year hoping that things will get better. But as the situation was still hard on all of us even

one year later (2021), we finally decided to hold the congress virtually from Beirut in May 2021. Now that this is done, we have to proceed with the elections.

For this purpose, a zoom meeting was organized few days ago with the PAFSA Board members to agree upon the conditions of these elections.

The main decisions taken unanimously (in the presence of 8 Board members out of 10, including the actual President and Vice-President) are the following:

1- In the actual circumstances, where airline transportations and face to face meetings are still somehow restricted, all virtual meetings (Board meetings, Congress....) are accepted and considered "legal", in respect of the PAFSA Bylaws.

2- The General Assembly and the elections can also be executed electronically under strict and transparent conditions, in respect of the PAFSA Bylaws.

**3- For all the reasons explained above:**

- **The PAFSA Member Societies are invited to nominate, if they wish, a candidate for the Vice-Presidency (which is also the President-Elect), for a term of two years 2021-2023. Please send your answers by email to [patricia.yazbeck@hdf.usj.edu.lb](mailto:patricia.yazbeck@hdf.usj.edu.lb). The other Board members will be elected at the end of their legal term in 2022.**
- **The designated candidate should also send an email to [patricia.yazbeck@hdf.usj.edu.lb](mailto:patricia.yazbeck@hdf.usj.edu.lb) with:**
  - His/her letter of candidature
  - Few lines about his/her motivation and his/her vision
  - His/her CV
  - An official nomination letter from his/her national society
  - **THE DEADLINE FOR SENDING CANDIDATURES AND DOCUMENTS IS OCTOBER 31, 2021.**

4- It has also been unanimously decided by the Board that the next Pan Arab Congress, the 14th Pan Arab Congress, will be held the third trimester of the year 2023.

Therefore, another very important point is to decide about the next venue:

**The national societies who are interested in organizing the next Pan Arab Congress in 2023, should send us, using the same email address, their proposition and expected conditions of the meeting : either Face-to-Face if possible or Virtual or Hybrid (attached is the classical BID Form for PAFSA Congress venue propositions).**

**THE DEADLINE FOR BIDDING FOR THE NEXT PAN ARAB CONGRESS IS OCTOBER 31, 2021.**

Upon receiving your answers, end of October 2021, we will announce the list of candidates and proposed venues and we will organize an electronic vote (Only one vote for each society) followed by a virtual General Assembly held on ZOOM to announce the results and discuss further points and plans for the PAFSA.

Thank you very much for your collaboration.  
Patricia YAZBECK, PAFSA President