

## EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF PATHOLOGY.

**Minutes of the General Assembly, European Society of Pathology; Hall Bleu, Palais des Congrès, Paris, France; September 7<sup>th</sup> 2005, from 12.00 to 13.30hrs.**1. **Welcome.**

The President, Prof. Antonio Cardesa welcomed approximately 170 ESP members.

2. **Approval of agenda.**

Item 8 to be considered after item 5. Approved.

3 **Approval of Minutes from the Extraordinary General Assembly in Paris, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2004.**

These had previously been published, and copies were circulated at the start of the meeting. These were approved as a true and accurate record, and signed by the President and Secretary.

4. **Report of the President.**

Between 1964 and 2003, the ESP had evolved to meet great changes, and the scientific structures were satisfactory for the time being. In contrast, the administrative aspects of the ESP remained as they were in 1964, and it was agreed that major changes were needed.

In 2003, a ballot of members approved by more than 70% the decision of the Executive Committee to elect Prof. Niki Agnantis as President-elect. This was ratified by the General Assembly in Paris on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2004, which also elected Dr. Roderick Simpson to complete the term of Secretary of Prof. Jahn Nesland, who had resigned.

New Statutes were approved, and have since been accepted under Belgian law. Under the new statutes, the ESP is officially a non-profit society, with appropriate legal and financial protection. New rules for election of officers were drawn up by Prof. Michael Wells and have subsequently been approved by the Executive Committee at its meeting in Barcelona in November 2004. The meeting in Porto in April 2005 made recommendations for new officers in accordance with the new rules.

As agreed at the General Assembly in 2004, a Constitutional Sub-Committee was set up to update the By-Laws. These have been published in the 2005 Members' handbook, and will be presented in Item 5.

The biennial congresses of the ESP continue to be successful. This is especially so with the current Paris one which has more than 2000 participants, making the ESP congresses the second largest in the World. The President expressed his great thanks on behalf of the ESP to Prof. Pierre Bedossa and the French Society of Pathology.

A successful Intercontinental Congress was held in 2004 in Iguaçú, Brazil involving the ESP, Sociedad Latinoamericana de Patología (SLAP) and Sociedade Brasileira Patologia. In future intercontinental congresses, it is hoped to involve additional continents.

The Inter-Congress meeting in Ioannina, Greece in May 2006 is well advanced, and progress will be reported in Item 14.

As there are now more and larger congresses, the Executive Committee has decided that a Congress Coordinator will be needed.

The Advisory Council provides a link between the ESP and the national societies of pathology, and the President expressed his thanks to the chairman, Prof. Günter Klöppel.

The Newsletter and website are in the process of being updated, and the President expressed his appreciation to the respective editors, Drs. Grete Jacobsen and Bjørn Risberg.

The European School of Pathology continues to thrive under the direction of Prof. Gianni Bussolati. In addition to courses in Turin, Italy, they are also given in Kraków, Poland, Craiova, Romania and Ankara, Turkey. Similar courses are also sponsored by the ESP in Ioannina, Greece under the direction of Prof. Niki Agnantis.

Eurocellpath under the chairmanship of Prof. Fred Bosman has run excellent courses in Girona, Spain in 2004 and in Montebello, Norway in 2005.

The Working Groups remain the backbone of the ESP, and are doing extremely well, particularly in linking applied and basic research.

The official journal of the ESP is Virchows Archiv and its impact factor has considerably increased over the last few years. The new editor-in-chief is Prof. Heinz Höfler. A new contract has been negotiated, which is economically beneficial for the ESP. See Item 6.

It is considered that the ESP needs a strategically located permanent address. See Item 7.

The President thanked the immediate Past President, Gianni Bussolati and the departing members of the Executive Committee for their support and contribution to the Society.

The President noted that his term will finish at the end of this congress, and he expressed his best wishes to Prof. Niki Agnantis who will lead the Society to its next congress in Istanbul. He thanked all members of the ESP who will ensure that the Society continues to thrive.

Finally, the President announced with regret the death of Prof. Julius Plank, Martin, Slovakia in January 2004. The General Assembly stood silently in respect.

#### 5. **Statutes and By-Laws.**

New statutes were approved by the General Assembly in Paris in 2004. A Sub-Committee chaired by Prof. Mia Marichal was set up to update the By-Laws, in particular the rules for election of officers and regulations of the Working Groups. The President expressed his thanks to the Committee comprising Profs. Michael Wells, Manuel Sobrinho-Simões, Frédérique Capron and Urbain Van Haelst.

The President added that By-Laws were relatively easy to change if necessary.

The General Assembly approved the new By-Laws unanimously.

#### 6. **Contract with Virchows Archiv.**

The President reported a good interaction between the Executive Committee, the Editor-in-Chief and with Springer, and that an offer beneficial to the ESP had been made. Under the new contract, the ESP receives 50% of the net profit of the journal. On present figures, this is likely to be about €50,000. The Executive Committee (in particular, the Treasurer) support this proposal.

The Editor-in-Chief believed that the new contract was advantageous for both the ESP and Virchows Archiv. In addition, there were other benefits for the ESP. Prof. Höfler added that he believed that there was still room to increase the Impact Factor of the Journal.

The General Assembly approved the new contract with Springer unanimously.

#### 7. **Permanent office for the European Society of Pathology.**

The ESP is a society registered in Belgium, at present at Prof. Mia Marichal's private address. Therefore, it needs a permanent address, as well as an office, a store for documents, and possibly a meeting room. The Executive Committee had discussed this extensively at four recent meetings, where it was felt essential that the office should be in Belgium, probably in Brussels. The Treasurer reported that the ESP could afford to spend up to €250,000. It was also felt necessary that the ESP should employ a managing assistant, probably on a part-time basis.

The President asked the General Assembly to approve the principle and allow the Executive Committee to develop the details. Open questions remain on the exact location and

size of any property, whether to buy or not (based on a sum of approximately €250,000) and on the level of expertise of the society employee.

The General Assembly agreed unanimously:

- a). that the ESP should have a registered permanent address in Belgium.
- b). to mandate the Executive Committee to buy a property up to a maximum value of approximately €250,000.
- c). to the employment of one appropriate person.

#### 8. **Report of the Treasurer.**

- a). Prof. Han van Krieken presented his report, which will be published in detail on the website.
- b). The Treasurer thanked Christine van Haelst for her help in the transition. He noted that at present, the financial year ends on Aug 1<sup>st</sup>, which leaves too little time to collate the figures and contact the financial committee. He requested a change to 1<sup>st</sup> January, and the General Assembly approved this unanimously.
- c). Total assets in 2005 are €435,684-06 (2003 - €383,686-44). A considerable sum had been changed from long term investments to interest-bearing bank accounts. The income from 2003-05 was €214,584-25 (2001-03 - €159,247) mostly from subscriptions, investments and profits from the Ljubljana congress. It will not be possible to recoup the loan of €10,000 to the Intercontinental Congress in Iguazu. Overall expenses were €159,286-63, the largest part being the €90,320-15 paid to Virchows Archiv. There was a substantial increase in Executive Committee expenses, due to there being several meetings. The total surplus of income over expenditure was €55,297-62.
- d). The General Assembly is required to approve new members. Rather than reading out all their names, it was agreed that publication of the list of members in the Handbook was sufficient.

The General Assembly unanimously approved the Treasurer's report.

#### 9. **Report of the Chairman of the Advisory Council.**

Prof. Günter Klöppel presented his report.

The Advisory Council met on Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September. 19 of 29 possible members attended. Amongst items discussed were:

- a). It was emphasised that the AC is the link between the national societies of pathology and the Executive Committee. Under the new By-Laws, each member must be approved by his/her national society, and the representative should preferably be the secretary or president.
  - b). A request that each national society should have a member in each Working Group.
  - c). The AC should advise in the planning of the congresses, such as in Istanbul.
  - d). The AC would be a good forum to receive information about pathology from most countries of Europe.
  - e). The ESP newsletter and website should be used as a link between the national societies and the ESP.
  - f). Pathologists should be involved in the planning of EORTC trials.
  - g). A request was made by the Czech representative for the European School of Pathology to hold courses in the Czech Republic.
  - h). The next meeting of the Advisory Council will be held in May 2006 in Ioannina.
- The General Assembly approved this report unanimously.

#### 10. **Rules for election of new officers, additional members of the Executive Committee.**

New rules had been drawn up by committee led by Prof. Michael Wells. These are published on pages 21-22 of the Members' Handbook and were read out by the President.

The General Assembly approved them unanimously.

11. **New Officers and members of the Executive Committee.**

In accordance with the new rules for election, the following candidates for officers were proposed by the Executive Committee. No other nominations were received.

President-elect: Fred Bosman.

Secretary: Roderick Simpson.

Both were approved by the General Assembly, and thus duly elected.

The Executive Committee proposed as members of the Executive Committee: Nina Gale, Thomas Kirchner, Mia Marichal, Fernando Schmitt. They were approved by the General Assembly and thus duly elected.

The President noted that there were several other good potential candidates for the Executive Committee, who should not be discouraged from putting themselves forward for consideration in the future.

12. **Honorary memberships.**

The President proposed two outstanding members of ESP for Honorary Membership:

a). Antonio Llombart-Bosch for his great contribution to pathology and the ESP as Past President, President of the Advisory Council and for his general wisdom.

b). Paul Kleihaus for being an outstanding morphologist, cancer researcher and for coordinating the publication of the new series of WHO tumour “blue” books.

13. **21<sup>st</sup> ESP Congress, Istanbul 2007. Report of the Chairman of the Organising Committee.**

Prof. Sitki Tuzlali presented the outline for the Congress scheduled for September 2007. The opening ceremony will take place on 8<sup>th</sup> September, the General Assembly on the 12<sup>th</sup> and the Congress will close on 13<sup>th</sup> September.

The site will be the Istanbul Convention and Exhibition Centre, which has 21 rooms, the largest having 2000 seats. There will be 4 keynote lectures plus many slide seminars, symposia, short courses, free paper and poster sessions. The programme would be formulated in consultation with the Advisory Council and Working Groups. There will be an active social programme, and opportunities for tourism afterwards. The second announcement will appear in Autumn 2006.

The Congress website is: [www.ecp2007istanbul.org](http://www.ecp2007istanbul.org)

Prof. Tuzlali invited all to attend what will be an excellent congress in an unique city.

14. **ESP Inter-Congress, Ioannina, May 2006. Report of the Congress President.**

Niki Agnantis presented the programme. It will be based primarily around the Working Groups and associated societies, and there will be a guest lecturer. It will last 2½ days, and will be preceded by the annual meeting of the Greek Society of Pathology. There will be an active social programme, including excursions, as well as an opportunity to visit an interesting area of Greece. The site will be the Hotel du Lac, and there are plenty of hotels of different costs. There are flights from Athens and other cities, as well as travel by sea and overland.

The congress website is: [www.triaenatours.gr](http://www.triaenatours.gr)

15. **Approval of the site of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Intercontinental Congress 2008.**

The Executive Committee in 2004 approved Barcelona as the site of next Intercontinental Congress scheduled for May 2008, and to be organised by Prof. JA Bombí.

The General Assembly unanimously approved this proposal.

16. **Approval of the site of the 22<sup>nd</sup> ESP congress 2009.**

In 2004, the Executive Committee approved Florence as the site for the congress scheduled for September 2009, and to be organised by Prof. Marco Santucci.

The General Assembly unanimously approved this proposal.

17. **Frequency of General Assemblies.**

The Executive Committee believes that biennial General Assemblies are unlikely to be sufficient to deal with the increased complexity of the Society. As the Statutes state that “the General Assembly meets at each biennial congress”, any additional meetings will have to be Extraordinary General Assemblies (EGAs). The President asked this General Assembly for a free hand to be given to the Executive Committee to call EGAs if required. The first would be held in Ioannina during the Intercongress meeting in May 2006.

This was approved unanimously.

18. **Any other business.**

The Congress Awards were presented by Prof. Pierre Bedossa. He acknowledged that due to many excellent papers, it had been a very difficult task, but the following were chosen.

a). Best oral presentation (prize of €1500): Chromosomal instability predicts the malignant phenotype in sporadic insulinomas. Speel EJM, Jonkers YMH, Claessen SMH, Perren A, Schmid S, Komminoth P, Verhofstad AA, Hofland LJ, de Krijger RR, Slootweg PJ, Ramaekers FCS - Maastricht, Nijmegen, Rotterdam (Netherlands), Zürich, Baden (Switzerland).

b). Best poster presentation (prize of €1000): Head and neck squamous cell carcinomas: epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) protein expression and EGFR gene copy numbers. Mrhalová M, Plzak J, Betka J, Kodet R - Czech Republic.

c). George Tiniakos award for the best presentation in gastrointestinal, liver and pancreas pathology (prize of €1000): Endocrine precursor lesions are associated with duodenal gastrinomas in patients suffering from multiple endocrine neoplasia type 1. Anlauf AM, Perren A, Meyer C, Schmid S, Saremaslani P, Kruse MI, Weihe E, Komminoth P, Heitz PU, Klöppel G - Kiel, Marburg (Germany), Zürich (Switzerland).

19. **Date and place of next meeting.**

An Extraordinary General Assembly will take place in Ioannina, Greece in May 2006.

The next (regular) General Assembly will take place in Istanbul on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2007.

**Signed:**

**Professor Antonio Cardesa, President of the ESP.**

**Dr. Roderick HW Simpson, Secretary of the ESP.**

26<sup>th</sup> September 2005.