

EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF PATHOLOGY.

**Minutes for the General Assembly, European Society of Pathology;
Congress Centre, Istanbul; Wednesday, 12th September 2007, 12.00 - 13.30hrs.**

1. **Welcome.**

Professor Agnantis welcomed everyone to the meeting. About 100 members were present.

2. **Approval of agenda.**

Approved unanimously.

3. **Approval of the Minutes of the Extraordinary General Assembly in Ioannina, 26th May 2006.**

These were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

4. **Report of the President.**

Prof. Agnantis thanked the organisers of the current Istanbul congress for arranging such a successful meeting. There has been a record number of 2,434 active registrants, 130 accompanying persons and 172 exhibitors. The General Assembly showed its appreciation.

The Society will acquire a permanent office in Brussels with an administrator. All Executive Committee members now have specific areas of responsibility, and the President thanked them for all their work. In particular, she paid tribute to the current Past-President, Antonio Cardesa who leaves the Committee after this congress. She also thanked very much those ordinary members of the Executive Committee, Profs. Frédérique Capron, Veli-Pekka Lehto, Michael Wells and Dilek Yilmazbayhan, whose terms of office also end after this congress.

She thanked the editor and staff of the official journal of the ESP, Virchows Archiv. The impact factor is 2.251, representing a slight increase from last year. She encouraged all members to send as many good papers as possible to the journal.

She congratulated the Working Groups for all their activities at this and other congresses. She thanked Eurocellpath and the European School of Pathology for all their courses, and congratulated the latter, and its chairman, Prof. Gianni Bussolati, which was given an award at the 2006 IAP International Congress in Montreal, Canada in recognition of its contribution to education in pathology.

Finally, it was with great sadness that she announced the deaths of Victor Gould, Andrew Huvos and Hans Peterse. The meeting stood as a mark of respect for these distinguished members of the Society.

5. **Permanent office in Brussels; progress report.**

The Secretary informed the meeting that the purchase of the office had not been finalized, and there may be a need to rent in the meantime. The search for an Administrator had been done through a recruitment company, and that the advertisement has now been published.

6. **Report of the Treasurer.**

Prof. Han van Krieken gave a detailed report and noted that the finances were in a generally healthy state, particularly as a result of the link with Virchow Archiv.

The meeting approved the report.

7. Report of the Chairman of the Advisory Council.

Prof. Günter Klöppel gave the report. The most recent meeting was on Saturday, 8th September 2007 in Istanbul, when 15 of 29 societies were represented.

All representatives should have a mandate from their own national societies of pathology, and should ideally be the president or secretary.

Some countries have no representative, e.g. the Baltic Republics. Prof. Klöppel asked anyone to inform him about who should be contacted about becoming members of the Advisory Council.

Previous Council meetings had focused on the programme for Istanbul, and all members had had a chance for comment and to suggest changes.

The most recent meeting had discussed the European School of Pathology. Its courses had been well received, particularly in Eastern Europe, but its visibility is less obvious in the West.

Prof. Klöppel hopes that the Advisory Council members report back to their national societies about the ESP, and increase these links, and particularly, the activities of the Working Groups.

8. New Officers and members of the Executive Committee.

The Secretary reported that the procedure had been in accordance with the by-laws. The Executive Committee had recommend Prof. Michael Wells as President-elect and Prof. Han van Krieken for another term as Treasurer. Their CVs had been posted on the website, together with a call for further nominations. None were received in the time permitted.

The Executive Committee elected Loukas Kaklamanis, Bodil Laub Petersen, Teresa Ribalta and Jovan Vasiljevic to fill the four vacancies on the Executive Committee. In addition, Marco Santucci as President of the forthcoming congress will be co-opted as an additional member of the Executive Committee with voice, but no vote. The procedure was approved by the Executive Committee at its meeting on Saturday, 8th September.

The General Assembly then also approved the procedure and thus the new officers and members of the Executive Committee.

9. Honorary memberships.

The following distinguished pathologists had been proposed by the Executive Committee for honorary membership:

Sir Colin Berry, Antonio Cardesa, Rudolf Heimann and Philipp Heitz.

These were all approved unanimously.

10. Working Group items, including approval of new Working Groups.

Working Groups were proposed in:

IT Pathology (computational pathology), Paediatric and Peri-natal Pathology, Pathology of Infectious Disease.

They were reminded that they had to obey the by-laws, and on that basis, they were approved.

11. Report of the Editor of Virchows Archiv.

The Editor, Prof. Heinz Höfler was not present, and the Secretary gave a brief summary.

The impact factor had increased slightly to 2.251 and the journal is ranked 22 out of 65 pathology journals. This ranking is not very meaningful and a ranking has been sought among journals concentrating mainly on diagnostic and surgical pathology.

The membership was requested to send its best papers to Virchows Archiv, and was reminded that printing in colour is standard, unlike other journals.

12. 3rd Intercontinental Congress, Barcelona 2008. Report of the Chairman of the Organising Committee.

Prof. JA Bombí reported that the preliminary programme had already been published, and that the website was active. The congress will take place from 17th to 21st May 2008. See the website: www.3rdIntercontinentalCongressPathology.org

13. ESP Congress, Florence, 2009. Report of the Chairman of the Organising Committee.

Prof. Marco Santucci gave a report and showed an audio-visual presentation on Florence and the congress centre. See the website: www.ecp2009.org

14. Approval of the site of the ESP congress 2011.

A proposal for Helsinki had been supported by the Executive Committee and was approved by the General Assembly.

Prof. Veli-Pekka Lehto presented an audio-visual presentation on Helsinki and the congress centre.

15. Any other business.

None.

16. Date and place of next meetings.

- a). Extraordinary General Assembly; Barcelona, Wednesday, 21st May 2008, 13.00 hrs..
- b). General Assembly, Florence; Wednesday, 9th September 2009, 12.00 hrs.

Signed:

Niki Agnantis, President of the ESP.

Roderick HW Simpson, Secretary of the ESP.

20.09.2007.