

EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF PATHOLOGY.

Agenda for the General Assembly, European Society of Pathology; Palau de Congressos de Catalunya, Barcelona; Wednesday, 21st May 2008, 13.00 - 14.30hrs.

1. **Welcome.**

Professor Fred Bosman welcomed everyone to the meeting. About 60-70 members were present.

2. **Approval of agenda.**

Approved unanimously.

3 **Approval of the Minutes of the General Assembly in Istanbul, 12th September 2007.**

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

4. **Report of the President.**

a). Prof. Bosman thanked the organisers (in particular, Profs. Josep Antoni Bombí and Jaume Ordi) of the current Barcelona congress for arranging such a successful meeting.

b). The officers are holding monthly teleconferences, in addition to meetings of the Executive Committee.

c). The Society is seeking a longer term relationship with a professional congress organising (PCO) company, to begin in 2011. The tendering process is underway.

d). Prof. Bosman had visited Krakow and reported favourably of the city as a possible site for a congress.

e) The officers visited the Florence congress site in January.

f) It has been necessary to make several visits to Brussels regarding the office and hiring of staff.

g). The Executive Committee has started to consider the possibility for important companies to have a longer term relationship with the Society, in the form of corporate association or affiliation.

h). A course on gastroenterology pathology has been organised in Craiova, Romania by Prof. Emil Plesea for September 2008.

i). A joint project from the working groups of molecular pathology and diseases of the digestive tract is underway for a European external quality assurance (EQA) scheme within the framework of the ESP for molecular pathology testing for KRAS mutation by Prof. Han van Krieken.

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

Progress has been made in executing decisions made at past General Assemblies.

a). An apartment has been bought and will be able to host small meetings. It is near the main railway station, Brussels Zuid/Midi.

b). An administrator has been hired, as from 1st May 2008. She is Mrs. Krasilia Serguieva and she was introduced to the meeting. She said she was pleased to attend the meeting, as it was a good opportunity to meet the Society.

6. **Report of the Treasurer.**

- a). The biannual full report will be given at the next General Assembly.
- b). The overall financial situation is sound.
 - i). The income from Virchows Archiv in 2006 was about €500,000, and a similar amount was received in 2007.
 - ii). The last two congresses were financial successes.
 - iii). The ESP has assets to cover the cost of the Brussels office, and income to pay staff salaries, which will not come out of membership fees.
 - iv). As a non-profit organisation, the plan is to invest in professional congress planning and in education – this is at present €10,000 yearly and it is possible to increase this in future. The aim is to be the face of European pathology.
- c). A concern remains that membership numbers are still small. Plans to increase it include:
 - i). More benefits for members at congresses, starting in Florence.
 - ii). Restructuring of membership fees for residents and registrants from countries in development is under consideration. The treasurer will report back to the General Assembly when we have a proposal.
- d). Comments from the floor included:
 - i). Pathologists in Europe should look to the ESP as their main society, in a similar way that cardiologists regard the European Society of Cardiology (Prof. Thiene).
 - ii). There are problems with internet access with members who join after 14th April (Prof. Plesea), but these have now been solved!
 - iii). The national Societies could be used to increase membership of the ESP (Prof. Popper).
 - iv). Prof. Bosman noted that European Pathology doesn't have a face, but that the new website might help.
 - v). Some problems were noted with access to slide seminars (Dr. Scheimberg).

7. **Report of the Chairman of the Advisory Council.**

Prof. Günter Klöppel was unable to attend the meeting.

8. **New website.**

Prof. Fernando Schmitt gave a presentation on the new ESP website. Its address is: www.esp-pathology.org

He particularly thanked Dr. Bjørn Risberg, the editor of the previous website for allowing a successful transfer of all the information from it to the new website.

The new website will have links to the national societies of pathology. The individual Working Groups will not have their own separate websites, but separate areas within the main website. He hopes they will supply news on a monthly basis. Mrs. Serguieva has e-mailed all the Working Groups to ask for any news.

It is hoped to be able to become a member of the ESP through the website, including paying fees by credit card.

It is also planned that certain people (e.g. officers of Working Groups) will have access to parts of the website to make appropriate changes.

Dr. Mathilde E Boon asked about starting a Working Group on Green Pathology, including designing laboratories without using formalin or xylene. She

was advised to assemble a group of like-minded pathologists and make a proposal to the Secretary to present to the Executive Committee.

9. **New logo.**

A new logo has been adopted to coincide with the redesigned cover of Virchows Archiv. It can be viewed on the website.

10. **Report of the editor of Virchows Archiv.**

Prof. Heinz Höfler could not be present, and Prof. Bosman gave a report. There had been a meeting of the Editorial Board on the previous day. It is felt that there is good synergy between the Society and the journal, and it is intended that the relationship should remain close.

The Impact Factor has remained approximately stable, but it was felt that it could be increased. It is intended to increase the number of review articles which have a high probability of being cited, and an annual review issue on a specific topic.

Members of the ESP were requested to send their best papers to the journal, which prints all illustrations in colour for free.

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

Prof. Marco Santucci gave a brief report. The congress will be at Fortezza da Basso, with the opening ceremony on the first morning. Ten rooms will be in simultaneous use, including those used by the Italian Society of Pathology. 3000 hotel rooms have been booked, 85% within 10 minutes walking distance. See the website: www.ecp2009.org

12. **New educational strategy of the ESP.**

An Education Committee has been created, to be chaired by Prof. Bosman. It will include 2 members of the Executive Committee (Prof. Nina Gale, Dr. Bodil Laub Petersen) and 3 external members.

Courses will remain under the label of the European School of Pathology (ESCoP), in order to continue the work of Prof. Gianni Bussolati, as recently recognised by the IAP at its 2006 Montreal International Congress.

Microscope-based ESCoP style courses have been well received and will continue, but other courses can have a different content, e.g. methodology orientated courses and pathology for biomedical scientists.

The ESP will provide logistic and generous support in case of need, but many courses have been and will be self supporting (e.g. those at Ioannina).

The ESP will provide a platform for courses not developed by ESCoP to:
Increase their visibility (website, newsletter),
Guarantee quality control (label ESP guarantee of quality),
Allow CME/CPD accreditation.

13. **Approval of the site of the ESP intercongress 2010.**

Prof. Jerzy Stachura gave a brief presentation on Krakow, Poland. The dates will be 1st-4th September 2010.

The meeting unanimously approved Krakow as the site for the 2010 intercongress.

Although this will be the last inter-congress of the ESP (as Barcelona 2008 will be the last intercontinental congress) before moving to annual congresses, the ESP will continue to hold joint meetings with other societies.

14. **Honorary memberships:**

- a) Prof. M.J. Mihatsch was proposed for honorary membership. This was approved unanimously.
- b) Certificates were presented to Sir Colin Berry, Antonio Cardesa and Rudolf Heimann, whose honorary memberships were approved at an earlier General Assembly.

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

General Assembly, Florence Tuesday, 8th September 2009.

RHWS 24.06.2008.

Amended 25.06.2008 (HvK, FB)