

# European Society of Toxicologic Pathology e.V.

Minutes of the Annual General Assembly held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2011, 5.30-7.30 pm  
Uppsala, Sweden

38 members attended

- 1. Welcome and Introductory Remarks**

The meeting was opened by the Chairman, Annette Romeike. She warmly welcomed the members to the meeting and stated that the invitation had followed the rules set by the constitution and thus the assembly had a quorum. It was sent out to the members with the agenda two months previous to the meeting.
- 2. Approval of Agenda**

The previously circulated agenda was accepted and no additional points were added.
- 3. Approval of Minutes from AGA Budapest 2010**

The minutes of the last Annual General Assembly held at the 8<sup>th</sup> ESTP congress in Budapest in 2010 were circulated shortly after the meeting by Francesco Marchesi. They were accepted by the membership.
- 4. Annual Report of the Executive Committee**

The Annual Report of the Executive Committee was sent out to the membership by e-mail and will also be available on the website soon after the meeting. The representatives of the Executive Committee met ten times via TC and had one Face-to-Face meeting. Annette thanked the committee members and her colleagues of the Executive Committee for their good support. She also thanked Amy Narewski for taking the minutes and distributing them very fast after the meetings.

The Classical Examples workshop in February was a great success with ~120 participants and will take place next year again. Annette thanked the University of Hannover and those who contributed to the CD, which can be ordered through the webpage and is also sold at the Cutting Edge Congress.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> International Expert Workshop focused on "Induced Liver cell hypertrophy/hyperplasia" held in Colleretto Giacosa (TO), Italy at the end of May was received very well and the slides are available on the website (membership part). Annette thanked the sponsors and especially Wolfgang Kaufmann for his effort.

Annette informed the members that the flyers for next year's conference in Stresa, Lago Maggiore were available at the ESTP booth at the STP in Denver and raised much interest.

The INHAND nomenclature project is of major importance and Annette thanked all colleagues who contributed to it. The Respiratory System and Hepatobiliary System supplements were published in 2009 and 2010 respectively. The Nervous and Urinary Systems are to be published this year. The Fraunhofer Institute for Toxicology and Experimental Medicine (ITEM) and BSTP, ESTP, JSTP and STP are major contributors to this initiative.

Annette also thanked the sponsors of the Cutting Edge conference: Novartis (publication award at the dinner), Nycomed (sponsoring of Classic Example CDs and post-conference CDs), French Society of Toxicologic Pathology / SFPT (poster award, announced at dinner). and Gideon Richter for a financial donation.

A major topic later during this meeting will be the Journal and the Journal Task Force.

The communication between ESTP and the sister societies (BSTP, SFPT-, SIPTS, Dutch STP, and Hungarian Society of Toxicology), who have representatives in our board, has been very good.

Annette also thanked Ingrid Sjögren for her involvement with the local organising team previous to the conference.

**5. Questions to the pre-circulated reports of the respective committees and councilors**

The membership did not have any questions to the reports of the committees, which had been distributed via e-mail prior to the congress.

**6. Financial Report**

The financial report was presented by Matthias Rinke. He explained the details of credits and debits to the membership.

Balance on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2010: 47.123,94 € (credits August – December 2010: 11.719,29 €, debits: 17.853,56 €).

Money was spent for credit card fees, payment of the Journal (Experimental Toxpath), STP booth, recording of the minutes.

2011:

Balance on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010: 40.989,67 €, (credits: 33.761,40 €). The sum debits 1<sup>st</sup> January – 6<sup>th</sup> September: 19.475,76 €, resulting in a total balance of 55.275,31€ on September 6<sup>th</sup>).

Money which comes into the account is from the membership fees, the Classic Examples fees, homepage adverts, congress sponsoring and fees for the liver workshop.. Matthias said, also in the future the Society will have the possibility to sponsor scientific meetings.

Furthermore Matthias informed the members about the past conferences: in Basel 2007 a plus of 36.415,28 € (before tax) is to be split between ESTP and IFSTP, the congress in The Hague resulted in neither a surplus, nor a deficit. For the conference in Budapest a surplus is estimated but hasn't been calculated yet.

Open credits are still being held for two adverts on the website, there are still open membership fees (8 for 2010, 45 for 2011). The number of open membership fee payments from the AGA 2009 until 2011 is clearly diminishing.

**7. Report of the Auditors (Exoneration of EC)**

Our auditors Agnes Schulte and Daniel Roth could unfortunately not attend the AGA but had previously signed the auditor's report without objections. Thus, the Honorary Member Eberhard Karbe was proposed to discharge the treasurer for his liability for the last financial year. Through the show of hands a full approval of the members was achieved.

Paul-Georg Germann asked how much of a surplus the society is allowed to have without losing the status as a non-profit society. The board members answered that if the turnaround is more than 50.000 € and an annual cash flow of 100.000 € then our cost would have to rise in order not to lose the status of a non-profit society. It would be possible to sponsor more travel awards but the Society has to keep in

mind that we need a buffer in case unexpected costs (e.g. congress) come up.

**8. New members**

Francesco Marchesi announced that the society has 22 new members from Europe and non-European countries to be endorsed, which is a higher number compared with last year. Some members have left the society due to retirement and due to non-payment. Matthias Rinke and Rupert Kellner have been a great help in improving the follow-up of payments.

The following people have joined our society:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Entry date</b>
Eva Tibaldi	20 October 2010
Stéphane Lezmi	19 November 2010
Robert C. Sills	19 November 2010
Alexandru-Flaviu Tabaran	28 January 2011
Dirk Schaudien	28 January 2011
Carlos Lopez Mendez	28 January 2011
Maike Huisinga	28 January 2011
Pompei-Florin Bolfa	28 January 2011
Odete Mendes	18 February 2011
Matthias Wölm	18 February 2011
Zoltán Krajcovicz	18 February 2011
Karyn Colman	25 March 2011
Magnus Söderberg	21 April 2011
Laura Falcioni	20 May 2011
Helen Booler	20 May 2011
Eric van Esch	20 June 2011
Aswin Menke	22 July 2011
Robert Garman	8 September 2011
Gopakumar Gopalakrishnan	8 September 2011
Brian Knight	8 September 2011
Yasushi Sato	8 September 2011
Astrid Kersten	8 September 2011

All new members were endorsed by the membership without objection. All in all ESTP has now 297 members. Over the last years there had been ca. 70 exclusions and 50 terminations. Now the Society is back to former membership numbers and seems stable.

**9. Election/Ratification  
Representatives  
for Sister  
Societies (BSTP  
repr.)**

Last year Silvia Guionaud was nominated as the Representative for the BSTP in the ESTP board. She has left to work in the US and therefore Frank Chanut was proposed by the BSTP to take this position. The members approved him representing the BSTP in the board.

**10. Membership  
Discussion on  
Important Topics**

Annette opened the discussion concerning the ESTP Journal Experimental and Toxicological Pathology (ETP) by offering the members some background information of the development of the contact between ESTP and Elsevier. These slides will be made available in the member only section of ESTP website. The main reason for the discussion was to follow up on the debate emerged during the last AGA and former AGAs on Journal issues, where

concerns about the technical and scientific quality, cost/benefit, reputation of the Journal and publication timelines were discussed. After these topics were brought up, the ESTP Executive Committee decided in October 2010 to appoint a Journal Task Force with the specific aim to analyze and address the problems with the Journal ETP.

- Annette gave an overview of the Task Force activities, as well as the interactions with the ETP Executive Editors and Editorial Office. In summary, despite several attempts by the Journal Task Force, a constructive communication with the ETP editorial office could not be established..

Due to the concerns on side of ESTP, the board gave the membership the possibility to give their opinion through a questionnaire containing five questions on the current status and five questions on the possible future scenario. The answers were generally given on a scale from one to five, it was open for two months and two reminders were sent out. It had a feedback rate from almost 30% (from 291 members 84 answered the questionnaire, 19 verbatim comments in appendix). The Journal Councillor Birgit Kittel gave an overview on the Questionnaire results.

#### **Summary on Topic 1 – Current Status**

- The scientific quality of the ETP journal is estimated as below average (A: 2.5)
- ETP journal was used approx. twice a year (B: 2.1) for professional work
- Most of the repliers would not order the journal, if not connected to ESTP (C: 1.8)
- Very little use of the journal for publishing as first author (D: 1.3)
- .... or as contributing author (E: 1.4)

#### **Summary of Topic 2 – Future Scenarios**

- A majority of responding members favors an own scientific society journal, electronic or printed form (F: 3.6)
- A majority of responding members is not in favor or undetermined of shipping a print scientific journal (G: 2.6)
- Positive opinion on evaluation if ESTP can associate with a different pathology journal (H: 4.1)
- A majority of responding members is in favor of a scientific journal linked to membership (= I: 2.1 disagreement for no journal)
- Finally a majority prefers @-mailing or our homepage for announcements and wants to publish in other journals (J: 3.6)

Interpretation of the answers of the questionnaire:

The questionnaire has confirmed the dissatisfaction of replying members. The Journal has a relatively low importance to the membership. It also has a low professional value and impact. The majority supports to quit the publishing through ETP/Elsevier. In the future the board will explore the possibility to work with other Journals. Further information will be distributed electronically.

The comments made by the membership during the discussion can be summarized as follows:

- One member suggested trying to get out of the contract prior to 2015 and ask for the advice of a legal advisor. Getting out of the contract in 2015 would be the worst case scenario. It might be possible to cooperate with another Journal with better quality (Toxicologic Pathology was mentioned) already prior to 2015. One argument ESTP could have is ETP not fulfilling the contract.
- According to another comment the themes published in Experimental and Toxicologic Pathology have changed over the time, and the topics currently offered by many articles are not very relevant to our main professional and scientific focus (toxicological pathology). This development is partly our fault: If there is no contribution from our side nothing will change.
- If the society will not cooperate with any other Journal and only communicate via the website or by issuing the newsletters and/or some publications in other journals, the opportunities to reach a large audience in the toxicologic pathology community could be reduced.
- In general, papers published in a Journal get a wider international recognition.
- The majority of the members agreed that the cooperation with Elsevier and the form of publishing has to improve significantly otherwise the contract is not worth its cost. There was even no response from the editors to a member's request concerning an article. In the eyes of the members such an attitude can not be accepted.
- A member asked how much the members fee would rise if a second Journal would be cooperated with. No figures can be estimated yet. In case a collaboration with another Journal is built up, it might be possible to become a member without receiving the Journal in the future.
- The membership wanted to know how the procedure of shortening or quitting the contract with Elsevier would be. Currently there are no ascertained suggestions. Perhaps a shortening of the contract until 2013 would be possible but all this needs to be evaluated with Elsevier.
- In a show of hands from the membership there was almost a full approval of trying to terminate the contract with Elsevier and no strong objections.  
The board will probably distribute another questionnaire regarding the options to join other existing journals or alternatives once the respective details have been clarified.

In the next TCs the board and the Journal Task Force will discuss this further and contact an independent lawyer. It will evaluate which other Journals will be possible to cooperate with. Also a discussion with representatives from ETP will be prepared. The membership will be updated prior to the AGA next year. The membership is encouraged to suggest alternative journals to the board and feedback about additional experiences with ETP.

The following Journals were mentioned as possible to work with: STP journal (Toxicologic Pathology), Japanese Journal (Journal of Toxicologic Pathology), Own unique Communication in Electronical Form.

In a recent questionnaire from STP, the paper form was preferred by the STP membership, but it might change in the future. More and more people are getting used to reading things on screen, but it is different with adverts which are viewed online or in paper. Currently STP Journal has open access for non-members after one year after publication.

Annette closed the discussion and thanked the members for their contributions.

**11. Report of Local Organizing Committee**

Ingrid reported as the chair of the ESTP Scientific Organizing Committee. The planning started two years ago: During a discussion at the AGA 2009 it was considered to have joint meetings in the future. At the same time ESVP approached us for the meeting in Uppsala. There was one local organizing committee, members from ESVP/ECVP, Scientific group meetings and two professional organizers "Akademikonferens" (local arrangements) and Solution Office (sponsors, exhibitors). There were 393 registered participants, from sides of ESTP there were less than 100 participants, but many dual members took part and might have registered as ESVP members. All in all there were 17 sponsors and 14 exhibitors; the budget looked well balanced +/- 500, 00 €. A feedback will be received through the forms distributed in the welcome bag.

Carl Hård af Segerstad added that the ESVP/ECVP, veterinary institute, asked for a joint conference and was very happy to have done this together with ESTP. It was a cooperation of two different cultures which worked perfectly well together. Thanks to ESTP a great number of sponsors and exhibitors were achieved. He also thanked Solution Office for the printing of the abstract books.

**12. Any Other Business**

Francesco announced the upcoming conference of next year. It will be the 10<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Toxicological Pathology, with the main scientific theme "Toxicopathology of Soft Tissue and Musculo-Skeletal System" and it will take place in Stresa, Lago Maggiore from 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> September 2012. Besides the main scientific focus of the congress, the Scientific Organizing Committee is planning to introduce some side topics of general interest for toxicological pathologists, maybe peer review in toxicological pathology with an overview of international debate and recommendations, and a presentation on international perspectives and recommendations for industry-CROs interactions. The Italian Society of Toxicological and Experimental Pathology will offer support to the organization of the congress. Francesco is looking forward to seeing many people attending.

The Classical Examples Workshop in 2012 will take place 24<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> February at the University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover in Hannover, Germany. It is possible to purchase the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the CD including presentations held at the Classical Examples here at the conference or afterwards via Solution Office.

Francesco Marchesi  
Secretary, ESTP

Annette Romeike  
Chairman, ESTP