

European Society of Toxicologic Pathology e.V.

Minutes of the Annual General Assembly held on 11th September 2013, 5.30-7.30 pm
Gent, Belgium

50 members attended

1. ***Welcome and Introductory Remarks***

The meeting was opened by the chairman, Frédéric Schorsch. He warmly welcomed the members and stated that the invitation had followed the rules set by the constitution: it was sent out to the members with the agenda two weeks previous to the meeting. He thanked Francesco Marchesi for his effort as the board's secretary - despite his impossibility to attend our meetings - and asked for a warm applause for Francesco.
2. ***Approval of Agenda***

The agenda was approved by the assembly. The release just before the meeting of an "OECD guidance on the GLP requirements for peer review of histopathology" led us to add this topic to the discussion.
3. ***Approval of Minutes from Stresa 2013***

The minutes of the last Annual General Assembly in Stresa were reviewed and approved. Some decisions and their outcome were already presented.
4. ***Annual Report of the Executive Committee (News, Challenges, etc.)***

The Annual Report of the Executive Committee was sent out to the membership and will also be available on the website after the meeting. The representatives of the Executive Committee met ten times via TC and had one Face-to-Face meeting prior to the AGA. Frédéric thanked the committee members and his colleagues of the Executive Committee for their warm support. He also thanked Amy Narewski for taking the minutes and distributing them very fast after the meetings.

Frédéric made a short presentation on the main activities conducted this year by the Executive Committee. Especially he presented the 2 new initiatives that the Executive Committee has considered to put in place in addition to the existing ones.

First of all our communication around the input of toxicologic pathology for safety assessment needs to be strengthened. As the ESTP does no longer cooperate with Elsevier and therefore has no journal, the newsletter has become the only very important mean of communication. It is and will be published four times a year on the first page of the ESTP website. The board decided that the members of the journal committee will join the newsletter committee. Another action concerning communication will take place at the meeting in Berlin in 2014. Lars Mecklenburg is

organizing a session dedicated to the improvement of skills in medical and scientific writing. The committee for scientific standards (replacing the Guideline Committee) is always aiming to inform the ESTP board about new requests. One recent example is the "OECD guidance on the GLP requirements for peer review of histopathology". All in all the aim of the board is to increase and improve the communication and the global visibility of ESTP.

Secondly the board decided to devote more awareness to the change in experimental and toxicological pathology. Molecular pathology, computational toxicology, biomarkers and digital imaging - there have been a lot of changes concerning those tools - and our aim is to keep toxicologic pathologists up to date. The identification and characterization of adverse effects in the Toxicology of the 21st Century are also intensely discussed and toxicologic pathologists must at least be involved in the definition of adversity. Computational toxicology and the SEND initiative are projects which have great importance and value for our work now and in the future. The board wants to achieve these aims through two new sub-committees: "Pathology 2.0: the future of Toxicologic pathology" led by Franck Chanut and "Clinical pathology and biomarkers" led by Aïda Diaz-Bayon. Franck has already received 20 positive answers to his request for volunteers. The second sub-committee includes the wish of ESTP to increase the cooperation with clinical pathology. Aida said she was happy about a stronger interaction with clinical pathology which is part of toxicologic pathology.

After the majority of the members had agreed to close the cooperation with Elsevier in 2011, the Journal committee informed Elsevier about this decision. An official email confirmed the termination of the contract on the 31.12.2012. The board now focuses on the newsletter and the website as the 2 main organs for communication with its members. It always welcomes members to inform them about interesting topics and information you would like to share with the membership. Frédéric thanked Rupert Kellner for his work as the webmaster of the ESTP website.

Frédéric thanked the members who volunteer in the ESTP board and simultaneously addressed the membership to take part in running and future activities of the board. Currently there are 45 of 306 members volunteering and three positions will be opened in 2014. Matthias Rinke will be leaving the society as the treasurer, Francesco Marchesi will leave his position as the secretary and a new designated chairman will be looked for.

Apart from that the board is already looking for volunteers who will host the meetings of the congress in the following years from 2015 onwards.

5. **Questions to the reports of the respective committees and councillors** The membership had no special questions to the committees and councilors.

All the reports are on the website. Please take some time to read them. Frédéric thanked all the members and had a special word for Paul Germann who is leaving his role as ESTP representative within IFSTP.

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

The following credits and debits were made in 2012:

Sum credits after 15th August 2012: 12.917,22 €

Debits from 15th August 2012 until 31st December 2012 : 16.735,68 €

Balance 31st December 2012: 49.153, 26 €

The following credits and debits were made in 2013:

Sum credits from Jan 1st till Aug 26th 2013: 16.791.66 €

Debits from Jan 1st till Aug 26th 2013 : 38.100.48 €

Balance 26th August 2013: 70.462,08 €

Matthias went into details explaining the costs and the expenses of the society. The main incomes are the membership fees and the sponsoring of the conference. The amount being sponsored this year was lower than in earlier years, but this may be so due to the major sponsoring of the Classic Examples Course in Hannover.

Matthias brought up the topic of the membership fee. He had asked the board if it was necessary to lower the fee for students and retired members in order to keep them within the society. The current fee is 100,00 € for members in work. The board suggested to have a fee of 40,00 € for students and retired members. The membership decided it would be 35,00 €. The membership also discussed the possibility of reducing the fee to this amount for PhD students and university assistants and agreed to do so.

As already mentioned Matthias Rinke will retire from his position as a treasurer in 2014. He asked the membership to think of a successor. The board is planning to reduce the workload for the treasurer. The executive committee invited the membership to contact the board if they were interested in volunteering.

7. **Report of the Auditors (Exoneration of EC)** Daniel Roth had signed the report prior to the meeting, and so the members were discharged for their liability for the last financial year.

8. New members

Over the past few years there has been a more or less stable number of 16 or 17 new members.

The following colleagues have joined our society:

1. Charlotte Keenan
2. Famke Aeffner
3. Florian Hansmann*
4. Vanessa Herder*
5. Henning Hvid*
6. Emmanuelle Balme
7. Takanori Harada
8. Hsi-yu Yen
9. Peter Millar
10. Afonso da Costa
11. Isabelle Raymond-Letron
12. David Ravelo
13. Lise Bertrand
14. Vanessa Schumacher
15. Tânia Carvalho
16. Kuno Wuersch

* These members got a one-year free membership as recipients of the Boehringer Ingelheim-sponsored Award for a PhD thesis in toxicologic/experimental pathology (at the 10th ESTP meeting in Stresa, Italy September 2012)

The membership endorsed the new members. All in all ESTP has got **306** members.

9. Election of Auditor

Daniel Roth due to new duties in his company will no longer be an auditor, and Wolfgang Kaufmann has volunteered to take his position. He was accepted.

10. Membership Discussion on Important Topics

The guideline committee has been renamed to become the committee of scientific standards. Erio retired from his position as the councilor and Annette took over his position as she was accepted by the Executive Board. The aim is to read and proof new documents and to send them to the membership for comments. After the committee has discussed the proposed comments changes will be drafted and sent back.

Erio presented the OECD guidance on the GLP requirements for peer review of histopathology which was just released before the meeting. It appears that some comments the different STPs and IFSTP made on a first draft were taken into consideration in this new version but some difficulties still exist in the current text which was presented as final. He briefly gave his personal opinion by

classifying items in 2 categories: yellow highlights (critical points requiring change), green underlining (less critical points of interest). The document should be reviewed in more details and actions needed are still in discussion.

11. Report of Local Organizing Committee

Marjolein and An gave a brief update on the conference in Ghent. There were 161 attendees, 77 being members of the ESTP and 75 being non-members. Nine students took part and 17 exhibitors were present. 32 nations were represented.

Marjolein and An thanked the exhibitors and sponsors, especially BASF and Novartis for the IATP session. Without support of the breweries and the city of Ghent the beer tasting and the reception would not have been possible.

Anna Lena Frisk informed the membership about the joint congress of the ESTP, ESVP and ECVP which will take place next year in Berlin from 27th – 30th August 2014. Anna Lena Frisk for ESTP and Achim Gruber from ESVP are in charge of the organization. Currently there are 14 persons working in the Scientific Committee. The topic will be the toxicological pathology of the endocrine and endocrine regulated organs.

The congress will last two and a half days. Two full days will take place in the Estrel Convention Center, located in Neukölln and has an easy access. Every member will receive a ticket for travelling while in Berlin.

There will also be joint key note lecture with the following topic “Animal disease control – do we still need pathologists?”, an open scientific poster session, case presentations and INHAND.

On the cultural program visits to the Berlin Museum of Medical History, to the “Berlin Underworld” and a sightseeing tour will be offered.

12. Any other business

Classic Examples

Paul-Georg Germann informed the Board that Eberhard Karbe and Wolfgang Drommer are stepping out from the organization of the Classic Examples. Ulrich Deschl, Thomas Nolte and Florian Colbatzky will take over.

In the absence of Eberhard Karbe, Paul-Georg Germann explained the 5th edition of the CD of the Classical Examples is for sale. It contains 17 additional manuscripts to the previous edition presenting lesions induced by more than 140 test compounds or materials and illustrated by more than 1000 histopathological images. A special offer at the meeting was proposed to our members to celebrate the release of the new CD edition. Members were encouraged to buy it.

IFSTP meeting

A meeting of the IFSTP will take place during the following day's lunch break. Frédéric will be present and express the wish of the ESTP to support collaboration between the different STPs around the world.

Currently Paul-Georg Germann was the representative at the IFSTP. He will step out of his position and the board has approached Hans Harleman to see if he would like to take over his role. He accepted this position and Frédéric thanked him.

Amy Narewski
Minute taker, ESTP

Frédéric Schorsch
Chairman, ESTP