



## European Society of Toxicologic Pathology e.V.

Minutes of the Annual General Assembly held on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2014, 6 - 8 pm  
Berlin, Germany

48 members attended

- 1. Welcome and introduction**

The meeting was opened timely by the chairman, Frédéric Schorsch, who 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.  
In the absence of the leaving secretary, Francesco Marchesi, the chairman expressed sincere thanks for his excellent support.
- 2. Approval of agenda**

The agenda was approved by the membership and the Executive Committee (EC).
- 3. Approval of minutes from the AGA Ghent 2013**

Minutes from the Annual General Assembly (AGA) Ghent 2013 were approved by the membership and the EC.
- 4. Annual report of the EC**

The chairman presented the annual report of the EC which had also been distributed to the membership prior to the AGA. The chairman put his focus on the main past and new activities.

Core activities of the ESTP are the international collaborations within the INHAND, SEND and RITA initiatives. The INHAND initiative is perceived as positive for our profession and is further encouraged.

Other core activities are the two annual meetings (ESTP conference and Classic Examples). The main goal of the EC was to use these events in order to share our work experience and expertise and to educate younger colleagues.

The collaboration with other societies is also an important link in order to achieve a good training of toxicological pathologists. Currently, there are five yearly meetings of presidents of STPs. Moreover, the ESTP was also in continuous contact with the growing toxicological pathology communities in Latin America, China and India. Finally, the ESTP is active in the IFSTP, represented by Hans Harleman, and the chairman expressed his regrets that some other societies have left this federation.

New ESTP activities aim at developing the visibility of our society, among which is the foundation of new committees to work on some issues of present relevance for our profession.

Following the discussion at the AGA 2012 (Stresa) the journal was dropped and the communication focus was put on the newsletter.

The EC is active on the level of the European Commission, to give scientific input regarding pathology data within GRACE (GMO Risk Assessment and Communication of Evidence). ESTP was involved as a consequence of the highly criticized "Seralini study". (Additional comment added post-meeting): GRACE is an EU FP7 research project with two key research objectives: assessing health, environmental and socio-economic impacts of GM plants (risks and benefits) and testing various types of animal feeding trials and alternative in-vitro methods for health risk assessment of GM food and feed (<http://www.grace-fp7.eu/home>). The University of Veterinary Medicine in Hannover is also involved in this project.

News about the OECD draft guidance document for peer review are presented later.

Another new initiative is the "scientific and medical writing" initiative driven by Lars Mecklenburg, who organized a highly interesting satellite workshop during this conference. Lars encouraged the members to hand in topics they wish to be treated within this initiative.

Concerning the future vision of our profession, the new committees "Pathology 2.0", led by Franck Chanut, and "Clinical Pathology and Biomarkers", led by Aida Diaz-Bayon, were mentioned. There is also a very recent initiative to work on the definition of adverse effects, by Gabriele Pohlmeyer-Esch and Wolfgang Kaufmann.

In administration, 2014 was marked by the electronic election of board members and councilors. Two councilors have left their positions as the journal was dropped, and as the Italian society did not nominate a representative. Two new councilors should join the EC being responsible for the Telepathology and Classic Examples.

The next ESTP meetings will take place in Surrey (UK) in 2015 and in Barcelona (Spain) in 2016. EC decided for a location in Spain in order to expand the society's visibility in this country.

Finally the chairman informed the board that the society's membership has grown to 306 (including 14 new members to be approved during the AGA). The percentage of members actively contributing to its activities is about 15%, and only through the contribution of these 45 volunteers can the society reach its goals. The chairman thanked Paul Germann and Birgit Kittel, the leaving EC members, and at the same time welcomed new colleagues to join the committees.

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

Previous to the meeting the membership received the reports of the committees and councilors. Some members of the committees shortly presented their activities and answered questions of the membership.

Three ESTP members are currently involved in the GESC "global editorial and steering committee" (Wolfgang Kaufmann, Thomas Nolte, Susanne Rittinghausen), with a rotation of these members every 3 years in order to spread out the work and implicate younger colleagues. In addition, Rupert Kellner, as webmaster of goRENI is a standing

committee member.

Nomenclature was published for integument/soft tissue and is now available online. GESC intends to have the future supplements provided online faster. Nomenclature for the female reproductive system is currently in press and the digestive system was revised in GoReni and commented on. The draft of the cardiovascular system was sent to GESC for comments. GESC and INHAND will be standing committees and the chair will be replaced every two years, not only to have a democratic process, but as well to share the work.

The INHAND "change control forms" are available on the ESTP website. The suggested changes are discussed in GESC and if approved, then discussed in the organ working group.

The "non-rodent species working groups" started to work last year. ESTP members are involved and initial terminology is expected to be finished at the end of 2014. The chairs of the groups are Mark Mense (dog), Karyn Colman (non-human primates), Mikala Skydsgaard (minipig) and Alys Bradley (rabbit). The chairs and members were nominated by the societies. A working group "apoptosis/necrosis" was also created.

RITA had its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2013. The database contains now 100.000 cases of more than 25.000 animals. There are five RITA meetings and two CEPA meetings per year.

#### Guess What Committee (Susanne Rittinghausen)

Susanne thanked all members who submitted diagnoses and contributed cases for the "Guess what" section. In the last working year case 18 was closed and currently case 19 is open for discussion. All suggestions how the attractiveness and participation of "Guess what" can be enhanced are very welcome.

#### IFSTP Committee (Hans Harleman)

This point was already sufficiently covered by the chairman's introduction.

#### Newsletter committee (Zuhai Dincer)

Four seasonal (spring, summer, autumn, winter) newsletters are published every year, and the autumn edition will be available on the website September/October. Members are invited to use the newsletter as a forum to communicate new information, important activities or interesting topics and to share this call for articles with colleagues. Zuhai thanked all of those who have contributed to the newsletter so far. Several committees stated that they would like to use the newsletter in future as their means of communication to the membership.

#### Pathology 2.0. (Vanessa Schumacher)

This new committee was presented by Vanessa and meets regularly under the leadership of Franck Chanut (excused for being absent). The purpose of the group is to develop a plan how to improve the role of toxicologic pathology in drug discovery and development, by using new technology and techniques of risk assessment. They would also like to

develop educational content.

As one of the first steps a survey was developed to collect information about who the members are, what their work consists of and which topics/new techniques the members are interested in. To summarize, the results show that the majority of the membership is employed by industry or CRO's; mainly as study pathologists and in project management. Most are not receiving any additional specialized training and educate during conferences, through vendors and in academia. The complete results of the survey will be available soon on the website.

The committee already has some ideas for future conferences and webinars and plans to organize a session on innovative technologies in Surrey.

The chairman stated that he was proud of the work this committee has achieved.

#### Clinical Pathology and Biomarkers Committee (Aida Diaz-Bayon)

The set up of this committee is ongoing. It has currently 16 members, some of which are clinical pathologists and therefore not all of them are ESTP members. Thomas Nolte questioned if the constitution allowed non-ESTP members to be a committee member, and it was agreed that although this situation is not explicitly foreseen in the constitution, it is acceptable in this specific case in order to achieve best possible collaboration with the Clinical Pathology community. At the moment the objective is to develop an overview of the current situation and then develop a session about biomarkers in Surrey.

#### Committee for Scientific Standards (Annette Romeike)

The main activity in the past year was the coordination of the communication with the OECD working group on GLP requirements on histopathology peer review. The last draft received still bears major inconsistencies to current practices of peer review. Together with the STP scientific regulatory and policy committee a letter was written and co-signed by most of the international STPs and by the president of the IFSTP. Once there is an answer this will be communicated to the membership.

Besides this topic, Annette asked the membership to inform the committee if they become aware of a new guideline where toxicological pathology is involved.

#### Classic Examples 2015 (Thomas Nolte)

The next Classic Examples will take place at the University of Veterinary Medicine in Hannover on the 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> February 2015. The organizers are currently discussing the set up of the meeting and are asking for ideas from the membership in order to improve the format of Classic Examples.

## **6. Financial report**

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

Besides open membership fees, the account of the ESTP had an income

from the Classic Examples and also from the website advertisement. The expenses are mainly account costs, recording of the minutes and the publication award. During the last financial year there was no longer any phishing on the ESTP account.

The amount of the ESTP account on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013 was 73.392,22 €

The conference in Ghent provided a surplus of 1.486,50 €, placed on the congress account.

In 2014 the income was made up of the Classic Examples, the advertisement on the website and current and late membership fees from 2013. There were costs for the credit card payments. The sponsoring for the conference in Berlin and a reimbursement also added up to the current balance on the account.

ESTP paid a deposit of 10.000 € for this meeting in Berlin and had to pay a fee to Coposweb, and there are still some open bills.

The total income until 1<sup>st</sup> August 2014 was 28.412,76 €, resulting in a total balance of 91.216,10 €

Matthias explained that as the ESTP is a non-profit organization, the association is currently doing very well and is planning to invest some money in several projects in alignment with its objectives. The society already sponsored the thesis award at the current meeting.

Based on the solid financial situation, it was suggested by the treasurer and approved by the assembly to maintain the yearly membership fee at 100 € for members in work and 35 € for students/university assistants and retired members.

**7. Report of the auditors (exoneration of EC) and election of the auditors**

The auditors Wolfgang Kaufmann and Agnes Schulte have checked all balance sheets and confirmed the adequacy of the financial presentation, which is a true view of the society's treasury. They confirmed that they had found the accounts in excellent order and recommended their acceptance. The members accepted the accounts unanimously and approved the activities of the board. The EC has herewith been exonerated.

For future bookings and to facilitate the work of the treasurer and of the auditors, the members are asked to submit their names when paying by bank transfer.

The membership approved of the continuation of Wolfgang Kaufmann and Agnes Schulte as auditors.

**8. ESTP Election – result of the electronic voting**

Rupert Kellner presented the results of the electronic voting, which had also been circulated to the membership prior to the AGA. The election took place from 28<sup>th</sup> May – 10<sup>th</sup> July and 82 members voted. This is more than could be reached during the Annual General Assembly.

The following nominees were elected or confirmed and are part of the new EC (in brackets votes for/against/abstention):

Sibylle Gröters, new designated chairman (76/1/5)  
Lars Mecklenburg, vice chairman (71/2/9)  
Gabriele Pohlmeyer-Esch, secretary (74/2/6)  
Matthias Rinke, treasurer (78/0/4)  
Rupert Kellner, councilor for electronic communication  
Annabelle Heier, councilor for the younger generation  
Johannes Harleman, councilor representative for IFSTP  
Wolfgang Baumgärtner, councilor representative of university teachers  
Susanne Rittinghausen, councilor for nomenclature

There are two new positions as councilors which have to be approved by the membership. Thomas Nolte is the nominee for the position of councilor for Classic Examples and Thierry Flandre applied to be the councilor of Telepathology. Anna-Lena Frisk asked the members if they approved these candidates. There were no disapprovals or abstentions; hence the councilors were accepted unanimously.

## 9. New members

Jenny McKay stated that the society can be proud of its growing membership. Currently there are 306 members including 14 new members accepted by the EC during the past year. All of these were endorsed by the assembly. One last application was received during the conference and will be endorsed at the next AGA.

The new members are (in the order of entry date):

- Neus Prats
- Line Olrik Berthelsen
- Béatrice Sacré-Salem
- Hemei Wang
- Camilla Recordati
- Esther Sutter
- Karen Bodié
- Laura Zwick
- Jordi Alumà
- Sean McKeag
- Christopher Gray
- Una Walsh
- Gabrielle Wilson
- Daniel John Patrick

Jenny asked the members to encourage their colleagues to join and profit from being part of the society.

## 10. Election/ ratification of representatives for sister societies

The Italian society will not have a representative in the ESTP board anymore. The representatives of other societies are as follows:

Erio Barale (SFPT)  
Franck Chanut (BSTP)  
Eveline de Rijk (Dutch society)  
György Selenyi (Hungarian society)

Franck asked to be replaced and the BSTP is currently looking for a representative. The membership will be informed if there are any

changes.

**11. Report of local organizing committee, presentation of our 2015 meeting**

Cutting Edge Berlin 2014 (Anna-Lena Frisk)

On behalf of the local organizing committee Anna-Lena presented the membership with an overview of the current preliminary budget of this year's joint congress:

The income from delegate fees has so far reached 145.000 € and sponsoring was 136.000 €. The expenses sum up to 210.000 €. We can therefore reasonably expect a balanced final budget. In total there are 447 participants (205 males and 234 females) from 48 countries and 5 continents: Europe (371), Asia (39), Africa (3), America (33), and Australia (1).

In total, 237 participants were registered as a member of one of the following societies: ACVP (11), ESTP (86), ESVP/ECVP (140). Additionally, 91 students attended the congress.

ESTP Congress 2015 (Aude Roulois)

Next year's meeting, in collaboration with the BSTP, will take place at the University of Guildford/Surrey from 22<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> September 2015. Flyers were distributed in the congress bags (see also appendix 2).

Surrey is situated in the south-west of London and easily accessible from London airports. The program will include cell interactions, new techniques, *in-silico* modeling and interactive case studies. The membership is invited to contact the organizing committee for any ideas or additions. The aim will be to build links with colleagues outside of the ESTP, university members and human pathologists.

**14. Discussion on important new initiatives**

Proposal of ESTP Expert Workshops "Definition of Adverse Effects" (Gabriele Pohlmeier-Esch and Wolfgang Kaufmann)

The preliminary concept of a series of international ESTP expert workshops, with the aim to differentiate adverse from non-adverse organ effects, was presented by the two initiators.

The toxicologic pathology community is aware that the term "adverse" is highly subjective and that there are no clear criteria to define it. Also, besides some general criteria for this term, the definition of adversity needs to be organ- and even lesion-specific. The EC has endorsed this initiative, as the ESTP is felt to be a most suitable forum and has already recognized experience in the organization of such workshops. Such workshops should embody an expert panel (ESTP and international experts) which discusses specific questions in a public manner. This would enable a broad international interaction and a worthwhile investment. The membership is asked to suggest possible topics. In order to keep costs low it would be a good solution to use facilities of some companies, and first contacts have been made. Ideally, one workshop per year could be held and should imperatively lead to a publication (see also appendix 3).

The membership acknowledged this initiative and discussed some ideas.

Further questions and suggestions may be sent to the EC, and the membership will be kept informed of the progress via the newsletter.

Survey to increase knowledge about the current situation of toxicologic pathology in Europe (Erio Barale-Thomas, Lars Mecklenburg, further volunteers are invited to join)

The EC supports the idea of conducting a survey of the current work situation in toxicological pathology. Based on the number of 306 members the results of this survey will have representative power. A working group will elaborate survey questions, determine the necessary technical support and keep the membership informed via the newsletter.

**17. Any other business**

Jenny McKay as new chairperson thanked Frédéric for his devotion and successful work as the chairman of the ESTP and gave a positive outlook into the future. She sees the EC as a strong group of people who will continue to lead the ESTP efficiently. Through cooperation with other areas and committees they will be able to promote and enhance the science of toxicological pathology internationally. Jenny introduced herself to those members who don't know her yet. She has worked in both, veterinary and toxicological pathology, and appreciates the benefits of working with international colleagues. One of the goals for the coming years is to welcome younger trainees to the committees and the EC. She is looking forward to welcoming everyone to the meeting in Surrey in 2015.

The meeting was closed timely.

Gabriele Pohlmeyer-Esch  
Secretary, ESTP

Jenny McKay  
Chair, ESTP