

MINUTES
General Business Meeting
of the European Society for Microcirculation
on occasion of the 24th Congress
Thursday, August 31, 2006, 18:00
Medical Physics Department, Room L0-150,
Academic Medical Center, Amsterdam

Present:

33 members of the Society, including
Ed van Bavel - *President*
A.R. Pries, Germany - *General Secretary*
Mirjam oude Egbrink - *Communication Officer*

1) Approval of Minutes 2004

The General Secretary asked for any comments with respect to the minutes of the Business Meeting in Lisbon in 2004. There were no objections and the minutes were unanimously approved.

2) President's Report

Then Ed van Bavel gave the report of his presidential term in the preceding two years. He reported on the organization of the Amsterdam meeting:

“The number of participants has approached 400, which is higher than the expected 300-350. Sponsoring also went well, eventually, and the conference is expected to make a small profit, allowing us to support the ESM. We chose to use the AMC as the venue. Even though also academic venues and their caterers know how to charge conference organizers, this was still more affordable than commercial venues. We realize that the AMC is located in a suburb of Amsterdam, requiring daily commuting of the participants from the downtown hotels. We included a public transportation pass in the conference material and hope this partly offsets the inconvenience.

Most of our sponsors were exhibitors. We were informed by several regular sponsors that location of their booths is crucial, and after complaints following the previous meeting, we paid special attention to the floor plan. Accordingly, we decided to have catering on a central square, surrounded by the commercial booths and part of the posters, with the other posters immediately next to the square. We communicated this floor plan to potential sponsors, and noted that this really helps getting sponsorship. We have set up a scientific program consisting of 18 symposia and oral presentations, 20 poster sessions and 3 plenary lectures, including that of the Malpighi awardee Ulrich Pohl. A conference diner has been organized aboard the 'Kapitein Kok'.

The help of several persons was instrumental for organizing this meeting. We had a superb website, set up by Rene ter Wee. Maria Siebes, Stephan Peters, and Jos Spaan were core

members of the local organizing committee and spent much time handling the abstracts, making the conference material, raising sponsorship and taking care of all the other aspects of organizing the meeting. The Nicolaes Tulp Institute was our professional organizer and professional they were indeed. I would also like to thank the European Society for Microcirculation and the Netherlands Society for Microcirculation and Vascular Biology for having faith in me as an organizer and president. Frankly, when I first took up the challenge of organizing an ESM, in 2000 in Stockholm, I was not at all convinced that I could do this, but the faith and support from the societies and the AMC helped me enormously, and I really, really learned a lot from this experience.”

Following this presentation, general aspects of the conference organization were discussed, including the approaches in financing of symposia and handling registration fees for invited speakers. One conclusion was to address this question in depth very early at the meetings of the respective International Programme Committees to establish a framework for the different symposia categories (e.g. plenary, sponsored by national societies, of high scientific value but not directly sponsored). This would enable the envisaged symposia organizers to address financial needs very early and limit the uncertainty about respective requirements on the side of the conference organizers.

3) General Secretary's Report

The General Secretary, Axel Pries, mentioned that some relevant developments in the Society would be addressed later in the agenda (e.g. the modifications of the ESM constitution/rules) and eluded to actual developments in the European Society for Cardiology (ESC) with respect to the basic sciences which were of high relevance for the ESC. A few years ago, the ESC had established a Council for Basic Cardiovascular Science (CBCS). In this council, sister societies including the ESM (and the European Vascular Biology Organization) were represented. The council had been successful in implementing a number of relevant improvements with respect to the representation of basic science at ESC conferences. Furthermore, the council would aim at intensifying its interaction with sister societies, e.g. by organising and sponsoring visible components of the scientific program at their meetings. The overall goal would be an increase of quality and visibility of meetings for basic cardiovascular science in Europe both inside and outside the ESC.

It was suggested that the incoming President of the ESM, Akos Koller, should actively explore possibilities to involve the CBCS in the program of the next ESM conference 2008 in Budapest.

4) Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer of the Society, Angela Shore, reported that the Society had a surplus of income over expenditure of £ 1,436.74 for the 2-year period 2004-2006.

The Society was operating a dual membership scheme during this period. Since National Societies collect their membership dues at different times of a year, payment to the ESM is often considerably after the membership dues date and may fall into the next financial year.

Euro and Dollar accounts have been established to assist Society members who are not members of national societies to pay their dues. The Euro account has been well used but the Dollar account less so. Alternative payment routes are being explored for next year, e.g. Paypal.

The Society currently has 626 members.

Income from membership for this two-year period was £ 5,429.35 compared to £ 4,474.75 for the previous 2-year period. A donation from the Society of Portuguesa Hemorreologia following the Portugal Meeting of £ 3,916.25 was gratefully received.

The Society spent £ 7,956.26 on Fellowships and Awards to facilitate young scientists' attendance at the meeting of the Society in Portugal and to fund visits to other labs to advance their science.

5) Strategy Committee

The Chairman of the Strategy Committee, Dave Bates, gave a report on the activities of the committee over the last two years. Minutes of the Strategy Committee Meeting on August 30, 2006 at 11:00 are enclosed.

6) Journal of Vascular Research / JVR/ESM Prize

The Editor of the 'Journal of Vascular Research', Uli Pohl, gave a short review on the current situation of the journal:

"The number of submissions is continuously increasing. The impact factor in 2005 was 2,824. The editorial team continues its efforts to improve the scientific quality of the journal. Unfortunately, only a small amount of the submitted articles relate to specific studies in microvessels and the true microcirculation. ESM members are invited to submit more articles in this field to JVR. ESM does presently also not make much use of the pages reserved for communication with the membership.

Karger still provides free access to JVR full articles. The financial loss is only partially covered by the financial support through ESM, but it is hoped that this free access increases the impact of the journal and thereby further strengthens the scientific impact of ESM."

The Editor expressed his concerns about the policy of the Microcirculatory Society to publish the meeting abstracts in "Microcirculation" and expressed his disappointment that this was not discussed in advance with ESM or the Editor of JVR. He repeated his proposal that ESM should handle the abstract publications for all European societies. Thereby, not only special conditions could be obtained from the publisher but also a good overview of European microvascular research could be given.

The Editor also discussed the possibility of special issues of JVR being published in cooperation with ESM or its national societies. He asked for proposals which can be submitted any time.

7) New ESM Rules

The General Secretary listed the proposed changes to the rules of the Society. These proposals were based on earlier discussions in the Strategy Committee and in the Executive Committee. Including some minor corrections (alteration to neutral sex) the new rules of the Society were unanimously accepted. The new rules are attached.

8) ESM Elections/Approval

Approval of President-Designate (President for 2009-2010)

Approval of Treasurer (2006-2012)

The General Secretary informed the members about the appointment of Eric Vicaut as President-Designate of the ESM for the period 2008-2010 and the re-nomination of Angela Shore as Treasurer for the period 2006-2012. These elections were approved by the General Assembly and Eric Vicaut and Angela Shore accepted their elections.

Election of Communication Officer

Next, the election of a first Communication Officer according to the new Constitution/Rules of the Society was performed. Mirjam oude Egbrink was suggested for the position and was elected with 30:0 votes. She accepted the election.

9) Future ESM Meetings and 10) Future international meetings

A suggestion by Prof. Pohl to ask national societies not to hold national microcirculatory conferences in years of ESM conferences was discussed. Based on the comments from the representatives of different constituent countries, it was agreed that this option should be considered in more depth by member societies.

The General Secretary informed the members of the ESM about upcoming meetings of the Society and international meetings on microcirculation, including the

8th World Congress for Microcirculation in Milwaukee/Wisconsin (August 15-19, 2007)

which will be hosted by the Microcirculatory Society with Julian Lombard as President and supported by the ESM as well as national societies. The 3.5-day scientific program will consist of plenary talks, symposia and featured topics and at its present stage of development leaves substantial room for expansion and re-organization. The membership is strongly encouraged to submit proposals for additional symposia. One input each from the Japanese and the Chinese Societies as well as a British Young Investigator Symposium are envisaged. Financial support may be requested from the congress organizers up to a maximum of \$ 4,000 per symposium.

25th ESM Conference in Budapest (August 26-29, 2008)

Bids for the next meeting in 2012 shall be recruited on hand of the bidding proposal outlined by the Strategy Committee Chairman, Dave Bates. Upon decision about its actual layout and contents, the bidding form shall be placed on the ESM website and widely advertised. The deadline for bids shall be set early enough to be able to make a selection of proposals in Budapest.

7th Asian Congress for Microcirculation in Tai An, Shan Dong, China (October 17-19, 2008),

World Congress for Microcirculation in Paris in 2010.

11) Any other business

There being no further business the meeting was dissolved at 19:30.

Berlin, August 2006

A.R. Pries
General Secretary