

MINUTES

of the General Business Meeting of the European Society for Microcirculation

at the 25th European Conference in Budapest, Hungary
August 27, 2008, 18:15

Present:

20-25 members of the Society (changed over time), including
Akos Koller, President
Eric Vicaut, President Elect
Ed van Bavel, Past President and Chair of the Strategy Committee
Axel Pries, General Secretary
Angela Shore, Treasurer
Mirjam oude Egbrink, Communication Officer
Ulrich Pohl, Editor JVR

1. Approval of the minutes of Amsterdam, 2006

Axel Pries, General Secretary of the European Society for Microcirculation (ESM), opened the General Business Meeting at the occasion of the 25th Conference of ESM in Budapest, 2008. He asked for any comments with respect to the minutes of the Business Meeting in Amsterdam, 2006. There were no objections and the minutes were unanimously approved.

2. President's Report

The President of ESM, Akos Koller, reported on his activities during his presidential term of the preceding two years, which mainly concerned the organization of the 25th European Conference on Microcirculation in Budapest in the Informatics Building of the University of Technology and Economics.

In January 2008, the International Advisory Board and the Organizing Committee came together in Budapest to discuss and compose the program. At the moment of this meeting, 410 participants were registered. These participants came from all parts of the world (Europe, including many from Eastern European countries, USA, South America, Australia and Asia). The quality of the scientific program appears to be very good, which helped to attract people. A total of 393 abstracts was accepted and published in JVR. In addition, Budapest proved to be an attractive place to organize a conference; people like to come to this beautiful city. Although the financial outcome of this conference was not clear at the time of this Business Meeting, in the end the net balance will hopefully be positive.

Akos Koller thanked the members of his local organizing committee and the officers of the ESM for their advices and support. On behalf of the Society members, Axel Pries thanked Akos and his team for all their efforts to organize this conference.

3. General Secretary's Report

The General Secretary, Axel Pries, indicated that some topics with importance for ESM would be addressed later in the meeting. He reported that Ed van Bavel was chosen to become the new Chairman of the Strategy Committee, and that the first meeting of this Committee (earlier during the conference) had been constructive.

4. Treasurer's Report

Angela Shore, the Treasurer of ESM, reported that the Society has had two very good years from a financial point of view, with a surplus of income over expenditure of £14,843.87 for the 2-year period of 2006-2008. £4,771.36 (or €6,000) of this is a donation from the European Society of Cardiology to sponsor two symposia at the ESM meeting in Budapest. Therefore, this money is only transiently being held in our account, and the actual net income is approximately £10,072.

A donation from the 24th ESM Conference in Amsterdam in 2006 of £5,615.10 was gratefully received. The Society spent £4,568.97 on fellowships and awards to facilitate young scientists to attend the Amsterdam meeting and to fund visits to other labs to advance their science.

The Society was operating a dual membership scheme during the period 2006-2008. Up to now, the British, German, French and Swiss Societies have adopted a National Society membership; they represent the major part of the ESM membership. Since these National Societies collect their membership dues at different times of the year, payment to 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. A Paypal online payment site has been set up so members are able to register and pay online directly through the ESM website. This possibility has been used considerably and up to now we have collected over £800.00 in membership fees using this method.

The Society currently has 683 members. The income from membership for the two year period 2006-2008 was £14,397.71, compared to £10,119.48 for the previous two year period.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Angela Shore proposed to increase the membership fees to keep up with inflation and to increase the number of travel awards.

Her proposal:

- individual membership fee → from €20 to €25 per year;
- individual student membership fee → €15 per year;
- membership fee through a National Society → from €12 to €14 per year;
- student membership fee through a National Society → €5 per year.

During a discussion it was stated that the increase for individual and dual memberships should be equal (25%). Therefore, the final proposal was:

- individual membership fee → from €20 to €25 per year;
- individual student membership fee → €15 per year;
- membership fee through a National Society → from €12 to €15 per year;
- student membership fee through a National Society → €5 per year.

This final proposal was unanimously accepted, and will now be proposed to the National Societies by the Treasurer, Angela Shore.

5. Strategy Committee

First, the previous Chairman of the Strategy Committee, Dave Bates, was thanked for his efforts. The new Chairman of the Committee, Ed van Bavel, reported on the meeting of this Committee earlier during this conference. The goal of this Committee is to generate new ideas to keep the Society healthy and alive. An important issue, in this respect, is to increase and visualize membership benefits.

One suggestion is to publish a bi- or trimonthly ESM Newsletter; Mirjam oude Egbrink, the Communication Officer, will take responsibility for the production of these newsletters with the help of Axel Pries. Obviously, input from all members is welcome!

Another idea is to strengthen the relationship between ESM and the Journal for Vascular Research (JVR), for example by publishing reviews written by winners of important ESM awards (Malpighi Award) in JVR (see also below).

6. Journal of Vascular Research and JVR/ESM Prize

Uli Pohl, the Editor of the Journal of Vascular Research (JVR), reported on the current situation of the journal, with an impact factor of 2,463 and relatively few submissions from the microvascular field. Therefore, the microcirculation profile of JVR is relatively low.

Subsequent discussions focussed on how to change this. The following proposals were discussed:

1. As stated above, JVR can contribute to the visibility of ESM by publishing reviews written by award winners, such as the winner of the most prestigious award of the ESM, the Malpighi Award. The current winner of this award, Olga Hudlicka, will be invited to write a review for JVR; for future winners, the writing of such a review will be part of the rules for acceptance. In any case, increasing the number of reviews in JVR may help to increase its impact factor. Beside award winners, also plenary speakers at ESM conferences could be invited to write a review on their work.

2. JVR will adopt a PNAS-like approach to increase the number of publications from the microvascular field, in which ESM Board members and previous award winners can communicate manuscripts to JVR.

3. The President of every ESM conference will be asked to write a report for JVR, emphasizing the highlights of the meeting and including citations to individual abstracts. Akos Koller will write the first report on the Budapest meeting.

The JVR/ESM Prize of this year has been awarded to Remco Megens (The Netherlands). He will receive \$2000, and he will be invited to organize a symposium at the next meeting of ESM in Paris, 2010. The last two winners of this prize did not succeed to organize such a symposium due to financial problems; they were not able to raise sufficient sponsoring for potential speakers. The Executive Committee proposes to the Business Meeting to change the JVR/ESM Prize from a personal prize of \$2000 to a combination of a personal prize of \$500 and a contribution to organize the symposium of \$1500. Also, the organizers of the next meeting will be asked to support this symposium financially, if necessary. This change should be effective in 2010.

After a discussion on the amount of money needed for the prize winner to attend two conferences and to organize a symposium, the final proposal was to change the JVR/ESM Prize in such a way that it will consist of a personal prize of \$1000 and a contribution of \$1500 to organize the symposium. In addition, the local organizers are expected to support the symposium (e.g., by waiving registration fees). This latter proposal was approved unanimously.

7. Future ESM Conferences

-9th World Congress for Microcirculation, Paris, 2010 (including the 26th ESM conference)

Eric Vicaut, President-Elect of ESM and organizer of the Paris meeting, reported that the congress will be organized in the Maison de la Chimie, in the center of Paris, from September 18 till 22, 2010. It will be organized back-to-back with a meeting of the International Union of Angiology that will also take place in the Maison de la Chimie, so that joint exhibitors do not have to move. The organization of the Paris meeting will be detailed in October 2008, and the congress website will be installed soon. In addition, an e-mail will be sent to all ESM members and the national societies within the upcoming months, requesting ideas for symposia, lectures,

etc. An International Scientific Committee will be installed, with 6 members from each large area of the world (Europe, America and Australia/Asia), that will compose the program.

-27th European Conference on Microcirculation, Munich

In the period between the previous (Amsterdam, 2006) and current ESM meeting, it was decided that the next European Conference in 2012 will be organized in Munich by Uli Pohl. In the same period, the Council for Basic Cardiovascular Sciences (CBCS) of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) planned to establish a series of cardiovascular basic science meetings starting in 2010 and from then on every two years, which was approved by the ESC Board. The goal of these meetings is to offer a comprehensive forum for basic research in the cardiovascular field. The first congress of the CBCS of ESC will be in 2010 (planned for July 18-21) in Berlin, where 500-600 participants are expected; ESM will contribute through the organization of one or more symposia. For the 2012 meeting of this ESC Council, more than 600 participants may be envisaged.

To prevent overlap between the ESM conferences and the CBCS meetings of ESC, it is proposed to shift the ESM conferences from the even to the odd years, starting with the Munich Conference (which would then shift from 2012 to either 2011 or 2013). The General Business Meeting discusses the advantages and disadvantages of this proposal. EVBO also organizes its conferences in the odd years.

The final proposal was that Uli Pohl will negotiate with EVBO in order to organize the ESM meeting in Munich in 2011 back-to-back with the EVBO meeting. In case EVBO does not agree, the decision on whether the Munich Meeting will be organized in 2012 or 2011/2013 will be reconsidered. This proposal was accepted, with 21 votes in favor and 2 abstentions.

Location of the 28th European Conference on Microcirculation

In the bidding process for the 27th European Conference on Microcirculation, two proposals were submitted: one from Germany (Pohl, Munich) and one from the UK (Mann and Pearson, London). Although differences in quality were absent, it was decided that the 27th European Conference on Microcirculation would be organized in Munich. However, it was indicated by the original proponents of the UK bid (Mann and Pearson) that it might be possible to renew their offer for a 28th ESM conference in 2013.

Two options to deal with the selection of the next location for the conference were discussed:

- a. Ask the London group to organize the 28th ESM conference based on their bid for 2012
- b. Open the recruitment of new bids

Votes were taken; 14 members voted for option a, 5 members for option b, and 1 abstained. Therefore, the British Microcirculation Society (BMS) will be invited to organize the 28th ESM Conference in London; alternatively, they may reconsider to submit a new bid. Jeremy Pearson already indicated that -in his view- the London bid will have to be renewed and approved by BMS.

8. Future international meetings

The following upcoming international meetings were mentioned:

- 7th Asian Congress for Microcirculation 2008, Tai An, China
- 10th World Congress for Microcirculation 2015, Peking, China

9. Membership Application of the Section 'Regional Haemodynamics and Microcirculation' of the Russian Association of Cardiovascular Surgeons

Three members of this Russian Association are participating in the ESM Conference in Budapest. The constitution states that a society or association requires ten individuals to be members of ESM in order to be able to appoint a Delegate on the Executive Committee of the ESM. The Russian delegates were informed of this requirement and 10 members have joined ESM here in Budapest.

10. Any other business

A proposal to generate mutual benefits for members of the ESM and the Microcirculatory Society, Inc. (USA) was discussed, in which these members can participate in conferences of the other society with reduced fees. This proposal was unanimously accepted, and will now have to be approved by the members of the Microcirculatory Society, Inc. as well.

Klaus Ley mentioned the publication of a new Handbook on Microcirculation.

Klaus Ley also announced the next IVBM meeting in San Diego, 2010 (June 19-22), and invited everyone to suggest symposia and to attend this meeting.

Because there was no other business, Axel Pries thanked the ESM members for their attendance, and closed the meeting at 20:00.

Maastricht
September 2, 2008

Mirjam oude Egbrink
Communication Officer