

**Minutes of the General Assembly of the European Society of Pathology  
Wednesday, 11th September 2019, 12:00-14:00hr  
Room Athéna, Nice Acropolis Convention Centre, Nice, France**

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Approval of the Minutes of the General Assembly in Bilbao, 12th September 2018
4. Report of the President
5. Report of the Treasurer
6. Report of the Chair of the Advisory Board
7. Report of the Chair of the Working Groups
8. Report of the Chair of the Education Subcommittee
9. Report of the Chair of the Trainee Subcommittee
10. Report of the Editor-in-Chief of Virchows Archiv
11. Election of President-Elect, Treasurer and six members of the Council
12. Approval of new Chairs for the Advisory Board and Working Groups
13. Appointment of a new Chair for the ESP Education Subcommittee
14. Approval of honorary membership for Prof Han van Krieken
15. Progress report of the 32<sup>nd</sup> European Congress of Pathology and the XXXIII International Congress of the International Academy of Pathology in 2020, Glasgow, United Kingdom
16. Progress report of the 33<sup>rd</sup> European Congress of Pathology in 2021, Gothenburg, Sweden
17. Approval of the site for the European Congress of Pathology in 2023, Dublin, Ireland
18. Names of the Giordano Fellowship Awardees (Edition 2020)
19. Any other items
20. Place and date of the next General Assembly of the ESP  
2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 in Glasgow, United Kingdom

## **Minutes of the meeting:**

### **1. Welcome**

The President welcomed the participants. There were ca. 150 participants.

### **2. Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved.

### **3. Approval of the Minutes from the General Assembly in Bilbao, 12th September 2018**

The minutes were approved unanimously.

### **4. Report of the President**

Prof Dina Tiniakos gave the report of the President. The present ESP Congress in Nice has been very successful, with 3,894 participants from 92 countries. The ten countries contributing the largest number of delegates were France, UK, US, Russia, Germany, The Netherlands, Italy, Switzerland, Romania and Spain. Discussions of the scientific programme for the Glasgow and Gothenburg ECPs are in progress.

A Strategy Meeting took place in Athens in January 2019 to define the ESP strategy for the next five years. The areas in which to prioritise actions were: ECPs, education, research, journal, standards and guidelines, interaction with patients, ESP Foundation, interactions with industry, EU relations and international affairs, and outreach.

The recommendations made by the Athens Strategy Meeting were:

- ECPs: Scientific Committee expansion, more long courses and interactive sessions.
- Education: e-learning courses promotion, Giordano Fellowship expansion, EScoP spread to Western Europe, visibility improvement, ESP App development.
- EU affairs: more involvement in EU, more visibility by working with patients, presence in social media, corporate membership.
- Research: EU/ERC and other research calls tailored to pathologists, seeding grants for junior pathologists, pathologists in clinical committees.
- Guidelines: Task Force for publication of position statements and guidelines, promote presence of pathologists in clinical guidelines.
- Virchows Archiv: establish identity and promote visibility.
- Newsletter: include a trainee in the team, improve online version
- ESP Foundation: create QA in diagnostic practice, promote ESP EQA programmes, involve industry in funding, support fellowships and grants, engage project manager.

The ESP has fruitful collaborations with many clinical and research societies, including UEG, ESGO, USCAP, JSP, ICCR, UEMS, IARC, ECCO, ESCMID, AMP, ESMO, ISGP, ASCP, ECCO, Patologi oltre frontiera, AORTIC, AECVP, CEN, Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe, EORTC, European Alliance for Personalised Medicine, and OECl.

### **5. Report of the Treasurer**

Prof Marco Santucci gave the report of the Treasurer. He presented the balance sheet as per 31 December 2018, showing a surplus income over expenditure of €86,513. Assets are increasing again. The Society is in a sound financial condition and can continue to invest. The excellent financial results of the Bilbao congress have continued the positive trend of the Cologne and Amsterdam ECPs. In comparison with the previous year, the new contract with Springer has brought about significant changes in the balance sheet. Expenses related to EQA programmes are no longer presented, since they are now linked to the Foundation. The 2019 budget was presented, with an expected surplus income over expenditures of €160,650. Prof Marco Santucci thanked all for their support during his many years as Treasurer.

#### **6. Report of the Chair of the Advisory Board**

Prof Fátima Carneiro gave the report of the Chair of the Advisory Board. During her term as AB Chair she has focused on the harmonisation of the very different realities of Pathology in the various European countries. One of the most burning issues across Europe is the shortage of pathologists and trainees, aggravated in the public sector by strong competition from the private sector. The participation of National Societies in a variety of ESP activities, including the Amsterdam, Bilbao and Nice ECPs, has progressively increased. Prof Fátima Carneiro thanked everybody upon conclusion of her tenure as AB Chair.

#### **7. Report of the Chair of the Working Groups**

Prof Pierre Bedossa gave the report of the Chair of the Working Groups. Many WGs have petitioned for an increase in their financial support, but the latter should be proportional to the number of registered members of each WG and dependent on the presentation of activity reports. WGs should be involved not only in ECPs but during the entire year in tasks related to EScoP branches, EAT Centres and the Pathology Progress Test, among others. Upon conclusion of his term as Chair of WGs, Prof Pierre Bedossa thanked all members and, especially, the WG Chairs and co-Chairs.

#### **8. Report of the Chair of the Education Subcommittee**

Prof Aleš Ryška gave the report of the Chair of the Education Subcommittee. For the 2020 edition of Giordano Fellowships there were 30 applications, 22 of which were awarded (success rate, 73%). Three new EAT Centres (Rotterdam in The Netherlands for Ophthalmic Pathology, Maastricht in The Netherlands for Dermatopathology and Suresnes in France for Uropathology) have been approved. Particularly active EScoP branches are Varna in Bulgaria, Cracow in Poland, Padua in Italy, and Belgrade in Serbia. The Progress Test continues to improve year by year. Prof Aleš Ryška expressed gratitude to all upon conclusion of his many years at the helm of the Education Subcommittee.

#### **9. Report of the Chair of the Trainee Subcommittee**

Dr Charlotte Kweldam gave the report of the Chair of the Trainee Subcommittee. The trainees' session ("Residencies across Europe: realities, problems and future perspectives") and the joint session with the Molecular Pathology WG have been very successful. The trainees' social event, organised in collaboration with the French residents, was widely attended. The presence in social media (mainly Twitter) has been considerably reinforced. Slide seminar by residents and joint activities with other WGs and the BDIAP are being prepared for the Glasgow congress.

#### **10. Report of the Editor-in-Chief of Virchows Archiv**

Prof Aleš Ryška gave the report of the Editor-in-Chief of Virchows Archiv on behalf of Prof Daniela Massi. Results related to the number of submissions, submissions by geography, turnaround times, usage, and journal-level metrics were presented. The state of the journal was summarised as follows: >520 submissions in 2018 (6% increase); 300,000 article downloads during 2018; 14 days from acceptance to online first publication; <20 days from submission to 1<sup>st</sup> decision (mean average); IF of 2.868 and h5 index of 38; 100% of responding authors rated their publishing experience as excellent or good.

#### **11. Election of President-Elect, Treasurer and six members of the Council**

Prof Aurelio Ariza explained that at this ECP two officers (Prof Holger Moch as President-Elect and Prof Marco Santucci as Treasurer) and six members of the Council demit office upon completion of their terms.

The Nomination Subcommittee and the Council had nominated Prof Aleš Ryška for President-Elect and Prof Maria Rosaria Raspollini for Treasurer. Since no other proposals from the membership at large had been received, Prof Aurelio Ariza proceeded to request from the General Assembly the approval of the election of Prof Ryška as President-Elect and of Prof Raspollini as Treasurer. The General Assembly voted by a majority in favour in both cases, with no votes against.

As for the election of Council members, the proposals received from the Nomination Subcommittee and the membership at large had been discussed by the Council, which had nominated the following six persons: Profs Marina Cos (Croatia), Ronald de Krijger (The Netherlands), Irene Esposito (Germany), Carolin Lackner (Austria), José Palacios (Spain), and Gitta Turowski (Norway). For each of these nominations Prof Aurelio Ariza requested the approval of the General Assembly, which voted in favour by a majority in each case, with no votes against.

#### **12. Approval of new Chairs for the Advisory Board and Working Groups**

The General Assembly approved the Council proposal of Prof Marco Santucci as Advisory Board Chair and thanked him for his efforts at the financial helm of the ESP.

The General Assembly approved the appointment of Prof Dina Tiniakos as Chair of the Working Groups by a majority, with no votes against, and expressed its appreciation with a prolonged applause. Among Prof Dina Tiniakos' presidential attributes, Prof Aurelio Ariza highlighted her support of trainees and young pathologists, concern for gender balance, and active involvement in each of our Society's many fronts.

Upon conclusion of their terms, the General Assembly also recognised the work of Prof Holger Moch as President-Elect, Prof Fátima Carneiro as Advisory Board Chair, Prof Pierre Bedossa as Past President and Working Groups Chair, Prof Aleš Ryška as Education Subcommittee Chair, and Profs Cord Langner, Xavier Matias-Guiu, Maria Rosaria Raspollini, Peter Schirmacher, Tibor Tot and Metka Volavšek as members of the Council.

#### **13. Appointment of a new Chair for the ESP Education Subcommittee**

Prof Dina Tiniakos informed of the appointment of Prof Peter Schirmacher as new Chair of the Education Subcommittee. Prof Peter Schirmacher extolled Prof Aleš Ryška's work,

especially in regard to the very successful Giordano Fellowship programme, and presented the members of the new Education Subcommittee (Fred Bosman, Andrzej Marszalek, Raed Al Dieri, Kathrin Glatz, Catarina Eloy, Anna Batistatou, and Charlotte Kweldam), as well as their topics, key responsibilities, and activities.

**14. Approval of honorary membership for Prof Han van Krieken**

ESP honorary membership for Prof Han van Krieken was unanimously approved.

**15. Progress report of the 32<sup>nd</sup> European Congress of Pathology and the XXXIII International Congress of the International Academy of Pathology in 2020, Glasgow, United Kingdom**

Prof Ray McMahon gave a progress report of the Glasgow congress.

**16. Progress report of the 33rd European Congress of Pathology in 2021, Gothenburg, Sweden**

Prof Göran Elmberger gave a progress report of the Gothenburg congress.

**17. Approval of the site for the European Congress of Pathology in 2023, Dublin, Ireland**

Following Prof Louise Burke's presentation, Dublin was unanimously approved as the site of ECP 2023.

**18. Names of the Giordano Fellowship Awardees (Edition 2020)**

Prof Aleš Ryška provided the names of recipients of Giordano Fellowships (edition 2020): Alexandra Rosulescu, Mariia Yanovytska, Caterina Fattorini, Angelina Stefanova Karamfilova, Roman Moskalenko, Ilze Fridrihsone, Slawomir Pakulo, Jelena Ilic Sabo, Tanja Lakic, Mariam Gachechiladze, Ayse Mine Önenerk, Subasri Armon, Ana Catarina Pereira de Araujo, Oana Neagu, Daniela Xhemalaj, Tamas Zambori, Teona Muzashvili, Selim Komina, Tamas Strausz, Hüseyn Karatay, Jasmina Redzepagic, and Kseniya Ruksha.

**19. Any other items**

Prof Dina Tiniakos thanked the wide support received and the privilege of having served the ESP as President for the last two years. She congratulated Prof Holger Moch as the new President.

**20. Date and place of the next General Assembly of the ESP**

The next General Assembly of the ESP will be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 in Glasgow, United Kingdom.