Minutes from the General Assembly of the European Society of Pathology, 06 September 2017, Amsterdam RAI, hall Elicium 2, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Agenda:

1. Welcome
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Approval of the Minutes from the General Assembly in Cologne, 29 September 2016
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, Secretary and three members of the Council
12. Approval of honorary membership for Prof. Fatima Carneiro
13. Progress report of the 30th European Congress of Pathology, Bilbao 2018
14. Progress report of the 31st European Congress of Pathology, Nice 2019
16. Any other items
17. Place and date of the next General Assembly of the ESP
Minutes from the meeting:

1. Welcome
   The President welcomed the participants. There were ca. 100 participants.

2. Approval of the Agenda
   The Agenda was approved.

3. Approval of the Minutes from the General Assembly in Cologne, 29 September 2016
   The Minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Report of the President
   Prof. Pierre Bedossa gave the report of the President. Organization of the Brussels office has been improved by the efforts of Dr. Raed Al Dieri and Ms. Sarah Byaruhanga. A new administrative assistant has been hired for the ESP. The President will end his term and become the Chair of the Working Group Chairs. Prof. Fatima Carneiro will become the Chair of the Advisory Board. The new chair of the Trainee Subcommittee is Dr. Charlotte Kweldam (the Netherlands) and the new co-chair is Daniel Gomes Pinto (Portugal). Education Subcommittee chaired by prof. Ales Ryska. He is actively developing the EScoP. The new educational portal is now operational. The ESP-EORTC fellowship system functions now, and the first ESP Junior Academy will be arranged in June 2018. The new Editor-in-Chief of Virchows Archiv is prof. Daniela Massi. The Newsletter is edited by prof. Gordan Vujanic and prof. Metka Volavsek. The present ESP congress in Amsterdam has been successful with more than 3600 registered participants. A final memorandum of understanding for the Glasgow congress in 2020 has been signed with the BDIAP. The ESP has appointed task forces for Pathology and the Public and for Synoptic reporting. The ESP membership database and the arranging of congresses have been joined to a single company for smoother operation. The UEMS together with an ESP task force chaired by prof. Fred Bosman are revitalizing the progress test. The ESP Council will be renewed with the election of three new members. The outgoing members are prof. Ales Ryska, prof. Holger Moch and prof. Gordan Vujanic. In addition, the Past President prof. Han van Krieken and the Secretary prof. Ilmo Leivo will demit office.

5. Report of the Treasurer
   Prof. Marco Santucci gave the report of the Treasurer. He presented the balance sheet of 31.12.2016, which has been approved by the ESP Council in February 2017 and has been fully audited by the auditors of the society. The ESP is in a sound condition despite a decrease in general assets. The decrease has been intentional and partly due to the use of € 300.000 of allocated funds. The assets are presently almost € 1.600.000. The income of the society in 2016 was slightly lower than in 2015. The income of the membership fees increased by about 33%. Profits from Belgrade congress were about € 370.000. Royalties from Springer decreased by about € 29.000. The expenses of the society were stable.
6. Report of the Chair of the Advisory Board
Prof. Fatima Carneiro gave the report of the Chair of the Advisory Board. The latest meeting of the Board was attended by 21 national societies. Discussions in the meeting dealt with educational activities, access to Virchows Archiv, shortage of pathologists, difficulties in recruiting residents, the role of pathology assistants in grossing, and the situation of autopsy in Europe. Prof. Irina Alafuzoff will make a survey on the storage of paraffin-embedded samples in different European countries. Sessions of national societies in the Bilbao congress will deal with the education of pathology.

7. Report of the Chair of the Working Groups
Prof. Han van Krieken gave the report of the Chair of the Working Group Chairs. WG chairs have actively provided programmes for the Bilbao congress. All working groups have participated in this activity. These programmes are mostly ready. A more systematic turnaround of the Working Group Chairs has been implemented. Items for the progress tests will be provided by the Working Groups. A new Working Group for Autopsy Pathology has been established and is now arranging congress programmes.

8. Report of the Chair of the Education Subcommittee
Prof. Ales Ryska gave the report of the Chair of the Education Subcommittee. Twenty-one European advanced training centers covering several subspecialties are supported by the Giordano fellowships. This year there were 31 applications and 8 Giordano Fellowships were awarded. The rate of acceptance of the applications was 26%. The EScoP has 10 branches now, with a new one in Padua. Four courses were held during the past 12 months and four courses will be held in 2018. The Educational portal now includes all virtual slides from previous ESP congresses. The UEMS and the ESP will jointly arrange the progress tests. The ESP Junior Academy will be initiated in 2018.

9. Report of the Chair of the Trainee Subcommittee
Dr. Aleksandra Starzynska gave the report of the Chair of the Trainee Subcommittee. Sessions arranged by the trainees for the Amsterdam congress have been successful, particularly the joint session with Cytopathology. More trainees are invited to be active in the Subcommittee. Dr. Starzynska steps down, and a new Chair is elected.

10. Report of the Editor-in-Chief of Virchows Archiv
Prof. Ales Ryska gave the report of the Editor-in-Chief of Virchows Archiv on behalf of prof. Daniela Massi. The impact factor of the journal has risen during the past year. Virchows Archiv is fast and efficient with a short time from submission to decision, and with only 15 days from acceptance to publication online. Besides original articles Virchows Archiv publishes also various types of review articles. Free downloads and open access are available.

11. Election of President-Elect, Secretary and three members of the Council
Prof. Ilmo Leivo introduced the rules for elections in the Bylaws of the ESP, and he detailed how the rules were followed for the present elections. The General Assembly approved unanimously the election of prof. Holger Moch as the new President-elect, prof. Aurelio Ariza
as the new Secretary, and prof. Glenn McCluggage, prof. Maria Rosaria Raspollini and prof. Anastasia Konstantinidou as new members of the ESP Council.

12. Approval of honorary membership for Prof. Fatima Carneiro
   Prof. Fatima Carneiro was nominated unanimously as an honorary member of the society.

13. Progress report of the 30th European Congress of Pathology, Bilbao 2018
   Prof. José Ignacio Lopez gave a progress report of the Bilbao congress.

14. Progress report of the 31st European Congress of Pathology, Nice 2019
   Prof. Jean-Francois Fléjou gave a progress report of the Nice congress.

15. Names of the Giordano Fellowship Awardees in 2018
   The following individuals are recipients of the Giordano Fellowships in 2018: Lucian George Eftimie, Rina Limani, Anca Evsei, Aoife Canney, Martyna Trzeszcz, Adelina Birceanu, Ana Costa Braga, and Georgian Halcu.

16. Any other items
   None.

17. Date and place of the next General Assembly of the ESP
   The next General Assembly of the ESP is held on 12 September 2018 in Bilbao, Spain.