



Note from the President

This is the traditional spring newsletter of the year 2008, announcing the forthcoming annual congress and giving information on activities of the Society. One of the most important issues, I like to stress as president of the Society, is our new contract with the *British Journal of Surgery*, effective since January 1st, 2008. As official journal of our Society, I strongly encourage all of you to support surgical research by submitting high quality surgical interventions of all descriptions to the *British Journal of Surgery*. I further want to remember that individual members of the Society have additional advantages offered by BJS, such as reduced subscription fee and on-line access to the journal. In favor of our new contract, we decided to establish a **British Journal of Surgery Prize Session** which will be -from this year on- an integral part of the annual meetings of our Society. In addition, the annual **British Journal of Surgery lectureship** will particularly enlighten the scientific program of our meetings.

From this year on, the treasurer of the Society, Ignacio Garcia-Alonso, started to collect the membership fees. It is very important for the Society's economy that all members pay the membership fee amounting only € 30 per year.

Representing the Society, I attended the annual congress of the Society of Academic and Research Surgery (SARS) in January, which was held in Birmingham, UK. The Walter-Brendel Award winner Dr. Barend ME Mees from Rotterdam has successfully presented his paper, congratulations for him again!

For the forthcoming congress, the program committee and the General Committee have worked on a good selection of papers for the Walter-Brendel Award and the British Journal of Surgery Prize sessions. For further details of the General committee session, please see enclosed protocol below.

The General Committee and myself are looking forward to welcoming you to the 43rd Congress of the ESSR in Warsaw, Poland on May 22-24, 2008.

Best personal regards, Brigitte Vollmar

Note from the Secretary General

The transition from the contract with Karger to BJS has been a major change for the Society and one of the most important aspects relates to the fact that we are now responsible for up-dating our membership list. So I urge everyone to check out their own personal information on our website and also other colleagues which may not be up-dated or incorrect (henrik.thorlacius@med.lu.se).

I represented the Society at the SUS meeting at Huntington Beach, CA, in February 2008. The meeting was also represented by the Walter-Brendel Awardee of 2007 Dr. Barend

ME Mees from Rotterdam who made an excellent presentation. Discussions with the SUS were held in order to promote the representatives of our sister societies in the program.

I would also like to congratulate Gabor Eros (Hungary) who was selected by the General Committee to receive the ESSR fellowship award 2008. We already now look forward to his report in Nimes 2009. Congratulations!

For more details on the work in the GC, please see the protocol from the GC meeting in Warsaw 2008 below.

Sincerely, Henrik Thorlacius

General Committee Meeting, Warsaw, Poland

Protocol Abstract and General Committee Meeting, Warsaw, Poland 2008

Time and place: Saturday March 15. Warsaw, Poland

Present: **Brigitte Vollmar, Ignacio Garcia-Alonso, Henrik Thorlacius, Charles Malata, Mustafa Sahin, Roland Demaria and Grzegorz Szczesny**

Agenda:

1. Report of the President (B Vollmar)

- BJS

The president outlined the details of the contract between ESSR and BJS which was signed in August 2007. It was re-iterated that ESSR should be represented in the editorial board of BJS. All abstracts at the annual ESSR meeting will be made into a pdf-file and distributed at the annual ESSR congress on behalf of the congress president. It should be noted that abstracts must not be longer than 250 words. The ESSR-BJS contract also allows ESSR to post ESSR materials on the BJS website without any charges. One important point in the contract is the annual lectureship sponsored by the BJS at the ESSR congress and this year John Murie (editor-in-chief of BJS) has been selected for that task. Moreover, the BJS also sponsors the best paper at the annual ESSR meeting which this year will be selected at a separate BJS session at the congress in Warsaw at which the selected lecturer and a representative from the General Committee (GC) will chair. It was also discussed that ESSR should select an ESSR representative for a longer period (5 years) to handle the communication with BJS but the details on this will be settled at the next GC meeting. The GC decided that the GC will select the BJS lectureship and that the congress president is responsible for the invitation. Professor Stig Bengmark was suggested as the next BJS lecturer at the annual ESSR congress 2009 in Nimes, France.

- Vacancy of General Committee position

Ian Alwayn has moved abroad and therefore resigned from the GC as member-at-large. Also, the term of Efstathios Antoniou as member-at-large ends in 2008, which means that there are two positions as member-at-large that needs to be replaced at the General Assembly in Warsaw 2008. The GC proposed Steffen Manekeller, Mustafa Cikirikcioglu and Rene Schramm and members of the ESSR are welcome to add further suggestions to be voted on in Warsaw.

- Internet Course for Surgical Researchers

The course is free for members and the cost is set to 100 Euro for non-members. The GC decided that there will be a special arrangement at the ESSR congress in Warsaw with computers available for taking the course on-site. The question was raised whether any profit gained through this internet course should be allocated to a specific purpose but the opinion of the GC was that any such profit will not, at this stage, be targeted for any particular purpose.

- Workflow within GC

It was suggested that the President, Secretary General and Treasurer will specify in a list what their main responsibilities are and that this list will be completed before the end of April 2008. This is important now when more duties are relying on the GC than before when Karger handled some of the tasks for ESSR. The President has also made a list for incoming congress presidents to help with a timely planning of the ESSR congress.

- History of ESSR/Golden Book

Initially, Wim Ceelen volunteered to write the history of the ESSR but since most documents are now located in Hungary, Mihaly Boros has taken on the task to write down the history of the ESSR, which we are very grateful for. The poster session with the history of ESSR will also be at display at the ESSR congress in Warsaw this year.

- Sister Societies

The President reported from the SARS meeting in Birmingham 2008, which was successful and also represented by the Walter-Brendel Awardee of 2007.

- Miscellaneous

The President underlined the importance of the contract between ESSR and the congress president for future meetings in which 8000 Euro is paid to the ESSR. Also, the President circulated an announcement for Editorial Assistant at the BJS which may be of interest and can be found on the BJS website for those interested.

2. Report of the Secretary General (H Thorlacius)

- ESSR Fellowship Award

The General Assembly decided to initiate an ESSR fellowship award with the intention to stimulate collaboration within the ESSR and to promote young researchers within the field of surgery. The idea was that the collaboration should be between two principal investigators from different countries who should be paying members of the ESSR and that the candidate was also a paying member of ESSR. Only one application was received, which was from Gabor Eros (Hungary) who intends to do the research work in Germany. After discussion within the GC it was decided that Gabor Eros will receive this year ESSR fellowship award but it was also underlined by the GC that we must urge members to send in more applications next year, otherwise the discussion of terminating this award will be raised next year.

- Member List

The work with the ESSR membership list is a continuous effort. From now on will the list be updated every 6-months on our website. It is critical for the quality of the membership list that all members check it out and send any corrections to the Secretary General (henrik.thorlacius@med.lu.se).

- **Sister Societies**

The Secretary General attended the SUS meeting at Huntington Beach, CA in 2008. The meeting was also represented by the Walter-Brendel Awardee of 2007. Discussions with the SUS were held in order to promote the representatives of our sister societies in the program.

3. Report of the Treasurer (I Garcia-Alonso)

- The treasurer reported on his efforts to collect membership fees. The GC decided that reminders should be sent out every month to non-paying members and that there will not be reduced fees at the annual congress for non-paying members. The importance for easy transactions was underlined and accordingly, it is possible to pay the membership-fee via email to the treasurer (ignacio.galonso@ehu.es).

- The treasurer is making a list including the specific reimbursements for the awardees, sister society representatives, GC members and invited lecturers.

4. Report of the Congress President 2008 (G Szczesny)

The congress president informed on the preparations for the meeting in Warsaw 2008. The GC decided that the term "World Surgical Forum" which has appeared in connection to the ESSR announcement should be deleted from all future announcements and from the congress website. The GC urged the congress president to invite quickest possible the representatives from all sister societies, chairmen and key-note lecturers for the meeting in Warsaw. No program for pre-congress courses has been set-up and the GC urged the congress president to do so as soon as possible. Also, he is strongly forced to provide a special set-up for (i) presenting the ESSR and BJS as well as for (ii) running the Internet course for Surgical Research (internet corner) at the congress venue in Warsaw.

5. Report of the Congress President 2009 (R Demaria)

The congress president of 2009 presented the plans and organization of the annual meeting in Nimes, France 2009. The GC was impressed about how far the planning and details of the congress were already at this stage.

6. Abstract Selection Meeting

The congress president reported that 317 abstracts had been received this year. All abstracts had been scored (0-6) in an anonymous fashion by ESSR members selected by the congress president. 281 abstracts scored above 3 and were selected for oral and poster presentation and the rest was rejected. Based on the scoring and re-evaluation by the GC, the abstracts for the Walter-Brendel Award Session and the BJS Prize session were selected.

7. Miscellaneous

No points were raised here.

8. Closing Remarks of the President

The president closed this years abstract selection and GC meeting by thanking the host and congress president (G Szczesny) for organizing this meeting and look forward to successful congress in Warsaw 2008.

General Assembly, Warsaw, Poland, 2008

All members are warmly welcome to the General Assembly, 23 May (Friday).

Agenda:

1. Report of the President
2. Report of the Secretary General
3. Report of the Treasurer
4. Report of the Congress President 2008 (G Szczesny)
5. Report of the Congress President 2009 (R Demaria)
6. Election of new members
7. Election of new members of the General Committee
8. Election of Congress Venue 2011

General Committee

Efstathios Antoniou term at the General Committee is ending in 2008 and Ian Alwayn has moved to work in Canada. The General Committee appreciates your contributions to the society – thanks! Thus, two positions as members-at-large are open and need to be replaced at the General Assembly in Warsaw 2008. The GC has proposed Steffen Manekeller, Mustafa Cikirikcioglu and Rene Schramm and members of the ESSR are welcome to add further suggestions to be voted on in Warsaw.

Name	Present and past functions	Position elected	Position ends	Remarks	Possible maximum time served (should not exceed 6 years)
Brigitte Vollmar	President Past 1. , 2. vice president, member at large	2007	2009	Congress president 2006	2004-2010
Henrik Thorlacius	Secretary General Past member at large	2007	2010		2006-2012
Ignacio Garcia-Alonso	Treasurer Past member at large	2006	2011		2005-2011
Grzegorz Szczesny	1. vice president Past 2. vice president, member at large	2007	2008	Congress President 2008	2005-2011
Roland Demaria	2. vice president	2007	2008	Will become 1. vice president in 2008 Congress President 2009	2007-2013
Efstathios Antoniou	Member at large Past 1.,2. vice president	2004	2008	Congress President 2004	2002-2008
Mustafa Sahin	Member at large Past 1., 2. vice president	2005	2009	Congress President 2005	2003-2009
Ian Alwayn	Member at large Past 1., 2. vice president	2007	2011	Congress President 2007	2005-2011
Charles Malata	Member at large	2007	2011		2007-2013

Congress Venue 2011

Members are encouraged to submit proposals for the ESSR congress venue 2011.

43rd ESSR Congress Warsaw, Poland, 2008

The 43rd Congress of the ESSR will be held from May 21-24, 2008 in Warsaw, Poland (Congress President: Grzegorz Szczyński). More information can be found on Congress website: www.essr2008.pl. Contact details: Organizing Committee of the 43rd Congress of the ESSR, Department of Surgical Research, 5 Pawińskiego Str., 02-106 Warsaw, Poland. E-mail: sekretariat@essr2008.pl

Welcome!

44th ESSR Congress Nimes, France, 2009

The preparations for the 43th Congress of the ESSR which will be held May 20-23, 2009 in Nimes, France (Congress President: Roland Demaria) are on-going. More information can be obtained from the congress secretariat: mail@ams.fr or from the congress president: roland.demaria@wanadoo.fr

ESSR Fellowship Award, 2009

Numerous members of ESSR are conducting important research, however, the collaboration within the ESSR is today minimal. Therefore, the GC proposed to install the "ESSR Fellowship Award".

Application: Applicants should be a paying member of ESSR. The project should involve at least two departments from different countries within the ESSR. The application should describe a project plan (1-2 pages) stating the aim, background, work plan, methods, importance and budget signed by all involved departments. The hosts of the different departments must be paying members of ESSR. The deadline for the application is set to **1 of March, 2009** and should be submitted to the General Secretary, Henrik Thorlacius.

The application should contain

- Project plan (aim, background, work plan, methods, importance and budget)
- CV and publications of the candidate
- CV and publications of the hosts

Please indicate whether applicants are paying members of ESSR.

Selection: The General Committee will select the best project based on scientific merits. The decision will be announced on the ESSR congress in Nimes, France, 2009 at the General Assembly. The amount is 3000 Euro.

Scientific Report: One year after receiving the ESSR fellowship, the candidate must report the outcome at the ESSR congress.

With our best regards,



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