



Note from the President

This is the traditional spring newsletter of the year 2009, announcing the forthcoming annual congress and giving information on activities of the Society.

One of the most important issues, I once again like to stress as president of the Society, is our contract with the *British Journal of Surgery*, which is effective since January 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. All ESSR members are encouraged to take advantage of the reduced rate subscription to BJS and to promote subscriptions of thirds.

Along with our new association with the BJS Society, we have established a **British Journal Surgery Prize Session**. The nomination of a British Journal of Surgery prize winner for presenting an outstanding scientific paper further increases the attractiveness of the annual congress for young researchers. In addition, the annual **British Journal Surgery lectureship** particularly enlightens the scientific program of our meetings.

Since 2008, the treasurer of the Society, Ignacio Garcia-Alonso, collects the membership fees. It is very important for the Society's economy that all members pay the membership fee amounting only € 30 per year.

I am happy to inform that since launching of the Internet Course on Surgical Research more than 50 participants successfully passed the course. This remarkable demand reflects the relevance of surgical research in science. Again, thanks to Miguel Cainzos for his efforts in establishing this course and thanks to all authors for their participation and collaboration in this educational project of the ESSR.

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 winner sessions. For further details of the General committee session, please see enclosed protocol.

The General Committee and I are looking forward to welcoming you to the 44th Congress of the ESSR in Nimes, France during May 20-23, 2009.

Best personal regards, Brigitte Vollmar

Note from the Secretary General

In order to maintain an up-dated membership list 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 4th Annual Academic Surgical Congress (SUS) at Fort Myers, FL, 3-6 February 2008. The meeting was also represented by the Walter-Brendel Awardee of 2008 Dr. Heiko Sorg from Rostock who presented his work "Erythropoietin in skin wound healing: is less more?" in an excellent manner although it was placed on a parallel session in the program. Again discussions with the SUS were held in order to promote the ESSR representative in their program.

Two applications for the ESSR fellowship award were received this year. The General Committee selected Mehmet F Can (Turkey) with the topic "Multi-Center double-blind randomized trial of the clinical value of preoperative oral carbohydrate loading in colorectal surgery". We already now look forward to his report in Geneva 2010. Congratulations! Gabor Eros (Hungary) who received the ESSR fellowship award 2008 will present his work in Nimes 2009.

We also welcome venue suggestions for the 47th Congress of the ESSR in 2012.

For more details on the work in the GC, please see the protocol from the GC meeting in Nimes 2009 below.

Sincerely, Henrik Thorlacius

General Committee Meeting, Nimes, France

Protocol Abstract and General Committee Meeting, Nimes, France 2009

Time and place: Saturday February 28, Novotel, Nimes, France

Present: Brigitte Vollmar, Ignacio Garcia-Alonso, Henrik Thorlacius, Charles Malata, Mustafa Cikirikcioglu, and Roland Demaria

Agenda:

1. Report of the President (B Vollmar)

- The contract with *British Journal of Surgery* is very important. A BJS announcement will be included in the ESSR abstract book. Potential candidates for the BJS Editorial Assistant position were discussed. Publication of all ESSR abstracts on the BJS website is working well and discussions will be held with BJS to make access at website even easier.

- Good news is that the Internet Course on Surgical Research is successful with more than 50 persons that passed the course and more than 80 persons that are in the system. The persons passing the examination of Internet Course on Surgical Research will be included in the ESSR abstract book at the congress in Nimes.

2. Report of the Secretary General (H Thorlacius)

- ESSR Fellowship Award

The original 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. The first year 2008 was the ESSR fellowship award given to Gabor Eros (Hungary) who will report on his work "Dietary phospholipids and chronic inflammation" at the ESSR Congress in Nimes. This year the GC received two applications for the ESSR fellowship award: one from Turkey and one from Germany/Sweden. After discussion within the GC it was decided that Mehmet Can from Turkey will receive this year ESSR fellowship award. Although two applications are better than previous year the GC wants to see more applications next year.

- The ESSR contract

The ESSR contract needs to be up-dated according to the new contract between BJS and ESSR. The ESSR contract has been signed by the upcoming Congress Presidents in Nimes 2009 and Geneva 2010. However, according to the ESSR Treasurer the payment from the ESSR Congress in Warsaw has up to now (2009-04-10) not been paid to the ESSR. After the meeting, Waldemar Olszewski wrote a letter to the ESSR congress participants and members with a content that was rejected by the GC in a detailed response letter.

- Sister Societies

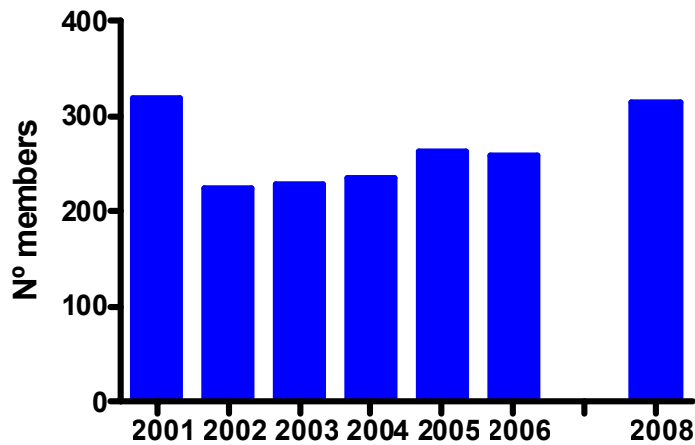
I represented the ESSR at the 4th Annual Academic Surgical Congress (SUS) at Fort Myers, FL, 3-6 February 2009, a joint meeting between our sister societies Society of University Surgeons (SUS) and the Association of Academic Surgery (AAS). At the meeting ESSR was also represented by the Walter-Brendel Awardee of 2008, Dr Heiko Sorg who presented his award-winning work. 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 positive thing is that the ESSR membership has increased since the fee was reduced and in 2008 the General Assembly welcomed 31 new members. The treasurer reported that the easiest way to pay the membership-fee is via email to the treasurer (ignacio.galonso@ehu.es).

- The treasurer has also made a list including the specific reimbursements for the awardees, sister society representatives, GC members and invited lecturers which will be helpful for the future treasurer.

- The treasurer also suggested that retired members do not have to pay the membership fee to stay as ESSR members, which was supported by the GC.



- Regarding the economic balance of the Society, the treasurer explained that the contribution from the Rotterdam Congress was received and accounted in 2008. He also expressed his concern because the 8000 euros due from the Warsaw Congress had not yet been transferred and there were no news from the local organizer. This accounts for the reduction of nearly 5000 euros from the end of 2006 to the end of 2008.

YEAR 2007		YEAR 2008	
Balance to 06-12-31	42.149,65	Balance to 07-12-31	36.452,86
Travel costs	2.151,65	Travel costs	4.668,42
Awards	1.750,00	Awards	6.591,00
Administrative costs	1.879,87	Administrative costs	354,64
Other	15,27	Other	144,29
Total payments	5.796,79	Total payments	11.758,35
		Membership Fees	3.304,69
		Fund raising & ESSR Congress	9.000,00
Receipts	100,00	Receipts	12.304,69
Balance 06-12-31 to 07-12-31	-5.696,79	Balance 07-12-31 to 08-12-31	546,34
Balance to 07-12-31	36.452,86	Balance to 08-12-31	36.999,20

- The fact that the Society has started receiving money from the membership fees, has allowed to increase the amount of the Walter Brendel Award up to 2,500€, which will be paid to the awarded person as travel grants to attend the Congresses of the Sister Societies.

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

The congress president informed on the on-going preparations for the meeting in Nimes 2009. 341 abstracts were submitted and 16 withdrawn so the total number of abstracts was 325 this year. The congress president reported that the financial balance is positive for the ESSR Congress in Nimes 2009. The congress venue was inspected, which were considered to be excellent by the GC. Overall, the congress president reported that all preparations are going well and we look forward to great ESSR Congress in Nimes.

5. Report of the Congress President 2010 (M Cikirikcioglu)

The congress president of 2010 presented the plans and organization of the annual meeting in Geneva, Switzerland 2010. The GC was impressed about how far the planning and details of the congress were already at this stage. One important information is that the data for the ESSR Congress in Geneva 2010 will be a little later than usual, i.e. between **9-12 June**.

6. Abstract Selection Meeting

The congress president reported that the final submission of abstracts was 325 in total. All abstracts had been scored (0-6) in an anonymous fashion by ESSR members selected by the congress president. 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.

The meeting was closed by the ESSR President (B Vollmar) by thanking the host and congress president (R Demaria) for organizing this meeting and look forward to successful congress in Nimes 2009.

General Assembly, Nimes, France, 2009

All members are warmly welcome to the General Assembly, 22 May (Friday) 2009.

Agenda:

1. Report of the President
2. Report of the Secretary General
3. Report of the Treasurer
4. Report of the Congress President 2009 (R Demaria)
5. Report of the Congress President 2010 (M Cikirikcioglu)
6. Election of new members
7. Election of new members of the General Committee
8. Election of Congress Venue 2012

General Committee

The term of Mustafa Sahin at the General Committee is ending in 2009. The General Committee appreciates his contributions to the society, especially for organizing the successful ESSR Congress in Konya – many thanks! Thus, one position as member-at-large is open and needs to be replaced at the General Assembly in Nimes 2009. The GC proposes Roland Demaria (Congress President 2009) as member-at-large. Members of the ESSR are welcome to add further suggestions to be voted on in Nimes 2009.

General Committee 2009

Name	Present and past functions	Position elected	Position ends	Remarks	Possible time to serve (max 6 years)
<i>Brigitte Vollmar</i>	President Past 1 and 2 vice president, Past member at large	2007	2010	Congress president 2006	2004-2010
<i>Henrik Thorlacius</i>	Secretary General Past member at large	2007	2010		2006-2012
<i>Ignacio Garcia-Alonso</i>	Treasurer Past member at large	2006	2009		2005-2011
<i>Roland Demaria</i>	1 vice president	2008	2009	Congress President 2009	2007-2013
<i>Steffen Manekeller</i>	Member at large	2008	2011		2008-2014
<i>Mustafa Sahin</i>	Member at large, Past 1 and 2 vice president	2005	2009	Congress President 2005	2003-2009
<i>Ian Alwayn</i>	Member at large, Past 1 and 2 vice president	2007	2011	Congress President 2007	2005-2011
<i>Charles Malata</i>	Member at large	2007	2010		2007-2013
<i>Mustafa Cikirikcioglu</i>	2 vice president	2008	2010	Congress President 2010, 1 Vice President 2009	2008-2014

Congress Venue 2012

Members are encouraged to submit proposals for the ESSR congress venue 2012.

44th ESSR Congress Nimes, France, 2009

The 44th Congress of the ESSR will be held from May 20-23, 2009 in Nimes, France (Congress President: Roland Demaria). More information can be found on Congress website: www.essr2009.fr or from the Congress Secretariat: Alliance Médicale et Scientifique (mail@ams.fr, www.ams.fr).

Welcome!

45th ESSR Congress Geneva, Switzerland, 2010

The preparations for the 45th Congress of the ESSR which will be held **June 9-12, 2010** in Geneva, Switzerland (Congress President: Mustafa Cikirikcioglu) are on-going.

46th ESSR Congress Aachen, Germany, 2011

Contact: Congress President: Rene Tolba (rtolba@ukaachen.de)

ESSR Fellowship Award, 2010

Numerous members of ESSR are conducting important research, however, the collaboration within the ESSR is today minimal. Therefore, the GC installed 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 February, 2010** 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 Geneva, 2010 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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