



Note from the New President

Dear ESSR members,

First and foremost I would like to thank you most sincerely for electing me as your new President for the term 2011-2013 at the Aachen Meeting. This is indeed a great privilege and I will endeavour to serve the Society humbly and diligently. I see this position not as an elevation but an opportunity to further contribute to the continuing development of the ESSR and assist it in meeting future challenges.

Secondly I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the outgoing President, Henrik Thorlacius, and the outgoing Treasurer, Ignácio Garçia Alonso, who have served the society admirably and tirelessly over the last few years. Ignácio was our longest serving Treasurer and Henrik has been kind enough to stay on in the committee to continue to give us the benefit of his experience and expertise. I would also like to point out that we owe a debt of gratitude to the University of the Basque Country which has over the last several years provided free mailing costs for the society and web hosting of the membership details.

Thirdly I would like to extend my congratulations to Mustafa Cikirikcioglu on his election as Secretary General and Rene Tolba as Treasurer. I would also like to welcome to the Board Osman Yuksel, the 2nd Vice President and Frank Dor, elected as Member-at-large in Aachen. The up to date composition of the Board is given below.

I would like to congratulate Rene Tolba and his team in Aachen for holding a successful congress which we all enjoyed greatly. I wish to sincerely thank both Prof Andrew Bradley, President of the UK SARS and Prof Hennie Becker of the Southern African SRS for honouring us with their presence at our Aachen Congress. Both were active in our deliberations, chairing scientific sessions and participating in the adjudication of the prize entries. Our American colleagues were not able to attend this year due to unforeseen circumstances. We greatly value the association and collaboration with our sister societies, the SRS-Southern Africa, the SARS-UK and the SUS-USA. I intend to continue to foster these important relationships.

There is also a very important matter I wish to bring to the attention of the membership. Our contract with the BJS Society has expired and the Board is in the middle of negotiations with the BJS for a new arrangement. We are also actively exploring all possible avenues regarding an official journal for the ESSR and a "home" for our Congress Abstracts. We will report to the next General Assembly.

I am keen to highlight that we face challenging times ahead not only financially but also from stiff competition from other research societies. It is imperative that we continue to keep our society relevant and protect its unique character as the only multi-specialty and multi-national surgical research society with its unique blend of basic scientists and clinical researchers. I implore everybody to "spread the word" around in their surgical communities and encourage younger members to join the ESSR including medical students. We have always placed great emphasis on the younger members who will be the future of our society. One of my priorities will be to try and increase the membership and retain the current members. Also on my agenda is the desire to genuinely explore the Society's greater involvement in clinical trials especially those evaluating the cost-effectiveness of various surgical techniques and interventions. As a multi-national society we are uniquely placed to engage in multicentre studies and with the "current financial squeeze" and the need to justify health expenditure we can provide leadership in this respect. We need to be proactive in this regard and we welcome any suggestions for such projects. With the backing of the ESSR I believe that we would enhance the success of such undertakings and the necessary grant applications.

I also intend to keep encouraging existing members of the ESSR by acknowledging their active membership with yearly certificates in addition to the certificates of attendances at Annual Congresses.

I also would like to see greater support of medical student research by establishing sponsorship for students in the form of "scholarships" to cover the cost of their presentations at ESSR meetings. This could take the form of waiving the fees for students returning for a 2nd or 3rd presentation or further assistance with registration fees. I hope that we can all think about this before the next GA meeting in Lille. I would also like to once again congratulate Prof Miguel Cainzos for his excellent work with the Internet Surgical Research Course. Please encourage your young scientists, researchers, students and residents to enrol for this course.

We also need to continue to modernise to meet the challenges and opportunities presented by the new electronic / social media. In this regard Frank Dor has made a start by establishing an online discussion forum.

Finally I would like to stress that the strength of the society lies in the contributions of its members and we are open to suggestions from all members. If anyone has any concerns or bright ideas for the society please do not hesitate to contact me.

Once again many thanks and best wishes to you all. **"We are all in this together"**

Charles Malata
ESSR President (charles.malata@addenbrookes.nhs.uk)

Note from the New Secretary General

Dear Members of the Society, Colleagues and Collaborators,

It is a great privilege for my academic life to be elected as Secretary General of the Society. I will serve our Society by appreciating what a big honour and responsibility this nomination constitutes.

New General Committee

I would like to remind you about other changes in our General Committee. Our previous Secretary General, Dr Charles Malata was elected as the President of the Society. Dr Henrik Thorlacius, previous President of the Society, stayed on in the General Committee as a Member-at-Large. Dr Ignácio Garçia-Alonso completed his term as Treasurer and stepped down from the General Committee. Dr Rene Tolba was elected as the new Treasurer. We also welcome to the General Committee Dr Frank Dor as a new Member-at-Large.. Dr Osman Yuksel, the Congress President of the 2013 Annual ESSR Meeting in Istanbul also joined to the Society's General Committee as 2nd Vice President. You will find at the end the newsletter a complete list of our General Committee for 2011-2012.

Sister Societies

I would like to provide an overview the relationship between the ESSR and our three Sister Societies for the information of our new members and indeed as a reminder to the existing members.

The European Society for Surgical Research established a bilateral agreement with the SRS-UK, the predecessor of the Society of Academic and Research Surgery (SARS) from the United Kingdom in 1966, with the Society of University Surgeons from the United States in 1968 and later on with the Surgical Research Society of Southern Africa (SRS-SA) in order to provide an international platform to its members.

According to the agreements between those four societies, they host the representatives (generally the President or the Secretary General) of the Sister Society during the Annual Meetings. Besides

representing their society at these different meetings they provide different and useful perspectives / view points to the host societies and invariably enrich their scientific meetings and deliberations.

The award winners of the Sister Societies are hosted during the ESSR annual meetings and they share their studies with the entire congress during the prestigious Walter Brendel Award Session. The same mutual collaboration was supported by our Sister Societies for our awardees as detailed below.

I would like to underline the honour and prestige bestowed upon the winners of the various ESSR awards. I want therefore to again emphasise the importance of our prize winners representing our society during the annual meetings of our Sister Societies. It is incumbent upon the research groups to nominate a presenter if the prize winner is unable to attend sister society meeting in person.

Representation of ESSR at the 2011 Annual Meetings of our Sister Societies

- **59th Annual Meeting of SARS**, 5-6th January, 2011, Dublin, Ireland:
Henrik Thorlacius and Walter Brendel award winning paper presented by a co-worker of Dr Nikolaos Bonaros, **Dr Karin Albrecht**, "*Secretoneurin gene-therapy improves cardiac function in a model of myocardial infarction in-vivo and induces angiogenesis in cardiac cells via VEGF expression in-vitro*".
- **6th Annual Meeting of SUS**, 1-3 February, 2011, Huntington Beach, California, USA:
Charles Malata (SG) and Walter Brendel awardee paper presented by a co-worker of Dr Nikolaos Bonaros, **Dr Karin Albrecht** "*Secretoneurin gene-therapy improves cardiac function in a model of myocardial infarction in-vivo and induces angiogenesis in cardiac cells via VEGF expression in-vitro*".
- **39th Annual Meeting of SRS-SA**, 23-24 June, 2011, Pretoria, South Africa:
Henrik Thorlacius (President). BJS awardee (Dr Farid) could not attend because of limited time between the nomination and congress dates and a clash with another meeting.

Future Representation of ESSR at the Annual Meetings of our Sister Societies

We would like to propose the following timetable for the ESSR Prize Winners' attendance at the Sister Society meetings. The rationale for this is that, as per our 1966 agreement with the SARS-UK, the Walter Brendel Award winner has to present their work at the SARS meeting and we have a reciprocal arrangement for the Patey Prize winner. Representation at the SUS (USA) and SRS (Southern Africa) can then rotate between the WB Award winner and the BJS award winner as follows:

2012 Annual Meetings of Sister Societies (year 1)

- 2011 Walter Brendel awardee (T. Theologou): **SARS (UK)** and **SUS (USA)** meetings
- 2011 BJS awardee (W.R.R. Farid) **SRS-SA** meeting

2013 Annual Meetings of Sister Societies (year 2)

- 2012 Walter Brendel awardee: **SARS** and **SRS-SA** meetings
- 2012 BJS awardee: **SUS** meeting

2014 Annual Meetings of Sister Societies (as in year 1)

- 2013 Walter Brendel awardee: **SARS** and **SUS** meetings
- 2013 BJS awardee: **SRS-SA** meeting

2015 Annual Meetings of sister societies (as in year 2)

- 2014 Walter Brendel awardee: **SARS** and **SRS-SA** meetings
- 2014 BJS awardee: **SUS** meeting

Updating the database of our members

It is very important to keep up-to-date the members' data in order to achieve better communication in the Society. I would like to ask you to consult the two attached excel data sheets.

The first one shows the data of all our members which is also available on our website. Please check your details and those of any other members in your department. In case of wrong or outdated information, please inform us immediately with the correct "info" so that we could make the necessary changes.

The second list contains members for whom we unfortunately do not have the correct email addresses. We need your urgent assistance in order to achieve to complete this task. If you are one of them, or you know this member, please contact us with his/ her current email addresses.

Yours sincerely

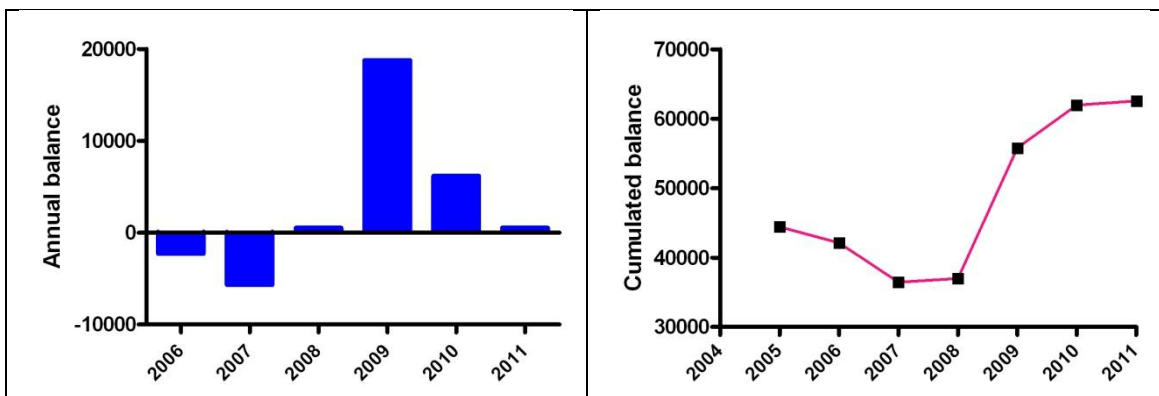
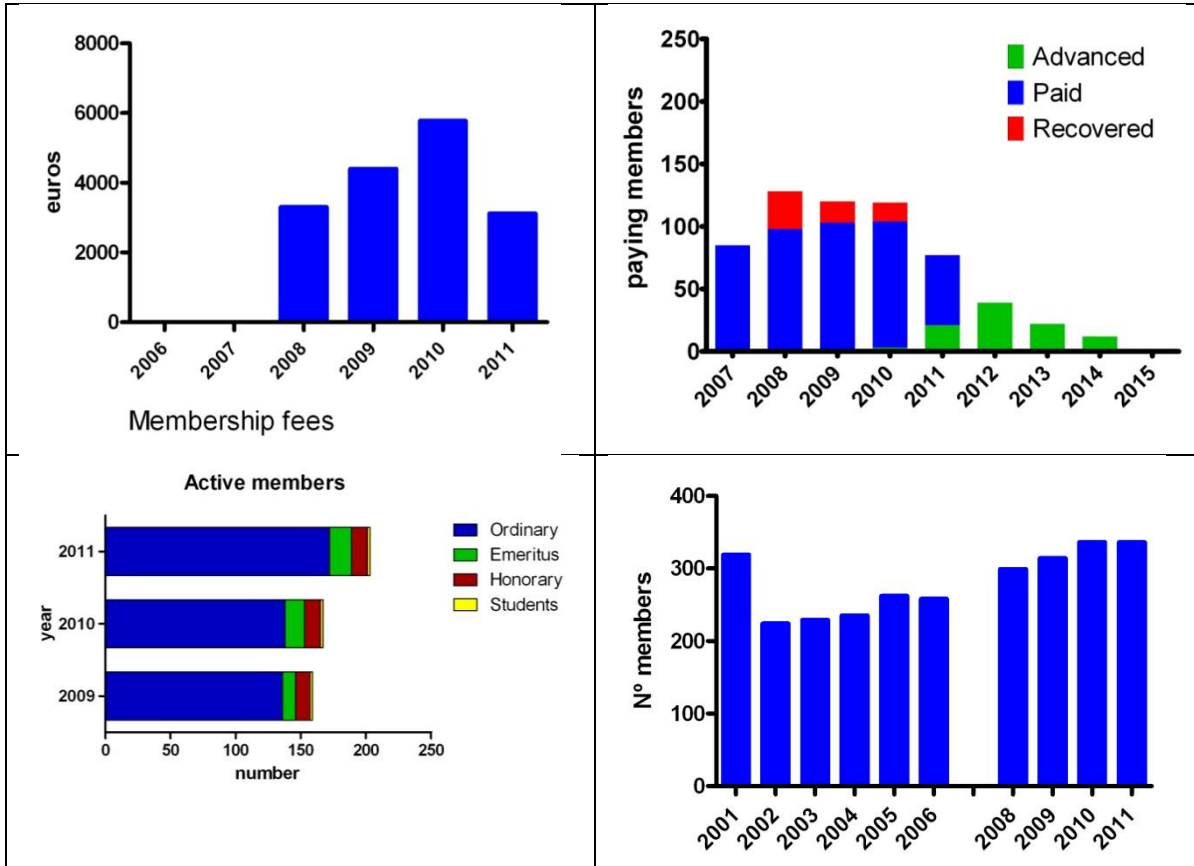
Mustafa Cikirikcioglu (ESSR Secretary General)
mustafa.cikirikcioglu@hcuge.ch

Note from the Treasurer

The Balance of the Society was presented by the Treasurer (Ignacio Garçia-Alonso) during the General Assembly. It included the definitive data for 2010 and the provisional balance for 2011. It was highlighted that the Society received a surplus from the Geneva Congress (congratulations to the Congress President, Mustafa Cikirikcioglu and his team).

YEAR 2010		YEAR 2011	
Balance to 31-12-2009	55.783,04	Balance to 31-12-2010	61.963,86
Travel costs	6.568,64	Travel costs	2.935,26
Awards	3.815,40	Awards	2.280,10
Administrative costs	149,05	Administrative costs	10,86
Other	60,46	Other	20,46
Total payments	10.593,55	Total payments	5.246,68
Membership Fees	5.774,37	Membership Fees	3.120,00
Fund raising & ESSR Congress	11.000,00	Fund raising & ESSR Congress	2.700,00
Receipts	16.774,37	Receipts	5.820,00
Annual Balance 2010	6.180,82	Provisional Balance 2011	573,32
Cumulated Balance to 31-12-2010	61.963,86	Cumulated Balance to 23-05-2011	62.537,18

Details of Fund raising		Details of Fund raising	
Surplus Geneva	2.000,00	---	0,00
On line Course	0,00	On line Course	1.700,00
B Braun	1.000,00	B Braun	1.000,00
Geneva Congress	8.000,00	Aachen Congress	0,00



There are five different sources for ESSR funding:

- Fees from the members,
- Annual Congress,
- Internet Course,
- Sponsoring &
- Donations.

The Congress provides 8,000 Euro every year; though this figure might be increased if there was a surplus. This is not going to be easy in the coming years. The Internet Course is a source of prestige for the Society, as well as very interesting funding solution; we should make an effort to get more people to take the Course. Finding new sponsors for the activities of the ESSR would be very helpful for our budget; the collaboration of B. Braun funding a special prize in our Congress is an excellent example of what we should look for.

And last of all, I should like to make some comments on the fees from the members. This is a very important aspect for the Society: not only from a financial point of view, but because the number of paying-members represents the "health status" of the ESSR. Collecting the fees from the members became a duty of the Treasurer in 2008, when we ended our contract with Karger (previously Karger collected the fees from our members, but, because of the signed contract, all the money was kept by the Editorial as we didn't reach the minimum number of paying members). It has not been an easy task, but thanks to this effort now the members may feel that when we pay our fees we are really supporting our Society.

So, in the end, the ESSR has been able to recover from the serious blow received when the annual congress failed to send to the Society the stipulated contribution, and it has been able to support not only its traditional activities but also the ESSR-Grant.

Following the above report which was presented during the General Assembly in Aachen, I would like to add that the Organizing Committee of the Aachen Congress sent to the Society 8,000 Euro in September 2011, and thus the contract with the ESSR was fulfilled.

As you know, I have stepped down from the position of Treasurer of the ESSR. I would like to thank all of you, dear colleagues, for your constant and kind support during these years, which made it quite easy for me to serve the Society. It is my desire to continue collaborating with our Society in any way the General Committee may find useful, and of course I hope to keep seeing you all at future congresses.

As a last note to this report, a special recognition should be made to the University of The Basque Country which has been funding the mailing costs of the ESSR during the last five years.

Best wishes,
Ignacio Garçia-Alonso,
ESSR Treasurer (ignacio.galonso@ehu.es)

46th ESSR Congress, 25-28, May, 2011, Aachen, Germany

The 46th Congress of the European Society for Surgical Research was held on 25-28th May 2011 in Aachen, Germany under the Congress President, Prof. Rene Tolba. The total number of abstracts was 251 (from 253 submitted abstracts) this year.

The total number of delegates who attended the Congress in Aachen was 222 with 179 being paying participants and 43 falling in the invited category. There were 166 oral presentations and 81 poster presentations.

There were two Pre-Congress Workshops:

1. Liver and kidney transplantation in pigs and
2. Liver surgery in pigs with Hydro-Jet, Cusa and Bipolar Vessel Sealing Device.

We had three keynote lectures during the congress.

1. **Functional and molecular cancer imaging in rodents** by Fabian Kießling, Aachen, Germany.
2. **Broaden your scope and do good - Surgery in conflict and war** by Jan S. Brommundt, Lisbon, Portugal.
3. **History of surgical research in Germany** by Eddie Neugebauer, Cologne, Germany.

The award winners of the Sister Societies were present to share their studies and results during the Walter Brendel Session:

SARS winner- Gijsbert Hötte, Stephen G. Maher, John V. Reynolds.

The Contribution of the RNA-binding protein RNPC1 to P21-mediated cell cycle arrest and radiation sensitivity in oesophageal cancer.

SUS winner- Candice A.M. Sauder, B. Herbert, M.J. Fox, J. Koziel, M. Choi, R.J. Blosser, T. Mathieson, S. Badve, T. Foroud, J. Jung, D. Lai, C.A. Rufenbarger, J.E. Henry, A.V. Storniolo, S.E. Clare.

Racial disparities in breast cancer outcomes: Are they predestined?

SRS-SA winners-

a. David Thomson, J.E.J. Krige, J.M. Shaw, P.C. Bornman, U.K. Kotz, MF Hameed.

The role of endoscopic retrograde pancreatography in the treatment of local complications of pancreatic trauma.

b. Galya Chinnery, J.E.J. Krige, U.K. Kotze, G. Distiller, P.C. Bornman.

Risk factors for early rebleeding and death in alcoholic cirrhotic patients with acute variceal haemorrhage treated with emergency endoscopic injection sclerotherapy

The attendees had a good scientific program and were active during the oral and chaired poster presentation sessions. They thoroughly enjoyed the social program which included a welcome reception in the Ballsaal Aachen, an organ concert in Aachen Cathedral, Gala Dinner and guided city tour of Aachen.

The **ESSR symbol (The Retractor)** is now exhibited in a nicely designed glass shelf. We appreciate the efforts of Prof Rene Tolba and his team (especially Mareike Schulz) in organising a very successful congress and thinking of small and "fruitful" details like that. We would like to again underline the rule that "The Retractor" shall be kept by the President of the Congress and it shall be passed on from the current Congress President to the in-coming Congress President at the General Assembly meeting and this will be an agenda item henceforth.

Prize winners of ESSR 2011 were as follows:

Walter Brendel Award:

Biological Properties & Regenerative Potential, In Vitro & In Vivo, of Human Cardiac Stem Cells Isolated from the Adult Human Heart

T. Theologou, and his colleagues from the United Kingdom.

G. M. Ellison, C. Vicinanza, M. Torella, V. Galuppo, A. Leone, I. Mendicino, W. Sacco, A. Bochicchio, M. Field, A. Oo, M. Kuduvalli, C. Indolfi, B. Nadal-Ginard, D. Torella.

British Journal of Surgery Award:

Levels of cholangiocyte-abundant MicroRNAs in liver grafts prior to transplantation are predictive for long-term graft survival

W.R.R. Farid, and his colleagues from the Netherlands.

C.J. Verhoeven, J. Kwekkeboom, H.J. Metselaar, H.W. Tilanus, G. Kazemier, L.J.W. van der Laan

B.Braun Award:

A novel organ preservation technique for small-for-size grafts in liver transplantation: Venous Systemic Oxygen Persufflation (VSOP) + Nitric Oxide Gas

S. Yagi, and his colleagues from Germany.

P. Kadaba, M. Afify, K. Nagai, K. Hata, S. Uemoto, R. Tolba

Young Investigator Award:

KATP channel in the liver: Localization and the role for cytoprotection

Y. Nakagawa, and his colleagues from Japan.

M. Yoshioka, Y. Abe, H. Uchinami, Y. Yamamoto

Poster Award:

Influence of the vassal obstructive interval in the results of vasovasostomy

J.R. Hernández Hernández and his colleagues from Spain

F. Juárez del Dago, Y. Caballero, Díaz, C. Rosas Bermúdez, M.D. De Dios, J. Sagrera, P. Járez del Dago

Best wishes,
Rene Tolba
Aachen Congress President,
New ESSR Treasurer

47th ESSR Congress, 6-9, June, 2012, Lille, France

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

We welcome you to Lille for the 47th Congress of the European Society for Surgical Research. This is a great honour for us and we truly thank all of you for choosing our city to host the ESSR Congress in 2012.

Our Congress, supported by the county's council, Conseil Régional Nord-Pas-de-Calais, and by the Université Lille-Nord de France, will approach all surgical disciplines from minimally-invasive surgery to transplantation. We intentionally included the workshop on site in the scientific program so that everyone can take advantage of both practical training and the high-quality presentations.

Lille, the fourth biggest metropolis in France with 2 million inhabitants, was designated as European Capital of Culture in 2004 and the city's cultural engagement continues with Lille 3000 and its many attractive events. During your stay you will discover our beautiful city by visiting on Wednesday 6 the Musée des Beaux-Arts, France's second biggest museum after Le Louvre, in addition to being introduced to our local gastronomy for a folkloric dinner on Thursday 7. The congress dinner will take place on Friday 8 in the historical venue of the Hermitage Gantois.

The University of Lille 2 and its Faculty of Medicine were chosen to welcome you, with facilities in close proximity to the metro and implanted in the University Hospital of Lille, the largest teaching hospital in Europe (3000 beds). This venue will also be an opportunity to reinforce our twinning partnership with the Akita University Graduate School of Medicine in Japan.

We are sincerely eager to welcome you in Lille and we do hope that this congress and its social program will delight you.

Surgically yours,

Prof. François PATTOU, President of the 47th ESSR Congress
Dr. Thomas HUBERT, Vice-President of the 47th ESSR Congress
Dr. Robert CAIAZZO, Scientific Coordinator of the 47th ESSR Congress

Important Dates

Deadline for abstract submission: **Wednesday 8 February 2012 midnight**

Deadline early bird registration fee: **Friday 30 March 2012**

Hotel booking deadline : **Friday 30 March 2012**

48th ESSR Congress, 2013, Istanbul, Turkey,

The 48th Congress of the European Society for Surgical Research, Istanbul, Turkey will be organized by the 2nd Vice President, Dr Osman Yuksel of Ankara University.

For further details please contact: Congress President: Osman Yuksel (yukselo@gazi.edu.tr or o.yuksel@superposta.com)

49th ESSR Congress, 2014, Budapest, Hungary

The 49th Congress of the European Society for Surgical Research, Budapest, Hungary will be organized by Dr Attila Szijarto (szijartoattila@gmail.com).

50th ESSR Congress, 2015

Members are encouraged to submit bids for the ESSR congress venue 2015 to the General Secretary, Dr. Mustafa Cikirikcioglu (mustafa.cikirikcioglu@hcuge.ch).

The application should contain

- a motivation letter,
- the CV and publications of the candidate Congress President.
- According to the bye laws of the Society, the Congress President should be under 45 years old and should organise the congress under his autonomy.

The General Committee expects the presence of and a presentation by the candidate Congress President during the General Assembly and the decision will be based on the closed votes of the members present at the GA.

Internet Course on Surgical Research

The European Society for Surgical Research (ESSR) has, since 2008, organised an Internet Course on Surgical Research under the direction of Prof. Miguel Caínzos (Santiago de Compostela, Spain), Chair of the Scientific Studies and Education Committee and former President of our Society. This has been highly successful.

The course covers the most important aspects of surgical research, as well as those areas which are of considerable relevance to all surgeons, such as the general aspects of research in surgery, molecular biological methods in surgical research, wound healing, microcirculation, research in gastroenterology, cardiovascular models, trauma, burn injury, sepsis, intra-abdominal adhesions, cancer, transplantation, robotics and telesurgery, etc.

ESSR members are encouraged to visit the websites (<http://www.surgical-research.com>) and to **take the course for free. They are also strongly urged to ask their residents & junior doctors to take the course.**

Call for Applications: ESSR Fellowship Award- 2012

Name: ESSR Fellowship Award

Amount: 3.000 EUROS.

Numerous members of ESSR are conducting important research; however, the collaboration within the ESSR is today minimal. The ESSR wishes to foster cooperation and collaboration between various members and their departments especially those in different countries. The ESSR Fellowship Award was established in 2008 with the specific aim of increasing collaboration in surgical research within the ESSR.

Application:

The application for the ESSR Fellowship must include a candidate who is 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 (max. 3 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 **1st of March, 2012** and should be submitted to the General Secretary, Mustafa Cikirikcioglu (mustafa.cikirikcioglu@hcuge.ch) or the President, Charles Malata (charles.malata@addenbrookes.nhs.uk)

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 its scientific merits. The decision will be announced at the ESSR Congress in Lille 2012 during the General Assembly.

Amount: 3. 000 Euros.

Scientific Report: One year after receiving the ESSR fellowship, the candidate must report on the outcome at the ESSR congress. This presentation will be given a separate and distinct place in the scientific program on the opening day after the Brendel Award session.

Past ESSR Fellowship Awardees

2008- Dr. Gabor Eros, Szeged, Hungary:

Dietary phospholipids and chronic inflammation.

Collaboration between the Universities of Szeged (Hungary) and Rostock (Germany).

2009- Dr Mehmet Fatih Can, Ankara, Turkey:

Multicenter double-blind randomized trial of the clinical value of preoperative oral carbohydrate loading in colorectal surgery.

Collaboration between Gulhane Military School of Medicine, Ankara (Turkey) and Universities of Ghent (Belgium) and Szeged (Hungary).

2010- Dr Thomas Roller, Homburg, Germany:

Role of platelets and CD40L in septic lung injury.

Collaboration between Universities of Saarland in Homburg (Germany) and Lund University in Malmo (Sweden).

2011- Dr Petra Haartmann, Szeged, Hungary:

Experimental hepatectomy – novel possibilities to modulate ischemic consequences

Collaboration between Universities of Szeged (Hungary) and Aachen (Germany).

General Assembly, Aachen, Germany, 2011

Time and place: May 27, 2011, from 18:00h-19:30h. SuperC, RWTH Aachen University, Germany.

Present: 34 members were present at the opening of the General Assembly (GA).

Agenda:

1. Report of the President – see below
2. Report of the Secretary General - below
3. Report of the Treasurer- as given above
4. Report of the Congress President 2011 (R Tolba)
5. Report of the Congress President 2012 (T Hubert)
6. Signing of the Contract for Istanbul 2013 (O Yuksel)
7. Report on the Internet Surgical Research Course 2010-11 (IG Alonso)
8. Election of New Members of the Board

Previous Secretary General, Dr Charles Malata was nominated as the President of the Society. Dr Henrik Thorlacius, previous President of the Society, stayed on in the General Committee as a Member at Large. Dr Ignácio Garçio-Alonso completed his term as Treasurer and stepped down from the General Committee. Dr Rene Tolba was nominated as the new Treasurer. Dr Frank Dor was nominated as a Member at Large of the General Committee. Dr Osman Yuksel, the Congress President of Annual Meeting ESSR 2013 in Istanbul also joined to the Society's General Committee as 2nd Vice President.

9. Election of new members of the Society

- **Sweeney Karl**, Galway, Ireland
- **LaFranca Jeff**, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
- **Theeuwes Hilco Peter**, Nijmegen, The Netherlands
- **de Bruin Ron WF**, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
- **Järvinen Tero**, Tampere, Finland
- **Zorana Ćekol**, Zagreb, Croatia
- **Hagen S.Martijn**, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
- **Godlewski Guilhem**, Saint Chaptes, France
- **Ewart Edwina**, London, UK
- **Adekunle Adesola**, Cambridge, UK
- **Lindisfarne Edward**, Brighton, UK
- **Tsoufias Georgios**, Thessaloniki, Greece
- **Mangam Sudhakar**, Margate, UK
- **Ulus Ahmet Tulga**, Ankara, Turkey
- **Hartmann Petra**, Szeged, Hungary
- **Ferencz Andrea**, Budapest, Hungary
- **Osorio Suzanne**, Colorado, USA
- **Pekcici M Recep**, Ulucanlar, Turkey
- **Acar Fahrettin**, Konya, Turkey
- **Oztas Muharrem**, Ankara, Turkey

10. Election of Congress Venue 2014

Liverpool vs Budapest – 16 versus 18: Budapest was duly elected.

11. Varia

- Preliminary report of the 2011 ESSR Fellowship Awardee (*Petra Hartmann*)
- Interim report of the 2010 ESSR Fellowship Awardee (*Jonas Roller*)

13. Any other business

Report of the President (Henrik Thorlacius):

I represented the ESSR at the 59th Annual meeting of SARS, which was held in Dublin, at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. The meeting was extremely successful and confirmed that SARS is the premier UK & Ireland society for academic surgical science. The Walter Brendel paper by Nikolaos Bonaros (Vienna, Austria) "Secretoneurin gene-therapy improves cardiac function in a model of myocardial infarction in-vivo and induces angiogenesis in cardiac cells via VEGF expression in-vitro" was well-presented. I also attended the 39th Annual Meeting of SRS-SA in Pretoria, South Africa. Unfortunately the ESSR awardee Dr Farid did not attend but the meeting was stimulating and held high scientific standard.

I want to thank all members of the ESSR for the years as president and especially all the members of the general committee. It has been stimulating to see that ESSR fellowship award has been implemented and I hope that ESSR members continue to submit applications for the this useful award. I also wish the incoming president Charles Malata good luck and great success leading the ESSR further into the future.

Report of the Secretary General (Charles Malata):

The SG reported that the ESSR Fellowship Award had been won by Dr Petra Hartmann of the University of Szeged who will work between the Universities of Szeged (Hungary) and Aachen (Germany).

He also reported that he had represented the Society at the Society of University Surgeons in Huntington Beach, California in February 2011 where the Walter Brendel Award winner had presented their paper in the Plenary Session. This was a truly amazing meeting of the highest scientific calibre. To reciprocate the SUS prize winner had also presented her paper during the Walter Brendel Award session in Aachen. Professor Hennie Becker of the SRS-SA was present during the deliberations of the Aachen Congress and this year we were privileged to have 2 SRS-SA prize winners (Dr David Thompson and Dr Galya Chinnery) who presented their work to the Congress. The SARS-UK meeting in January had been attended by the ESSR President, Henrik Thorlacius, and the WB Award winning paper was also presented at that meeting. The SARS Patey Prize winner was, however, unable to attend the ESSR Congress this year.

The General Committee proposed that, in order to make sure that the ESSR is represented at all our sister society meetings by the our prize winners, the BJS Award winner would receive a 500€ top up to enable them to attend the Surgical Research Society Meeting of Southern Africa. It was required by the respective constitutions that the ESSR WB Award winner would present their work at the SARS meeting and vice versa for the SARS Patey Prize winner. The WB and the BJS award winners would travel to the USA or South Africa in alternate years.

The ESSR Contract for Istanbul 2013 was signed between the ESSR President, Henrik Thorlacius and the 2nd Vice President Osman Yuksel of Gazi University. This congress will be jointly held by the Universities of Gazi and Gulhane in Ankara.

Two nominations for the 49th Congress Venue, 2014 were received from Budapest (Hungary) and Liverpool (UK). These were voted on as above.

Apologies were also received from Prof Miguel Cainzos of Santiago de Compostela) hence the ESSR Internet Course report was given by the Treasurer, Prof Ignácio Alonso. Roland Demaria (general committee member-at-large) and Nobert Nemeth (Award Committee Member) also sent their apologies.

The SG also informed the GA of the retiring members: Prof Raimund Margreiter (Austria), Prof Beat Walpoth (Switzerland), Michel Daniel (France), Frederik Merkel (USA), Enrique Moreno (Spain) and Rafael Vara (Spain). He then presented the names of the prospective new members to be voted on. These were approved for membership (list given above).

General Committee 2011- 2012

Name	Present and past functions	Position elected	Position ends	Remarks	Possible time to serve (max 6 yrs)
Charles Malata	President Past Secretary General Past Member at Large	2011	2013		2007-2013
Mustafa Cikirikcioglu	Secretary General Past Member at Large Past 1 st & 2 nd vice president	2011	2014	Congress President 2010	2008-2014
Rene Tolba	Treasurer Past 1 st & 2 nd vice president	2011	2014	Congress President 2011	2009-2015
Francois Pattou	1st Vice President Past 2 nd vice president	2010	2012		2010-2016
Osman Yuksel	2nd Vice President	2011	2013		2011-2017
Roland Demaria	Member at Large 1 Past 1 st & 2 nd vice president	2008	2013	Congress President 2009	2007-2013
Steffen Manekeller	Member at Large 2	2008	2011		2008-2014
Henrik Thorlacius	Member at Large 3 Past President Past Secretary General	2011	2012		2006-2012
Frank Dor	Member at Large 4	2011	2017		2011-2017

General Committee Meeting, 17. March. 2012, Lille, France

We would like ask the Board Members to reserve the date of General Committee meeting in Lille. The organisers will arrange the accommodation for 16th and 17th of March and the formal dinner will be in Lille on Saturday 17th of March 2012.

Please find the preliminary agenda of the meeting:

1. Report of the President
2. Report of the Secretary General
3. Report of the Treasurer
4. Report of the Congress President 2012 (F Pattou)
5. Report of the Congress President 2013 (O Yuksel)
6. Visiting the venue of the Congress 2012
7. Varia
8. Abstract selection meeting - (selection of the abstract according to the scores and their topics and allocation for Walter Brendel (Best Experimental) and ESSR Best Clinical Research sessions. The committee will also discuss the allocation of the candidate papers for Best Young Investigator and B. Braun Awards.

Website: www.essr.info

With our best regards,



Charles Malata
President, ESSR

Department of Plastic Surgery
Addenbrooke's University Hospital
Cambridge University Hospitals NHS
Foundation Trust
Box 186, Hills Road
Cambridge, UK

Phone: +44-1223-586 672
Fax: +44-1223-257177
charles.malata@addenbrookes.nhs.uk



Mustafa Cikirikcioglu
Secretary General, ESSR

Division of Cardiovascular Surgery,
Department of Surgery
University Hospitals of Geneva
Rue Gabrielle-Perret-Gentil 4 - 1211
Genève 14, Switzerland

Phone(office) :(+41) 22 37 276 63
Phone (mobile) :(+41) 76 535 10 84
Fax : (+41) 22 37 276 34
mustafa.cikirikcioglu@hcuge.ch