



Note from the new President

I am honoured to address the members of the Society as newly elected president. To serve as your president, I understand this task not only as a privilege but also as the opportunity and responsibility to re-strengthen the power of surgical research and the impact of our Society.

In line with this, the autumn newsletter 2007 brings out important new information on your membership and the official journal of the ESSR, which deserves your particular attention:

- With effect from December 31, 2007, the contract with Karger and the affiliation of our Society with the journal *European Surgical Research* has been terminated.
- With effect from January 1, 2008, we have signed the contract, consolidating the position of the *British Journal of Surgery* as the official journal of the ESSR. This contract could be realised due to the major effort and initiative of our former president Thomas Minor.
- These new conditions allow us to markedly lower *ESSR membership fee to €30 per annum*, as there is *no mandatory link* between ESSR membership and subscription to BJS.
- ESSR membership fee of €30 comprises *free access to the Internet Course on Surgical Research*, including a diploma certifying successful completion of the course and the exam pass.

The General Committee thinks that the contract with BJS Society abundantly complies with the present needs of the Society and offers a variety of attractive issues, outlined below:

- BJS *publishes in an online format selected abstracts* submitted for the annual meeting of the ESSR.
- BJS Society allows a reasonable amount of *material related to the ESSR to be posted on its website*.
- BJS Society funds *an annual lectureship being known as British Journal of Surgery lecture* and being held each year at the annual congress of the ESSR.
- BJS Society funds *an annual prize for an outstanding paper* at the ESSR annual meeting.
- An appointment of one qualified person *on the Editorial Board of the BJS* will be offered to an appointed representative of the ESSR commencing January 1, 2008.
- BJS Society provides *two half pages of colour advertising space* to the ESSR at 50% of the current list price for the purpose of advertising the annual congress of the ESSR.
- Members of the ESSR will be optionally offered the *BJS at a cost of £72* (instead of £146) per member to include *a print subscription plus online access* for the first year of the deed.

Based on these novel conditions, I strongly encourage you to recruit new active members to our Society and to support the idea of our Society, i.e. providing a particular frame of international dimension for the progress of academic surgical research. Thus, I further like

to remind of the ESSR-fellowship grant, for which junior researchers can apply to join distinct centers of competence in surgical research.

By active living and shaping our concept to congregate and share multidisciplinary insights in academic surgery at a high scientific level, we can revitalise the European spirit of surgical research. With this in mind, I currently prepare a first proposal to apply for an EU-funded Marie Curie Action, termed 'European Surgical Research Initial Training Network (ESR-ITN)' and hope to provide you with further information on the progress of this proposal during the General Assembly at our next annual meeting in May 2008 in Warsaw.

Best personal regards, Brigitte Vollmar

General Assembly, Rotterdam, Netherlands, 2007

Report of the General Assembly of the ESSR, Rotterdam 2007

Time and place: Friday, May 25, 2007, from 1800h-2000h. Room 'Rotterdam', World Trade Center, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Present: 33 members were present at the opening of the General Assembly (GA).

Agenda:

1. Report of the President
2. Voting - affiliation with the British Journal of Surgery
3. Report of the Secretary General
4. Voting – New General Committee composition
5. Report of the Scientific Studies chairman (Prof M Cainzos)
6. Report of the Treasurer
7. Report of the Congress President 2007 (I Alwayn)
8. Report of the Congress President 2008 (G Szczesny)
9. Election of new members
10. Proposals for the Congress Venue 2010: Bonn (Germany); Geneva (Switzerland)
11. Voting – Congress Venue 2010
12. Varia

1. Report of the President: T Minor

The president first thanked Ian Alwayn for a well-organised congress with an outstanding scientific standard.

The president reported on his travel to the SUS and SARS meeting, where the Brendel awardee successfully presented her work.

The remaining time was dedicated to the important issue of the Society's journal affiliation. As already mentioned in newsletter 01/07, the General Committee (GC) supports the contract proposed by the British Journal of Surgery (BJS). Details of this proposal are outlined in the "note from the new President" above.

2. Voting on the journal affiliation

The affiliation with BJS was approved by 26 in favour against 3. The new president and SG now have a mandate to finish the existing contract with Karger (until the end of 2007) and sign a new contract with the BJS.

3. Report of the Secretary General: W Ceelen

The SG reported on his travel to the Surgical Research Society of Southern Africa in Durban, July 2006.

The SG reported on the proposal by the GC and elaborated in detail by H Thorlacius, to install an ESSR fellowship grant amounting to 3000 Euro. Detailed information and an application form will be posted on the Society website. Conditions include that

- at least two European centers collaborate,
- the applicant and the department heads are paying members of the ESSR
- a report of the output of the work is presented during the next yearly congress.

This initiative was approved by majority handvote.

The SG reported on the obituary of Prof Klopper, founding member of the ESSR. A moment of silence was held in order to honour his memory.

The SG received 12 membership applications. All were approved by majority handvote. Congratulations!

The SG reported on the vacant positions in the GC. As announced in the 01/07 newsletter, the GC in agreement with the nominating committee proposed as new president Brigitte Vollmar (Rostock), as SG Henrik Thorlacius (Malmö) and as members at large Ian Alwayn (Rotterdam) and Charles Malata (Cambridge, UK). The new composition of the ESSR GC would be as follows:

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

4. Voting – New General Committee composition

The new GC composition was approved by unanimous secret vote (33/33). Congratulations and keep up the good work!

5. Report of the Chairman of the Scientific Studies Committee (M Cainzos)

In the 2006 Rostock Congress at the General Assembly it was decided unanimously to create an Internet Course on Surgical Research.

As a result thirty authors from different countries were invited to participate in this project writing a chapter.

So far eighteen chapters have been received and another four are being completed. As director of the course I would like to remind the authors also haven't sent in their chapters to kindly do so as soon as possible because the General Committee does not want to postpone the opening of the course.

I would like to thank all the authors for their participation and collaboration in this educational project of the ESSR.

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

The financial report for the year 2006 and the first trimester of 2007 are given below. The report was approved by the Trustees of the Society.

YEAR 2006

Balance to 05-12-31 44.417,26

Travel costs	6.180,37
Awards	3.984,00
Administrative costs	134,44
Total payments	10.298,81

Receipts	8.000,70
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Balance 06-01-01 to 06-12-31 -2.298,11

Balance to 07-02-16 42.119,15

YEAR 2007

Balance to 06-12-31 42.119,15

Travel costs	2.151,65
Awards	2.000,00
Administrative costs	68,92
Total payments	4.220,57

Receipts	0,00
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Balance 07-01-01 to 07-05-22 -4.220,57

Balance to 07-05-22 37.898,58

7. Report of the Congress President 2007: I Always

The 42nd congress of the European Society for Surgical Research took place from May 23 – 26, 2007 in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. We were able to offer an outstanding congress venue at the Beurs / World Trade Center in the heart of Rotterdam and, in cooperation with our sister societies, the Society of University Surgeons (SUS) and the Society of Academic and Research Surgery (SARS). A varied and stimulating program was presented.

A total of 285 abstracts were submitted from 23 different countries covering the following topics: transplantation biology, tissue engineering, organ dysfunction and regeneration, angiogenesis and metastatic patterns, local ablative therapies, vascular biology, surgical pathophysiology, minimally invasive and endovascular surgery, general and abdominal surgery, trauma and orthopaedic surgery, cardiothoracic surgery, and plastic and reconstructive surgery. After an extensive review process, during which all abstracts were reviewed by 5 independent reviewers, 206 abstracts were accepted for oral presentation and 61 were accepted for poster presentation. In addition, 4 keynote lectures and 2 satellite symposia were presented. The prestigious Walter Brendel Award was presented to Dr. Barend Mees, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, the Young Investigator Award to Dr. D. Palmes, Munster, Germany, the Poster Award to Dr. J.M. Bellon, Madrid, Spain, and the B. Braun Scientific Award to Dr. F. Rezaeian, Geneva, Switzerland. The congress was supported by a small exhibition plaza consisting of 4 industry partners.

The congress was preceded by a work-shop on laparoscopic techniques in the Skills Center of Erasmus MC that was attended by 12 surgeons from 7 different countries.

The social program consisted of a reception at Rotterdam City Hall where the city council member for Health Affairs welcomed our delegates. The following evening, an informal get-together was organised at the Beach at the river Maas and the congress dinner was

held across the river at the Cruise Terminal with fantastic views of the harbour. Of course, the weather was great and we were able to spend much of the evenings outdoors.

It is our opinion that the 42nd congress of our society was a great success, and that the 328 participants dared to share their experience in Rotterdam. We would like to thank all those responsible for this success and wish the organising committee of the 43rd congress the best of luck!

8. Report of the Congress President 2008: G Szczesny

On behalf of the board of the European Society for Surgical Research and the local organising committee, it is our honour and pleasure to invite you to Warsaw, Poland, to participate in the 43rd Congress of the European Society for Surgical Research on May 21-24, 2008. The main idea of the organised Congress will be to promote cooperation between clinicians representing all surgical disciplines and scientists working in the field of surgery and disciplines supporting it. Basing on previous, annual meetings of the ESSR, the Congress will enable discussion between clinicians and scientists, surgeons and basic researchers, to share their knowledge and experience, to improve implementation of the newest techniques and technologies into clinical practice. It is also of interest to enable surgeons to contact with the most prominent technologies, including clinical genetics and molecular medicine, to improve their scientific skills and tools, and to support clinical diagnostics and treatment. During the Congress, the newest surgical knowledge will be present on the invited lectures. We would also like to invite clinicians and researchers representing all surgical disciplines to present their experience, to join the discussions on the newest achievements in surgery and confront the newest results with clinical practice. We further like to announce that the Internet Course of Surgical Research will be offered to attend at Wednesday, May 21, during the pre-congress workshop. In addition, an internet corner at the Congress will allow the access to the Internet Course over the whole congress time. Oral, poster, and video sessions will allow the participants to present their newest results from clinical observations and from basic research. For the first time, the Congress program will comprise the British Journal of Surgery lecture. In addition, the British Journal of Surgery annual prize will be handed out. You will be also offered several social activities to get familiar with Warsaw and Poland, their people, history, culture and nature. For more information, please visit the Congress homepage: <http://www.essr2008.pl> or contact us directly: office@essr2008.pl

10. Proposals for the Congress Venue 2010

Two proposals were received by the Secretary General, and these candidates presented their application during the GA. S Manekeller presented Bonn, Germany, while M Cikirikcioglu presented Geneva, Switzerland as possible 2010 venue.

11. Voting – Congress Venue 2010

Following anonymous vote, **Geneva was approved as the congress venue 2010** by 20 votes against 10. Congratulations!

12. Varia

The President closed the General Assembly at 1930h.

43rd ESSR Congress Warzaw , Poland, 2008

The 43rd Congress of the ESSR will be held from May 21-24, 2008 in Warsaw, Poland (Congress President: Grzegorz Szczesny). 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!

Internet Course on Surgical Research, 2008

The European Society for Surgical Research (ESSR) is organising 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.

The course will cover 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.

The course will be available on internet next year. The first module is going to be open on January 1st, 2008.

ESSR Fellowship Award, 2008

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", which was supported by a majority at the General Assembly in Rotterdam 2007. The creation of the ESSR fellowship award is intended to increase collaboration in surgical research within the ESSR.

Application: The application for the ESSR fellowship should 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 (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** 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 Warsaw, Poland 2006 at the General Assembly.

Amount: 3000 Euro.

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

Detailed information is also posted on the ESSR website.

Important Note for the ESSR Membership list

Please check that your name is on the membership list at the ESSR website and that the contact details are correct. Please provide a valid e-mail address, as most of our communications and announcements are sent by e-mail. This is a very important note as we from now on are responsible within the ESSR to keep our membership list updated.

With our best regards,



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