



## Note from the President

Dear members of ESSR,

I hope everyone shared my enthusiasm for the very successful ESSR meeting in Geneva 2010. I want to forward my appreciation to Mustafa Cikirikcioglu and his hard-working team that organised and executed the excellent 45<sup>th</sup> ESSR congress. Thanks.

I also want to thank the President of the Society of University Surgeons, Dr. Dai Chung who attended and the South African Prize winner, Dr. Martin Brand, who presented his work at the ESSR congress in Geneva.

This is my last year as president of ESSR and I want to encourage all members to propose potential candidates for my replacement at General Assembly in Aachen 2011 either by sending proposals to the nominating committee or by presenting the proposals at the General Assembly in Aachen 2011.

Please remember to nominate candidates for the "ESSR Fellowship Award 2010" to the General Secretary ([charles.malata@addenbrookes.nhs.uk](mailto:charles.malata@addenbrookes.nhs.uk)). This is such a useful opportunity to increase collaboration within Europe and strengthen our identity in the ESSR.

I am very much looking forward to seeing you all at the 46th Congress of the ESSR, May 25-28, in Aachen, Germany ([www.essr2011.de](http://www.essr2011.de)). I am convinced that Rene Tolba and co-workers will organize a great meeting!

Best regards, Henrik Thorlacius

## Note from the Secretary General

We have had a great year in 2010 with the Geneva Congress which was a big success and received a record number of membership applications. Our sincere thanks and congratulations to Mustafa Cikirikcioglu and the Local Organising Committee in Geneva.

### News:

- I represented the ESSR at the 38<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Surgical Research Society of Southern Africa (SRS-SA) in East London July 15-16. I was impressed by the high quality of papers presented at the 2-day congress. I was also deeply touched by the warm hospitality extended to me and the SUS representative, Dr. Simeone. The Walter Brendel Award winner was, however, unable to present his paper due to work commitments. We hope to rectify the situation this year. I also extended invitation to the the SRS-SA for their representative to attend our Congress in Aachen and this was accepted.
- The SRS-SA prize winner, Dr Martin Brand, presented his experience of the ESSR Congress and visit to Switzerland. It was gratifying to learn of the positive light our Congress was viewed by an “outsider” further confirming the success of the Geneva Congress.
- The “GOLDEN BOOK 2” (1991-2010) was successfully launched at the Geneva Congress. Congratulations and special thanks to Mihaly Boros for all the hard work which culminated in the publication of the “Golden Book”. We would also like to thank Dr. Alexander Schachtrupp and his colleagues at B. Braun for their generosity in sponsoring this venture.
- We would like to thank all the chairmen of all the sessions and the members of the Award Committee for adjudicating the presentations. Special thanks go to Bengt Jeppson for kindly serving as on the judges for the B. Braun Award at the last minute.

### Reminders:

- In order to maintain an up-dated membership list I urge everyone to check out their own personal information on our website and also that of other colleagues to make sure that it is up-to-date and correct ([charles.malata@addenbrookes.nhs.uk](mailto:charles.malata@addenbrookes.nhs.uk)).
- The newsletter will be posted on the website ([www.essr.info](http://www.essr.info)) and also an attempt made to send it by email. The latter is not always successful because not all email addresses of the ESSR members are correct or up-to-date.
- For BJS, ESSR Fellowship Award, and Internet Research Course: please see below.
- We also welcome venue suggestions for the 48th Congress of the ESSR in 2014. There is a detailed checklist for planning and organizing an ESSR congress (prepared by Brigitte Vollmar), providing helpful information for forthcoming presidents and aspiring hosts for future congresses.

Yours sincerely,  
 Charles Malata, ESSR Secretary General  
[charles.malata@addenbrookes.nhs.uk](mailto:charles.malata@addenbrookes.nhs.uk)

## Note from the Treasurer

Though we have 336 registered members, only 150 are “regularly paying” members. The current year only 121 have already paid, but of course it is quite common for some of us to wait until the first days of the New Year to clear their fee.

As most of you already know, it is now possible to pay in advance for 3 or 5 years. Up to day, as many as 32 members have chosen this option.

The Internet Course organized by Prof. Cainzos renders its fees directly to our Society, so providing new subscribers to the Course is a very nice way of helping the ESSR economically.

**All members are strongly encouraged to pay their membership fees. It is only 30€**

Best wishes,

Ignacio Garcia-Alonso, ESSR Treasurer

[\(ignacio.galonso@ehu.es\)](mailto:ignacio.galonso@ehu.es)

## 45 ESSR Congress Geneva, Switzerland, 2010

The 45<sup>th</sup> Congress of the European Society for Surgical Research was held on 9 – 10 June 2010 in Geneva, Switzerland under the Congress President, Assoc. Prof. Mustafa Cikirikcioglu. The total number of abstracts was 479 (from 543 submitted abstracts) this year. The congress president reported that the financial balance was positive for the ESSR Congress in Geneva 2010. The congress organizers transferred an additional donation of 2, 000€ to the Society as requested in the contract **over and above the mandatory 8, 000€** for holding the Congress.

The total number of delegates who attended the Congress in Geneva was 436 with 373 being paying participants and 63 falling in the invited category.

There were 222 oral presentations and 257 poster presentations. There were 4 keynote lectures and 1 satellite symposium.

The attendees had a good scientific program and were active during the oral and chaired poster presentation sessions. They thoroughly enjoyed the social program.

### PRIZES WINNERS:

#### **Walter Brendel Award**

**Nikolaos Bonaros** (Vienna, Austria); [nikolaos.bonaros@i-med.ac.at](mailto:nikolaos.bonaros@i-med.ac.at)

“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”

#### **British Journal of Surgery Award (2 Joint Winners)**

**1. Takeaki ISHIZAWA** (Tokyo, Japan); [tish-tky@umin.ac.jp](mailto:tish-tky@umin.ac.jp)

“Scientific basis and clinical application of indocyanine green-fluorescent imaging for identifying hepatocellular carcinoma during liver resection”

**2. Hasan EKER** (Rotterdam, Netherlands); [h.eker@erasmusmc.nl](mailto:h.eker@erasmusmc.nl)

“TEP inguinal hernia repair compared with Lichtenstein: long-term follow-up of a randomized clinical trial”

#### **B. Braun Award**

**Stijn VANDENBERGHE** (Bern, Switzerland).

“Myocardial load control with a synchronized pulsing rotary blood pump in goats”

#### **Young Investigator Award**

**Peter ONODY** (Budapest, Hungary).

“Postconditioning of small intestine on ischemia reperfusion injury model of rats”

#### **Poster Award 1**

**Sylvie EIGELDINGER-BERTHOU** (Berne, Switzerland).

“Electroporation-mediated delivery of functional genes – a promising approach for nonviral-based gene therapy of the failing heart”

#### **Poster Award 2**

**S.M. VAN AALTEN** (Rotterdam, Netherlands)

“Management of hepatocellular adenoma during pregnancy”

## General Assembly, Geneva, Switzerland, 2010

### Report of the 45<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the ESSR, Geneva 2010

**Time and place:** June 11, 2010; from 17:00h to 19:00h. Geneva 2010, Switzerland.

**Present:** 52 members were present at the opening of the General Assembly (GA).

#### Agenda:

1. Report of the President (H Thorlacius)
2. Report of the Secretary General (C Malata)
3. Report of the Treasurer (I Alonso)
4. Report on Internet Course on Surgical Research (M Cainzos)
5. Report of the Congress President 2010 (M Cikirikcioglu)
6. Report of the Congress President 2011 (R Tolba)
7. Report of the Congress President 2012 (F Pattou presented by R. Caiazza)
8. Election of new members
9. Election of Congress Venue 2013
10. Varia

#### 1. Report of the President: Henrik Thorlacius

The president reported on his attendance of the congress of the Sister Society, SARS at the Royal Free Hospital, London, UK in January 2010 and the American Academic Surgical Congress in San Antonio, Texas in February, 2010.

The president expressed his appreciation for Mihaly Boros' fine work with the Golden Book and Miguel Cainzos' appreciated work with the Internet Course on Surgical Research.

The president strongly encouraged all ESSR members to take advantage of the Special Subscription British Journal of Surgery offer reserved for them. This could be accessed by contacting Sarah Stephens at [society@wiley.co.uk](mailto:society@wiley.co.uk).

The president discussed the ESSR fellowship award and it was decided to continue with ESSR fellowship award in spite of the low number of applications submitted. The president urged all members to submit applications for next year. The future of the ESSR fellowship award will be discussed at the General Assembly in Aachen 2011.

#### 2. Report of the Secretary General: Charles Malata

The SG reported that:

##### **Karger Refund to ESSR (CHF 14, 237.70)**

Following the termination of the Karger Contract, the subscriptions collected by Karger on behalf of the Society and all other monies held for the ESSR in relation to the contract were refunded to the Society – see the Treasurer's Report.

##### **Sister Societies**

The SG informed the GA of the following representations of the Society

- SRS-SA: Charles Malata

- SUS/ ASC 2010: Henrik Thorlacius
- SARS 2010: Henrik Thorlacius

He also announced with regret that the representatives of the SARS and SRS-SA had been unable to make it.

### **B. Braun Sponsorship of 2<sup>nd</sup> Golden Book**

The SG informed the society that Mihaly Boros had approached GC for financial support (€1000 for 300 issues) and B. Braun had kindly donated €1,500. He thanked Alexander Schachtrupp and his colleagues at B. Braun for their generous sponsorship and the General Committee's proposal to include the B. Braun Logo in the Golden book. There was no dissention to this proposal. He also thanked Rene Tolba for the initial approaches to B. Braun.

### **B. Braun Financial Support for ESSR Course on Clinical Research Studies**

He also informed the GA of the offer of B. Braun to run a one-day Course in Clinical Research Study and totally sponsor this. A suggestion was received that experts from the Clinical Studies Centre in Heidelberg/ Cologne could undertake this course. The specifics had been left to Rene Tolba to work out in conjunction with B. Braun and the Centre in Heidelberg. The outstanding issues to be addressed in those discussions were:

- number of participants: 5-7 groups of 3 participants
- when, where, how often, name
- each pre-congress course?
- independent of the Congress?
- once per year

### **ESSR Fellowship Awards**

- 2010: Jonas Roller (Institute of Experimental Surgery, Saarland University, Homburg). Title: "*Role of Platelets and CD40L in Septic Lung Injury*". Collaborators: Department of Clinical Sciences at Lund University in Malmo. There had been only one applicant and the GC had, nevertheless, decided to award the fellowship to this applicant:
- 2009: Mehmet Can (Ankara, Turkey) was to later present an interim report on his project: "*Multicenter double-blind randomised trial of the clinical value of preoperative oral carbohydrate loading in colorectal surgery*".

### **Varia**

The SG also mentioned retiring, honorary and deceased members would be honoured by a mention at the General Assembly Meeting and it was proposed that there be a mention on the Home Page of the Honorary Members.

He also announced the **death of Prof Kloevekorn** (Bau Nauheim, Germany) on March 28, 2010. He was a Founding Member of ESSR and had a distinguished career including being the Chief Editor of Cardiovascular Surgeon.

Request for Historical Information **from Prof. Freddy Vermuelen** was also passed on: anyone with access to the **Proceedings of 1st ESSR Meeting: Nancy, France 1967** could they please contact the SG so that he could pass on this information to Prof. Vermuelen?

### **The ESSR Contract - Lille signed**

The Contracts for holding the 47<sup>th</sup> ESSR Congresses in Lille were duly signed by Dr. Robert Caiazzo on behalf of Prof. Francois Pattou.

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

The treasurer presented the balance to 15<sup>th</sup> May 2010 (see the table).

#### YEAR 2009

**Balance to 08-12-31 36.999,08**

<b>Travel costs</b>	3.738,15
<b>Awards</b>	5.192,84
<b>Administrative costs</b>	81,88
<b>Other</b>	67,08
<b>Total payments</b>	9.079,95

<b>Membership Fees</b>	4.406,04
<b>Fund raising &amp; ESSR Congress</b>	23.457,87
<b>Receipts</b>	27.863,91

**Anual Balance 2009 18.783,96**

**Cumulated Balance to 09-12-31 55.783,04**

#### YEAR 2010

**Balance to 09-12-31 55.783,04**

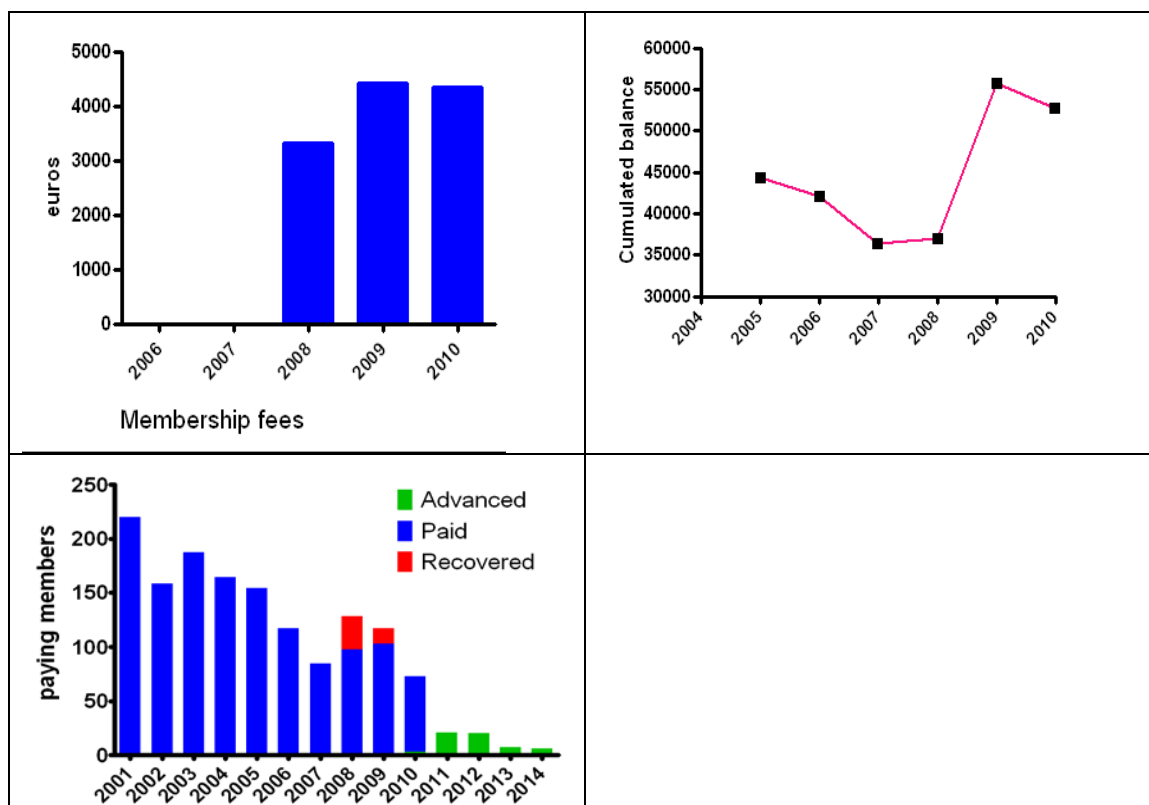
<b>Travel costs</b>	5.406,46
<b>Awards</b>	1.848,10
<b>Administrative costs</b>	56,59
<b>Other</b>	8,92
<b>Total payments</b>	7.320,07

<b>Membership Fees</b>	4.339,37
<b>Fund raising &amp; ESSR Congress</b>	
<b>Receipts</b>	4.339,37

**Balance 09-12-31 to 10-05-31 -2.980,70**

**Cumulated Balance to 10-05-31 52.802,34**

The amount collected from membership fees continues increasing (the ESSR started collecting the fees directly from its members in 2008). Accordingly, and also thanks to the funds provided by the Internet Course, the balance of the Society is increasing while new activities are being funded by the ESSR. However, there jet many registered members who are not paying their fees. New efforts should be made to recover these people.



#### 4. Report on Internet Course on Surgical Research (M Cainzos)

Prof Miguel Cainzos presented a breakdown of the progress over the last year in the Internet Course on Surgical Research.

He again reiterated that the course was free for members but non-members have to pay 100 Euros.

There had been 17 non-members signing up for the course thus raising a total of 1,700 Euros). 14 members had also registered for the course.

The deadline for registration for the course is December.

At the time the total users were 23 comprising 17 active users and 6 non-active users of the course – these were 3 ESSR members and 20 non-members.

The Secretary General congratulated Prof. Cainzos and thanked him profusely for his time and hard work in making this course a great success.

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

Dr. Cikirikcioglu reported that the organisers have had no major problems with financial side of the congress in Geneva. He also said that the intention is to pay the 8000 Euro to the society for holding the ESSR congress.

#### 6. Report of the Congress President 2011 (R. Tolba)

Rene Tolba presented the progress and details around the 46<sup>th</sup> ESSR Congress in Aachen, Germany. The planning of the congress was well advanced and on-schedule.

He presented the congress brochures and invited everybody to Aachen.

We all look forward to going to Germany next year.

### **7. Report of the Congress President 2012 (R. Caiazza for Prof. F. Pattou)**

Robert Caiazza informed the congress that Prof Pattou was not able to attend the Congress and the General Assembly meeting in person due to work commitments.

For further information of the Lille Congress please contact Congress President: Francois PATTOU ([a-bertin@chru-lille.fr](mailto:a-bertin@chru-lille.fr))

You are all welcome.

### **8. Election of new members**

New applicants for ESSR membership were:

AIMITRAKAKIS Georgius, UK (Cardiff)  
 AKCAN Alper, Turkey (Kayseri)  
 AL-ALAO Bassel, Ireland (Dublin)  
 ALBAYATI Mostafa, UK (Southampton) – MEDICAL STUDENT  
 ALPTEKIN Hissnu, Turkey (Konya)  
 ALVAREZ-CIENFUEGOS Javier, Spain (Pamplona)  
 CAIAZZO Robert, France (Lille)  
 CETINER Saddettin, Turkey (Ankara)  
 DEMIRAS Sezai, Turkey (Ankara)  
 FERREIRA Gabor, Hungary (Budapest)  
 HANCERLIOGULLARI Oguz. TURKEY (Izmir)  
 HATEMI Ali Can, Turkey (Istanbul)  
 HERNANDEZ HERNANDEZ Juan Ramon, Spain (Las Palmas)  
 HEGUDUS Victor, Hungary (Budapest)  
 HOINOIU Bodgan, Romania (Timisoara)  
 HUSSAIN Mubashar, UK (High Wycombe)  
 KATSIMPOULAS Michael, Greece (Athens)  
 KHOURY George, Iran (Rizk)  
 NAGUIB Nader, UK (Merthyr Tydfil)  
 ONODY Peter, Hungary (Budapest)  
 OZER M Tahir, Turkey (Ankara)  
 OZERHAN Ismail Hakki, TURKEY (Ankara)  
 OZTURK Erkan, Turkey (Ankara)  
 OZTURK Ersin, Turkey (Bursa)  
 PANAGIOTOPOULOS Nikolaos, Greece (Athens)  
 STAMATAKOS Michael, Greece (Athens)  
 STANGL Rita, Hungary (Budapest)  
 THENGUNGAL KOCHUPAPY Rajesh, UK (Llanelli)  
 TUROCZI Zsolt, Hungary (Budapest)  
 TUFAN Turgut, Turkey (Ankara)  
 WALSH Siun, Ireland (Dublin)  
 YAGCI Gokhan, Turkey (Ankara)  
 YESILDAGLAR Narter, Turkey (Istanbul)  
 YILMAZ Huseyin, Turkey (Konya)

Total 34 applications.

All were approved for ESSR membership by majority hand-vote by the General Assembly.

**9. Election of new members of the General Committee**

Mustafa Cikirikcioglu, the Geneva Congress President, was elected as member of the General Committee. This was approved by the GA.

Prof Francois Pattou was elected into the General Committee as 2nd vice president since becoming Congress President for 2012.

**10. Election of new Trustee**

Mihaly Boros was duly elected as a Trustee.

## General Committee 2010-2011

Name	Present and past functions	Position elected	Position ends	Remarks	Possible time to serve (max 6 years)
<i>Henrik Thorlacius</i>	<b>President</b> Past Secretary General Past Member at large	2009	2011	Former General Secretary	2006-2012
<i>Charles Malata</i>	<b>Secretary General</b> Past Member at large	2009	2012		2007-2013
<i>Ignacio Garcia-Alonso</i>	<b>Treasurer</b> Past Member at large	2009	2012		2005-2011
<i>Rene Tolba</i>	<b>1st vice president</b> Past 2 <sup>nd</sup> vice president	2009	2012	Congress President 2012	2009-2015
<i>Ian Alwayn</i>	<b>Member at large</b> , Past 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2nd vice president	2007	2011	Congress President 2007	2005-2011
<i>Roland Demaria</i>	<b>Member at Large</b> Past 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2nd vice president	2008	2013	Congress President 2009	2007-2013
<i>Steffen Manekeller</i>	<b>Member at large</b>	2008	2011		2008-2014
<i>Francois Pattou</i>	<b>2nd vice president</b>	2010	2011	Congress President 2012	2010-2016
<i>Mustafa Cikirikcioglu</i>	<b>Member at large</b>	2010	2013	Congress President 2010	2008-2014
<i>Brigitte Vollmar</i>	<b>BJS Representative</b>	2009	2013	President 2007-2009 Congress President 2006 <b>Non-voting member of GC</b>	2008-2013

## 8. Election of Congress Venue 2013

A proposal was received from Istanbul (Turkey) by the Secretary General for hosting the 48<sup>th</sup> ESSR Congress in May 2013. Osman Yuksel presented the application during the GA. Following anonymous voting, Istanbul, Turkey was approved as the congress venue 2013 under the presidency of Dr Osman Yuksel and secretary general Mehmet Fatih Can. Congratulations Istanbul, Turkey!

## 9. Varia

### Membership of Nominating Committee

Tomas Minor, Germany, Chairman,  
Wim Ceelen, Belgium  
Thomas van Gulik, Netherlands

### Membership of Award Committee

Alexander Schachtrupp, Germany  
Mustafa Sahin, Turkey  
Mihaly Boros, Hungary  
Eric Allaire, France  
Nobert Nemeth, Hungary  
Yuzo Yamamoto, Japan  
JM Bellon-Caneiro, Spain  
Micheal Menger, Germany

### 2012 Congress

Robert Caiazzo presented the signed the Contract for hosting the 47<sup>th</sup> Congress in Lille (France).

The President closed the General Assembly at 19.30h.

## Sister Societies (SUS, SARS, SRS-SA)

We greatly value our close association with our sister societies in the USA, UK and South Africa. In the last year their annual conferences were attended by  
Henrik Thorlacius – SUS (Academic Surgical Congress)  
Henrik Thorlacius – SARS  
Charles Malata - SRS-SA

The plans for 2011 are

Henrik Thorlacius – SARS, January 5 - 6, Dublin, UK ✓  
Charles Malata – SUS (Academic Surgical Congress), Feb 1-3 Huntington Beach, CA ✓  
Henrik Thorlacius – SRS-SA, Pretoria, June 23-24, 2011

## 46 ESSR Congress Aachen, Germany, 2011

The 46th Congress of the European Society for Surgical Research, Aachen, Germany will be organized by the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Prof. Rene Tolba.

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

## 47 ESSR Congress Lille, France, 2012

The 47th Congress of the European Society for Surgical Research, Lille, France will be organized by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Prof. Francois Pattou.

Contact: Congress President: Francois Pattou ([a-bertin@chru-lille.fr](mailto:a-bertin@chru-lille.fr))

## 49 ESSR Congress, 2014

### Congress Venue 2014

Members are encouraged to submit proposals for the ESSR congress venue 2014.

## Internet Course on Surgical Research, 2009

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 and junior doctors to take the course.

## ESSR Fellowship Award, 2011

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" for the third time, which was supported by a majority at the General Assembly in Nimes 2009. 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 February, 2011** and should be submitted to the General Secretary, Charles Malata ([charles.malata@addenbrookes.nhs.uk](mailto: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 scientific merits. The decision will be announced on the ESSR congress in Geneva 2010 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.

**Website: [www.essr.info](http://www.essr.info)**

With our best regards,



Henrik Thorlacius  
 President, ESSR  
 University of Lund  
 Department of Surgery  
 Malmö University Hospital  
 S-20502 Malmö  
 Sweden

Phone: +46-40-331000  
 Fax: +46-40-927877  
[henrik.thorlacius@med.lu.se](mailto:henrik.thorlacius@med.lu.se)



Charles Malata  
 Secretary General, 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](mailto:charles.malata@addenbrookes.nhs.uk)

Special Announcement to the General Committee Members

## **General Committee Meeting, Aachen, Germany**

### **Protocol Abstract & General Committee Meeting, Aachen, Germany, 2011**

**Time and place:** Saturday February 19/26, 2010, Aachen, Germany, .  
 University Hospital Aachen, Mareike Schulz, Pauwelsstrasse 30, 52074 Aachen,  
 Germany.

## Message from Congress President 2011

Welcome Adress:

Dear Members of the ESSR Society,  
Dear Colleagues, Dear Participants,

On behalf of the organizing committee and the board of the European Society of Surgical Research, it gives me a great pleasure to welcome you all to Aachen, Germany for the 46<sup>th</sup> ESSR Congress. This year's theme of "Medical Technology & Surgery today" will reflect the opportunity and challenge of multidisciplinary co-operation and research medicine, engineering and natural science. When the society was founded in 1966, the aim to bring together surgeons and engineers, immunologists and biologists and so forth - was outrageously new and effective. Today the concept still is valid and one of the major goals of the ESSR is to encourage young scientists and researchers.

The goal of the congress is, to present a current overview in the field of surgical research with all involved fields like medical engineering, biomaterials, miniaturized instruments and implants as well as new techniques and trends in surgery.

Our congress will start with pre-symposium animal workshops on abdominal organ transplantation, resection techniques and new optical imaging techniques.

We also invite you to enjoy the sights and sounds of our attractive historical city and its beautiful surroundings in the triangle border of Germany, The Netherlands and Belgium.

We are looking forward to welcome you for the 46<sup>th</sup> annual ESSR Congress in Aachen, Germany. Be our guest in May 2011.

Sincerely yours

René H. Tolba, MD, PhD  
Congress President, ESSR 2011

**Contact Address:**

Univ.-Prof. Dr. med. Rene H. Tolba  
Direktor  
Institut für Versuchstierkunde sowie  
Zentrallaboratorium für Versuchstiere  
Med.-Fakultät der RWTH Aachen  
Universitätsklinikum Aachen  
Pauwels Str. 30  
D-52074 Aachen-Germany  
Phone: +49-241-8080472  
Fax: +49-241-8082462  
e-mail: rtolba@ukaachen.de