



The President's note

Dear members,

This is the spring newsletter of the year 2004. As President of the Society I would like to give you some new information. As all of you know, *European Surgical Research* is now the official Journal of the Society. The General Committee had proposed Profs. Uwe Hesse and Michael D. Menger, former Presidents of the Society as members of the Editorial Board of the Journal, representing the ESSR. They had been accepted by the Editor-in-Chief, Prof. Konrad Messmer. Hereby I would like to encourage all of you to send papers to the *European Surgical Research* for publication. All of us have the obligation of support the Journal and try to increase its impact factor, as official Journal of the ESSR. I want to remember you that individual members of the Society have additional advantages if they publish in *European Surgical Research* as page charges will be waived for them.

The publisher (Karger Co.) will continue to collect the membership fees on behalf of the Society. I would like to remember the importance to pay the annual fees. More than 40 members of the Society did not pay yet the membership fees corresponding to the year 2003. Please do it as soon as possible as this is very important for the Society's economy.

I would like to invite all of you to visit the website of the Society: www.essr.info. Dr. Wim Ceelen (Ghent, Belgium) made it a very attractive site with plenty of information. There you will be able to find recent news about the Society.

The Secretary General of the ESSR attended the Congress of the Society of Academic and Research Surgery (SARS) in January 2004, representing the Society. The Congress took place in Belfast, Ireland. Walter Brendel prize winner (Dr. J. Savikko) was present, her presentation was very successful.

I, as President of the Society attended the Congress of the Society of University Surgeons (SUS) that took place in February in St. Louis, USA. The Congress was very successful and the scientific level very high. It is also my pleasure to inform you that the SUS awarded our former President, Prof. Michael D. Menger, honorary membership. Congratulations!

The next General Assembly will be held in Athens, Greece. For the forthcoming congress, the Programme Committee and the General Committee have worked on an outstanding selection of papers, including plenary sessions with invited speakers, and near 400 oral presentations and posters. For details, please visit the Congress website: www.essr-congress.gr. As usual, a variety of awards will be handed out (Walter Brendel Award, Young Researchers Award and Poster Award). The General Committee and myself are looking forward to welcoming you to the 39th congress of the ESSR in Athens, Greece on May 12-15, 2004.

The Secretary General's note

Dear members,

The spring newsletter generally informs about the details of the forthcoming meeting, the agenda of the General Assembly, and other activities of our Society. During the General Committee meeting in Athens on February 7, 2004, the GC has finalized the congress program according to the scoring by the international panel of reviewers, and selected the six presenters for the Walter Brendel session. The venue was visited and approved by the GC. Other important issues were:

1. **ESSR 2007** - a formal proposal arrived from Prof. Jaap Bonjer for Rotterdam; other applications for the congress venue 2007 should be sent to the President or the General Secretary without delay.

2. **Honorary membership** – one nomination was received which will be proposed at the General Assembly. Election will be by majority vote.
3. **The emblem** of the Society is still missing. The President will look after this issue personally.
4. **The congress in Athens** will be of outstanding quality. A total of 417 abstracts were received until the prolonged deadline, and 32 thereafter, making a grand total of 449. Several of the reviewers did not send back their scores, even though they accepted the invitation to the international advisory board. Their names will be deleted from this list. Most of the abstracts arrived from Greece (94), Japan (48), UK, Germany and Hungary (33 each). Hepatobiliary surgery, oncology and transplantation were among the most attractive topics.
5. **The contract** with Karger is working, and it could be beneficial for the future of the Society. However, the number of paying members is still under the 250 limit. Members are strongly encouraged to submit original manuscripts, and the number of citations of articles of the Journal should be increased. The ESSR has now space guaranteed in the contract, these pages will be used for the purpose of the Society in the future.

General Assembly, Athens, 2004

Because several important issues will be discussed at our forthcoming meeting in Athens, such as new members for the General Committee, Nominating Committee and Award Committee, together with the restructuring of the status of the national delegates, I would like to invite you all to the next General Assembly on Friday, May 14, 2004, at 18:00 hr to 19:30 hr in Hall A of Hotel Divani Palace (congress venue). The agenda will be:

- 1) report of the President
- 2) report of the Secretary General
- 3) report of the Treasurer
- 4) report of the Congress President 2004
- 5) report of the Congress President 2005
- 6) election of new members for the
 - General Committee
 - Nominating Committee
 - Award Committee
 - Board of Trustees
- 8) election of the congress venue 2007
- 9) miscellaneous

General Committee

In 2003 the composition of the General Committee has been changed and a new President and General Secretary is now in office. In 2004 the General Committee will be renewed again. Agneta Montgomery will leave the General Committee after 6-years of committed work for the Society. Thank you again, Agneta! Other changes are listed below.

Thomas Minor	Treasurer	Could re-elected
Mustafa Sahin	2nd vice president	Will be 1st vice president
Brigitte Vollmar		Will be 2nd vice president
Efstathios Antoniou	1st vice president	Could be elected as member at large

The Nominating Committee has been informed in due time. For the two open positions as members-at-large, the General Committee in agreement with the Nominating Committee suggests Drs. E. Antoniou, Henrik Thorlacius (Malmö, Sweden) and Nicholas Inston (Birmingham, UK). Further proposals could be still accepted by the Nominating Committee.

Nominating Committee

Prof. Bernard De Hemptinne is serving and finishing his 2nd term, thus a new officer must be elected. Thank you again, Bernard, we are counting on your continuing activity and support!

The GC – in accordance with Bernard De Hemptinne’s proposal - suggests Agneta Montgomery to the Nominating Committee.

Award Committee

Our experience from the last congresses have encouraged us to increase the number of members of the Award Committee, because the selection of contributions for the awards always requires a considerable number of reviewers. Roland Anderson (Lund, Sweden), Uwe Brückner (Ulm, Germany) Yoshio Yamaoka (Kyoto, Japan) and Irén Mikó (Debrecen, Hungary) are now serving their 1st term and could be re-elected for another 3-years term. The General Committee suggests Roland Anderson, Uwe Brückner and Irén Mikó for another period, and Drs Uwe Hesse, Yuzo Yamamoto and J.M. Bellon-Caneiro as new members to the Award Committee. They were all informed by the Secretary General.

Trusties

The General Committee judged Brigitte Vollmar’s status incompatible with her future position in the General Committee; and proposes Constantin Vagianos for this position.

Further important notes

For any further information, please contact the President or the Secretary General. Further, we want to encourage you to stimulate young researchers of your group to become a member of the ESSR. You will find a membership application form on our website, which should be sent to the Secretary General. The address is given below as well as on the application form.

May we stress again, that it is particularly important that senior members of the Society should attend the meeting as numerous as possible. The issues to be discussed on the General Assembly will be of utmost importance, and likewise, younger researchers need mentorship, scientific control and criticism by senior researchers. To these aims, we would like to invite you all to Athens to our annual congress.

With best personal regards,



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