



Dear Members,

On behalf of the Society, first we report on the General Assembly held in Ghent, on May 30, 2003.

## General Assembly, Ghent, Belgium, 2003

The President opened the General Assembly at 7.00 p.m in the plenary room of Het Pand, Ghent, Belgium. The General Committee and thirty four members of the Society participated. The agenda was as follows: 1) report of the President; 2) report of the Secretary General; 3) report of the Treasurer; 4) report of the Congress President 2003; 5) report of the Congress President 2004; 6) election of new members; 7) election of the congress venue 2006; 8) election of officers; 9) miscellaneous

### 1. Report of the President (Michael D. Menger)

The President thanked Wim Ceelen and Uwe Hesse for organizing a great meeting with high scientific level. Then he reported that the Society has 229 paying members, while 6 resigned. Although several reminders were sent out, less than 50% had paid membership fees so far. It will be extremely important to collect the regular payment of the fees by contacting the members personally. A last reminder will be sent out to non-paying members before they are removed from the membership list.

According to the decision of the General Assembly, 2 newsletters per year will be emitted in the future. A directory of the ESSR will be prepared for the forthcoming meeting, first on the website then in printed form. The cost will be 300 EUR approximately.

The ESSR website is now working with links to previous ESSR websites. Unfortunately, another Society appeared using the same acronym (ESSR - for European Society of Skeletal Radiology). This question will be handled by Wim Ceelen to avoid confusion.

The contract with Karger was signed, *European Surgical Research* is now the official journal of the ESSR, the Society should make the best of its benefits.

### 2. Report of the Secretary General (Uwe J. Hesse)

The Secretary General reported that three regular members acquainted emeritus status (Profs. Hahn, Manax and Herfarth) and 21 applications were received for membership in the ESSR (see below). As the applications are most often initiated during the registration for the congresses, it was proposed that the procedure could be started at the reception desk if online access to Medline is provided. In this case the publication activity of the applicant can be checked and the criteria of the bylaws could be met.

Dr. Mustafa Sahin (Congress President 2005) signed the contract for ESSR 2005 in Konya, Turkey.

Professors Yoshio Yamaoka (Japan), Stig Bengmark (Sweden) and Mark Evers (USA) were approved and recognized with „Honorary Membership” of the Society. The award ceremony took place during the gala dinner.

Representatives of sister societies present at the Ghent Congress were M. Wyatt (SARS, UK), M. Evers (SUS, USA), I. Yamamoto (Japan), and E. Pagneri (South Africa).

### 3. Report of the Treasurer (Thomas Minor)

The saldo of the Society during the last year has been slightly positive by 3968.60 € , predominantly due to the fact that Karger had not yet billed the Society to substitute for missing membership fees due to Karger for sending out the ESR journal. As of June 2003 only 141 members have paid their annual fee for 2003 to Karger which would menace the society to a forfeit of 109 x 75 € according to the contract made between the ESSR and Karger stating that the ESSR has to cover the gap to 250 paying members.

About 6000 € have been spent for travel expenses and funding of prizes (Walter Brendel Award and poster prizes) while 8000.- € were received as revenue from the Congress held in Szeged Hungary, and about 2000€ have been refunded to the society relating to the abstract publication costs as of 2001. The total balance of the society's account to 01. May 2003 amounts to 36 343.77 €.

**Remarks:** Since the collection of the membership fees had been transferred to Karger (the publisher of ESR), who at the same time takes care to send the ESR journal to every registered member, it should once more be stressed that the

society strongly depends on the due payment of the membership fees to Karger, which should preferentially be done during the first months of the year as to ensure a timely overview of the society's financial situation prior to the annual congress.

#### **4. Report of the Congress President (Wim Ceelen)**

Dear Friends,

The 38th Congress of the Society took place in Ghent, Belgium from 28-31 May 2003 and was attended by 310 participants. The pre-congress workshop on May 28 was attended by 25 young surgeons. The scientific program encompassed a varied range of topics relating both to clinical and experimental surgery. A total of 176 oral presentations, 157 poster presentations and 7 video presentations were presented and published in a regular issue of *Eur Surg Res*. The proceedings of the congress are published by Monduzzi editors. The Brendel session this year also included the awardees presentations from the British, German and SUS surgical research societies. Twenty-two free paper sessions were held along with 7 keynote lectures by M Schein (surgical publishing), J Vermeylen (cellular basis of thrombosis), M Goldman (graft rejection), P Vandenabeele (cell death), F Zoetmulder (hyperthermic oncology), A Sitges Serra (ecosurgery), and M Evers (molecular surgery). Notwithstanding the very warm weather, most sessions were well attended with lively discussion and hardly any no-shows. Scientific symposia were held on the following topics: 'quality control in surgical research', 'pain research', 'immunosuppression', 'hernia repair', 'bariatric surgery', 'artificial liver support', and 'acute pancreatitis'. Pictures from the event and most powerpoint presentations will be available on the congress' website. The social programme consisted of a welcome reception in the Ghent opera house, a Leie river boat trip which was much appreciated by the attendants and a gala dinner, which was for the first time held on Saturday evening. You may have a look at the congress website ( [www.essr2003.be](http://www.essr2003.be) ) for the photo album, powerpoint presentations of the keynote lectures and an overview of the award winners. All in all, the 38<sup>th</sup> Congress was very successful and I want to thank all members of the Society on behalf of the Organizing Committee for their contribution. I hope the congress has met your expectations and I look forward to meet you in Athens next year.

#### **5. Report of the Congress President 2004 (Efstathios Antoniou, Athens, Greece)**

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

On behalf of the Organising Committee, it gives me great pleasure to invite you to attend the "39th Congress of the European Society of Surgical Research", to be held in Athens, Greece from Wednesday 12th to Saturday 15th May 2004. The Conference venue will be the Divani Apollon Palace Hotel in Kavouri, on the south coast of Athens (approx. 40 min from the City). This hotel boasts purpose-built conference facilities, excellent accommodation and beautiful view to Argosaronicos gulf. Abstract submission deadline is 10 January 2004, the registration form and abstract form are available on line. Please note that the contact www address was changed, the new address is: [www.ESSR-congress.gr](http://www.ESSR-congress.gr)

#### **6. Election of new members**

AKSOY Faruk, Konya, TURKEY  
ASHIKAWA Kazuhiro, Kawasaki, JAPAN  
AVSAR Fatih Mehmet, Ankara, TURKEY  
BLEICHRODT Robert P., Nijmegen, THE NETHERLANDS  
BRÁTH Endre, Debrecen, HUNGARY  
DEMIRAG Alp, Ankara, TURKEY  
KASZAKI József, Szeged, HUNGARY  
MAUDAR Kewal, Bhopal, INDIA  
MÜLLER Stefan A., Aachen, GERMANY  
OZEL Hakan, Ankara, TURKEY  
PATTOU François, Lille, FRANCE  
RIAZ Amjid Ali, Malmö, SWEDEN  
SAYEK Iskender, Ankara, TURKEY  
SCHLEIMER Karina, Cologne, Germany  
STAMATELOPOULOS Athanassios, Athens, GREECE  
STIPPEL Dirk, Cologne, GERMANY  
SZOKOLY Miklós, Budapest, HUNGARY  
TEKIN Sakir, Konya, TURKEY  
TREUTNER Karl-Heinz, Aachen, Germany  
YOL Serdar, Konya, TURKEY  
YUKSEL Bulene, Ankara, TURKEY

We welcome these new members of the Society, and are looking forward to a fruitful scientific contribution and communication.

## 7. Election of the meeting venue for 2006

There were three applications to organize the 2006 ESSR congress. The first presentation came from Prof. Brigitte Vollmar for Rostock, Germany (it was promised that in Rostock the registration fees and hotel prices will be similar to that of Ghent). The second proposition came from Prof. Jeekel for Rotterdam, commending Prof. Bonjer as Congress President. There was a question from the floor asking for the membership of Prof. Bonjer which could not be confirmed. A third application came from Prof. Waclawiczek for Salzburg, Austria, but the name of the Congress President was not given this time. The result of the voting was: 18 Rostock, 12 Salzburg, 3 for Rotterdam. Thus Rostock, Germany, will be the venue of the ESSR 2006. Congratulations to Brigitte Vollmar !

Finally it was pointed out that much more careful planning is needed in the future and correct bids and applications for congress venues are very important.

## 8. Election of new officers

Michael D. Menger stepped down as president, Uwe J. Hesse as secretary general; Miguel Cainzos (Santiago de Compostela, Spain) and Mihály Boros (Szeged, Hungary) were nominated as president and secretary general of the Society, respectively. Markus Büchler left the General Committee, and the Committee suggested Wim Ceelen to replace him as "Member at large". Michael Menger and Uwe Hesse were also nominated as Members at large. This was confirmed by the General Assembly. The names of new officers of the Society for the year 2003/2004 are given below.

<b>General Committee:</b>	<i>President:</i>	CAINZOS Miguel, Santiago de Compostela, SPAIN
	<i>General Secretary:</i>	BOROS Mihály, Szeged, HUNGARY
	<i>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:</i>	ANTONIOU Efstathios, Athens, GREECE
	<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:</i>	SAHIN Mustafa, Konya, TURKEY
	<i>Treasurer:</i>	MINOR Thomas, Bonn, GERMANY
	<i>Members at large:</i>	MENGER Michael D, Homburg/Saar, GERMANY HESSE Uwe, Ghent, BELGIUM MONTGOMERY Agneta, Malmö, SWEDEN CEELEN Wim, Ghent, BELGIUM
<b>Nominating Committee:</b>		DE HEMPTINNE Bernard, Ghent, BELGIUM VAN GULIK Thomas, Amsterdam, NETHERLANDS WACLAWICZEK Hans, Salzburg, AUSTRIA
<b>Award Committee:</b>		ANDERSON Roland, Lund, SWEDEN BRÜCKNER Uwe, Ulm, GERMANY KARATZAS Theodore, Patras, GREECE MIKÓ, Irén, Debrecen, HUNGARY YAMAOKA, Yoshio, Kyoto, JAPAN
<b>Trustees:</b>		JEPPSSON Bengt, Malmö, SWEDEN VOLLMAR Brigitte, Rostock, GERMANY

In their first addresses, the newly elected officers thanked for Michael Menger and Uwe Hesse for serving the Society with dedication and commitment.

## Awardees, Ghent, 2003

The *Walter Brendel Award* of the 38<sup>th</sup> ESSR meeting was presented to **Dr. J. Savikko** and coworkers (Helsinki, Finland) for the presentation: Chronic renal allograft nephropathy is prevented by Imatinib (STI571), a specific PDGF receptor tyrosine kinase inhibitor.

*B Braun Poster Awards:*

**Troitzsch D** and coworkers: Oxygen-dependent interactions during physiological and cardiopulmonary bypass conditions in newborn piglets: effects on hemodynamics and cerebral oxygenation (Eberhard-Karls-Universität Tuebingen, Germany).

**Inderbitzin D.** and coworkers: Ischemia-reperfusion injury is mitigated in transgenic, Human C1 inhibitor overexpressing mice (University Hospital Bern, Switzerland).

*ESSR Poster Awards:*

**Jancsó G** and coworkers: Activation and nuclear translocation of nuclear factor kB and activator protein-1 in the preconditioned myocardium (University of Pécs, Hungary).

**Van Tricht I.** and coworkers: Experimental and numerical simulations of the hydrodynamics in PTFE-grafts. (Ghent University, Belgium).

*Novartis Transplantation Award:*

**Kitade H** and coworkers: Requirements, compartment involved and timing for development of regulatory cells. (University Hospitals Leuven, Belgium).

*Young Investigator Award* was not given in 2003. We warmly congratulate the awardees!

## 39<sup>th</sup> ESSR Congress, Athens, Greece, 2004

We strongly encourage you to participate with your colleagues at the 39<sup>th</sup> ESSR Congress in Athens, Greece in 2004. If you have specific suggestions regarding tentative topics for the meeting or if you are interested to participate please contact the Congress President, Dr. Efstathios Antoniou (all relevant information is on the congress website [www.essr-congress.gr](http://www.essr-congress.gr) - see topic 5 of the General Assembly report).

## Obituary

We lost a highly respected member of the Society. Professor **Roger Bénichoux**, founder and Honorary Member of ESSR died on June 20, 2003. He had a long and distinguished career not only in clinical practice but in surgical research and science education. He was strongly committed to a borderless European science and made a major contribution to the development of our present international network of co-operation. He was active for more than three decades in the Society. European surgical science, to which he made so many valuable contributions, will be much the poorer for his passing.

## Further important notes

If you have not paid your membership fee to Karger, please do so urgently. We also want to encourage you to stimulate young researchers of your group to become a member of the ESSR. Application forms can be obtained from the President or the Secretary General of the Society. The addresses are given below. It is vital to have a much larger membership! Each of our members should try to recruit at least one new member !

We have regularly two newsletters a year, one in spring and one in autumn - thanks to the efforts of Michael Menger, who pioneered the idea, edited and posted the last eighth issues. The next newsletter will be sent to you in March, 2004, questions, comments, notices - items you wish to have included must reach us by February, 2004.

It would be of importance to reach everyone by electronic post as well. It would be appreciated if you could send a message to [boros@expsur.szote.u-szeged.hu](mailto:boros@expsur.szote.u-szeged.hu) to subscribe to a list to receive the newsletters by e-mail on a regular basis. Similarly, please visit the Society's new website for updated informations ([www.essr.info](http://www.essr.info)). We would be happy to hear any comments you might have.

Miguel Cainzos  
President, ESSR  
Department of Surgery  
University of Santiago de Compostela  
C7 Vidan s/n  
ES 15705, Santiago de Compostela, Spain  
phone: +34-981-951-351  
fax: +34-981-520-275  
e-mail: [ci28@usc.es](mailto:ci28@usc.es)

Mihály Boros  
Secretary General, ESSR  
Institute of Surgical Research  
University of Szeged  
P.O.B. 427, H-6701 Szeged  
Hungary  
phone: +36-62-545102  
fax: +36-62-545743  
e-mail: [boros@expsur.szote.u-szeged.hu](mailto:boros@expsur.szote.u-szeged.hu)