



Dear members,

This is the 2004/02, summer newsletter of the ESSR. On behalf of the Society, first we report on the General Assembly held in Athens, Greece, on May 14, 2004.

## General Assembly, Athens, 2004

The President opened the General Assembly at 6 p.m.; thirty-four members of the Society participated.

### 1. Report of the President (Miguel Cainzos).

- First, the President thanked Stathis Antoniou and his team for organizing a great meeting with warm atmosphere. Then he reported on his visit to the annual meeting of the SUS, which was a great congress with high scientific level.
- He reported that Society has a considerable number of non-paying members. Although several reminders were sent out during the last year, the number is still less than the 250 required for financing the Society and its official journal.
- The President reported that the retractor of the Society is not missing anymore. In the future the emblem will be kept by the President and shall be handled over to the next president. The General Assembly thanked the President for all these efforts.

### 2. Report of the Secretary General (Mihály Boros).

He informed the General Assembly about the SARS Congress in Belfast, UK. The presentation of the 2003 Walter Brendel prize winner of ESSR was successful.

Prof. Brigitte Vollmar (Congress President 2006, Rostock, Germany) signed the contract for the 41<sup>st</sup> ESSR Congress.

The Secretary General informed the General Assembly about the ESSR-Karger Co. agreement. The contract is working and valid until December 31, 2005. After discussion the advantages and disadvantages, the General Assembly agreed with this report.

**3. Report of the Treasurer (Thomas Minor).** The Treasurer reported that the saldo of the Society during the last year has been slightly positive by 2244.08 € predominantly due to the fact that substitution to Karger for missing membership fees had been paid in advance during the last year, and that the hotel costs for the Athens' abstract selection meeting, which this year exceptionally have to be paid by the society, are not yet booked. Then, about 3000 € have been spent for travel expenses, another 1600 € for funding of prices (Walter Brendel Award and poster prices) and about 1500 € for the bureau of past secretary general. On the other hand 8000 € were received as revenue from the Congress held in Ghent and roundabout 400 € from delayed payments of missing membership fees. The total balance of the society's account (as of April 01, 2004) amounts to 38 587.85 €.

He then reported that from a total of 229 listed members 39 were not paying in 2003 despite replicate reminders sent out by Karger, then by the treasurer's bureau and eventually through personal letters by members of the General Committee. Thus, focus should be shifted to the advertising for new, prospectively interested members to achieve a membership status which allows the balance of the ESSR with Karger Co. to become neutral during the next years.

Finally, he reported that as a first innovative measure, it is now possible to sign for credit card payment on the membership application form, which will enable an easier and timely payment process for first applicants.

### 4. Report of the Congress President 2004 (Efstahios Antoniou).

It was a great pleasure for us to have you at the 39<sup>th</sup> ESSR Congress in Athens, 12-15 May 2004. We are sorry that others missed this important annual event of our society. A total number of 409 participants joined us in the Congress. We believe that the congress was well organized and successful – partici-

pants feed back -; the venue was located in one of the most beautiful places of Athens on the south coast, with excellent facilities. The social events, including the Opening Ceremony, Chairmen Dinner, Gala Dinner and visit to the ancient temple of Poseidon at Sounion for the sunset on the last day of the Congress, left the participants with a great pleasure and satisfaction. The Gala Dinner, one of the most important social events of this Congress was taken place at an open restaurant-bar just above the sea, on the rocks of the same coast of the venue, only a few kilometres away. During this event, as used to happen, the awards were given to the winners by the President of the Society Prof. M. Cainzos, by the Congress President and by the President of the SUS Prof. D. Mercer. The 'party' finished quite late after eating, drinking and dancing but many participants wanted to stay more!

The scientific programme had been designed to include a broad range of topics relating to both experimental and clinical surgical research. A good number of nearly 450 high quality abstracts submitted. Along with the free paper and poster sessions five state-of-the-art keynote lectures and two symposiums had enriched the scientific programme. All these factors resulted to a successful scientifically Congress. Looking at the submitted abstracts in more details:

<i>Total Number of Abstracts</i>	437
<i>Rejected</i>	36
<i>Withdrawn</i>	2
<i>Oral Presentations</i>	221
<i>Poster Presentations</i>	178
<i>Total Accepted Abstracts</i>	399

As an organizing committee, it was really a good surprise to us to receive so many and high quality abstracts. The biggest numbers were coming from the topics: HPB Surgery, Organ and Tissue Transplantation and Surgical Oncology. However, as you can see bellow, other topics also had a good number of abstracts. Regarding to the country submission number of abstracts, and comparing with previous meetings, Greece had the highest number of submitted abstracts (94) – something was expected due to the congress location- followed by Japan (48), Germany, Hungary and UK with 33 each, Turkey (28) and The Netherlands (25). The other countries followed with smaller numbers. It is interesting that Japan still remains on the top of the list of countries with the highest submitted number of abstracts. Hungary, although not big enough country, keeps its tradition to research and sends a significant number of abstracts along with The Netherlands. Two different geographically countries gave us a good surprise with the number of their submitted abstracts: UK and Turkey. It is the first that United Kingdom submitted so many and high quality abstracts and we hope that we will see more in the future congresses. Turkey, as the organizer of the next congress, made a good presentation itself, and we hope that we will see more abstracts next year. We believe that our initial aim, to expand our scientific horizons and strengthen our cultural ties by meeting new friends and find once again the old ones, succeeded.

I am sure that all the participants had an unforgettable stay in Athens. **(We confirm this – the editors).**

## **5. Report of the Congress President 2005 (Mustafa Sahin)**

Mustafa Sahin reported that the organization of the 2005 ESSR Congress in Konya proceeds as planned. The meeting receives much attention and support in Turkey. Preliminary registration and information brochures were distributed. A pre-congress course will be organized on 24 May, 2005 with the title “*Basic experimental research course*”, while the core meeting will be organized on **25-28 May, 2005**. The venue will be the Selcuk University S. Demirel Congress Center, Aladdin Keykubad Campus, Konya, Turkey. Some of the important details are summarized below:

Webpage of the congress: [www.essr2005.org](http://www.essr2005.org), Fax:+90.332.2236181, Phone:+90.332.2236619, e-mail: [www.essr2005konya@selcuk.edu.tr](mailto:www.essr2005konya@selcuk.edu.tr) The second announcement will be sent out in October, 2004, while the abstract submission starts also in October, 2004. Importantly, the registration fee will be the same as in Athens ! Four symposia are planned on **1.** wound healing, **2.** live-donor liver transplantation, **3.** treatment of liver hydatid cyst disease and **4.** ethics in research.

Travel to Konya will be easy, there are direct flights to Konya via Istanbul; direct flights to Antalya + motorway transport, and direct flights to Ankara + motorway transport. A regular advertisement appears in the Journal, please visit the website: [www.karger.com/esr](http://www.karger.com/esr)

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

The following new members were accepted for membership in the ESSR:

Name	First Name	Country
AYAZI	Khosro	IRAN
BAYON MUNIZ	Antonio	SPAIN
BESSEMS	Maud	THE NETHERLANDS
BONJER	Jaap	THE NETHERLANDS
CHMIEL	Bogdan	POLAND
CORSO	Carlos	BRASIL
ERIKOGLU	Mehmet	TURKEY
FERNÁNDEZ GONZÁLEZ	Angel L.	SPAIN
GALAMBOS	Barnabás	HUNGARY
GARCIA	Manuel	SPAIN
GIAKOUSTIDIS	Alexandros	GREECE
KIRSCHNER	Martin	GERMANY
KRASNIQI	Avdyl	KOSOVO-UNMIK
LARA MONTENEGRO	José	SPAIN
METAXAS	George	GREECE
OLÁH	Attila	HUNGARY
PARAMYTHIOTIS	Daniel	GREECE
SALAKOS	Christos	GREECE
SANTOS BENITO	Francisco Fernando	SPAIN
TSAKONAS	Dionyssios	UK

**Welcome!**

## 6.2. Election of new officers of the General Committee

This year Agneta Montgomery and Uwe Hesse left the General Committee. The President thanked them for their generous and valuable contributions to the Society.

According to the rules an information letter (2004/01 Newsletter) was sent out to all members of the Society informing about the vacancies and asking for candidates for each of the vacant positions. Finally, the Nomination Committee proposed Efstathios Antoniou, Nicholas Inston and Henrik Thorlacius for “member-at-large” in the General Committee.

34 votes were received (valid 30, void 4). Efstathios Antoniou and Nicholas Inston were elected as “members-at-large” to the GC of the ESSR. For the position of treasurer, the GC together with the Nomination Committee, proposed Prof. Thomas Minor’s re-election. Again, this was confirmed by the General Assembly. Thus, the composition of the General Committee of the ESSR in 2004/05 is the following:

Name	Function	Position starts	Position ends
<i>Miguel Cainzos</i>	President	2003	2005
<i>Mihály Boros</i>	Secretary general	2003	2006
<i>Thomas Minor</i>	Treasurer	2004	2007
<i>Mustafa Sahin</i>	1st vice president	2004	2005
<i>Brigitte Vollmar</i>	2 <sup>nd</sup> vice-president	2004	2005
<i>Michael D. Menger</i>	Member at large	2003	2005
<i>Wim Ceelen</i>	Member at large	2003	2007
<i>Efstathios Antoniou</i>	Member at large	2004	2008
<i>Nicholas Inston</i>	Member at large	2004	2010

## 6.3. Award Committee:

The General Committee proposed Uwe Hesse, Yuzo Yamamoto and J.M. Bellon-Caneiro to the Award Committee, together with the re-election of Roland Andersson, Uwe Brückner, and Irén Mikó. This was confirmed by the General Assembly. Thus, the composition of the Award Committee for the year 2004/05 is the following:

*Roland Andersson (Lund, Sweden), 2004-2007,*  
*Uwe Brückner (Ulm, Germany), 2004-2007,*  
*Theodore Karatzas (Patras, Greece), 2003-2006,*  
*Irén Mikó (Debrecen, Hungary), 2004-2007,*  
*Uwe Hesse (Stuttgart, Germany), 2004-2007,*  
*Yuzo Yamamoto (Akita, Japan), 2004-2007,*

*Juan M. Bellon-Caneiro (Madrid, Spain), 2004-2007.*

#### **6.4. Nominating Committee**

The General Committee proposed Agneta Montgomery to the Nominating Committee. This was confirmed by the General Assembly. Therefore, the Nominating Committee for the year 2004/05 has the following members:

*Agneta Montgomery (Malmö, Sweden)*

*Thomas Van Gulik (Amsterdam, The Netherlands)*

*Hans Waclawiczek (Salzburg, Austria)*

#### **6.5. Trustee**

The General Committee proposed Constantin Vagianos for this position. This was confirmed by the General Assembly. Thus, the following members are Trustees of the Society for the year 2004/05:

*Bengt Jeppsson (Malmö, Sweden)*

*Constantin Vagianos (Patras, Greece)*

#### **7. Honorary membership**

The election of David Mercer was confirmed by the General Assembly. Congratulations!

#### **8. Election of the congress venue 2007**

One bid arrived for Rotterdam. The result of the voting was unanimous, thus Rotterdam will be the venue of the ESSR congress 2007. Congratulations!

**The President closed the General Assembly at 7:30 p.m.**

### **Awardees, Athens, 2004**

**Walter Brendel Award winner** is Stelios Assimakopoulos (Patras, Greece), with the presentation: "Gut regulatory peptides bombesin and neurotensin reduce hepatic oxidative stress and histological alterations in bile duct ligated rats".

#### **Young Researcher's Award**

E. Dósa (Budapest, Hungary) with the presentation: "Role of the levels of two inflammatory markers and the genotype of mannose-binding lectin in the pathophysiology of restenosis after carotid endarterectomy".

#### **Poster Awards**

M. Czóbel (Szeged, Hungary): "Nitric oxide regulates mast cell-dependent cardiac contractility" and

J. Hoffmann (Tuebingen, Germany): "The use of image-guided surgical techniques for reconstruction of orbital deformities".

We warmly congratulate the awardees of the 2004 ESSR meeting!

### **40<sup>th</sup> ESSR Congress, Konya, Turkey, 2005**

We want to encourage you to participate with your colleagues at the 40<sup>th</sup> ESSR Congress. For further information, please contact the Congress President, Mustafa Sahin. Fax: +90.332.2236181; Phone: +90.332.2236619; e-mail: [www.essr2005konya@selcuk.edu.tr](mailto:www.essr2005konya@selcuk.edu.tr)

### **41<sup>th</sup> ESSR Congress**

The 41th Congress of the Society will be organized in 2006 in Rostock, Germany. For additional information, contact Prof. Brigitte Vollmar, Department of Experimental Surgery, University of Rostock, Schillingallee 70, 18055 Rostock, Germany. Phone: +49 381 494 6220 or 6221 (secretary), Fax: +49 381 494 6222; e-mail: [brigitte.vollmar@med.uni-rostock.de](mailto:brigitte.vollmar@med.uni-rostock.de); internet: [www.experimentelle-chirurgie.med.uni-rostock.de](http://www.experimentelle-chirurgie.med.uni-rostock.de)

## Further important notes

Dear members,

The summer newsletter generally informs about the details of the past ESSR meeting, and the decisions made by the General Assembly of the Society. This year's meeting was a great success, as you will see from the report of the Congress President. The award ceremony took place during the gala dinner, where the prizes were handed over. Congratulations once again to Dave Mercer (USA), who was approved and recognized with „Honorary Membership” of the Society!

The place of our 43<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting shall be decided in Konya. *If you have specific suggestions or you are interested in organizing the 2008 ESSR Congress, please contact the President urgently.*

Finally, we want to encourage you to stimulate young researchers to become member of the ESSR. You will find a membership application form on the website ([www.essr.info](http://www.essr.info)) and in print on the last pages of the Journal of the Society. In this context we would like to stress again, that it is particularly important that senior members of the Society should attend the Society's annual meeting as numerous as possible. Through their guidance the youth could find its way to the Society. One without the other would have little impact. The two together could transform the Society's life according to the needs of a transformed century. Now it is clear that the roots of organized surgical sciences need re-vitalization. We are living in the era of unity in Europe, and it seems to be convincing that the idea of “European” surgical research is as attractive as before. Thus our duty is simple - we have to make the *society* for European surgical research more attractive! This is critically dependent on the commitment of opinion leaders in each of the European countries. Thus, we would like to count on your active participation during the next ESSR Congress in Konya, Turkey!

With best personal regards,



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