



## Presidential Note- Presidential Farewell

Dear Members,

Let me begin by first saying how honored I am for being elected as President in 2005, this was truly a privilege. As my term draws to a close, I am compelled to address the membership through this, final Presidential report. In 2005, three important tasks were outlined in my first note which I considered of importance for the years 2005-2006. First, improvement our relationship with national surgical societies across Europe; second, to continue to provide a good, solid platform for young clinicians and undergraduate researchers during our annual meetings, and finally, the organization work of Prof. Cainzos, who tries to establish an educational program, a web-based education system on surgical research. These are truly positive steps which are coming true, and are of importance for the future of the Society.

However, the past year continued the usual range of challenges also, that face our organization. Although we attracted the standard number of new members in 2004 and 2005, the list of our **active** fellow members stays unchanged in 2006. I do not have to give an explanation for this situation, it is not a new problem, but it is getting old. We are fortunate that these active members, a group of 150-180 people, remain dedicated to the Society - and preserve the European spirit of surgical research. One of the goals of our new President should be to identify - and implement a plan for turning this trend and develop a strategy for sustained growth.

"National delegates" is another, still unsolved question. This status is not just a function of numbers, however; it is also a reflection of the Society. In this case we have to define a new strategy again. We must take advantage of these resources without delay.

Another important event of this year was the change of the Editor-in-Chief of our Journal, a position which was held by Prof. Konrad Messmer. He decided to step down from his post after more than 15 years of continuous service, and the Karger Publisher house has appointed Prof. Oliver Kempfski as new Editor-in-Chief. On this occasion I would like to thank Professor Messmer again for all his efforts (he remains the point of reference in this Society) and wish great success for Prof. Kempfski; I do hope that the good contact between the Journal and the Society will be kept up or even improved.

In closing, I am truly honored to have worked with such an outstanding board; each and every person has made an invaluable contribution. There is strength in teamwork, and here I would like to acknowledge the partnership support of our Secretary General, Wim Ceelen, who always offered his time selflessly, and the contribution and friendship of Thomas Minor, our Treasurer, whose dedication and commitment is greatly appreciated. I want to thank everyone who has supported the Society during these years, all of the past officers, Presidents of ESSR, to whom I would like to wish the best again. Additionally, I would like to make note of my sincere appreciation to our next President, to whom I will hand the official ESSR emblem, the silver retractor. We all have to continue to do our part – I do believe that a next generation of ESSR members will benefit from our efforts. See you in May in Rostock, at our next annual meeting!

Mihály Boros

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## Secretary General's Note

Dear Members,

The General Committee abstract selection meeting was held on February 18, 2006 in the Saal Aquamarin, Hotel Neptun, Rostock-Warnemünde, Germany.

The President reported his visit of the SUS and SARS congresses in February and will share his experience with the General Assembly in Rostock. I will attend the meeting of the Surgical Research Society of Southern Africa, Durban, July 8-9, 2006.

The GC finalized the program of the forthcoming congress, selected the Walter Brendel session presentations and approved the venue and infrastructure in Rostock. The 2006 congress will undoubtedly set the standard for the coming years and I hope to meet you there.

According to the Karger database, the Society counts 264 members on January 17, 2006. Membership fees for 2005 were paid by 148 members while 116 did not (yet) pay their contribution. There has been a worrisome gradual decline in the number of paying members from 220 in 2001 to 146 in 2005. Only 3 new membership applications were received: BARDAKCI Hasmet, Ankara, Turkey; ERKAN Mert, Heidelberg, Germany; AYTAC Erman, Istanbul, Turkey. It is clear that the Society needs to make itself more appealing to you researchers and the web based internet course initiated by Prof Cainzos is a perfect first step along this path.

## General Assembly, Rostock, Germany, 2006

You are cordially invited to attend and vote during the General Assembly, to be held on **Friday, May 19, 2006 from 1800-1930h**, Bernsteinsaal I, Hotel Neptun, Rostock-Warnemünde.

The agenda is as follows:

1. Report of the President
2. Report of the Secretary General
3. Report of the Treasurer
4. Report of the Congress President 2006
5. Report of the Congress President 2007
6. Election of new members
7. Election of new officers
8. Election of the congress venue 2009
9. Varia

This year, Mihaly Boros will leave the General Committee after serving the Society for six years. Thank you, Mihaly, for your dedication and commitment to the ESSR!

The current composition of the GC is illustrated in the table below.

| Name                  | Present and past functions  | Current position starts | Position ends | Remarks  | Possible maximum time served (should not exceed 6 years) |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------------|---------------|--|--|
| Mihály Boros          | President   | 2005                    | 2006          |  | 2000-2006  |
| Wim Ceelen            | Secretary general<br>Past 1., 2. vice-president,<br>member at large | 2005                    | 2007          |  | 2001-2007  |
| Thomas Minor          | Treasurer   | 2004                    | 2007          | Elected for a period for three years (2 <sup>nd</sup> term)                              | 2001-2007  |
| Efstathios Antoniou   | Member at large<br>Past 1., 2. vice president                       | 2004                    | 2008          | Member of the General Committee for four years.  | 2002-2008  |
| Mustafa Sahin         | Member at large<br>1. vice president<br>Past 2. vice president      | 2005                    | 2009          | Was elected as a member of the General Committee for four years.                         | 2003-2009  |
| Grzegorz Szczesny     | Member at large   | 2005                    | 2006          | Could be member of the General Committee for 6 years, Will be 2nd vice president in 2006 | 2005-2011  |
| Ignacio Garcia-Alonso | Member at large   | 2005                    | 2011          | Member of the General Committee for four years.  | 2005-2011  |
| Brigitte Vollmar      | 1st. vice president   | 2005                    | 2006          | Could be elected for four years in 2006  | 2004-2010  |
| Ian Alwayn            | 2nd. vice president   | 2005                    | 2006          | Will be 1. vice president in 2006  | 2005-2011  |

### GC composition 2006/2007

Two positions are vacant for 2006/2007 and will be proposed to the Nominating Committee and GA:

1. President: the GC proposes T Minor as President and I Garcia Alonso as the new Treasurer;
2. Member at large: the GC proposes H Thorlacius, Malmö, Sweden.

Further proposals can be formulated to the Nominating Committee.

### Congress Venue 2009

Two formal applications were received:

Malaga, Spain by M Garcia-Caballero. Congress president: J Lara (member).  
Montpellier-Nîmes by R Demaria (member).

Further applications can be forwarded to the President or the Secretary General.

## 42th Congress, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, 2007

ESSR 2007 – Rotterdam, The Netherlands – Dare to Share

The 42nd Congress of the European Society for Surgical Research will take place from 23 – 26 May 2007 in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. During this congress we will dare you to share your expertise, enthusiasm, and experimental data on a wide variety of topics related to surgical

science. Particular focus will be on transplantation biology, organ dysfunction and regeneration, tissue engineering, angiogenesis and metastatic patterns, local ablative therapies, vascular biology, endovascular surgery and surgical pathophysiology, but also papers in the field of minimally invasive surgery, general and visceral surgery, trauma and orthopaedic surgery, cardiothoracic surgery, plastic and reconstructive surgery, and urology will be discussed. The congress venue will be the Beurs / World Trade Center in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, which is located in the center of this vibrant city. The first official announcement will be revealed in Rostock at which time the website <http://www.essr2007.nl> will also go online. Additional announcements and call for abstracts will follow during the course of 2006, the tentative deadline for abstract submission is on 15 January 2007 and the abstract selection meeting will be from 16 – 18 February 2007. Ian P.J. Always, congress president 2007.

## Further Important Notes

- The ESSR, as a small society, is highly dependent on the commitment of its members for its functioning. We therefore would like to urge all members to timely **fulfill the membership fees** in order to keep the financial balance of the Society healthy.
- Please notify the Secretary General in case of a change in your email address, as we will exclusively use email to send ESSR related material in the future.

With best regards,



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