



Presidential Note

Dear members of the ESSR!

This is the traditional spring newsletter of the year 2007, announcing the forthcoming annual congress and giving information on activities within the society. While there is actually no opportunity to go overboard with enthusiasm regarding recent recruitment of new active members to our society, it may hopefully become so in the future.

The attraction and liveliness of the idea to congregate and share multidisciplinary insights in surgical research is steadily documented by large numbers of attendants from undergraduates to senior scientists at our annual meetings, despite the general tendency of our time to increasingly focus on topic-related conventions.

Recently, several measures have been initiated to 1) strengthen the impact of the ESSR and 2) to facilitate new memberships.

Ad 1) one focus, suitably immanent to the idea of our society is the provision of education opportunities. As an international, multidisciplinary surgical research society, we are predestined to convey scientific and methodological orientation, particularly to junior researchers not yet specifically affiliated.

The internet based educational program in surgical research under patronage of the ESSR is intended to start this year and will be available at no cost for members of our society.

Additionally, basic aspects of biomedical and surgical research will be incorporated in form of hands-on courses in future annual congresses of the ESSR and trans-european training possibilities for junior researchers should be enhanced by the creation of an ESSR-fellowship grant, which will be proposed and discussed during the forthcoming general assembly.

Ad 2) An increasing number of younger researchers is stating the high membership fee as a principle argument against joining our society.

Moreover, in contrast to the hopes we have had when first signing the contract with Karger, it has become clear now that we will not reach the required number of paying members. The contract implies that the society guarantees a certain number of paid subscriptions to the journal and has to substitute the difference not paid by our members. This calculates to a net deficit of 2000-5000 € per year, due to be paid by the society, which will create financial problems before long.

As pointed out already in the last newsletter, measures had to be taken to cope with the steadily decreasing number of (paying) members of the society.

During the last committee meeting on March 3, 2007 we thoroughly discussed the issue of linking membership to a mandatory subscription of a journal, as effectuated according to the present contract. Alternative offers had previously been inquired upon by the president and SG from Karger as well as from the British Journal of Surgery (BJS), leaving the option to subscribe to the journal at the discretion of each member (and at largely reduced fee), which would at the same time allow us to lower the membership fee to the society.

Eventually, it was unanimously felt, that the proposal obtained from the British Journal of Surgery abundantly complies with the present needs of the society and should thus be adopted.

The General committee proposes the BJS to become the official journal of ESSR from January 2008. Details of the proposed affiliation will be presented as compared to the existing contract and shall be voted upon during the General Assembly in May.

As representative of the ESSR I have visited this year's congresses of our sister societies in Great Britain and the United States. The meeting of the Society for Academic and Research Surgery (SARS) took place in January in Cambridge (GB) and the Society of University Surgeons

(SUS) congregated in February in Phoenix, Arizona. Both meetings were of high scientific quality; The Brendel-award winner, Dr. Heidi Mistelli from Basel, Switzerland successfully presented her paper on both occasions – congratulations for her again!

Since this is my last year within the general committee, let me finally convey my thanks and appreciations to the other past and present board members, I have had the pleasure to work with. I look forward to seeing you all in Rotterdam.

Thomas Minor

Secretary General's Note

Dear Members,

The abstract selection and General Committee (GC) meeting was held on March 3, 2007, 0900h – 1200h, Room 'Acacia', Bilderberg Parkhotel Rotterdam, The Netherlands. The GC assembled the scientific program for the forthcoming congress in Rotterdam including the Walter Brendel session according to the scores received by the review board. The congress venue was visited and approved by the GC.

The President reported on his travel to Sister Societies (SARS, Cambridge, UK and SUS, Phoenix, USA). Whereas exposure of the Brendel awardee was adequate in the SARS meeting, this was again disappointing during the SUS meeting. The awardee talk was separately announced in the program book, but apparently the session's chairman was unaware of the awardee presentations from both the SARS and the ESSR. The GC feels that this issue should be discussed with the SUS representative during the Rotterdam congress and followed by an official letter to the SUS chair. The President furthermore reported on the important issue of the Society's contract with Karger AG and the proposal received by the British Journal of Surgery. The Secretary General (SG) reported on his travel to the Surgical Research Society of Southern Africa (July 2006). The meeting was well organized and enjoyed a very amicable atmosphere. The SG gave two keynote lectures and was awarded corresponding membership of the SRS-SA. Membership applications: three duly supported applications were received by the SG and/or the President and will be presented for approval to the GA.

Website: the SG will verify the availability of the domains essr.org and essr.com.

Letter from PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) USA: the SG received an e-letter requesting an official statement from the ESSR relating to an article that appeared in the New York Times on November 2, 2006. This article described the use of anesthetized pigs to train US military combat personnel and included the infliction of shotgun and burn injuries to the animals. After discussion, the GC decides not to honour this request.

WP Ceelen

General Assembly, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

You are cordially invited to attend and vote during the General Assembly, to be held on **Friday, May 25, 2007 from 1800-1930h**, Rotterdam Hall, World Trade Center, Beursplein 37, Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

The agenda is as follows:

1. Report of the President
2. Voting - affiliation with the British Journal of Surgery
3. Report of the Secretary General
4. Voting – New General Committee composition

5. Report of the Treasurer
6. Report of the Scientific Studies chairman (Prof M Cainzos)
7. Report of the Congress President 2007 (I Alwayn)
8. Report of the Congress President 2008 (G Szczesny)
9. Election of new members
10. Proposals for the Congress Venue 2010: Bonn (Germany); Geneva (Switzerland)
11. Voting – Congress Venue 2010
12. Varia

Ad 4. Composition of the ESSR board. Since both T Minor and W Ceelen will end their six year term in 2007, the position of Secretary General and President have to be filled. Moreover, two positions of member at large will become available. The current composition of the ESSR office is as follows:

Name	Present and past functions	Position elected	Position ends	Remarks	Possible maximum time served (should not exceed 6 years)
Thomas Minor	President Past treasurer	2006	2007	Term ends 2007	2001-2007
Wim Ceelen	Secretary General Past 1., 2. vice-president, member at large	2005	2007	Term ends 2007	2001-2007
Ignacio Garcia-Alonso	Treasurer Past member at large	2006	2011		2005-2011
Ian Alwayn	1. vice president Past 2. vice president	2006	2007	Congress President 2007, can be reelected	2005-2011
Grzegorz Szczesny	2. vice president, Past member at large	2006	2007	Will become 1. vice president in 2007 Congress president 2008	2005-2011
Efstathios Antoniou	Member at large Past 1., 2. vice president	2004	2008		2002-2008
Mustafa Sahin	Member at large Past 1., 2. vice president	2005	2009		2003-2009
Brigitte Vollmar	Member at large Past 1., 2. vice president	2006	2010		2004-2010
Henrik Thorlacius	Member at large	2006	2010		2006-2012

The General Committee will propose in agreement with the Nominating Committee the following names to the General Assembly for approval:

- **President:** B Vollmar, Rostock, Germany
- **Secretary General:** H Thorlacius, Malmö, Sweden
- **Members at large:** I Alwayn (Rotterdam, The Netherlands) and Charles Malata (Cambridge, UK).

Ex officio positions will include G Szczesny as First Vice President and R Demaria (Congress President 2009, Nice-Montpellier, France) as Second Vice President.

The *provisional* composition of the ESSR Office would then become (positions to be approved by the General Assembly in red):

Name	Present and past functions	Position elected	Position ends	Remarks	Possible maximum time served (should not exceed 6 years)
Brigitte Vollmar	President Past 1. , 2. vice president, member at large	2007	2009	Congress president 2006	2004-2010
Henrik Thorlacius	Secretary General Past member at large	2007	2010		2006-2012
Ignacio Garcia-Alonso	Treasurer Past member at large	2006	2011		2005-2011
Grzegorz Szczesny	1. vice president Past 2. vice president, member at large	2007	2008	Congress President 2008	2005-2011
Roland Demaria	2. vice president	2007	2008	Will become 1. vice president in 2008 Congress President 2009	2007-2013
Efstathios Antoniou	Member at large Past 1.,2. vice president	2004	2008	Congress President 2004	2002-2008
Mustafa Sahin	Member at large Past 1., 2. vice president	2005	2009	Congress President 2005	2003-2009
Ian Alwayn	Member at large Past 1., 2. vice president	2007	2011	Congress President 2007	2005-2011
Charles Malata	Member at large	2007	2011		2007-2013

42nd Congress, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, 2007

We look forward to join you at the 42nd congress in Rotterdam from May 23-26 – more info on the congress website, www.essr2007.nl

43th Congress, Warsaw, Poland, 2008

The 43rd Congress of the ESSR will be held from May 21-24, 2008 in Warsaw, Poland (Congress President: Grzegorz Szczesny). More information can be found on Congress website: www.essr2008.pl. Contact details: Organizing Committee of the 43rd Congress of the ESSR, Department of Surgical Research, 5 Pawińskiego Str., 02-106 Warsaw, Poland. E-mail: sekretariat@essr2008.pl

Obituary

The Secretary General was informed that Professor Pieter KLOPPER, one of the founding members of the ESSR, has passed away in January 2007. Professor Klopper was the first professor in Experimental Surgery in the Netherlands and has been an active member of the ESSR since its foundation in 1966. On behalf of the Society, we offer our condolences to Professor Klopper's relatives, friends and colleagues. A memorial note will be presented during the forthcoming General Assembly.

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.

With our best regards,



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