



Note from the new President

Dear members of the ESSR!

I feel very honoured to address you as newly elected president after this year's highly successful annual meeting in Rostock. Brigitte Vollmar and her team have done a memorable job with respect to perfect organization, high scientific value as well as an ambience, outstandingly favourable for personal exchange and not the less suitable for recreation. It truly appears, that the atmosphere of European young scientific exchange is quite alive and tends to stay so. However, while our annual meetings are (as they should) attractive and collect constant and large numbers of attendants from undergraduates to seniors in surgical research, the society has to face an inconstantly decreasing number of (paying) members. Thus, we are considering a variety of ideas to strengthen the attraction of our society and to facilitate new memberships.

Six years ago, the Society has opted for an inclusion of the regular subscription of the journal ESR into the membership conditions, although the fees had to be risen. The hope, that the automatic provision of ESR would strengthen the identity of the Society and attract more young researchers to join in, did unfortunately not prove true for the latter aspect. On the contrary, an increasing number of younger researchers is stating the high membership fee as a principle argument against joining our society.

We thus have to think on possibilities to again lower the membership fee and give up the automatic subscription to the journal. An option might hence be to install a journal subscription at reduced fee for every full member of the ESSR. Details on possible conditions of this option as an alternative to the present contract with Karger Publisher have been inquired for by the president and secretary general in order to allow them to be discussed and voted upon during the next GA in Rotterdam.

Another measure, brought up to increase the society's attraction, is the educational program in surgical research directed by our former president Miguel Cainzos. The course, which will use the Internet as a contemporary platform will soon start under patronage of the ESSR being available at no cost for members of our society. This initiative will surely represent a valuable asset to the future of the ESSR.

Let me finally convey my thanks and appreciations to my predecessor, Mihaly Boros. Like very few others, he has served the society on nearly every position it has to offer. His friendship and enduring cooperation within the General Committee gave an outstanding example of prudent & circumspect decision, which I will try to keep alive.

Thomas Minor

General Assembly, Rostock, Germany, 2006

Time and place: Friday, May 19, 2006 from 1800-1930h, Bernsteinsaal I, Hotel Neptun, Rostock-Warnemünde, Germany

Present: 36 members were present at the opening of the General Assembly (GA).

Agenda:

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

1. Report of the President (M Boros)

- First, the President congratulated B Vollmar for an outstanding organization.
- The President reported his attendance of the congress of the SUS and SARS. Both meetings were well organized and of high scientific standard. During the SUS congress, exposure of the Brendel awardee was less than optimal.
- The President discussed the relation with the SRS of Southern Africa (represented in Rostock by Ines Buccimazza) and the Surgical Research Society of Australasia (established in 1961, chairman: Prof. Guy Maddern). Liaison and exchange of information is encouraged.
- The President informed the GA about the new Editor in Chief of European Surgical Research, Prof. Oliver Kempfski, and the informal discussion held between the new Editor and representatives of the General Committee.
- Finally, the President announced that he had reached the end of his 6 year term in the General Committee and thanked the members for their trust and support.

2. Report of the Secretary General (W Ceelen)

- The SG provided an overview of the current paying and non paying members (There has been a worrisome gradual decline in the number of paying members from 220 in 2001 to 146 in 2005).
- The SG reported the application from Mrs Ferruggio to install a permanent and salaried secretariat for the Society. Following discussion, this was voted against by the GA.
- The SG informed the GA about the status of the Society's website and the proposal of the Rostock digital team to provide the online congress module for future congresses (either the total package for 5000 Euro or a yearly fee of 1000 Euro). The GA remarked that the cost should be shared between the Society and the congress organizer.

3. Report of the Treasurer (T Minor)

The saldo of the society during the year 2005 has been positive by 7799.63 € , basically due to the fact that a delayed payment of approximately 6000 € of the revenues from the Congress held 2004 in Athens, had been credited this year. About 4500 € have been spent for travel expenses, namely the General committee meeting in Konya (3800 €) and the participation of our representative at the SARS meeting.

1600 € were used for funding of prizes (Brendel award and poster prizes). Minor amounts were taken for mail charges (42 €) , account keeping charges (76 €) and the bureau of the secretary general (200 €). On the other hand 412 € were received from delayed payments of missing membership fees. The total balance of the society's account to 31. December 2005 amounts to 44417.26 €.

Again, a notable number of members were not paying their membership fees in 2005, despite replicate reminders sent out by Karger and by the treasurer's bureau. In face of the contract with Karger, implying that the membership to the society includes the free distribution of the ESR journal to every registered member and the society has to substitute for not paying members to Karger, we strongly depend on your due payment of the membership fees to Karger.

4. Report of the Congress President 2006 (B Vollmar)

The 41st Congress of the European Society for Surgical Research took place from 17 to 20 May 2006 in the congress center of the Hotel Neptun in Rostock-Warnemünde, Germany. The traditional Hotel Neptun represented on the one hand by its spectacular situation directly at the Baltic Sea beach of the romantic fishing village

Rostock-Warnemünde, on the other hand by the integrated modern congress center an ideal place, which contributed substantially to a singular atmosphere of the conference both scientifically and socially. In co-operation with our distinguished international sister societies, i.e. the Society of University Surgeons (SUS) and the Society of Academic and Research Surgery (SARS), we organized a multinational conference addressing the operative medicine with focus on current topics of surgical research. The scientific program covered the main topics (i) tumor biology and angiogenesis, (ii) molecular biology and gene therapy, (iii) organ and stem cell transplantation, (iv) tissue repair and tissue engineering, (v) minimally invasive and robotic surgery, (vi) surgical pathophysiology, as well as (vii) ischemia reperfusion, shock and sepsis, to those altogether 326 abstracts from 24 different countries were submitted. After an anonymous review process with evaluation of each abstract by at least five consultants a total of 262 abstracts were accepted and finally presented in 28 "free paper sessions" and 4 "poster sessions". In addition, 4 thematically focused symposia and 6 key note lectures enriched the scientific program. The abstracts have been published in a supplement issue of Eur Surg Res (38(S1), 2006). The proceedings of the congress were published by Monduzzi editors.

A further characteristic feature of the ESSR conference 2006 was the enormous participation of young scientists and clinically active physicians. The integration and promotion of this new generation represent a substantial attention of our Society and is particularly addressed by granting of several scientific prizes for young researchers. The prestigious Walter Brendel Award was forwarded to Heidi Misteli, Basel, Switzerland. Additionally, the Young Investigator Award and two Poster Awards were granted to young scientists below the age of 35 years. The B. Braun Scientific Award was sponsored for an outstanding work with high clinical relevance. The scientific conference was accompanied of an industrial exhibition with altogether 17 exhibitors on an area of approximately 300m². The congress started on May 17 with two pre congress hands-on workshops entitled "All about genomics and proteomics for the surgeon" and "Porcine liver transplantation", which were each attended by 15-20 surgeons.

The social program comprised an informal get-together party with the industry, a boat trip to Rostock harbor, the Chairmen and Speakers Dinner in a locomotive shed and the After-Science party at the Bacio Lounge, both located at Rostock harbor area. After official completion of the scientific program, the Beach Volleyball tournament during Saturday afternoon invited all participating nations to relax and enjoy themselves. Afterwards, the Gala dinner took place at the 19th floor of the hotel in the sky-bar with its breath-robbing view over the Baltic Sea and the adjacent beaches.

Altogether nearly 450 participants visited the conference from over 30 countries with 394 conference members which had regularly registered. Special attention was paid to young participants from the Eastern European countries, which received a travel expenses support by the German Research Foundation. A congress newspaper summarized highlights and referred to still pending events of the congress. For further impressions to the various congress activities, please visit the pictures "This was the ESSR congress 2006" under www.essr2006.de.

The congress showed exemplarily the vitality of surgical research and its immense meaning for the academic advancement of the operative medicine. Personally, I like to deeply thank my brilliant team here in Rostock for their enthusiasm and selfless passion in planning, organizing, and finally running this stimulating meeting. I hope you all enjoyed the conference and had a memorable stay in Rostock-Warnemünde.

5. Report of the Congress President 2007 (I Alwayn)

Dear friends and colleagues,

Following the huge success of the 41st Congress of the European Society for Surgical Research in Rostock last May, we are increasingly busy with the organisation of the 42nd Congress in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, to be held from May 23 through May 26, 2007.

Thus far, the preparations are going according to plan, we have booked an excellent congress venue, the Beurs / WTC congress center, in the heart of downtown

Rotterdam. The local organising committee is working hard to ensure a well organised congress, with outstanding keynote speakers and a dynamic and innovative programme.

Of course, there will be plenty of time during the congress to interact with each other, both during the scientific sessions and the social events. Please check out our website (www.essr2007.nl) to stay up to date with the latest information and enjoy the movie trailer! The call for abstracts and second announcement will be mailed to you towards the end of October.

We look forward to welcoming you all in Rotterdam next year and dare you to share your experience at The Congress!

Ian P.J. Alwayn
on behalf of the local organizing committee

6. Election of new members

György Lázár, Szeged, Hungary
Oliver Kempfski, Mainz, Germany
Mahmut Koc, Ankara, Turkey
György Weber, Pécs, Hungary

Congratulations!

7. Election of New Officers

This year, M. Boros stepped down as President of the Society. The General Committee, in agreement with the Nominating Committee, proposed T Minor as new President, I Garcia-Alonso as new Treasurer, and H Thorlacius as new Member at Large. The GA approved these personnel changes by majority vote. The ESSR office for 2006/2007 is thus as follows:

1. General Committee

President: T Minor, Bonn, Germany
Secretary General: W Ceelen, Ghent, Belgium
Treasurer: I Garcia-Alonso, Bilbao, Spain
1st Vice President: I Alwayn, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
2nd Vice President: G Szczesny, Warsaw, Poland
Members at large:
B Vollmar, Rostock, Germany
E Antoniou, Athens, Greece
M Sahin, Konya, Turkey
H Thorlacius, Malmö, Sweden

2. Nominating Committee

T Van Gulik, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
I Sayek, Ankara, Turkey

3. Award Committee

R Anderson, Lund, Sweden
U Brückner, Ulm, Germany
T Karatzas, Patras, Greece
I Miko, Debrecen, Hungary
U Hesse, Stuttgart, Germany
Y Yamamoto, Akita, Japan
JM Bellon-Caneiro, Madrid, Spain
M Menger, Homburg, Germany

4. Scientific Studies Committee

M Cainzos, Santiago de Compostela, Spain

5. Trustees

B Jeppson, Malmö, Sweden
C Vagianos, Patras, Greece

8. Election of the Congress Venue 2009

Formal applications were presented to the GA by M Garcia-Caballero who proposed Malaga, Spain and Roland Demaria, who presented Montpellier-Nîmes as the congress venue 2009. Following discussion from the floor and voting by the GA, **Montpellier-Nîmes** was elected as congress venue 2009 by 32 votes against 1. Congratulations!

The President closed the GA at 1930h.

42nd Congress, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, 2007

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

43rd Congress, Warsaw, Poland, 2008

The 43rd Congress of the ESSR will be held from May 21-24, 2008 in Warsaw, Poland (Congress President: Grzegorz Szczyński). 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

Further Important Notes

- The President and SG are currently informing with Eur Surg Res and Brit J Surg for their conditions regarding membership, subscription, and related items. The results will be communicated to the General Assembly in Rotterdam (May 2008).
- If you do not yet receive the newsletter by email or in case of change of address, **please provide us with an email address** in order to facilitate the forwarding of the newsletter and other ESSR related material.

With our best regards,



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