



EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF VETERINARY PATHOLOGY

Minutes of the AGM in Berlin
Friday 29th August 2014, 17.45
Estrel Hall C

Board members attending were Carl Hard af Segerstad (President: CH), Anna-Lena Frisk (Honorary Treasurer: AF), Ken Smith (Honorary Secretary: KS), Juan Francisco Garcia Marin and Sanja Aleksic-Kovacevic. The total attendance at the AGM, inclusive of the Board, was thirty nine colleagues.

1. Welcome, apologies for absence and obituary: CH welcomed colleagues to the AGM. There had been apologies for absence from Board members Professor Rod Else and Dr Enrico Bollo, and from Society members Prof. Marion Hewicker-Trautwein and Prof. Walter Hermanns. The Society had been saddened by the passing of Professor Yan Cherel during the year. CH delivered a tribute and the AGM stood in silence to remember Professor Cherel's life.
2. Approval of Minutes of the 31st AGM in London: The minutes of the previous AGM had been posted on the Society website. No changes were suggested and the minutes were approved.
3. Election of new ESVP members – KS presented the new membership applications that had been received since the last AGM:

Name	Institute	Proposer	Second
Angele Breithaupt	University of Berlin	Olivia Kershaw	Achim Gruber
Diana-Elena Parvan	University of Bucharest	Militaru Manuella	Soare Teodoru
Eleanor Ross	University of Bristol	Ken Smith	Carl Hard af Segerstad
Eva Gruber-Dujardin	German Primate Centre	F.-J. Kaup	Wolfgang Drommer
Fernando Romero Palomo	University of Cordoba	Jose Carlos Gomez Villamandos	Juana Martin De Las Mulas
Godelind Wolf-Jackel	University of Copenhagen	Henrik Jensen	Páll Leifsson
Hasan Atmaca	Kirikkale University	Anna-Lena Frisk	Achim Gruber
Iuila-Alexandra Paraschiv	University of Bucharest	Anna-Lena Frisk	Achim Gruber
Karin Erneholt	University of Copenhagen	Henrik Jensen	Páll Leifsson
Kerstin Erles	Royal Veterinary College	Ken Smith	Joe Brownlie
Ketija Broka	Latvian University of Agriculture	Achim Gruber	Lars Mundhenk
Krzysztof Wąsowicz	University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn	Jozef Szarek	Izabella Babinska
Martin Levkut	University of Kosice	Nicole Borel	Roman Halouzka
Nancy Erickson	University of Berlin	Achim Gruber	Lars Mundhenk
Paolo Ronza	University of Santiago de Compostela	Juan Francisco Garcia Marin	Sanja Aleksic-Kovacevic
Raluca Rizac	University of Bucharest	Juan Francisco Garcia Marin	Sanja Aleksic-Kovacevic
Stefanie Binder	University of Berlin	Achim Gruber	Lars Mundhenk
Zsolt Becksei	University of Belgrade	Sanja Aleksic-Kovacevic	Milijan Jovanevic

Karin Bernodt	National Veterinary Institute, Uppsala	Erika Karlstam	Carl Hard af Segerstad
Tugce Antepioglu	Kirikkale University	Ken Smith	Carl Hard af Segerstad
Oguz Kul	Kirikkale University	Ken Smith	Carl Hard af Segerstad

The new Society members were welcomed with applause.

4. President's report: CH summarised the activities of the Board during the previous year and identified priorities for the future.
 - 1) The Board had concentrated during the past year on improvements to the organisation of the annual Congress to ensure better collaboration between the Board, The College, the Scientific Committee and the Local Organising Committee. They had also focussed on redesign of the Society homepage, which would in future years include a dedicated Congress site allowing direct registrations and abstract submissions. Discussions had been initiated between the ESVP Board, ECVP Council and Scientific Committee during the current meeting on how to make the ESVP/ECVP congresses in the two years between Cutting Edge meetings more attractive to delegates and sponsors.
 - 2) CH identified the principal strategic priority for future years as continuing to improve the relationship between the ESVP and the ECVP, and asked colleagues to consider the value of a future merger between the two organisations (this would achieve considerable financial, administrative and scientific benefits but required close attention to, and changing of, current EBVS rules).
 - 3) During the past year the Board had received five nominations for honorary membership. The board have concluded that the award of honorary membership should be given out very restrictively and reflect exceptional and outstanding contribution to Veterinary Pathology in Europe and to the Society. The board also suggest that the award would in extremely rare cases be awarded persons that are still very active in the Society. One of the nominee could be considered having fulfilled those criteria and could be considered for next year.
At the end of his address CH asked for opinions in this matter from the floor. CH concluded that the boards proposals had the support of the AGM.
5. Hon. Secretary's report: KS summarised his activities during the past year. These had comprised preparation of minutes for the Board meetings in Helsinki and Berlin and for the current AGM; processing of new membership applications; liaison with the Journal of Comparative Pathology regarding their Educational Trust awards; administration of ESVP bursaries for the ECVP summer school; and administration of travel awards for the Annual Congress. He asked for questions or comments from the floor and there were none.
6. Hon. Treasurer's financial report: AF presented her financial report.

- 1) The Society had been legalised and listed in the Association Register from 15 January 2014 as ESVP e.V. This enabled the Society to undertake non-profit activities and benefit from “Tax Privileged Purposes” under the German Tax Code. After this status is granted, it will continuously be under revision and only renewed if the tax declaration / finances are in accordance with the German Tax Code. Professional help in legalizing the Society had come from Confidia Treuhandgesellschaft mbH, Berlin and necessitated full accountancy, an annual tax declaration, communication with fiscal authorities, and non-profit activities. The financial year of the ESVP eV would henceforward run concurrently with the calendar and with the tax year in Germany.
 - 2) The Society’s finances were summarized. The opening balance on 1.8.13 was 95,569.41€ and there had been expenditure 9368€ to 31.12.13, resulting in a end of year balance of 86,209.76€. Further expenditure of 4,551.34€ in the first half of 2014 had resulted in a closing balance of 81,658.42€ at 31.7.14. The Society’s accounts had been audited by Heike Aupperle and Herbert Weissenbrok. The accounts were approved by the AGM.
 - 3) The financial outcome of the previous year’s Congress in London was summarized. The meeting had resulted in an overall deficit of 46,682€. This was due to reduced delegate numbers and sponsorship income by comparison with the budget that had been approved by the ESVP Board in spring 2012 and reviewed by the Board in autumn 2012 and spring 2013. The deficit would be met by contributions of 12,591.50€ from the ECVP, 21,967.71€ from the ESVP and 12,591.50€ from the RVC.
 - 4) ALF expressed concern that only 46% of the ESVP members had paid their subscriptions by the time of the current Congress and that the membership was declining year on year. Members were encouraged to ensure that their subscriptions were kept up-to-date.
 - 5) Comments were requested from the floor. Andrea Grone asked for more detail on measures to avoid future Congress deficits. CH summarised these as: use of experienced professional conference organisers; avoidance of binding contracts that could not be cancelled if delegate numbers were lower than anticipated; projection of delegate numbers for future Congresses based on rolling statistics of delegate attendance year on year; maintenance of a rolling sponsorship list; savings through use of a rolling homepage year on year; and more support for local organising committee through more regular budget scrutiny by the Board. There were no other comments from the floor.
7. Report of the Scientific Committee: Cinzia Benazzi, the new Chair of the SC thanked

Lluis Lujan, the retiring Chair, for his excellent leadership of the Committee. CB also welcomed Laura Pena as a new member of the Committee. Achim Gruber then summarised the scientific aspects of the current Congress – there had been a total of 217 abstracts with 202 accepted (exclusive of the ESTP abstracts). The accepted abstracts resulted in 65 oral presentations and 137 posters plus keynote lectures, workshops and slide sessions. Working with the Scientific Committee AG judged that the general quality of the abstracts was high. He identified only two problems relating to the scientific organisation of the meeting: these were difficulty in recruiting enough cases for the mystery slide session and resistance from some colleagues to having the format of their accepted abstracts changed from oral to poster or vice versa (this switch in format, which affected around 20 abstracts, was decided by the Scientific Committee and made clear to colleagues when abstracts were submitted). AF added that from standpoint of the ESTP the collaboration with AG and his team in organising the Congress was first class. AG thanked his local team for their hard work. CH thanked AG, AF and all of the local organisers for their hard work and vision in making the Congress a great scientific success and colleagues at the AGM responded with applause.

8. Journal of Comparative Pathology Educational Trust Bursaries 2014:

KS reported that four bursaries had been awarded by the Journal for attendance at the Congress.

- 1) Nerea Cuesta Garcia
- 2) Elena Gayo Roces
- 3) Doroteja Huber
- 4) Paolo Ronza

9. ESVP Bursaries and Travel Awards 2014:

1) KS reported that fifteen bursaries had been awarded by the Society for attendance at the Summer School.

- i. Teresa Pagano
- ii. Murielle Hurion
- iii. Maria Teresa Ruiz Campillo
- iv. Tugce Antepioglu
- v. Georgina Doria Torra
- vi. Eleanor Ross
- vii. Hayley Crosby
- viii. Josep Maria Monne Rodriguez
- ix. Nicolas Gaide
- x. Ahmet Candi

- xi. Alice Reginato
- xii. Raluca Ioana Rizac
- xiii. Cynthia Robveille,
- xiv. Teodoru Soare
- xv. Anna Kycko

2) KS reported that thirteen travel awards had been made by the Society for attendance at the Congress.

- i. Anja Ostrowski
- ii. Ketija Broka
- iii. Cynthia de Vries
- iv. Fernando Romero Palomo
- v. Godelind Wolf-Jackel
- vi. Ilaria Porcellato
- vii. Laetitia Dorso
- viii. Louise Dawson
- ix. Martin Levkut
- x. Pompei Bolfa
- xi. Vladimir Polacek
- xii. Diana Parvan
- xiii. Elvira Condрут

10. ESVP Bursaries and Travel Awards 2015: KS reported that a decision on the award of bursaries for attendance at the 2015 Summer School and Congress would be made at the spring Board meeting, after the deficit from the London meeting had been cleared and the number of unpaid membership subscriptions had been reduced. This was approved by the AGM.

11. Election of new Board members:

- 1) CH proposed a new system for open nominations of new Board members and election by electronic vote. This would be instituted after the current round of new appointments to the Board.
- 2) The membership of the Board was renewed by the re-election of Sanja Aleksic-Kovacevic and the election of two new Board members: Achim Gruber and Jerome Abadie. All three appointments were greeted by applause from the floor.

12. ESVP website and membership database:

- 1) AF summarised modernisation of the homepage, which had been undertaken by a professional webmaster. Improvements would include members being able to update their address details by themselves and automatic send-out of invoices and receipts (non-profit tax receipts). Recording of transfers and initial entering of

new members' details would still have to be done manually (AF and KS).

- 2) AF emphasized the importance of members giving the correct financial and personal contact details to avoid errors.
 - 3) ALF also presented draft budget and attendance figures for the Berlin Congress, which was likely to return a surplus approximating 5000 €. There had been 447 participants from all five continents (371xEurope, 39xAsia, 33xAmerica, 3xAfrica, 1xAustralia). 53% of the attendees were members of the ESVP, ESTP, ECVP or ACVP and 20% were students.
13. Future Congress venues:
- Helsinki 2015
 - Bologna 2016
 - Lyon 2017 (Cutting Edge with ESTP)
- CH was also investigating the possibility of holding the 2018 meeting in Cluj-Napoca and had had an expression of interest from Utrecht for 2019 or 2020. He encouraged colleagues to consider hosting a meeting in future years.
14. Any other Business: none.
15. Annual Congress Helsinki 2015: Antti Sukura presented exciting plans for the 2015 Congress in Helsinki, which will be held at the Scandic Marina Congress Center from 2-5 September. He covered the draft scientific programme, congress venue and social programme. Further details will be posted shortly on the 2015 Congress website.

The meeting closed at 19.00.