

**XXXVIIIth Annual Meeting of the
European Histamine Research Society**

**Minutes of the General Assembly Meeting held on May 16th
2009 at 16.00 in Maritime Hotel, Fulda, Germany**

Present. There were 43 members of the society with Anita Sydbom (our President) chairing the meeting. Gill Sturman took the minutes.

1. Apologies.

A number of apologies from members not attending this meeting had been received – namely Mike Parnham, Kathryn Hancock, Christian Carpane, Toshiie Sakata, Davinia Withington, Dorrit Dijkstra, Beatrice Passani, Simeon Todorov, Evi Zampeli and Lovro Stanovnik

Unfortunately Paul Chazot, Andras Falus and Rob Leurs had left earlier.

2. Declaration of any other business

None.

3. Minutes from last year's AGM.

These had been previously circulated to all members. As no objections / comments had been made, they were agreed to be a true record.

4. Matters arising from the minutes.

There were no matters arising.

5. Correspondence.

- It was noted that Anita had received and sent over 2000 e-mails during this year for the society.
- She had received a lot of correspondence and thanks about the excellent meeting (2008) in Stockholm which she had hosted.
- She also had had various communications which she had received on behalf of the society during the year. She had either replied directly or got the most appropriate society member to reply to them.
- She had formally sent official letters to Madeleine Ennis, Fred Pearce and Bruno Mondovi about being elected as Honorary Members.
- She had invited the families of Nina Grosman and Wolfgang Schmutzler to attend their Memorial Lectures at this meeting. It was noted that Wolfgang's two sisters had attended.
- Letters to potential sponsors had been sent with varying success for this meeting.
- Emails to all members had been sent out 4 times, as well as many smaller ones during this year.

6. Membership Applications.

During the year, some formal applications to become members of the society had been received and are tabled below.

Name	Town, Country
Zsuzsa Iffiu-Soltész	Toulouse, France
Wolfgang Baumer	Hannover, Germany
Tunde Simon	Budapest, Hungary
Liam O'Malony	Davos, Switzerland

The Council had already vetted and approved these applicants. New participants at the Swedish meeting (2008) and requiring approval for membership of EHRS are listed in Appendix 1. It was noted that the Council Members had already vetted and approved this list. Everyone was formally accepted into the society unanimously.

7. Elections to Council

According to our statutes, we have to elect annually the Publications Secretary and the Belgian Council Member. Gill Sturman was re-elected as Publications Secretary (proposed by Anita Sydbom and seconded by Madeleine Ennis) and Pierre Chatelain, as our Belgium Council Representative, (proposed by Anita Sydbom and seconded by Patrizio Blandina). Additionally Patrizio Blandina was elected for another 2 years as our treasurer (proposed by Anita Sydbom and seconded by Madeleine Ennis). Anita Sydbom has been president of the EHRS for 3 years and was willing to stand for a further 3 years. She was unanimously re-elected (proposed by Madeleine Ennis and seconded by Gill Sturman).

Anita then thanked the Council members (Paul Chazot, Friedhelm Diel, Bernie Gibbs and Catherine Tiligada) for all their hard work for the society and presented a small gift to each of them as their council period is ended. Five members of the society have expressed a willingness to be considered as candidates for the council and they are Frank AHRENS, Nick CARRUTHERS, Marlon COWART, Elena RIVERA and Hubert SCHWELBERGER. Therefore voting papers were circulated for a secret ballot as only 4 persons can be elected. Two election counters (Catherine Tiligada and Bernie Gibbs) collected the voting slips and then retired from the meeting room for counting the votes. It was noted that there were no spoiled ballot papers. The results were the election of Frank AHRENS, Marlon COWART, Elena RIVERA and Hubert SCHWELBERGER to the council.

8. Inflammation Research.

- a. Proceedings of last years meeting. Gill informed the meeting that the supplement containing 33 short papers (including one review) had been printed on 20th April 2009 and were on-line a month earlier. She thanked the 10 assistant editors who had helped her as the process went very well. The deadline for submission of the current meeting's proceedings was noted and presenters at this meeting were encouraged to submit short papers.
- b. Journal of Inflammation Research. It was noted that since last year's meeting, there had been 31 manuscripts on histamine and related topics; 13 have been accepted, 18 rejected while 6 are currently under review for the journal. The impact factor is now 1.504.

9. Finances.

The General Assembly was informed that 7 bursaries, each of €500, had been granted this year – 2 from Johnson & Johnson, 2 from Pfizer, 2 from GlaxoSmithKline and 1 from the G.B.West Memorial Trust. Also the money from Johnson & Johnson has been given in \$ which means that the EHRS has to make up the difference to €500. (Appendix 2 lists the bursary winners). Grateful thanks were given to all our sponsors. Abbott was thanked as they are still sponsoring the Art A. Hancock Young Investigator Award for 2009 (see Appendix 3 and 4). The winner and 'runner-up' will receive €700 and €400 respectively and certificates are to be given to all finalists at the Official Dinner.

The Treasurer tabled last years accounts and explained that a Bonds Account has now been opened as it attracts a higher rate of interest. The accounts have been audited by 2 members of the society (Fred Pearce and Rob Leurs) during this meeting. (Appendix 3 details the accounts).

10. Present Meeting

Anita thanked Friedhelm and his team for all their hard work in producing such an excellent meeting. It was noted that there had been 7 special lectures and 2 memorial lectures. In total there were 9 symposia, 38 oral presentations and 61 posters. The Allergieverein in Europa e. V. (AVE) society held a symposium within the meeting as well as holding a round table discussion on Histamine and Allergy. Besides the awarding of 7 student bursaries (see Appendix 2), this was the seventh year of running the Young Investigator Award and there were 6 finalists (Appendix 4 for the results). The results of the poster competition are listed in Appendix 5. There were 150 participants (100 for EHRS and 40 for AVE) plus 10 accompanying persons registered. In all 27 countries were represented. Everyone agreed that it had been an excellent meeting and thanks to all involved were given.

11. Next meeting 2010.

The next meeting will be 21st -25th April 2010 in Durham, England. It is being organised by Paul Chazot, and because he had had to leave this meeting early the presentation was given by Natasha Lethbridge. Some details of the venue (Hatfield College of the University of Durham), scientific programme as well as suggestions for the social side were given. It was noted that already 5 plenary speakers have been organised. The conference can be partly funded by COST Action BM0806: HARR4-Eu with MC with WG1-4 meetings and training workshops being given. As this EHRS meeting is several weeks earlier than usual, the timetable for abstract submission plus Anita's visit to the site etc. have not yet been organised. Thanks were given to all concerned.

ACTION : AS & PLC

12. Future meetings.

At last years meeting a very generous offer to hold a meeting in Buenos Aires was made and this was welcomed by the General Assembly. Since then a dramatic change in the global economic situation has occurred, affecting us all. Although the costs whilst in Argentina are anticipated to be less than in Europe, it is the very high cost of flights to South America which it is thought would be inhibitory to many members of the society, especially the young researchers. Therefore it was proposed to defer any meeting in Buenos Aires for a number of years.

Invitations to hold future meetings have been given:-

- 2011 in Sochi, Russia – organised by Roman Khanferyan.
- 2012 in Belfast, N. Ireland – organised by Madeleine Ennis.
- 2013 in Poland – organised by Agnieszka Fogel.

ACTION : AS, RK, ME & AF

13. Website.

It was noted that the website is now being managed and regularly updated by Anna Gilicze of Andras' group. The Honorary Members section has now a subsection for our 'Former Honorary Members'. The EHRS News is continually being added to the website and Paul Chazot is still responsible for the scientific part of the website. New for this year is the addition of HOT NEW PAPERS. People are regularly requested to add interesting papers. Further suggestions to improve our website were requested.

ACTION: AS, AG, PLC plus all society members.

14. Any other business.

None.

Meeting closed at 17.00.

Appendix 1 Membership to be ratified from Stockholm meeting 2008(attended last year)

Name	Country	e-mail
Adner, Mikael	Sweden	mikael.adner@ki.se
Ahlstedt, Staffan	Sweden	staffan.ahlstedt@phadia.com
Andersson, Richard	Sweden	richard.andersson@ki.se
Berg, Louise	Sweden	louise.berg@ki.se
Bienenstock, John	Canada	Bienens@mcmaster.ca
Blank, Ulrich	France	ublack@bichat.inserm.fr
Brioni, Jorge	USA	jorge.brioni@abbott.com
Gulliksson, Magdalena	Sweden	magdalena.gulliksson@gmail.com
Gutzmer, Ralf	Germany	rgutzmer@gmx.de
Hellstrand, Kristoffer	Sweden.	kristoffer.hellstrand@microbio.gu.se
Krieg, Cathleen	Germany	cathleen.krieg@he.hs-fulda.de
Kuefner, Michael	Germany	michael.kuefner@uk-erlangen
Larsson, Anna-Karin	Sweden	anna-karin.larsson@ki.se
Lindskog, Mia	Sweden	mia.lindskog@ki.se
Mommert, Susanne	Germany	Mommert.susanne@mh-hannover.de
Nilsson, Gunnar	Sweden	gunnar.p.nilsson@ki.se
Pejler, Gunnar	Sweden	Gunnar.Pejler@afb.slu.se
Sakurai, Eiichi	Japan	esakurai@aomor-u.ac.jp
Sakurai, Eiko	Japan	eikoph1@mail.tains.tohoku.ac.jp
Stark, Katarina	Sweden	katarina.stark@ki.se
Säfholm, Jesper	Sweden	Jesper.safholm@ki.se
Tamasi, Viola	Hungary	vtamasi@mac.com
Tomoskozi, Zsuzsanna	Hungary	zsuzsanna.tomoskozi@sanofi-aventis.com
Ziberna, Lovro	Slovenia	lovro.ziberna@gmail.com

Appendix 2 Student Bursaries awarded

Name	Town	Country
Egle Passante	Dublin	Ireland
Konstantinos Kyriakidis	Athens	Greece
Zsuzsa Iffiú-Soltész	Toulouse	France
Peter van Ruitenbeek	Maastricht	The Netherlands
Tadeus Karcz	Krakow	Poland
Kamil Kuder	Krakow	Poland
Maria Gschwandtner	Hannover	Germany

Appendix 3 Finances – 2009 balance

		Euros
	Last Balance	60,043.26 +
1/4/08	New Account (BONUS)	50,000.00 -
15/5/08	Zoltan Wiener (AH prize)	1,000.00 -
19/5/08	Rajkumar Noubada (AH Prize)	1,524.68 -
19/5/08	Rajkumar Noubada (AH Prize)	1,524.68 -
2/7/08	Reimbursement R. Noubada	1,481.85 +
13/10/08	Loan to Durham (P.Chazot)	650.00 -
19/11/08	JC General Service	731.74 +
31/12/08	Bank Interest	17.31 +
31/12/08	Bank Expenses	97.38 -
9/1/09	Abbot Lab (A. Hancock YIA)	1072.35 +
19/1/09	KAROLINSKA (08 Memberships)	1995.00 +
19/3/09	Anita Sydbom (visit to Fulda)	228.00 -
19-16/3-4/08	8 fellowships	4,060.50 -
29/04/08	Gillian Sturman	2,100.00 -

BALANCE 4156.27 Euros

2nd ACCOUNT AT ING Bank (Bonus)

1/04/08	Start up	50,000.00
30/06/08	Interest	212.35 +
30/09/08	Interest	517.94
31/12/08	Interest	523.29
31/3/09	Interest	381.05 +

BALANCE 51,634.63 Euros

Grand Total of 55,790.90 Euros

Treasurer : Patrizio Blandina

Auditors : Fred Pearce (UK) & Rob Leurs (The Netherlands)

Fulda, May 2009

Appendix 4 Results of the Art A. Hancock Young Investigator Award sponsored by Abbott Laboratories

Winner	Maria Gschwandtner (Germany) : Murine and Human Langerhans Cells Express a Functional Histamine H ₄ Receptor: Modulation of Cell Migration and Function
Runner up	Kerstin Sander (Germany) : Development of diaminopyrimidines as histamine H ₄ receptor ligands – virtual screening and Scaffold optimisation
Highly Commended	Tiina-Kaisa Kukko-Lukjanov (Finland) : Severity of seizures and neuronal damage are enhanced in the 9-day-old histamine 1 receptor knockout mice
Highly Commended	Konstantinos Kyriakidis (Greece) : Effect of the H ₄ Receptor Antagonist JNJ7777120 on Histamine Levels of Peripheral Blood Vessels in Rats with Adjuvant Arthritis
Highly Commended	Natasha Lethbridge (UK) : Histamine H ₃ receptors in Lewy Body dementias: an autoradiographical study with [3H] GSK189254
Highly Commended	Hilary Whitworth (UK) : Mast Cell and Basophil Markers for Predicting Severity of Allergic Reactions to Food

Appendix 5 Results of the Student Poster Competition

Winner	P-47 Miriam Walters <i>et al.</i> , (Germany) Click chemistry on histamine H ₃ receptor ligands and first metal containing antagonists.
2nd	P-6 Anayansi Molina <i>et al.</i> , (Mexico) Histamine increases neuronal clonogenicity and induces expression of deep cortical layer markers after differentiation of neural stem cells.
3rd	P-28 Vanina Medina <i>et al.</i> , (Argentina) Histamine H ₄ receptor ligand JN7777120 inhibits lung metastases in MDA-MB-231 xenograft tumor-bearing mice.