

XXXIXth Annual Meeting of the European Histamine Research Society
Durham, England
Minutes of the General Assembly Meeting held on July, 16th 2010 at 16.00
in University of Durham

Present: Anita Sydbom (President/Chair), Patrizio Blandino (Treasurer), Gill Sturman (Publications Secretary),

Council Members : Frank Ahrens, Marlon Cowart, Elena Rivera and Hubert Schwelberger.

There were 44 members of the society at this meeting.

Minutes were taken by Gill Sturman.

Anita welcomed everyone to this meeting and thanked them for all their help and support since the last meeting of the society. However since our last meeting in Germany, 4 of our members of the society had died; Sayed Assem, Ladko Korosec, Professor Mike Parsons and the Honorary Member Sir James Black. Anita spoke about each of these people in turn and how they will all be missed. Everyone stood for a minutes silence to remember these people.

1. **Apologies:** These were received from Pierre Chatelain, Egle Passante, Fred Pearce, Carlos Davio, Wilfred Lorenz, Walter Schunack, Spela Sprogar, Mike Parnham, Ingrid Uvnäs Marija Carmen-Krzan, Friedhelm Diel, Leena Tuomisto, Tiffany Garrison and Jorge Brioni.
2. **Minutes from previous meeting (16/05/09) :** These minutes had been previously circulated. They were agreed as a true record.
3. **Matters arising from the minutes :** None.
4. **Correspondence :** [Up to April 12th (the date of our 2010 scheduled meeting)]
 - a. It was noted that Anita had received and sent over 1900 e-mails during the year for the society.
 - b. She had a lot of correspondence in trying to maintain the correct e-mail addresses of members of the society.
 - c. She had received a lot of correspondence about last years meeting – bursary winners, young investigator finalists, sponsors and many letters of thanks about our Fulda meeting and had sent condolence letters to Anna Assem and Myrette Parsons.
 - d. Newsletters to all members of the society in May, September and December as well as notifying all members about the postponement of our spring meeting due to the Icelandic volcanic ash problem with flights had been sent.
 - e. Letters to potential sponsors had been sent with varying success for this meeting.

5. Membership Applications :

A list of new participants from the 2009 meeting (Appendix 1) was shown and approved for membership. Additionally it was noted that we have had formal applications to become members of the society (see below). Everyone was in agreement to accept these people into our society.

Name	Town	Country
Astrid Sasse	Dublin	Ireland
Marco Eleopra	Ferrara	Italy
Silke Conen	Maastricht	The Netherlands

Raphaela Kaisler	Helsinki	Finland
Maria Sunddvik	Helsinki	Finland
Leonardo Munari	Florence	Italy
Jennifer Stott	Belfast	Northern Ireland
Saskia Nijmeijer	Amsterdam	The Netherlands
Salvatore Guccione	Catania	Italy
Giovanni Li Volti	Catania	Italy
Gitta Köther	Hannover	Germany

6. Inflammation Research (IR):

- a. Journal of Inflammation Research. It was noted that since last year's meeting, there had been 41 manuscripts on histamine and related topics; 13 have been accepted, 22 rejected while 5 are currently under review for the journal. The impact factor for 2009 was 1.586
- b. Proceedings of last year's meeting. Gill informed the meeting that the supplement containing 23 short papers plus the meeting report, Honorary Membership reports as well as an obituary for Sayed Assem had been printed and was on line in April this year. She thanked the other editors for their hard work in refereeing the short papers. Gill also reported that the processing of the proceedings is now no longer undertaken in Switzerland but by Springer in Heidelberg, Germany and outsourced to India.

- 7. Publications of EHRS proceedings in the future :** Our publishers have found that the publication of our proceedings as short papers/extended abstracts has influenced and decreased the impact factor of the journal - Inflammation Research. They have found that of the 42 EHRS papers published in 2006, only 3 were subsequently cited in the literature, in contrast to 25 citations for the 7 research articles published in the January 2006 issue of the journal. During the year a committee had been appointed with the task of trying to work out the best way of trying to publish our proceedings in a more suitable manner. The members of this committee were Madeleine Ennis *, Gill Sturman *, Fred Pearce *, Andras Falus * and Ekaterini Tiligada. (* = experienced with IR publication). After considering various options, the suggestion from the committee submitting half page abstracts was accepted. The guidelines etc for publications of this year's proceedings are detailed in Appendix 2. It is hoped that a template will be available next year to help with submitting the abstracts.

ACTION : ME & GS.

- 8. Finances (past, present and future, including funding of student bursaries) :** This year we have lost a number of sponsors for our student bursaries. This year there are only 3 student bursaries; 2 from Pfizers and 1 from the GB West Memorial Trust – see table below.

Name	Country	Sponsored by
Leonardo Munari	Italy	Pfizer
Maria Sundvik	Finland	Pfizer
Konstantinos Kyriakidis	Greece	GB West Memorial Trust

It was noted that Abbott is no longer supporting the Young Investigator Award but the society has decided to continue funding this award. It is to be called the EHRS Young Investigator Award with 300, 200 and 100 Euros being given to the first, second and third winners respectively. Sponsors to fund this award will be sort again for next year. It was

noted that we have nearly €60,000 in our accounts which had been audited by Rob Leurs and Madeleine Ennis (see Appendix 3).

9. **Elections to council:** According to our statutes, the Belgian representative and the Publications Secretary have to be elected annually at the General Assembly. Pierre Chatelain was re-elected (proposed by Anita Sydbom and seconded by Ekaterini Tiligada) as our Belgian Representative and Gill Sturman was re-elected (proposed by Anita Sydbom and seconded by Madeleine Ennis) as the Publications Secretary.

10. **ESK Assem Donation :** Anna Eldin Assem and family have given a donation to our society. Sayed Asem was especially interested in the young histaminologists and always encouraged the society to help young scientists to come to the meetings. Thus this donation will be used for student bursaries for a number of years and will be called the 'ESK Assem Student Bursary'. This bursary will start at next years meeting.

11. **Present Meeting and COST action BM 0806 report:** The General Assembly was informed there were 110 people attending this meeting with another 16 attending the COST workshops. It was agreed that the joint meeting with COST had worked well. The COST project is in its second year of a four year one and it is hoped that the outcome of this project will help to get framework funding in the future. There were 2 commercial stands at this meeting. The results of the poster competition as well as the Young Investigator Award will be announced at the official dinner this evening (see Appendix 4).

12. **Next Meeting :** Roman Khanferyan gave a presentation on next years meeting in Sochi, Russia - on the eastern side of the Black Sea and close to the border with Georgia. He explained that Sochi is a tourist resort and will be hosting the 2014 Winter Olympic Games. There is a new airport with direct flights from Vienna and Frankfurt. More flights to other European cities will be starting this autumn. The scientific programme will be similar to previous meetings and also it will be joint with COST but COST funding will be difficult as Russia is not part of the EU. The meeting will be 11-14 May, 2011. Photos of the conference centre and the surrounding area were shown. Roman has already invited 3 guest speakers for the plenary lectures. The cost of the meeting and flights was discussed and as travel will be more expensive, it is envisaged that a number of labs will send less people. Anita asked Roman to make all the financial calculations assuming that there would only be 50 participants. It was noted that the visa situation is now easier and Roman will send a letter of support to the Russian Embassies help this situation. There were a number of questions asked.

13. **Future Meetings:**
 - 2012 will be in Belfast, Northern Ireland and organised by Madeleine Ennis
 - 2013, 8-11 May will be in Lodz, Poland and organised by Agnieszka Fogel.Anita requested that other labs should consider hosting a future meeting.

14. **Website :** The website is working well with Anna Gilicze of Andras' group regularly updating it. It was decided to include the meetings reports on our website. Also any suggestions to improve it are always welcomed.

15. **Any other business :** None

Meeting finished at 17.00

Appendix 1 - Membership ratified from the Fulda meeting 2009

Family Name	Given Name	E-mail address.
Berthe-Corti	Luise	luise.berthe.corti@uni-oldenburg.de
Buschauer	Armin	armin.buschauer@chemie.uni-regensburg.de
Diel	Susanne	susannediel@gmx.de
Elz	Sigurd	sigurd.elz@chemie.uni-regensburg.de
Focken	Maike	m.focken@gmx.de
Fooke-Achterrath	Margit	information@fooke-labs.de
Friedrich	Karl-Heinz	khf@mti.uni-jena.de
Gigante Perez	Crispin	crispin.gigante@uah.es
Hsieh	Gin C	gin.c.hsieh@abbott.com
Ionescu	John	john.ionescu@gmx.com
Jensen	Bettina	bettinamjensen@hotmail.com
Jurič	Damijana M.	damijana-mojca.juric@mf.uni-lj.si
Karcz	Tadeusz	tadeusz.karcz@gmail.com
Kleine-Tebbe	Jörg	kleine-tebbe@allergie-experten.de
Kottke	Tim	Kottke@pharmchem.uni-frankfurt.de
Levi-Schaffer	Francesca	fls@cc.huji.ac.il
Mahler	Michael	information@fooke-labs.de
Modi	Regina	modi@lachimie.uni-hohenheim.de
Maurer	Marcus	marcus.maurer@charite.de
Melchers	Fritz	melchers@mpiib-berlin.mpg.de
Moya Garcia	Aurelio A.	amoyag@uma.es
O'Reilly	Mark	mark.oreilly@pfizer.com
Pino Ángeles	Almudena	apino@uma.es
Salewski	Lothar	lothar.salewski@ibl-international.com
Sander	Kerstin	Sander@em.uni-frankfurt.de
Sasse	Astrid	sassea@tcd.ie
Schmelz	Martin	martin.schmelz@anaes.ma.uni-heidelberg.de

Schulte-Pelkum	Johann	information@fooke-labs.de
kard	Ingrid	ingrid.skard@gmail.com
Stahl Skov	Per	pss@reflab.dk
Vinci	Maria Christina	c.vinci@unifi.it
Walter	Miriam	walter@pharmchem.uni-frankfurt.de
Whitworth	Hilary S	hsw1x07@soton.ac.uk

Appendix 2 – Proposed guidelines for publishing the proceedings of this years meeting.

- Abstracts only are wanted and with a deadline of 30th July.
- The abstract must fit into a half page of A4 – 2000 characters including spaces.
- Single line spacing and using Times New Roman font (11 point size for body of abstract and 12 for title).
- No division into background, methods, results and discussion but suggest that this structure is maintained – perhaps using paragraphing.
- No references to be included.
- The names of author's institution should be given as a footnote, together with contact address and email of corresponding author only.
- If a figure/table is included, then the maximum number of characters to use is reduced by 750.

Appendix 3 – Finances of the society which need to be audited before presenting to the General Assembly.

2010 balance

1st ACCOUNT AT ING Bank

Last Balance	4156.27 +
13/5/09 PFIZER	1,000.00 +
22/5/09 E. Masini	180.00 -
22/5/09 AH prize	707.26 -
28/5/09 AH Prize	400.00 -
4/06/09 GSK	1,000.00 +
26/10/09 MEMBERSHIPS (Fulda)	2,680.00 +
2/12/09 PFIZER	1,000.00 +
31/12/09 Bank Interest	3.50 +
31/12/09 Bank expenses	99.42 -
17/02/10 fellowship	500.00 -
17/02/10 Anita Sydbom	322.00 -
25/03/10 fellowship	500.00 -
25/03/10 Gill Sturman	1256.00 -
26/03/10 A. Assem donation	2500.00 +
30/03/10 fellowship	500.00 -
13/05/10 DURHAM UNIV	305.00 -
BALANCE	7,570.09

2nd ACCOUNT AT ING Bank (Bonus)

31/3/09 Start up	<u>51,634.63</u>
30/6/09 Interest	221.73 +
30/9/09 Interest	151.92 +
31/12/09 Interest	112.82 +
31/3/10 Interest	110.60 +
30/6/10 Interest	112.08 +
BALANCE	52,343.78

Grand Total 59,913.07 euros

Auditors: M.Ennis & R. Leurs

Treasurer P. Blandina

July 2010

