



**XLth Annual Meeting of the
European Histamine Research Society
Sochi, Russia
General Assembly Meeting**

May 14th 2011
17.48 – 19.00, Sanatorium Neva

Present: Anita Sydbom (President/Chair), Patrizio Blandino (Treasurer), Gill Sturman (Publications Secretary),
Council Members: Frank Ahrens, Elena Rivera and Hubert Schwelberger.
There were 17 other 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 Durham, the Honorary Member Walter Schunack had died. Anita spoke about him, his research and all the work he has done for the society. Everyone stood for a minutes silence to remember him.

1. Apologies Marlon Cowart (Council Member) and András Falus (Editor of Inflammation Research), Ekaterini Tiligada, Jerzy Jochem, Emanuela Masini, Piero and Maria Rosa Mannaioni, Ingrid Olhagen Uvnäs Pete Peachell, Michel Dy, Rob Leurs, Gianne Marone, Bernie Gibbs, Cory Teuscher, Friedhelm Diel, Beatrice Passani and Helmut Haas have sent their apologies for this meeting.

2. Minutes from last meeting These had been circulated previously. They were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

3. Matters arising from the minutes None

4. Correspondence A number of members have been in contact with Anita to send their greetings but also their apologies for not being able to attend this meeting (see item 1). It was noted that Anita had received and sent over 2000 e-mails during this year for the society. She has had various communications on behalf of the society during the year. She had either replied directly or got the most appropriate society member to reply to them. Immediately after last year's

meeting she wrote thank you letters to the sponsors. She had sent out 3 'News' letters during the year to all members and written 'begging' letters to potential sponsors for this meeting. Regrettably these have had very little success.

5. Membership Applications Throughout the year applications have been received from the people (see table below)

Membership Applications 2010/11		
Name	Town	Country
Malcolm Boyce	London	UK
Tadahō Nakamura	Sendai	Japan
Angélica Osorio Espinoza	Mexico City	Mexico
Magdalena Kurnik	Krakow	Poland
Ksenia Koryanova	Moscow	Russia
Alessandro Pini	Florence	Italy

Additionally there are 34 people who attended last years meeting in Durham whose membership needs to be ratified (Appendix 1). Membership to all these people was agreed.

6. Inflammation Research

a. Journal of Inflammation Research. The editor of Inflammation Research (András Falus) had sent information about this to Anita. The impact factor for 2009 was 1.586, 1.457 in 2008 and 1.504 in 2007. In 2010 twenty-two manuscripts had been submitted with 11 being accepted, 11 rejected. Also there are 4 are pending. These figures are similar to those of 2009.

b. Publications of Proceedings of our meetings. Gill reported that all the communications, including the plenary lectures from last years meeting had been published as abstracts as requested by the Journal and agreed at last years General Assembly meeting. The abstracts were emailed to the publishers and were printed within 4 weeks (i.e. mid November). The instructions for the publication of this years meeting are the same as last year and can be found in the back of the Programme and Abstracts book She requests that the abstracts are submitted to her, both electronically and as a paper version, by the 15th June.

7. Finances

a. Student Bursaries Anita reported that we had been unable to get any new student bursary support this year. Last year the E.S.K. Assem family had given the society money for student bursaries. As we had not allocated any bursaries from this fund last year, it had been agreed that we could award 2 this year. Also we had 2 bursaries from Pfizer, 1 from the G.B. West Memorial Trust and 1 from our funds using the Novo Nordisk grant we had been given in the past. The table below lists the students, their supervisors and which bursary they had been allocated.

Name	Country	Supervisor	Sponsor
Tadahō Nakamura	Japan	Kazuhiko Yanai	Pfizer
Magdalena Kurnik	Poland	Piotr Thor	GB West
Angélica Osorio-Espinosa	Mexico	José-Antonio Arias-Montaño	Pfizer
Konstantinos Kyriakidis	Greece	Ekaterini Tiligada	ESK Assem
Alessandro Pini	Italy	Emanuela Masini	EHRs
Tadeusz Karcz	Poland	K.Kiec-Kononowicz	ESK Assem

b. EHRs Young Investigator Award Anita reported that Abbott Laboratories have sponsored the EHRs Young Investigator Award again this year with 750 € for first and 500 € for second prize. The earlier funding from Abbott for the Art A Hancock Young Investigator Award finished in 2009. Last year it was financed out of our own finances and so we called it the EHRs Young Investigator Award. There are six finalists this year; namely Tobias Birnkammer (Germany), Tommas Ellender (Germany), Ellena Grebenchenko (Russia), Ksenia Koryanova (Russia), Tadahō Nakamura (Japan) and Peter van Ruitenbeek (UK). It was noted that regrettably at the very last minutes Ellena Grebenchenko was unable to give her presentation due to a close relative being very ill.

c. Current Financial Situation. Patrizio presented a summary of the audited accounts (Appendix 2) and answered questions about them.

8. Elections to council (Publication Secretary and Belgian Council Member)

Gill Sturman was re-elected as Publications Secretary (proposed by Anita Sydbom and seconded by Frank Ahrens) and Pierre Chatelain (the Belgian Council member) was also re-elected (proposed by Anita Sydbom and seconded by Gill Sturman).

9. Election of new Treasurer Patrizio Blandini has been our Treasurer for 9 years (3 periods of 3 years) and so a replacement has to be elected this year. Anita on behalf of the society thanked Patrizio for all his work as treasurer and gave him a small present. Pertti Panula of Finland was elected unanimously as the new Treasurer (proposed by Anita Sydbom and seconded by Madeleine Ennis).

10. Present meeting Roman reported that there were about 60 persons at this meeting with a further 18 at the 2 EHRs symposia (in Russian) which he had organised for 10th and 11th May for some Russian Medics with the attendance of representatives from the Pharmaceutical Industry. He thought that about 15 of the Russians would continue to support this society after this meeting. Unfortunately several people had not been able to get visas. He had had 200 Programme and

Abstract Books printed. The website had been active from November and had been modified several times since then.

Roman was thanked for all his hard work in organising this meeting.

11. Next meeting 2012 2-5th May Belfast, N. Ireland – organised by Madeleine Ennis. Maddie has prepared A4 posters for everyone and she then gave a Powerpoint presentation about her meeting. It would be held in the centre of Belfast at the Hilton Hotel. She has already organised 3 plenary lecturers; Prof Freddy Hargreave (McMaster University, Canada), "Biomarkers in airway diseases; their clinical introduction and interpretation", Prof Holger Stark (Frankfurt University, Germany), "Histamine H₄ receptor – ligand, binding and activation", Professor Peter Bradding (Leicester University, UK) "Interactions between mast cells and structural airway cells in the pathogenesis of asthma". Another lecture on CNS aspects is being planned. She was also planning a Round Table session plus giving student bursaries and running the Young Investigators Competition. Maddie gave some of her ideas on the social aspect of the meeting i.e. Galgorm Manor, Giants Causeway. Then she explained how to get to Belfast by various air routes, gave some idea of the costs involved whilst budgeting on 100 people attending the meeting with 75 people staying at the Hilton Hotel. It was noted that this meeting was eligible for COST money. Maddie was hoping that the website would be active from June. She was thanked for all this preparation work.

12. Future meetings The society has been invited to Łódź, Poland (8-11 May, 2013) by Agnieszka Fogel. Unfortunately there are no more invitations to date. Anita asked all the members to think about hosting a meeting. Various ways of trying to increase attendance at our meeting was also discussed.

13. Website Anna Gilicze of the Andras Falus group has been doing the job this year and has performed this work very well and quickly updating and adding news. Paul Chazot is responsible for the scientific part of the website. Anita asked for possible ways of improving our website.

14. COST – Action BM0806 Paul Chazot reported that this was reaching the end of its second year of a four year programme. Within this collaboration programme many scientists go and work in different laboratories within the group for 1 to 13 weeks to learn new techniques etc. There will be a joint meeting with the EHRS next year in Belfast. There are 20 countries involved and over 150 scientists. Two countries (New Zealand and Argentina) are affiliated to this Action with 2 more (US and Russia) pending. More information about COST can be obtained from the website (www.histamineresearch.com), Paul Chazot (UK) or Ekaterini Tiligada (Athens).

13. Any other business

Three people were proposed and then unanimously elected for Honorary Membership (see Appendix 3 for the Statutes on this)

1. Helmut Haas, (Germany) - A regular attendee at our meetings and hosted a meeting in 2004. His scientific work was crucial in assessing the role of Histamine as a neurotransmitter and clarifying its role in sleep regulation Proposed by Anita Sydbom and seconded by Gill Sturman.
2. Zsuzsanna Huszti, (Hungary) - Again another very regular attendee, has done many things for our society as well as hosting 2 meetings (Visegrad 1980 and second in Budapest 1994). Proposed by Anita Sydbom and seconded by Gill Sturman.
3. Jean-Charles Schwartz, (France) - He had been a regular attendee of our society for many years and has made significant work on the histamine H₃ receptor. Proposed by Anita Sydbom and seconded by Paul Chazot.

Meeting was closed at 19.00

Appendix 1 People who attended last years meeting in Durham and whose membership needs to be ratified

New Delegates EHRS Durham 2010

First Name	Surname	Email	Country
Lynda	Adam	adamfarm@unipr.it	Canada
Tobias	Birnkammer	Tobias.Birnkammer@chemie.uni-regensburg.de	Germany
Hannah	Bunk	hannah.mariele.bunk@tiho-hannover.de	Germany
Silke	Conen	silke.conen@maastrichtuniversity.nl	The Netherlands
Adam	Davenport	helen.hutchinson@evotec.com	UK
Petra	de Kruijf	p.de.kruijf@few.vu.nl	Netherlands
Tommas	Ellender	tommas.ellender@pharm.ox.ac.uk	United Kingdom
María Jesús	García Godoy	mariaviruz@hotmail.com	Spain
Mark	Gemkow	mark.gemkow@evotec.com	Germany
Roland	Geyer	Roland.Geyer@chemie.uni-regensburg.de	Germany
Sun Young	Han	sunghan@cwpc.co.kr	South Korea
Emily	Hodge	msxeh@nottingham.ac.uk	UK
Damijana	Juric	damijana-mojca.juric@mf.uni.lj.si	Slovenia
Raphaella	Kaisler	raphaella.kaisler@helsinki.fi	Finland
Gitta	Köther	gitta.koe@gmx.de	Germany
Minjung	Kong	mikong@cwpc.co.kr	South Korea
Ashok	Kumawat	ashok.kumawat@oru.se	Sweden
Jeanne-Marie	LECOMTE	jm.lecomte@bioprojet.com	France
Zygmunt	Mackevic	zmackiewicz@hotmail.com	Lithuania
Noelia	Massari	nmassari@ffy.uba.ar	Argentina
Stephany	Micallef	sassea@tcd.ie	Ireland
LEONARDO	MUNARI	leomonari@hotmail.com	Italy
Saskia	Nijmeijer	s.nijmeijer@few.vu.nl	The Netherlands
Garyphallia	Papaioannou	faypapaioannou@yahoo.com	Greece
Anwar	Rayan	anwarrayan@gmail.com	Israel
Maria Victoria	Ruiz Perez	mariaviruz@hotmail.com	Spain
Brad	Savall	bsavall@its.jnj.com	U.S.A.
Ling	Shan	L.shan@nin.knaw.nl	The Netherlands
Niu	Shin	nshin@incyte.com	USA
Anna	Stasiak	anna.stasiak@umed.lodz.pl	Poland
Jennifer	Stott	jstott01@qub.ac.uk	UK
Maria	Sundvik	maria.sundvik@helsinki.fi	Finland
Gilles	Tamagnan	gtamagnan@indd.org	USA
Jenni Pauliina	Vanhanen	jenni.vanhanen@helsinki.fi	Finland

Appendix 2 Finance

2011 balance

1st ACCOUNT AT ING Bank

Last Balance	7570.09 +
09/11/10 PFIZER	1,000.00 +
31/12/10 Bank Interest	4.45 +
31/12/10 Bank expenses	99.42 -
01/02/11 Website management	500.00 -
29/03/11 Anita Sydbom	492.00 -
03-5/11 2011 Fellowship	2569.58 -
25/03/10 Gill Sturman	1752.00 -
BALANCE	<u>3161.54</u>

2nd ACCOUNT AT ING Bank (Bonus)

31/03/10 Start up	<u>51,634.63</u>
30/09/10 Interest	113.55 +
31/12/10 Interest	113.79 +
31/03/11 Interest	128.32 +
BALANCE	<u>52,699.44</u>

Grand Total 55860.98 euros

Auditors: M.Ennis & F.Pearce

Treasurer P. Blandina

May 2011

Appendix 3 EHRS Statues about Honorary Membership

“The highest award is that of honorary membership and it is only given to very special society people. To obtain Honorary Membership, the person has to be elected by over two-thirds of the ordinary members at the General Assembly.

They should be elected by at least 2/3 of members present at the General Assembly after nomination by the President and approval by the Council. Honorary members do not pay membership dues but have voting rights.”