



**45th Annual Meeting of the
European Histamine Research Society
Florence, Italy
General Assembly**

May 14th 2016
Maglio Clioster, Florence (16.30 – 18.05)

Present:

*	Paul Chazot	President	*	Vanina Medina (Argentina)	Council Member
*	Jerzy Jochem	Treasurer		Saara Nuutinen(Finland)	Council Member
*	Gill Sturman	Publications Secretary	*	Arianna Rosa (Italy)	Council Member
*	Bernie Gibbs	Editor Inflammation Research	*	Katherine Tiligada (Greece)	Council Member
*	Pierre Chatelain	Belgian Council Member			

*Indicates attendance.

Plus there were over 35 members of the society at this meeting.

Minutes were taken by Gill Sturman.

The President (Paul Chazot) welcomed everyone to this meeting and thanked them for all their help and support since the last meeting of the society and during this meeting.

1. Apologies Saara Nuutinen has sent her apologies for this meeting. Paul also gave apologies from several members of the society,

2. Minutes from previous meeting Previously these had been circulated. They were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

3. Matters arising from the minutes Nothing not on the agenda.

4. Present meeting Emanuela Masini reported that there had been 94 persons registered for this meeting plus 14 accompanying persons. Congratulations were given to her, Beatrice Passini and all the Florentine staff on the smooth running of this excellent meeting.

5. Correspondence Paul reported that he had received over 1600 emails since the last meeting which could mainly be divided into the usual areas:-

a. Members of the public requesting information about histamine and health issues, especially histamine intolerance. He informed the Council that he passed these requests onto the most appropriate society member to answer them.

- b. Requests about specific research interests, including COST matters and the Japanese Histamine Research Society.
- c. Matters relating to our society and the meeting – this was smallest area.

6. Membership Applications. Throughout the year and from last year's meeting membership applications have been received and are tabulated in Appendix 1. The Council supported membership for all these people.

7. Inflammation Research

a. Journal of Inflammation Research. Bernie Gibbs, the current EHRS editor for Inflammation Research reported that the impact factor for 2014 was now 2.347 which is an increase on last year. Bernie requested submitting cutting-edge reviews (often more highly cited than original articles), to remember to cite articles in IR (if appropriate) and for higher visibility, consider paying for open access (Open Choice). Also he asked for people willing to be referees or even suggest people who might be able to help with this process. Any offers, please contact Bernie.

Action : All participants of this meeting

b. Publications of Proceedings of our meetings. Gill reported that 64 abstracts plus 2 reports (Meeting and Honorary Membership) had been published. She thanked all the referees who had helped her get the proceedings to the publishers by 1st June with publication by 7th July. The instructions for the publication of this year's meeting are the same as last year (see the back of the Programme book – page 95). She requested that the abstracts are submitted to her electronically only and before the deadline of 1st June. However like last year, she has spoken to many of the participants at this meeting to find out what changes, if any, they want to make to their abstracts so helping to speed up this process.

Action : All participants of this meeting

8. Finances

Jerzy presented the accounts which are listed in Appendix 2 and had been audited by Madeleine Ennis and Astrid Sasse during this meeting. The problem which Jerzy is having is getting access to these accounts and this was discussed. Pierre and Jerzy would continue to sort out this problem. Madeleine suggested that the society should consider having an account in a European country other than Belgium. However, this would present extra difficulties.

Thanks were given to Anna Eldin Assem and family for their continued support and in giving the society 2 Student Bursaries this year. Also we are very grateful to J&J/Janssen Pharmaceuticals for a donation towards our Young Investigator Award 2016 and the running of the meeting.

Action : Jerzy and Pierre

9. EHRS Membership Fee. Although the membership fees have remained unchanged for many years, the Council did not want to propose an increase in them and this was mainly due to the difficulty in collecting them. Currently they are €50 for full members and €25 for members under 30 or retired. The question of collection of membership fees to

people not actually attending the meetings was discussed (see item 13). Thanks were given to Anita Sydbom for collecting our membership fees at this meeting.

10. Elections of Publication Secretary and Belgian Member to Council. Gill Sturman was re-elected as Publications Secretary (proposed by Paul Chazot and seconded by Madeleine Ennis) and Pierre Chatelain (the Belgian Council member) was also re-elected (proposed by Paul Chazot and seconded by Astrid Sasse).

11. Next meeting 2017 The 46th meeting will be held 10-13th May in Amsterdam, The Netherlands and organised by Rob Leurs. It is proposed that this meeting will be joint with the Japanese Histamine Research Society and Rob and the Japanese delegates have been discussing the plans for this meeting throughout this meeting. The emphasis will be on the molecular aspect of histamine. One of the Japanese delegates will deliver the G.B. West Lecture. The members thanked him for all this preparatory work.

12. Future meetings Paul has been canvassing various members of the society about hosting future meetings. To date our proposed calendar is :-

2018 Dusseldorf

2019 Turin or Durham or Dublin

Joint meetings with COST actions are planned plus symposia at future International meetings in S. America, Japan and the Middle East were suggested.

Action : Paul and all participants of this meeting

13. Website Paul reported that regrettably there has been no further development of our new website but as the framework has been prepared already the website should be completed by September this year. A great deal of concern was expressed on the lack of progress as the website is increasingly being the first point of information for both our members and also other people working in the histamine field. Additional ideas to include on the website were an 'online payment of membership fees', an ESR section, news updates with success/impact stories, grant opportunities/ notification of conference and events page, links to Facebook and Twitter pages. Another possibility suggested was including a database of members' information but this would have to be made secure to our members only. Any further ideas should be sent to Paul as soon as possible.

Action : Paul and all participants of this meeting

14. Statutes The proposed statutes (see Appendix 3), which had been circulated to all members several weeks previously together with the comments from one member who had proposed having a vice-president, together with the additional proposal for the President to have access to the accounts were discussed extensively. Also there was a lengthy discussion as to the exact role of the vice-president. Nick Carruthers, proposed that the society has a vice-president and this was seconded by Pertti Panula. An additional suggestion, from the Council, was that the President, in addition to the Treasurer and the

Belgian Council member, has access to our bank accounts. It was decided that the Council would prepare the proposed statutes and these would be sent out to all members of the society before end of November. This would allow the new proposed statutes to be sent out before the registration for next year's meeting. It was noted that a formal vote must be taken at next year's General Assembly before the statutes can formally be changed. A suggestion was also mooted that there should be an EHRS email address to which all Council members would have access.

Action : Paul and Council members

15. Early Stage Researchers issues Arianna and Vanina gave a PowerPoint presentation of the views/opinions of the ESR subgroup meeting which had been held earlier this week. This can be viewed in Appendix 4. They proposed a deadline of Sept/Oct time for the next year's meeting for ideas on topics for a symposium. This may be run outside the usual meeting if funding permitted it. ESR should contact either Arianna or Vanina with their proposals who in turn will then liaise with the meeting organizers and the Council. Additionally they were interested having training sessions or workshops. Again ESR ideas need to be channeled through Arianna and Vanina.

Action : All ESRs, Arianna and Vanina

16. Future Funding and marketing of EHRS Activities Katherine Tiligada reemphasised the need for an up to date website. .

a. Katherine requested the need to publish information on Facebook etc. as many members regularly look at this. This would mean that responding could be quick and efficient. As a society we need to get better at publishing successes.

About 70% of the 'Histamine Book' is finished but the response of EHRS members as potential contributors and reviewers for the VSI in 'Pharmacological Research' is very weak.

b. Katherine has submitted a COST proposal on immunopharmacology on behalf of the EHRS and the IUPHAR Immunopharmacology section (ImmuPhar). It was noted that 11 of the 21 proposers are members of the EHRS. It is expected that the results of this proposal will be heard by the end of October. However, a number of people are citing EHRS membership but are not there is currently confusion on who is considered to be a member of the Society at any given time and how a 'member' can obtain a membership certificate (if needed). This matter should be clarified and included in the planned revision of the Statutes (see item 14). This point links in with the collection of membership fees (see item 9).

c. Another proposal was the production of an annual newsletter but this would have a cost implication but would remind people of the EHRS. A number of societies already do this. The development of a template was discussed. Katherine encouraged members to give her suggestions/articles etc for this.

Action : Katherine and all participants of this meeting

17. Nomination for EHRM Honorary Membership. The Council proposed that Professor Hiroyuki Fukui, Tokushima, Japan be awarded Honorary Membership of our society (see Appendix 5 for our statutes on Honorary Membership). He has published over 130 publications in the histamine field and is a long term supported of the EHRM. This proposal was seconded by Anita Sydbom. The General Assembly unanimously supported this proposal. **Action: Paul**

18. Any Other Business None

Meeting was closed at 18.05

Summary of Action Points

Who	Agenda Item	Action
All members	7 a.	Publishing in IR
All members at this meeting	7b.	Publishing of the proceedings of this meeting
Jerzy and Pierre	8	Ensure that Jerzy has complete access to the accounts.
Paul and all participants of this meeting	12	Hosting of future meetings
Paul and all participants of this meeting	13	Website
Paul and Council	14	Drafting of Statutes and then their circulation before registration deadline for 2017 meeting.
Arianna Rosa and Vanina Medina	15	Proposals for 'ERS Symposium' and/or training sessions/workshops requests by Sept/Oct time.
Katherine and all EHRM members	16	Articles/suggestions etc for the Newsletter.
Paul	17	Honorary Membership

Appendix 1.

People who attended last year's meeting in Malaga and their membership was formally approved by the General Assembly.

Name		Country
Abdurakhmanova	Shamsi	Finland
Acosta- Andrade	Carlos	Spain
Bernardino	Liliana	Portugal
Blanca	Miguel	Spain
Bosma	Reggie	The Netherlands
Brunetti-Pierri	Nicola	Italy
Carmona	Rosario	Spain
Chliva	Caterina	Greece
Durante	Mariaconcetta	Italy
Gigante Pérez	Crispín	Spain
Grootjans	Johan	The Netherlands
Köchling	Hanna Kathrin	Germany
Mayor Menéndez	Federico	Spain
Montejo López	Wiber	México
Neumann	Detlef	Germany
Perkins	James	Spain
Rivera-Ramírez	Nayeli Jocelyn	México
Rodríguez López	Rocío	Spain
Rojano	Elena	Spain
Rozov	Stanislav	Finland
Urdiales	José Luis	Spain
Verweij	Eléonore	The Netherlands
Wohlert	Mareike	Germany

Appendix 2

EHRS Finances as of May 6, 2016 which has 4 bank accounts:-

1. Current account in EUR

Income:	5 000 EUR	(transfer from the saving account in EUR [2.])
	1 580 EUR	(membership fees from the Meeting in Malaga, 2015)
	1 000 EUR	(donation from Dr ESK Assem)
Expenses:	272.92 EUR	(bank expenses)
	5 028.40 EUR	(student bursaries)
Current account balance:	7 669.30 EUR	

2. Saving account in EUR

Income:	68.92 EUR	(bank interest)
Expenses:	5 000	(transfer to the current account in EUR [1.])
Current account balance:	38 859.26 EUR	

3. Current account in GBP

Income:	-	
Expenses:	868.29 GBP	(Dr G. Sturman expenses – EHRS Meeting in Malaga)
	0.11 GBP	(bank expenses)
Current account balance:	1 220.87 GBP	

4. Current account in USD

Income:	1 000 USD	(donation from Janssen Research and Development)
	4 000 USD	(donation from Janssen Research and Development)
Expenses:	0.17 USD	(bank expenses)
Current account balance:	11 551.79 USD	

Treasurer : J.Jerzy

Audited by Madeleine Ennis and Astrid Sasse during this meeting.

Appendix 3. Our Statutes

Proposed

The President is elected, by secret vote if there is more than 1 candidate, by the General Assembly after nomination by the Council or from the floor for a three-year period with the option of re-election for a maximum of one further three-year period. After a period of at least 5 years has elapsed, an individual can be re-elected as President for a maximum three-year period.

1. If the President is hindered through illness etc, the past president or a member from the Council will take over the duties until the President is able to take up the post again or the next General Assembly where, if the President is still unable to perform the duties, a new President will be elected. The Past President will remain in their role.
2. The Past President stays in this office for one year to provide advice to the new President and to step in if required.
3. Ordinary Council members are in post for a minimum of three years. Ordinary Council members should represent as many fields of research as possible, and membership should rotate through different countries. Members may stand for re-election providing at least 3 years have passed since their last period on council.
4. The society encourages the development of Early Stage Researchers and an additional council member in this category will be elected at the General Assembly. Their term of office as an Early Stage Researcher (PhD student or postdoctoral scientist within 6 years of obtaining their PhD or MD) is limited to 2 years. They can of course apply to be a full council member thereafter. The member can be from academic, medical or industrial backgrounds.

Current Statutes of the EHRS

The General Assembly

The General Assembly of members is held at every annual meeting. It ultimately decides all aspects of matters affecting the Society, and particularly considers the reports from the President, Treasurer, Auditors, Publications Secretary, and Organizer of the current meeting and also the acceptance of invitations and appointment of the Organizers for forthcoming meetings. It elects the officers and councilors of the Society and decides on amendments to the statutes. It decides the amount of membership dues.

The Officers

- President

The President is elected, by secret vote if there is more than 1 candidate, by the General Assembly after nomination by the Council or from the floor for a three-year period with the option of re-election for a maximum of one further three-year period. The President chairs the meetings of the General Assembly, of the Council and of any Advisory Group. He/She represents EHRS in Public, keeps the EHRS records, prepares the agenda for those meetings and submits a report from the meetings and activities within three months of the meetings. The President will keep a list of names, addresses etc of all members of the Society. In case of hindrance, the President will be substituted by the Treasurer, and vice versa. If necessary the President and/or Treasurer or one of the Council Members will represent the EHRS in court.

- Past-President

After the end of term of office as president of EHRS he/she automatically stays in office one more year as past president in parallel with the newly elected president to aid in all presidential duties. During this time he/she is a full member of the council with all voting rights.

- Treasurer

The Treasurer is elected, by secret vote if there is more than 1 candidate, by the General Assembly after nomination by the Council or from the floor for a three-year period with the option of re-election for a maximum of two further three-year period. The Treasurer keeps the financial records and the bank account for the Society, particularly with respect to membership dues and donations from outside including eventual surpluses from meetings. He/She is encouraged to raise funds and shall present an account of the finances of the Society at each General Assembly. The Treasurer is controlled annually by two independent auditors who shall be appointed from the floor by the Council or the General Assembly. Their term of office will normally be two years, with the option of re-election for a maximum of two other two-year periods.

- Publications Secretary

The Publications Secretary is elected by the General Assembly, by secret vote if there is more than 1 candidate, for a three-year period with the option of re-election for a non-limited number of further one-year periods after nomination by the Council and on agreement with the publishers of the organ of the EHRS. He/She is responsible for the appropriate publication of the proceedings of the Society. To this effect

he/she will together with the publishers set formal criteria and deadlines for the submission of manuscripts. He/She will appoint referees to help with the editorial work and should give a short report to the General Assembly. His/Her expenses should be covered by the publishers.

The Council

The Council shall sit at each annual meeting. It will consist of the officers of the Society (President, Treasurer and Publications Secretary) plus 5 ordinary members, one of whom must be from Belgium. The council member from Belgium can, after the first three years in office, be re-elected annually with no limit to the number of years served. The ordinary members of the Council replace the former National Secretaries and will together with the Officers of the Society (shall) be responsible for the administration of the Society. Council members shall be elected, by secret vote if there is more than 1 candidate, at the annual General Assembly. The mandate of ordinary Council members is limited to one three-year period. The Ordinary members should represent as many fields of research as possible. Council membership should rotate through different countries.

The ordinary Council will assist those who are interested in histamine and related fields, obtaining information about the activities of the EHRS, including the name and address of the Organizer of the next meeting.

Annual Meetings

Traditionally, the annual meetings are held in May. The organizer of a forthcoming annual meeting of the EHRS and his/her invitation should be confirmed by the General Assembly after review by the Council. The Organizer must declare his/her ability and facilities make the appropriate arrangements and must accept financial liability for that particular meeting.

Amendment of the Statutes/Dissolutions of the Society

An intention to amend these statutes or to dissolve EHRS must be announced to the members before the deadline for early registration for the next General Assembly, i.e. next meeting. Amendments of these statutes may only be effected by a ballot of the General Assembly and require a majority vote of 2/3 of those present. Postal voting rights are available under these special circumstances to fully paid up members of the Society after consultation with the President or Treasurer.

Appendix 4. ESR presentation from AR and VM

To promote the participation of young researchers and motivate them to exchange ideas and present their research in the field of histamine we propose **for next meetings** (organize in advance with the next chairman, **according to the possibilities**):

- To arrange a **pre-meeting, workshop or training course**, involving ESR of the **host institution** of EHRS meeting. It would a good opportunity to meet (2-4 h) on Wednesday morning or before welcome reception (to avoid extending the EHRS meeting). Is it possible to arrange something at 2017 EHRS?
- We will contact ESR in advance to arrange the encounter with an expert senior researcher in case someone wants it. The meeting with the expert could be arrange if it is possible in this pre-meeting or afterwards at the poster session.
- To organize a scientific **poster session for young researches** at the EHRS meeting.
- To stimulate ESR **active participation** to the meeting and create **collaboration** we suggest a "**symposium competition**": a group of at least 3 ESR from different institution/countries has to plan a symposium (including budget, lecturers, time table). The best idea will be selected to be organized by them in the next meeting.
- To have the **contact information and a short synopsis at the website of the senior researchers** in the different areas so ESR or anyone could have the updated data to establish contact.
- It would be good to advertise the EHRS meetings to attract new histaminologists. For that, we can **disseminate the information (e.g. as a digital flier) of the society and the upcoming meetings** to other academic and/or industry members involved in histamine research.
- We ask to anyone with **open PhD or postdoc positions** to send the information in order to advertise both on the website, EHRS Facebook and at EHRS meetings.

Appendix 5 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."