17th MEETING OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY
The Square - Brussels, Belgium
Tuesday 15th September 2015, 1800 – 1900hrs

Present:
Executive of ESOT Council
Council Members
Over 150 ESOT members

Minutes of last meeting were accepted as had been circulated.

Welcome and introduction by the President (John Forsythe)
JF welcomed ESOT members to the General Assembly and expressed his gratitude to those who had been involved in organising an excellent meeting in Brussels. It was clear from formal and informal feedback that the Congress had been a success.

JF then thanked outgoing members of the ESOT Executive and Council. He expressed gratitude for the hard work carried out by many of the people stepping down from Council. ESOT members present showed their thanks in the usual fashion.

Report of the Secretary (Thierry Berney)
TB briefly reminded the assembly how the new President was elected. There was only one candidate, TB, who was then approved by Council. GA confirmed the election by a unanimous vote.

Since TB was moving on to President, there was a vacancy for the Secretary position. The new Secretary was elected by the same process. There was only one candidate, Vassilios Papalois, who was then approved by Council. GA confirmed the election by a unanimous vote.

TB explains that Council voted in favour of creating a President-elect position. This would allow membership to know ahead of time who would be the next President, and allow the President-elect to be better prepared for the position. The responsibility of the Scientific Program Committee of next Congress will be part of his (her) portfolio. There was only one candidate, Stefan Schneeberger, who was then approved by Council. GA confirmed the election by a unanimous vote.
Since SS was moving on to President-elect, there was a vacancy for the Treasurer position. The new Treasurer was elected by the same process. There were two candidates, Paolo Muiesan and Luciano Potena. LP was elected by Council members by secret electronic ballot. GA confirmed the election by a unanimous vote.

Five positions were also available for new ESOT Councillors. There were 8 applications from ESOT members in good standing. New Councillors were elected by ESOT membership by secret electronic ballot. The following Councillors were elected: Marc Dahlke, Luuk Hilbrands, Maarten Naesens, Gabriel Oniscu, Olivier Thaunat. GA confirmed the election by a unanimous vote.

Report of the Treasurer (Stefan Schneeberger)

SS presents the 2015 ESOT accounts (cut date: 3.9.15). Incomes/Expenses show a net result of +260k€ for the ESOT Foundation and -50k€ for the Society. The overall assets are slightly > 5M€.

SS discussed the implementation of KPIs (key performance indicators) selected to assess the performance of ESOT in 5 fields (Education, Membership, Networking, Information exchange, Sustainability). This is a work in progress.

SS briefly communicated the involvement of ESOT in an initiative to define surrogate endpoints for clinical trials in kidney transplantation. An initiative was started by the FDA, with the participation of ASTS, AST, TTS and ESOT. It remains to be defined how ESOT will join the effort. Involvement of EMA for an input from European regulatory authorities is necessary.

SS briefly presents the new features of the All ESOT App developed for the Brussels Congress.

Finally, SS concludes by remarking that a five-year strategic plan was overall successfully completed. Targets for the next period will be creating novel educational products, attracting the transplant community, developing KPIs and developing an innovative brand.

The outstanding achievements of SS in his tenure as ESOT Treasurer are gratefully acknowledged by the President, Council and membership.

Report of the Executive Officer (Annalisa Ponchia)

AP presents the activities of the ESOT Office for 2014-15 as two intense years for an « active team ». 12 meetings and courses were organized each year, for a total of >1500 attendees. Organization of the 2015 ESOT Congress was a massive team work, that resulted in a very successful event in terms of participation: a record high 1670 abstracts, 3590 delegates, plus 320 online attendees via the ESOT Transplant Live initiative. Participants were from 5 continents, with 44% from outside Europe.
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The successful work of AP and her team is gratefully acknowledged by the President, Council and membership.

Report of the Education Committee (Vassilios Papalois)

VP summarizes the educational activities organized by the EC the past 2 years and the future plans. Frank Dor will step in for VP as chair of the EC, when VP becomes the new ESOT Secretary.

Report of the Basic Science Committee (Thomas Wekerle)

TW presents the future activities organized by the BSC the past 2 years and introduces the new chair of the BSC, Henri Leuvenink.

Report of EDTCO (Lisa Burnapp)

LB presents the activities organized by EDTCO in 2014 and 2015. She introduces the new chair of EDTCO, Julien Charpentier.

Report of ELITA (Paolo Muiesan)

PM recapitulates the very active and successful years 2014 and 2015 for ELITA, with 8 courses and meetings. Several activities are already planned for 2016.

Report of EPITA (Johann Pratschke)

JP reports on a successful 2015 EPITA winter symposium. The symposium has been very attractive to delegates and generated a surplus 5 years in a row since its creation. The winter symposium and an islet isolation workshop are already planned for 2016.

Report of ECTTA (Luciano Potena)

LP presents the activities of ECTTA in 2015, comprising meetings and a consensus conference. A consensus paper is in the writing. Several activities are already planned for 2016 (meeting, consensus conference, a new EVLP registry).

Report of ELPAT (Willem Weimar)

WW recapitulates the very active and successful 2014 year for ELPAT, with several conferences, meetings and symposia, which yielded a large number of publications. Several activities are already planned for 2016.
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Report of TI (Thomas Wekerle)
TW introduces the new editorial team of TI, with himself and Rainer Oberbauer serving as co-Editors-in-Chief. The new all-digital format of TI is presented. Several strategies to improve the journal and increase its impact factor are presented.

Report of CET (Sir Peter Morris)
Sir PM recapitulates the education and support activities of the CET. A new edition of the EVIT Course is planned for 2016.

Report of VCA (Lionel Badet)
LB reports on the activities of the VCA Committee for 2013-2015. Guidelines on VCA are being developed. VCA is collaborating with the BSC for joint symposia. LB introduces Gerald Brandacher, the new VCA chair.

Report of EKITA (Rainer Oberbauer)
RO reports the activities of EKITA. Plans for the coming years are shown. Collaboration with the Descartes group of ERA-EDTA is important for EKITA’s activities.

Report of ETAHP (Marjo van Helden)
MvH reports on the activities of newly established ETAHP. Bundled meetings were organized in 2014 and are planned for 2016 with EDTO. Collaboration with ITNS (International Transplant Nurses Society) in 2015 resulted in a joint symposium. ETAHP is working on building a strong platform.

Report of YPT (Undine Gerlach)
UG reports on YPT activities and highlights the novel formats introduced in ESOT Congresses in 2013 and 2015. Some online activities are also an important aspect of YPT.

Report of the Barcelona 2017 ESOT Congress (SS, Josep Grinyo)
SS and JG unveil the logo and visuals of the 2017 BigBangBarcelona Congress. They are working with an active SPC to keep the momentum established by the latest ESOT Congresses in terms of innovative formats and contents.
ESOT 2019 – presentation of the winning bidder and ratification of the vote (TB)

TB describes the selection process for the venue of the ESOT2019 Congress. Four very good applications were invited to present their bids at the ESOT Council meeting (Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Göteborg, Milan). Two were shortlisted for electronic secret ballot voting by membership (Copenhagen, Göteborg). Copenhagen won the vote. This vote is unanimously confirmed by the GA.

Any other business

No further business was noted.

Closing remarks from new ESOT President (TB)

TB thanked all of those who had stayed quite late to discuss important issues for ESOT. He also thanked outgoing members of Council for the huge amount of work which they had carried out and he looked forward to working with new Council members in the future.

Adjourn

Minutes taken by TB.