



# European Society of Endocrinology

## Annual General Meeting

ECE 2008, Hall 1  
International Congress Center (ICC) Berlin  
Neue Kantstrasse / Ecke Messedamm,  
D-14057 Berlin, Germany.

6 May 2008, 18.15 to 19.30

## Draft Minutes

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### **1. Minutes of previous meeting**

Professor Nieschlag asked for approval of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting in Budapest 2007. No questions were raised and they were agreed and signed.

### **2. Admission of new members**

Professor Nieschlag advised that the ESE had now introduced a category of Honorary membership; and that for 2008 this had been awarded during the ECE 2008 opening ceremony to Professor Luciano Martini (Italy) for recognition of his tremendous achievements in the early days of EFES and significant contributions to European endocrinology and to Professor Gabriella Morreale de Escobar (Spain) for recognition of her tremendous achievements and significant contributions to European endocrinology. Professor Nieschlag explained that they were not able to stay for the whole congress but thanked them for their attendance to the Opening Ceremony.

#### *a. Election of Ordinary members*

Professor Nieschlag advised that there were 382 new member applicants, 10 of which had not completed all of their paperwork. Professor Nieschlag stated that this second group would not be able to vote in 2009 unless they complete the process.

Professor Nieschlag asked if any ESE Ordinary members or representatives of Affiliated Society Members had any objections to any of the names listed in appendix 2a or 2b. There were no objections. Professor Nieschlag asked if any ESE Ordinary members or representatives of Affiliated Society Members wished to abstain. There were no abstentions. Professor Nieschlag then went on to declare a unanimous vote and all those listed in appendix 2a were elected to membership of the European Society of Endocrinology and all those in appendix 2b were elected with the condition that they completed their application forms in full.

Professor Nieschlag congratulated the new members and welcomed them to the Society. He pointed out that under topic 5 a new procedure for admitting new members would be proposed and asked the AGM to support this notion in order to increase the speed at which new ESE members could become involved in ESE affairs.

#### *b. Election of Affiliated Society members*

Professor Nieschlag confirmed that the ESE had received an application from the Macedonian Endocrine Society (MEA) for Affiliated Society Membership. He summarised that the MEA was set up on 8 November 2002 and the aims and objectives of the MEA are to promote scientific and new trends in endocrinology in Macedonia and co-operation with similar associations.

The MEA currently have approximately 80 members and their activities consist of national meetings (on average 4 meetings per year), two workshops per year and a national congress with international participation every 4th year. The MEA also organise national schools for diabetes for doctors; promotion of new medicaments and organised the 3rd ESE Postgraduate Course in Clinical Endocrinology (March 2007). The current President is Professor Brankica Krstevska.

Professor Nieschlag asked those present if there were any objections to the Macedonian Endocrine Society joining the ESE. There were no objections raised and Professor Nieschlag asked if anyone was to abstain from the vote. As there were no abstentions Professor Nieschlag declared a unanimous vote and congratulated the MEA and welcomed them as an Affiliated Society member.

#### *c. Corporate members*

Professor Nieschlag confirmed that the ESE had received an application from DuoCort AB for Corporate Membership.

Professor Nieschlag advised that DuoCort AB are based in Sweden and is a drug development company. The main focus of DuoCort AB is to improve glucocorticoid therapy in several areas of medical need. DuoCort AB is a university spin-out which has its origins among researchers at the Sahlgrenska Academy at Gothenburg University and Uppsala University. Professor Nieschlag also advised that DuoCort AB has been granted SME status as a micro-sized enterprise under the European Medicines Agency's (EMA) micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) program.

Professor Nieschlag asked those present if there were any objections to DuoCort AB joining the ESE. There were no objections raised and Professor Nieschlag asked if anyone wanted to abstain from the vote. As there were no abstentions Professor Nieschlag declared a unanimous vote, congratulated DuoCort AB and welcomed them as a Corporate member.

### **3. President's report**

Professor Nieschlag advised that during the opening ceremony, at the meeting with the ESE Affiliated Society Presidents and at the new members welcome reception he had detailed the objectives of the ESE. The objectives are to promote research and clinical practice in endocrinology throughout Europe; to foster interaction between basic and clinical endocrinology; to ensure interaction with members and affiliated societies; to collaborate with international endocrine organisations and to interact with professional and political bodies, for example UEMS and the EU.

Professor Nieschlag advised that one of the top priorities is research and this is accomplished in a variety of ways, one of them through the European Congress of Endocrinology. Professor Nieschlag hoped that by meeting the objectives the ESE would become 'The voice of European endocrinology'.

Professor Nieschlag also noted that ECE 2008 was the best attended so far, with 3,001 delegates and gave thanks to the Executive Committee, the POC and LOC for all their hard work. Professor Nieschlag also congratulated Dr Alvarez and Professor Grütters, the POC Co-Chairs.

Professor Nieschlag confirmed that ECE 2009 would be in Istanbul from 25-29 April 2009 and the POC Chair would be Professor Vera Popovic. He also confirmed that Professor Maria Alevizaki would act as POC Chair for ECE 2010, 24-28 April 2010 in Prague. ECE 2011 would be held in Rotterdam between Saturday 30 April and Wednesday 4 May.

Professor Nieschlag advised that the last two Postgraduate Courses, held in Krakow, Poland (13-15 September 2007) and Vilnius, Lithuania (17-19 April 2008) were very successful. The next Postgraduate training course would be held in Tbilisi, Georgia between 2-4 October 2008.

Professor Nieschlag advised that the ESE have a variety of printed and electronic media; the ESE official journals - *European Journal of Endocrinology*, *Journal of Endocrinology*, *Journal of Molecular Endocrinology* and *Endocrine-Related cancer*. Professor Nieschlag invited contributions for the ESE Newsletter and email alerts.

Professor Nieschlag welcomed Professor van der Lely as the newly elected Executive Committee member and introduced the Executive Committee. He commented that the Executive Committee represented a good balance of geographic location and areas of scientific interest. It was noted that in addition to the elected Executive Committee members there was also two ex-officio members, Professor Gaillard representing UEMS and Professor Strasburger representing the *European Journal of Endocrinology*.

Professor Nieschlag advised that in addition to the Executive Committee there were several other committees. These are:

Congress Committee, chaired by Ezio Ghigo

Corporate Liaison Committee, chaired by the Treasurer Jens Christiansen

Education Committee, co-chaired by Valdis Pirags and Clara Alvarez

Hormones and Sport Committee, co-chaired by Ezio Ghigo and Christian Strasburger

International Liaison Committee, chaired by the President Eberhard Nieschlag

Nominations Committee, chaired by Bruno Allolio

Publications Committee chaired by Michael Sheppard until this AGM

Specialist Societies Liaison Committee, chaired by the Secretary, Philippe Bouchard

Professor Nieschlag advised that the Publications Committee Chair, Professor Sheppard would step down as chair at the end of the AGM and that the new chair would be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting on 7 May 2008.

Professor Nieschlag introduced the new features that the ESE will introduce. They are the European Lecture at national meetings, a new members welcome reception and meeting with the ESE Affiliated Society Presidents at the Annual ECE, and the forum for young endocrinologists.

Professor Nieschlag advised that he continued the work of his predecessor, Professor Lamberts, on the important activity of Clinical Guidelines between The Endocrine Society and ESE. So far the ESE acts as co-sponsors on the following guidelines:

Primary Aldosteronism, ESE representative Franco Mantero (Italy)

Cushing Syndrome, ESE representatives John Newell-Price and Paul Stewart (UK)

Transsexualism & gender identity disorders, ESE representative Louis Gooren (Netherlands)

Adult hypoglycemic disorders, ESE representative Ashley Grossman (UK)

Congenital adrenal hyperplasia, ESE representative Martin Ritzen (Sweden)

Bariatric surgery, ESE representative Javier Salvador (Spain)

Pituitary incidentalomas, ESE representative Albert Bekkers (Belgium)

At the end of the report, Professor Nieschlag thanked the members for electing him as President with a clear majority in the second election round last year and asked if there were any questions or comments.

A question regarding the details of the European Lecture was raised. Professor Nieschlag advised that the details had not yet been worked out and discussions would take place with the Presidents of the Affiliated Societies. Candidates for the European Lecture will be discussed with the national societies and ESE would cover reasonable costs.

#### **4. Treasurer's report**

Professor Christiansen summarised the year ended December 2007 accounts. Professor Christiansen stated that the total income for this period was €453.2k, the total expenditure was €264.6k, and bank interest of €11k left a net surplus of €199.6k. Taking into account the balance brought forward from EFES at €741k, the deficit for 2006 at €28k and the surplus for 2007 at €199.6k this left a total of €912.6k to be carried forward to 2008.

Professor Christiansen commented that the income received from SEJE of €79k is representative of a successful journal in difficult times and that the SEJE board are happy with this achievement.

Professor Christiansen also commented that, in order to keep the Executive Committee meetings expenditure down, the Executive Committee try to hold their meetings at times when they are already together, for example when they are speaking at ESE Training courses or at ECEs.

Professor Christiansen then explained that two resolutions are required by law and asked those present to approve the following:

*a. ESE audited accounts for the year ended December 2007*

Professor Christiansen confirmed that a copy of the report was emailed to the membership and had been made available on the website. He explained that the ESE is required by law to ask the members for their approval and acceptance of the audited accounts for the year ended December 2007. Professor Christiansen added that the accounts had already been reviewed by the Honorary Auditors and that the comments received were positive, Professor Wilmar Wiersinga had said 'I am pleased to say I found the report well written and understandable ..... The financial state of the Society is very good' and Professor Jacky Burrin had said 'I have reviewed the European Society of Endocrinology financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2007 and found them satisfactory. I have no queries'

Professor Christiansen asked if there were any objections and there were no objections. He then asked if anyone would like to abstain and there were no abstentions. Professor Christiansen confirmed that the accounts for the year ended December 2007 had been approved and accepted.

*b. Appointment of Auditors for the 2008 year end accounts*

Professor Christiansen advised that the ESE is required by law to ask the members for their approval and acceptance of Chantrey Vellacott DFK as the auditors until the next AGM and to authorise the directors (Executive Committee) to fix the remuneration. Professor Christiansen asked if there were any objections and there were no objections. He then asked if anyone would like to abstain and there were no abstentions. Professor Christiansen confirmed that the appointment of Chantrey Vellacott DFK as auditors of the accounts for the year ended December 2008 had been approved and accepted

*c. Election of Honorary Auditors for 2008*

Professor Christiansen explained that, in accordance with the ESE Byelaws, two Honorary Auditors needed to be elected at the 2008 AGM. The role of the Honorary Auditors is to review during 2009 the annual accounts for the year to 31 December 2008. Professor Christiansen also explained that any Voting Member may be nominated, provided he or she is in good standing with their membership fees and that the call for nominations for the role of Honorary Auditor was sent out on Friday 4 January 2008 with a closing date of 6 February 2008.

Professor Christiansen added that as no nominations were received from the ESE membership the Executive Committee approached Professors Wilmar Wiersinga and Jacky Burrin to continue as Honorary Auditors. Professor Christiansen added that both Professors had agreed to continue and this was now subject to approval by the membership.

Professor Christiansen asked if there were any objections and there were no objections. He then asked if anyone would like to abstain and there were no abstentions. Professor Christiansen confirmed that Professor Wiersinga and Professor Burrin would act as Honorary Auditors for the 2008 accounts.

Professor Nieschlag thanked Professor Christiansen for his support and dedication and for being an excellent Treasurer.

## 5. Secretary's report

Professor Bouchard advised that ESE membership continues to grow and thanked the members for their support. There are currently over 900 people on the membership database. 382 members were voted in earlier in the meeting and so far approximately 90 applications had been received during the 10<sup>th</sup> ECE. Professor Bouchard advised that membership is from nearly 70 countries and congratulated Germany and Italy with the largest membership contingencies of 113 and 96, respectively. Professor Bouchard also commented that the number of members from Switzerland (15), Poland (57) and Serbia (35) were also good in proportion to the mentioned societies. Professor Bouchard asked those present to remind their colleagues that ESE membership was complimentary to ECE 2008 delegates.

Professor Bouchard reported on the official journals of the European Society of Endocrinology.

### *European Journal of Endocrinology*

Professor Christian Strasburger (Germany) took over from Professor Paolo Beck-Peccoz (Italy) as Editor-in-Chief in July 2007. The impact factor for 2006 was 3.145; and 2.962 for 2005. Submissions were 876, of which 67% were from Europe, 3% from North America and 30% from the rest of the world. The acceptance rate was 28% and there were approximately 1612 pages published in 2007. The mean publication time (receipt to online) was 142 days.

Professor Strasburger added that currently the time from acceptance to publication is 72 days. He also added that, after acceptance, the papers are immediately available on the EJE website and on PubMed within 2 days.

### *Journal of Endocrinology*

The Editor-in-Chief is Professor Julian Davis (UK). The impact factor for 2006 was 3.072; and 3.059 for 2005. Submissions were 642, of which 37% were from Europe, 22% from North America and 41% from the rest of the world. The acceptance rate was 34% and there were approximately 2380 pages published in 2007. The mean publication time (receipt of revised version to online) was 80 days. A working group is currently considering applications/nominations for the next Editor-in-Chief.

### *Journal of Molecular Endocrinology*

Professor Anna Spada (Italy) took over from Professor Evan Simpson (Australia) as Editor-in-Chief in January 2008. The impact factor for 2006 was 2.988; and 2.474 in 2005. Submissions were around 170, of which 30% were from Europe, 34% from North America and 36% from the rest of the world. The acceptance rate was 33% and there were approximately 1074 pages published in 2007. The mean publication time (receipt of revised version to online) was 87 days.

### *Endocrine-Related Cancer*

The Editor-in-Chief is Professor James Fagin (USA). The impact factor for 2006 was 4.763; and 4.905 for 2005. Submissions were around 280, of which 59% were from Europe, 19% from North America and 22% from the rest of the world. The acceptance rate was 34% and there were approximately 1128 pages published in 2007. The mean publication time (receipt of revised version to online) was 106 days.

Professor Bouchard then updated those present with the recent developments of the ESE being registered as a Charity. Professor Bouchard explained that in August 2005 the ESE was set up as a company limited by guarantee in the UK, which is a not for profit (NFP) organisation. As a NFP organisation, tax was applicable to investment income but not other income, such as congress surplus, as long as the tax authorities did not perceive activities as being run commercially.

Professor Bouchard added that, with the increase in the capital reserves of ESE the auditors advised that the NFP status may be challenged by the tax authorities and that charity status should be applied for. Professor Bouchard explained that as a charity the ESE would be eligible for tax exemption on investment income and other income, for example any

surplus from the congress. It was also noted that, as the aims of ESE are charitable, it would be appropriate to register as such.

Professor Bouchard explained that recommended charity practice is to set up a reserve fund which would cover, for example, a year when the congress failed for some reason and that if the ESE had significantly more funds than the designated reserve then it would need to make plans to spend these.

Professor Bouchard explained that, as part of the Charity registration process, a special amendment of Clause 8 in ESE Memorandum of Association regarding ESE dissolution needs to be approved by the membership. Professor Bouchard added that the current and proposed wording was circulated to each member and available on the website prior to the meeting.

*The current wording of clause 8(1) reads (proposed amendments are in bold and underlined):*

The members of the **Society** may at any time before, and in expectation of, its dissolution resolve that any net assets of the **Society** after all its debts and liabilities have been paid, or provision has been made for them, shall on or before the dissolution of the **Society** be applied or transferred in any of the following ways:

- (a) directly for the Objects; or
- (b) by transfer to any **body** for purposes similar to the Objects; or
- (c) to any **body** for use for particular purposes that fall within the Objects;

*The proposed wording of clause 8(1) reads (proposed amendments are in bold and underlined):*

The members of the **Charity** may at any time before, and in expectation of, its dissolution resolve that any net assets of the **Charity** after all its debts and liabilities have been paid, or provision has been made for them, shall on or before the dissolution of the **Charity** be applied or transferred in any of the following ways:-

- (a) directly for the Objects; or
- (b) by transfer to any **Charity or Charities** for purposes similar to the Objects; or
- (c) to any **Charity or Charities** for use for particular purposes that fall within the Objects.

Professor Bouchard asked if there were any objections and there were no objections. He then asked if anyone would like to abstain and there were no abstentions. Professor Bouchard then confirmed that the proposed wording of clause 8 (1) had been approved and accepted.

*The current wording of clause 8(2) reads (proposed amendments are in bold and underlined):*

Subject to any such resolution of the members of the **Society**, the Directors of the **Society** may at any time before and in expectation of its dissolution resolve that any net assets of the **Society** after all its debts and liabilities have been paid, or provision made for them, shall on dissolution of the **Society** be applied or transferred:

- (a) directly for the Objects; or
- (b) by transfer to any **body** for purposes similar to the Objects; or
- (c) to any **body** for use for particular purposes that fall within the Objects.

*The proposed wording of clause 8(2) reads (proposed amendments are in bold and underlined):*

Subject to any such resolution of the members of the Charity, the Directors of the Charity may at any time before and in expectation of its dissolution resolve that any net assets of the Charity after all its debts and liabilities have been paid, or provision made for them, shall on dissolution of the Charity be applied or transferred:

- (a) directly for the Objects; or
- (b) by transfer to any Charity or Charities for purposes similar to the Objects; or
- (c) to any Charity or Charities for use for particular purposes that fall within the Objects.

Professor Bouchard asked if there were any objections and there were no objections. He then asked if anyone would like to abstain and there were no abstentions. Professor Bouchard then confirmed that the proposed wording of clause 8 (2) had been approved and accepted.

*The current wording of clause 8(3) reads (proposed amendments are in bold and underlined):*

In no circumstances shall the net assets of the Society be paid to or distributed among the members of the Society

*The proposed wording of clause 8(3) reads (proposed amendments are in bold and underlined):*

In no circumstances shall the net assets of the Charity be paid to or distributed among the members of the Charity (except to a member that is itself a Charity) and if no such resolution is passed by the members or the Directors the net assets of the Charity shall be applied for charitable purposes as directed by the court or the Commission.

Professor Bouchard asked if there were any objections and there were no objections. He then asked if anyone would like to abstain and there were no abstentions. Professor Bouchard then confirmed that the proposed wording of clause 8 (3) had been approved and accepted.

Professor Bouchard then advised that the Executive Committee have recommended simplifying the process by which new members are admitted. The Executive Committee propose to approve new member applications at the regular Executive Committee meetings, rather than only at the Annual General Meeting. The Executive Committee hope that this simplified procedure will be less confusing to new members.

Professor Bouchard explained that in order to do this the members would need to approve a special resolution to amend Clause 2 of the ESE Articles. Professor Bouchard added that the current and proposed wording was circulated to each member and available on the website prior to the meeting.

*The Current wording of clause 2.2 reads (proposed amendments are in bold and underlined):*

Membership is open to other individuals or organisations who:  
(a) apply to the Society in the form specified in the Byelaws;  
(b) are approved by the Executive Committee; **and**  
(c) **are then elected by a simple majority of those Voting Members present at a General Meeting.** *This sentence is deleted in the revised text below.*

*The proposed wording of clause 2.2:*

Membership is open to other individuals or organisations who:  
(a) apply to the Society in the form specified in the Byelaws;  
(b) are approved by the Executive Committee;

Professor Bouchard advised that all other wording in clause 2 remains the same.

Professor Bouchard asked if there were any objections and there were no objections. He then asked if anyone would like to abstain and there were no abstentions. Professor Bouchard then confirmed that the proposed wording of clause 2.2 had been approved and accepted.

Professor Bouchard added that the new streamlined process will help attract members to join and asked those present to advertise this to their colleagues.

Professor Bouchard then thanked everyone for their participation and support and asked if there were any questions. There were no questions.

**6. Election of one Executive Committee member**

Professor Nieschlag once again welcomed Professor Aart Jan van der Lely as the newly elected ESE Executive Committee member.

Professor Nieschlag gave details of the current Executive Committee with their term of office. It was noted that in 2008 no member retires but, in 2009, 6 members of the Executive Committee would retire. It was felt that in order to maintain continuity in the ExCo and at the same time a more regular influx of new members, eventually the periods of office should be structured that every year 3 members would retire and 3 would be newly elected. In order to assist with this the Executive Committee decided that there should be an election of one Executive Committee this year (which had already taken place) and work towards a system of 3 retirements/3 elections in each year in the future.

**7. Proposal to extend the Secretary's term of office**

Professor Nieschlag proposed that, with the support of the Executive Committee and in order to assist with the plan outlined under # 6, Professor Bouchard's term of office as Secretary be extended for 1 year until 2010. Professor Nieschlag asked if there were any objections and there were no objections. He then asked if anyone would like to abstain and there were no abstentions. Professor Nieschlag then confirmed that the extension of the Secretary's term of office until 2010 had been unanimously approved and accepted.

**8. Date of next Annual General Meeting**

The next Annual General Meeting will be held during the ECE 2009 in Istanbul, 25-29 April 2009.

**9. Any other business**

As there was no questions or any other business to discuss Professor Nieschlag thanked those present for attending the AGM and then closed the meeting.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Ebo Nieschlag Date \_\_\_\_\_  
ESE President

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Andrea Davis Date \_\_\_\_\_  
ESE Secretariat