

# European Society of Toxicologic Pathology e.V.

Minutes of the Annual General Assembly Held on 29th September 2005, 17:00 h

Veterinary University, Copenhagen, Denmark

60 members attended

- 1. Welcome** The meeting was opened by the President, Wolfgang Kaufmann. He welcomed the members to the meeting. A minute of silence was held for Donald Dungworth, our colleague and ESTP member, who had passed away in 2005.
- 2. Agenda/ Minutes** The previously circulated agenda was accepted. The minutes of the Annual Meeting held in Lindau, Germany were accepted as a true record
- 3. Annual Report of Executive Committee** The report of activities of the last year had been previously circulated (see also attached file): In summary Wolfgang Kaufmann stated that the current meeting in Copenhagen is “truly European” reflected by the composition of the Scientific committees, which has been set up in a truly international manner. He thanked the organizing committee, sponsors, exhibitors and attendees (180). He looked forward to a similar success in La Grande Motte (France) in 2006.

The work of the Society’s committees was highlighted and he urged members to support their work by contributing to the Guideline committee in particular. The committees work had resulted in a published commentary to the “Harmonization of immunotoxicity guidelines in the ICH process”.

In the past year, the membership was able to follow more closely the ESTP Board activities through the “members only section” on the Website where Board protocols were placed for all members to read. He particularly thanked Gerd Morawietz for the creation and maintenance of the worldwide recognized ESTP website.

On education Wolfgang Kaufmann alluded to the creation of the **CD-ROM** with 46 different papers from the very successful seminar “Classic examples in Toxicologic Pathology” and covering the last 10 years. This CD will become an excellent training and education tool in toxicologic pathology.

For the first time, the ESTP presented a poster at the annual STP meeting in Washington USA. Wolfgang Kaufmann thanked Bob Thoolen for the great help and support with this and stressed the importance to increase ESTP’s visibility at international scientific meetings.

In this context he also highlighted the ESTP response to a **STP draft proposal for the revision of standardized nomenclature** for lesions in the rat and the mouse. A close cooperation is envisaged, since we believe that the ESTP has a key competence in this area through long-year activities of many members in the RITA group.

Finally, Wolfgang Kaufmann underlined the important topic of “**regional representation**” on our executive committee. He hopes that the committee’s proposal will help to find a way to continue the integrative development of our European Society of Toxicologic Pathology through a future amendment to our constitution.

He also thanked his dedicated and enthusiastic colleagues on the board, which had grown together to a true team.

There were no questions.

**4. Report of the local organizing committee**

Ingrid Sjögren presented a report on the organization of the Congress (see also attached presentation). She thanked the Scientific and Local Organizing committees for their tremendous work to make this congress possible. She mentioned the kind support of 3Dhistech Ltd to the slide seminar. Unfortunately only 5 cases were submitted. She encouraged the membership to increase the number of submitted slide cases for the upcoming congress, since this is a major educational part of our meetings and has been particularly successful in the past. In total, 180 participants registered to the meeting, 15 exhibitors came and the ESTP had found 18 sponsors for the meeting. Eighteen posters have been submitted for the poster sessions. The President, Wolfgang Kaufmann, responded by thanking Ingrid Sjögren and the committee for its work and praising the Congress. This was greeted by enthusiastic applause.

**5. Other committee reports**

Awards Committee The report of activities of the last year had been previously circulated (please also see attached letter and presentation): In summary Thomas Nolte, on behalf of his colleagues on the committee (Virgilio Pace, Matthias Rinke, Agnes Schulte and Christine Ruehl-Fehlert) stated that:

As in the years before, the ESTP has offered its publication award for an outstanding scientific publication by a younger society member, again sponsored by Novartis Pharma AG which we cordially wish to thank. Although only a very limited number of proposals were submitted from the membership, committee has identified an excellent article out of 11 papers that fulfilled all formal criteria. The Award was bestowed on Dr. Jürgen Funk.

The Boehringer-Ingelheim ESTP Award 2004 in Toxicologic Pathology recognizes doctoral theses on any aspect of toxicological pathology, laboratory animal pathology or experimental pathology. The winner will be given €5000, the second placed with €3000 and the third with €2000. This aims to promote co-operation between Universities and industry and to provoke interest in young scientists in toxicological pathology and related fields.

The first and second winners will present their honored PhD-thesis on this congress: Dr. Nadja Herbach and Dr. Andreas Beineke.

As in past years, the awards will be presented to the winners at the gala dinner.

The award committee thanks all who have supported us especially the companies who generously supported these awards.

He announced the new Award committee participants (to be confirmed: John Foster, Frieke Kuper, Thomas Nolte (BI-ESTP award), Daniel Roth (chair), Andrew Piling, Agnes Schulte, Andrew Spencer and Awarad winner 2005) and the retirements of the past committee (Christine Rühl-Fehlert, Virgilio Pace and Matthias Rinke).

There was one question: Do all new committee participants are ESTP members and if not, whether this is a prerequisite to participate in an ESTP committee (The constitution does not require committee members to be members of the ESTP).

Guess What Committee The report of activities of the last year had been previously circulated. Since committee members were unable to join the congress please see attached letter for details. In summary, the committee encourages the membership to participate more, send diagnoses and support the team by providing interesting cases.

There were no further comments.

Guideline Committee The report of activities of the last year had been previously circulated (please see attached letter): In summary Agnes Schulte (chair) on behalf of her colleagues on the committee (Christine Ruehl-Fehlert, Catherine George, Anne Provencher, Paul Germann, Alys Bradley) stated that:

The position paper on guideline harmonization in immunotoxicity was submitted to the ICH Expert Committee within the Consultation phase (Step 2) and was recently published as paper in Experimental and Toxicologic Pathology, Volume 57.

Christine Rühl-Fehlert and Agnes Schulte have prepared a presentation on regulatory aspects of Immunotoxicity guidelines for this conference.

She also mentioned that the committees composition had changed over the last year (Paul German handed over the chair to her) and highly acknowledged Paul's strong commitment. Alys Bradley from Inveresk and Inger Thorup from Novo Nordisk have participated in the committee during the last period.

There were no further comments.

Membership Committee The report of activities of the last year had been previously circulated (please see attached letter): In summary Annette Romeike on behalf of her colleague on the committee (Matthias Rinke) stated that:

The ESTP membership is continuously growing (266 members at the end of August 2005) . While the number of people joining per year declined, most of new members come without a membership from sister societies and from outside Europe (e.g. USA or Asia).

She underlined the major role of our ESTP website for the increasing visibility and international recognition of our society and thanked Gerd Morawietz for his continuous support. The new electronic membership database is also of great help and facilitates administrative work, which is

becoming more complicated and laborious with the growing size of the society. This tool also allows more easily to contact the full membership via e-mail, which has been used for communication about this congress.

Annette Romeike encouraged members to address their proposals and remarks via the ESTP website or directly to her.

There were no further comments.

6. **Journal Report** The report of activities of the last year had been previously circulated by Jan Klapwijk, who was unable to join the congress (please see attached letter for details)
7. **Report of Councilor for the Younger Generation** Jenny McKay reported on the activities supporting the younger generation of toxicologic pathologists (see also presentation attached).  
An e-mailing list of trainees throughout Europe has been established, which list not only ESTP registered members, but also sister society members and residents in academia (to date 40 participants). The mailing list provides meeting and conference notifications, training course information, journal articles and much more. In August 2005 a questionnaire was sent out in order to collate needs and expectations for trainees in the future. Future tasks are to evaluate questionnaire responses and to establish a "trainee's corner" (format to be decided). Furthermore, a 1-day meeting with key people involved in toxicologic pathology education will be organized (May 2006) in order to capture courses provided and topics already covered and finally to discuss about possible harmonization of training opportunities throughout Europe.
8. **IFSTP Report** *At the meeting concerns were raised about the disharmony between "our" IFSTP and its daughter IATP. The control of the IATP by the IFSTP should be sought and enforced and the ESTP should get involved to improve the situation in order to achieve cooperation between the two.*
9. **ESTP/IFSTP Conference in Europe, 2007** Hans Harlemann presented the progress of the ESTP/IFSTP congress preparations. It will take place on Sept 16-19, 2007 in the "Messezentrum" in Basel. There is space available for about 400 people, poster sessions and exhibitors. In addition, hotel rooms are offered, however in the high price range. The local organizing committee is comprised of Hans Harleman, Robert Ettlin, Barbara Lenz, Friedlieb Pfannkuch and Klaus Weber.  
  
There were no questions.
10. **Report on next year's Congress in La Grande Motte, France** Dominique Cahard reported that arrangements were progressing well. The congress will take place at the Congress Center "La Grande Motte" in France (Montpellier) from September 27th-29<sup>th</sup> 2006 He has the support of a large and truly European committee. A 1<sup>st</sup> flyer was made available at the congress desk.
11. **Financial Report** Barbara Lenz presented the financial report for 2004 and parts of 2005 (see slides attached). The balance for 2004 was slightly negative at the end of the year, due to lacking membership fees and late transfer of sponsor donations for the Lindau congress. Thus, the negative balance

had been quickly equalized and went into a comfortable positive range until August 31, 2005. The ESTP/SOT congress in Lindau had reached a break even (+/- 0 €).

**12. Report of the Auditors**

K. Küttler and J-C. Schaffner reported that the accounts were in good order. They thanked B. Lenz for making their task easy as the accounts were easy to review. They checked the balance sheets, receipts and the bank and post office accounts. They recommended acceptance of the accounts. Members accepted the accounts without objection and approved the activities of the board.

**13. Future regional representation on the ESTP Board**

John Finch presented the executive committee's proposal for future regional representation on the ESTP Board (see attached presentation). This topic has to be discussed with the membership as it needs a constitutional change before being implemented. The current interim process for regional representation ends in 2006 and the constitution has therefore to be updated.

John Finch presented extracts from the current constitution, raised some principal questions and principles which should be followed while discussing options how to ensure a further Europeanization of the ESTP. In summary, (1) a solution should be sought which best serves the primary objectives and purposes of the Society, (2) the proposed solution must be acceptable to the current ESTP membership. Principally, the ESTP committee proposes to continue with a sister society representation and that eligible societies (might include other disciplines) have to be agreed by the general assembly. The societies nominate their representatives (must be an ESTP member), which will be voted upon at the general assemble. Moreover, the constitution should contain a statement that there is no barrier to appointment to the EC in terms of region, gender and age. At the next general assembly in 2006, the constitution should be amended appropriately, sister societies invited to the EC and their nominees as well as potential non-voting invitees ratified.

*There were some questions from the membership. For example which process should be applied if a nominate of a sister society is not accepted by the ESTP membership? In that case the proposal foresees that an alternative nominee (ESTP member) will be elected by the full membership. A second question was raised about the nature of "other eligible" societies and RITA was mentioned as a possible choice*

**14. Electronic Election process**

Wolfgang Kaufmann presented the proposal for an electronic election process (see attached slides). The Board proposes this initiative, since it will give the opportunity to vote for all members and not only those who are able to participate at the annual conference. Those who do not have access to the electronic vote (no Internet access) should be able to apply to vote by current mail. Further technical issues have still to be resolved and the process (timelines) to be refined before putting this service in place. The implementation of this process would make a constitutional change necessary. A proposal for a change in constitution will be voted upon at the next Annual Assembly in 2006 given the membership agrees with the Board to pursue this initiative.

The membership welcomed the proposal to implement an electronic voting process. There were no further questions.

#### **News about RITA/CEPA**

Thomas Nolte gave an overview on RITA and CEPA activities during the 2004-2005 period (see also presentation attached). CEPA has currently 16 member companies and a publication on "Standardized assessment of cell proliferation: The approach of the RITA-CEPA working group" is in press (Experimental and Toxicologic Pathology).

The merger of the RITA and NACAD database became effective in 2005 and former NACAD companies joined RITA (Bayer, Pfizer, Schering Plough). The NACAD project was terminated. Currently 13 companies participate in the RITA database.

Highlights were the STP annual meeting at Washington with a satellite meeting and a presentation on RITA activities held at the EMEA, safety Working Party meeting in London with regulatory representatives from over 25 European countries. A very positive response and demonstration of the particular benefit of the RITA database was achieved through this meeting.

RITA microscope panel sessions have been made public now, and registration in advance should be sent to the following address in case of interest: [rita.panel@item.fraunhofer.de](mailto:rita.panel@item.fraunhofer.de)

The goals for the future are (1) to update and revise the WHO/IARC publications and, (2) to achieve an international cooperation of all STP's (ESTP, STP, JSTP, BSTP etc.) on the revised nomenclature for proliferative and non-proliferative lesions in mice and rats. Due to the 17 years experience on proliferative lesions in rodents, ESTP and RITA will focus on those within this initiative. A letter with details of the proposal stressing the close relationship of ESTP and RITA has been sent to the US STP on September 19, 2005.

*A question was raised about access to the database by ESTP members from non-RITA participating companies. Thomas Nolte responded that access to the full RITA database can only be granted to RITA-member companies. However, panel sessions and the WebRENI system (electronic version of the WHO/IARC nomenclature) will be made public for non-RITA members.*

#### **15. New Members**

Wolfgang Kaufmann presented the list of new applicants. They were accepted into the Society without objection.

- Grevot, Armelle
- Baatz, Martin
- Scudamore, Cheryl
- Piaia, Alessandro
- Bjurström, Sivert
- Giusti, Anna Maria
- Rohde, Gerlinde
- Liberge, Pierre
- Engelhardt, Jeff
- Kanno, Takeshi
- Sörensen, Charlotte Maria
- Konrad, Daniel
- D'Arrigo, Maria Carmela
- Desiderio, Clara Cinzia

- Wilson, Bruce W.
- Burkhardt, Silke
- Gröters, Sibylle
- De Rijk, Eveline
- Sander, Jennifer
- Hardisty, Jerry F.
- Wegener, Karen Marlene
- Le Net, Jean-Loic
- Richard, Virgile
- Schenck, Emmanuel
- Healy, Laura N.
- Svendsen, Ove
- Christine de Vera Mudry
- Cecilia Rey-Moreno
- Sandra de Jonghe

Annette Romeike,  
Secretary, ESTP

Wolfgang Kaufmann  
President, ESTP