



European Society of Toxicologic Pathology e.V.

Minutes of the Annual General Assembly held on 12th September 2018, 3.30-5.00 pm Bagsværd/Copenhagen, Denmark

39 members attended (plus 15 executive committee members)

- 1. Welcome and Introductory Remarks**

The meeting was opened timely by the outgoing Chairman, Sibylle Gröters, who welcomed the members to the meeting. She stated that the invitation was conforming to the constitution and had been made timely, and thus the assembly had a quorum.
- 2. Approval of Agenda**

Gabi Pohlmeyer-Esch as Secretary had circulated the agenda to the membership prior to the AGA, according to constitution.

The agenda was approved by the membership and the Executive Committee (EC) with the following minor modifications:

Agenda item 16 will be presented by Wolfgang Kaufmann and Gabi Pohlmeyer-Esch instead of Barbara Lenz and Xavier Palazzi.

Under agenda item 18, Thomas Nolte will announce the 26th training seminar “Classic Examples in Toxicologic Pathology” 2019.
- 3. Approval of Minutes of Annual General Assembly, 2017, Lyon**

Prior to the AGA the minutes of the Annual General Assembly 2017 in Lyon had been circulated to the membership by the Secretary. There were no comments or questions and the Minutes were approved by the assembly and the EC.
- 4. Report of the Executive Committee: ESTP Highlights and Achievements of Past Year**

The outgoing Chairman Sibylle Gröters presented the ESTP highlights and achievements of the past year to the membership.

Firstly, she thanked the EC members, whose effort is absolutely essential, for their excellent work and support.

During the last 2 years the ESTP has been involved in international collaboration with the International Expert Workshops on Adversity organized by Gabi Pohlmeyer-Esch, Wolfgang Kaufmann, Xavier Palazzi and Barbara Lenz. As a result, another publication is currently in preparation.

Since 2016 *ToxPath* has been the ESTP’s official Society Journal. Excellent representation of the ESTP was ensured by Susanne Rittinghausen as Associate Editor, a role which has now been taken over by Catherine Botteron. Annabelle Heier ensured the administrative liaison to the journal. Sibylle thanked Susanne and Annabelle for their diligent work.

The 2018 ESVP/ECVP Summer School in Valencia (Spain) has been supported financially once more by the ESTP by sponsoring one scientific lecture and by a presentation on career perspectives in toxicologic pathology given by Angele Breithaupt.

Our training course “Classic Examples in Toxicologic Pathology” celebrated its 25th anniversary in Hannover (Germany) this year and Thomas did an excellent job in organizing it.

The newsletter was published regularly by Zuhai Dincer who stepped back from this position. Emmanuelle Balme will now take over responsibility for the newsletter.

Likewise, Thierry Flandre wished to step back as Councillor for Digital Pathology, and this role was taken over by Vanessa Schumacher.

Annabelle Heier handed over her position as Councillor for the Younger generation to Angele Breithaupt. It appears that the relationship to young pathologists and the question how to attract scientists to the field of toxicologic pathology is also a hot topic in other parts of the world, especially the US. Angele has already added new texts (next generation, employees) to the ESTP website.

ESTP sponsors several scientific awards. Heike Marxfeld stepped back as Chair of the Awards Committee, and the EC is looking for a volunteer to fill this position.

One important issue is the current search for a new Professional Congress Organizer (PCO). Our current PCO, Solution Office, will discontinue organizing congresses outside Germany. The last meeting they will organize for ESTP will be the 2019 ESTP congress in Cologne (Germany).

Six PCOs have been identified as possible contract partners of the ESTP. Anna-Lena Frisk is in close contact with the local organizers of the 2020 Current Edge Meeting in Torino (Italy). The PCO for this meeting still needs to be determined, therefore Anna Lena participated in a meeting with EC members of ESVP and ECVP at the recent ESVP/ECVP meeting in Romania.

Another important topic to be treated by the EC is the new data protection legislation in Europe, the possible transfer of the ESTP to Switzerland and the ongoing preparation of next year’s congress. These points will be presented by Gabi, Kuno and Björn, respectively, during this meeting.

Sibylle expressed her thanks to Ingrid Sjögren, Kevin Keane and Mikala Skydsgaard for their involvement in the SOC, the exhibitors for their participation, and she especially thanked the EC members who stepped back for their excellent work and support in the last two years.

5. Report of Scientific Organizing Committee and Local Representatives

This year’s Scientific and Local Organizing Committee consisted of 19 members and was chaired by Ingrid Sjögren and co-chaired by Mikala Skydsgaard and Kevin Keane.

Ingrid thanked the members of the SOC and LOC for their hard work during the preparation and also Solution Office for their excellent support. The last count showed 170 congress participants, from which

78 were members and 90 were non-members, 2 were students.

71 individuals participated in the IATP session.

The conference income is generated from three main parts: sponsors (€ 32,000.00), participants (€ 60,000.00) and exhibitors (€ 22,000.00).

6. Questions & Answers: Pre-Circulated Reports of Committees and Councillors

Previous to the meeting the membership had received the reports of the committees and councillors. No questions were asked during the AGA.

The membership granted its approval for the work of the Executive Committee (for: 39; against: 0; abstention: 0).

7. Financial Report

The financial report was presented by the Treasurer Kuno Würsch.

He presented the recent actions since the last AGA in Lyon, 2017:

- Implementation of a new online payment platform including a new credit card handler (Stripe); This means sensitive CC information will not be sent via email and more CC are accepted (AmEx etc), the process is much faster compared to Commerzbank e-shop solution (7 days vs. 2-3 months).
- Termination of contract with BS Payone (previous credit card handler)
- Streamlining account services and reduction of fees for Commerzbank account (now 2% compared to 6%)
- Successful set up of e-invoicing with several companies
- Consultation with German tax advisor (Mr. Frieser, Confidia, Berlin) – support for change of tax authority and re-installation of a 3-year submission period for tax declaration

The account on the 31st December 2017 stated a surplus of € 24,513.00. Kuno suggested allocating some of the surplus to future INHAND publications.

The congress account is a working account for Solution Office and in comparison to 2016 the amount on the account had an increase of 30%; it now has a surplus of €23,651.00. However, not all taxes for the Lyon congress have been paid yet.

There are currently 305 society members from 23 countries including 5 honorary members and 22 members with a reduced fee (student and retired members). 247 have already paid for 2018, 13 have not paid yet for 2017 and 6 are behind for 2016 and 2017.

The financial update for 2018 stated a surplus of € 14,611.00. The expenses will be allocated to the INHAND publication and a balanced outcome should be reached by the end of the year.

An outlook at the budget of 2019 reveals a balanced account (expected expenses € 48,977.00, expected revenue € 48,500.00). In 2019 the Classic Examples will generate less costs because there will not be any festivity.

The membership voted for maintaining the current fees (regular fee € 80 and reduced fee € 35), so the fee will not change for 2019. (for: 38; against: 0; abstention 1).

- 8. Report of the Auditors** Previous to the AGA the auditors Wolfgang Kaufmann and Pierre Maliver had checked all balance sheets and confirmed the adequacy of the financial presentation, which is a true view of the society's treasury.
- Wolfgang confirmed that they had found the accounts in excellent order and recommended their acceptance.
- 9. Vote: Exoneration of Executive Committee** The assembly accepted the accounts by vote (for: 33; against: 0; abstention: 6) and approved the activities of the board. The EC has herewith been exonerated.
- 10. Confirmation of Auditors** The Chairman thanked the auditors for their work.
- The assembly approved of the continuation of Wolfgang Kaufmann as an auditor. As Pierre Maliver was not present, he will be asked after the AGA if he would wish to continue.
- 11. Results of Electronic Elections to ESTP Executive Committee** Rupert Kellner presented the results of the electronic election of EC members, which took place from 08th of May to 20th of June 2018, and the results of which had been announced by email to all members after the end of the election period. 110 ESTP members submitted their vote:

The following nominees were elected or confirmed by re-election (in brackets: votes for/against/abstention):

Position	Name	Votes (for/against/ abstention)
Designated Chairman	Franck Chanut	103/0/7
Vice Chairman	Lars Mecklenburg	95/2/13
Secretary	Gabriele Pohlmeier-Esch	99/3/8
Treasurer	Kuno Würsch	102/0/8
Councillor for International Cooperation	Erio Barale-Thomas	94/3/13
Councillor for Digital Pathology	Vanessa Schumacher	98/1/11
Councillor to represent University Teachers	Wolfgang Baumgärtner	89/3/18
Councillor for the Younger Generation	Angele Breithaupt	98/0/12
Councillor for Electronic communication	Rupert Kellner	102/0/8
Councillor for Classic Examples	Dr. Thomas Nolte	100/1/9
Councillor for Nomenclature	Dr. Susanne Rittinghausen	103/0/7

Anna-Lena Frisk, who had been elected as designated chairman at the council elections 2016, automatically took over the position as chairman according to the constitution.

Sibylle Gröters, according to the constitution, retired as chairman and becomes past chairman without election.

Past chairman Jenny McKay stepped also back and is now no longer member of the executive committee.

All elected persons accepted the vote.

The new executive committee is therefore composed of: Anna-Lena Frisk (Chairman), Lars Mecklenburg (Vice Chairman), Sibylle Gröters (Past Chairman), Franck Chanut (new Designated Chairman), Gabriele Pohlmeier-Esch (Secretary), Kuno Würsch (Treasurer), Erio Barale-Thomas (Councillor for International Collaboration), Vanessa Schumacher (Councillor for Digital Pathology), Wolfgang Baumgärtner (Councillor for University Teachers), Angele Breithaupt (Councillor for the Younger Generation), Rupert Kellner (Councillor for Electronic Communication), Thomas Nolte (Councillor for Classic Examples), Susanne Rittinghausen (Councillor for Nomenclature).

12. Data Security Measures

Gabi presented the membership with the ongoing work regarding the GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) which imposes stricter privacy compliance obligations. The aim is a better protection of personal data in view of electronic processing of personal data. As a society ESTP still has to do assessment of how to process data and how to react to the new legislation. It will be a long term process which will be a "living" process.

The measures which have been taken so far are:

- Gabi took part in an online training about new regulations
- 2 TCs were held with presentation of major tasks and first steps
- mailing list of non-ESTP members has been made: agreements obtained and list cleared;
- proposed "Privacy Policy Document" for our society has been drafted

Some possible consequences could be:

- members sign agreements for publishing of photos
- list of participants for congress needs agreement
- in general less flexibility, more formalities

So far there is no formal interpretation of how the regulation has to be applied to non-profit societies. The collaboration with external third parties treating personal data on behalf of ESTP must be regulated by a contract.

13. New Members

The secretary presented the list of 4 new members. All of them have been accepted by the EC as they fulfil constitutional criteria.

All of these new members were welcomed to the Society.

The new members are (in the order of entry date):

Babunilayam Gangadharan

Louise Otzen

Robert Klopffleisch

Elizabeth Neyens (present at AGA)

**14. Proposal/
Nomination of
Representatives
for Sister
Societies/Other
Bodies**

Prior to the AGA, the secretary had asked sister societies to nominate their representatives within ESTP. The following representatives had been nominated by the societies:

French Society: Béatrice Gauthier

Dutch Society: Eveline de Rijk

Hungarian Society: György Selenyi

British Society: Peter Hall

**15. Election/Ratification of
Representatives**

The representatives named above were confirmed by the assembly by unanimous vote.

**16. ESTP
International
Expert
Workshops:**

On behalf of the organizing team, Wolfgang Kaufmann and Gabriele Pohlmeier-Esch presented the update on the 5th ESTP International Expert Workshop “Adversity of Lysosomal Accumulation” and the 6th Workshop “Adversity of Thyroid Follicular Epithelial Hypertrophy/Hyperplasia”.

Wolfgang presented the primary goals of the 5th IEW

- Develop better understanding of the pathways/modes of action leading to lysosomal accumulation and potential functional consequences
- Provide criteria to assess adversity of histopathologic findings associated with lysosomal accumulation
- Describe methods and experimental considerations to further inform adversity decisions

Finally a communal paper was published in ToxPath 2018 after the workshop in Barcelona was held by the experts from industry and academia, and also regulatory organs.

Gabi informed the members about the F2F meeting of the 6th IEW in Berlin in May and the monthly TCs. In total 26 international experts took part and the purpose is to come up with a reference paper addressing adversity of thyroid follicular epithelial hypertrophy/hyperplasia, and implications for risk assessment and publishing it in 2019. The intention is to have it endorsed by mayor national and international societies. In addition posters are planned for STP, ESTP and JSTP meetings.

- Future ESTP International Expert Workshops

Looking back at the 6 workshops held so far, the organizers agreed that the format is successful and would like to continue with it. However, they would like to extend the scope of topics and not focus on adversity only. There are several hot topics, one of them being digital pathology.

The ESTP board decided to attach a workshop on digital pathology to the congress in Cologne in 2019. It will require the participation of pathologists, toxicologists, regulators, QA, IT (and suppliers?). The new organizing team will be defined soon and it will also define the exact topic and questions which will be focused on. The members will be informed by the newsletter and then they have the possibility to be part of the workshop as an expert or audience member.

There were no questions.

17. Presentation of 2019 ESTP Congress in Cologne, Germany

As Chair of the scientific organizing committee 2019 Björn Jacobsen presented the plans for next years' congress which will take place in Cologne, Germany from 17th until 20th September 2019. Its topic will be "Pathology meets Digitalization": Pathology digitalization, image analysis, machine learning, and other advanced technologies.

The congress of the European Teratology Society will take place partially in parallel, and possibly a combined session will be possible. Before the congress an IATP session will be held.

18. Any other Business

Thomas Nolte announced the next seminar of Classic Examples in Toxicologic Pathology XXVI, which will take place on 15th and 16th February 2019. It will start on Friday afternoon. There will be no SEND workshop on Friday morning. 10 cases of toxicologic pathology changes have already been collected. An informal get-together will take place on the Friday evening.

19. Transfer of Society Headquarters

Kuno explained preliminary thoughts of the possibility of transferring the seat of the ESTP to Switzerland.

He explained that the main reason was the bureaucratic effort in interacting with the German tax authorities and district court (Amtsgericht) as we are a registered society in Germany. As Kuno is also the treasurer in a Swiss society, he could compare the amount of work. A possible transfer is thought to most probably reduce the amount of bureaucracy.

Some advantages of the transfer would be:

- a lower workload for the treasurer and secretary
- no sales tax is demanded as in Germany when a certain amount is earned
- society counts as a juristic person
- it can be registered as a non-profit society (which includes benefits)
- receipts could be given to sponsors
- names of changing EC members don't have to be registered

One example of the complex situation in Germany is the attendance of a non-member at the Classic Examples. This person is subject to 19% tax and a member is subject to 7% tax. This difference has to be registered and it means more paperwork.

The possibility of transfer will be analyzed carefully by the board, and the membership will be informed about the further decisions made.

At the end of the AGA, the outgoing Chair Sibylle Gröters handed over her position to Anna Lena Frisk, who said it will be an honour to act as a president for the ESTP. She is looking forward to the challenging and rewarding task. Anna-Lena thanked Sibylle for her dedicated work and time.

The meeting was closed timely.

Gabriele Pohlmeier-Esch
Secretary, ESTP

Anna-Lena Frisk
Chair, ESTP