

European Society of Toxicologic Pathology e.V.

Minutes of the Annual General Assembly held on 29th September 2021, 2-4.15 pm (CEST), virtual meeting

41 members attended (plus 13 executive committee members)

1.	Welcome and Introductory Remarks	<p>The meeting was opened timely by the chairman, Franck Chanut, who welcomed the members to the virtual meeting and invited to use the chat function for interaction. He stated that the invitation was conforming to the constitution and had been circulated timely, and thus the assembly had a quorum. The recording of the AGA to facilitate minute writing purposes and the deletion of this file after its use was announced.</p> <p>A minute of silence was held for Frank Seeliger, who had sadly passed away.</p>
2.	Approval of the Agenda	<p>As Secretary Gabi Pohlmeyer-Esch had circulated the agenda to the membership prior to the AGA, according to constitution.</p> <p>The agenda was approved by the membership and the Executive Committee (EC). (for: 38; against: 0; abstentions: 2)</p>
3.	Approval of Minutes of Annual General Assembly, 2020	<p>Prior to the AGA the minutes of the Annual General Assembly 2020 (virtual) had been circulated to the members by the Secretary Gabriele Pohlmeyer-Esch. There were no comments or questions, and the minutes were approved by the assembly and the EC. (for: 39; against: 0; abstentions: 3)</p>
4.	Report of the Executive Committee: ESTP Highlights and Achievements of Past Year	<p>The chairman, Franck Chanut, presented the ESTP highlights and achievements of the past year to the membership.</p> <p>He mentioned how unfortunate it was to have had to postpone the Cutting Edge Meeting and, on the other hand, highlighted the opportunity to learn about new ways of communication and new educational formats. Not only the last AGA had been held virtually, but also the Classic Examples, and he congratulated their organizers to have achieved abstract publication in the Journal "Toxicologic Pathology". In addition, a working group led by Hans Harleman, with members from the ESTP, SFPT, BSTP and ESVP/ECVP, organized four webinars to ensure continuous education of the societies' members. The first two were a "Potpourri" of topics and the third and fourth were held on the Immune System and Ocular Pathology. All were received very well with high ratings in the feedback and the collaborating societies decided to offer more; the next one on Translational Animal Disease Models will be held in October 2021. The ESTP can also account for impactful publications, two being from the INHAND group: ESTP members have actively supported the publication in INHAND nomenclature of Dog and Minipig in January 2021 in the "Journal of Toxicologic Pathology" and soon Rabbit and Monkey will be published in the same journal. Another successful publication was the paper on Digital Pathology which was written after the 7th International Expert Workshop held in 2019.</p>

		<p>In 2020 the ESTP started the discussion on how to adapt to the new digital era. One step was offering webinars, another was the decision to use Microsoft Teams as a platform for communication, workshop organization and data storage within the EC and in the future hopefully also for holding webinars.</p> <p>This year's publication award received 13 applications and Franck encouraged colleagues to hand in their work.</p> <p>Finally, he informed the members that the ESTP's administrative assistant, Amy Narewski, was on maternity leave and would return in October.</p>
5.	Questions & Answers: Pre-Circulated Reports of Committees and Councillors	<p>Prior to the meeting the membership had received the reports of the committees and councillors by email. Franck presented a short, written statement made by the chairs of each committee. The highlights are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New members had been included in the organ working groups for rodents. - He thanked Christine Rühl-Fehlert, active in the "Guess What" Committee, for her motivated participation as she will retire soon. This committee is always open to receive new cases. - The position of chair of the Clinical Pathology committee had been vacant but has now been filled. This recently revived group, also welcomes volunteers. - Dirk Schaudien was selected as new chair for the "Pathology 2.0" Committee, which has been divided into subgroups focussing on various topics. - Simone Tangermann has taken over the position as Councillor for the Younger Generation and is working on how to attract young scientists to the field. <p>No questions were asked under this point.</p>
6.	Report of the SOC and Local Representatives	<p>As co-chair of the scientific organizing committee 2021 Pierluigi Fant gave feedback on the recent virtual Cutting Edge Meeting with the ECVP/ESVP. He thanked the other co-chairs Raffaella Capobianco and Anna-Lena Frisk as well as all other SOC members for the fruitful discussions and work. The ESTP SOC worked very closely with the ESVP/ECVP SOC, especially Enrico Bollo and Jérôme Abadie, and the congress organizer EV, represented by Erica Taravella.</p> <p>He presented the three joint sessions on "Metabolomics in preclinical research", "Cases of drug induced and spontaneous pathology" and "Coronavirus-related science". In total 15 parallel sessions, out of which eight were ESTP sessions with 20 lectures, and one poster session were held with overall more than 60 talks. Most of the lectures of the ESTP were pre-recorded, and he thanked the speakers for their skills and extra work. Also, three sponsored live events were held.</p> <p>The SOC thanked the congress organizer for providing a user-friendly professional platform which made it possible to virtually switch from one lecture hall to another, see the biosketches of the lecturers, handouts of lectures and other material. A chat box to facilitate Q and A sessions at the end of the lectures, was also provided.</p>

		<p>In total more than 400 participants attended the congress with, generally, between 200 and 300 participants at each session. The quality of recordings was good but some participants reported unfocussed videos which was a matter of settings and was corrected. At the end of each talk Q and A sessions were moderated and, at each occasion, up to 20 questions were asked. At the end of each congress day a virtual informal gathering was organized with around 40 participants each.</p> <p>The preliminary budget, with status at the end of the congress, indicates a strong surplus of more than € 40.000,00, based on expenses mainly related to congress organization, website maintenance and technical support, and incomes comprising registration fees and sponsorship.</p> <p>Associated events were the IATP satellite symposium, which took place with 48 attendees on Tuesday with five lectures, and the resident day on Thursday morning, organized by ESVP/ECVP with interactive sessions and 59 attendees.</p> <p>The survey has so far received 200 replies (50% of the attendees responded). At first glance the results are very good with the quality of event and organization being praised. The results will be further evaluated.</p> <p>The majority of the lecturers agreed to provide their PDFs for uploading on the website of the ESTP. Video recordings will not be available.</p>
7.	Financial Report and Membership Fees	<p>The financial report was presented by the treasurer Kuno Würsch and included a report on the year 2020, an update on 2021 and a financial outlook for 2022.</p> <p>The main activities of 2020 were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requested tax documents for 2016-2018 were submitted to the tax authorities via the tax advisor Confidia. The tax office pointed out that the strong assets may put at risk the status of non-profit of our Society, which will be monitored closely by the EC. Reserves have been built for INHAND publications as these can be expensive and are not published regularly <p>The current net assets cover three years of the ESTPs expenses, which means the society could survive without revenues for three years which provides stability for the society.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The total revenue was € 45.296 which consisted of membership fees (approximately 50%), classical examples (appr. 20%), workshop and donations (appr. 20%) and job advertisements (appr. 10%). The total expenses were € 39.194 and consisted of 30% Classical Examples, 22% administration, 15% workshop, 9% congress costs (AGA), 8% goRENI and 6% tax advice. It summed up to a total surplus in 2020 of € 6.102

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credit card payments via Stripe have a total fee of 2%. <p>The financial report of the account on the 31st December 2020 stated that the current amount on the account is € 167,225.00 (surplus of € 6,102.00). This account is separate from the congress account. In comparison with the previous fiscal year the financial situation is similar and stable. The INHAND reserve was used only a little as invoices are still outstanding. Congress donations from Pfizer were received again in 2020 and 2021. The income from Classic Examples could also be used as a reserve for the next year. The net assets have increased almost continuously since 2003.</p> <p>The financial update for 2021 (status 28th September 2021) stated an amount of €163,675.00 (surplus of € 28,025.00) on the account. The surplus is quite high as not all invoices have been received yet (INHAND), and is clearly related to COVID due to less travel costs. Initially, there was a deficit forecasted for 2021.</p> <p>For 2022, a considerable deficit is forecasted and therefore some reserves will be built if there is a revenue at the end of 2021 (e.g. workshops and webinars).</p> <p>Demographics and statistics:</p> <p>There are currently 313 society members from 23 countries including 5 honorary members and 23 members paying a reduced fee (student and retired members). 266 have already paid for 2020, 17 have not paid yet for 2019 and 5 are behind for 2018.</p> <p>The EC proposes maintaining the current fees (regular fee € 80 and reduced fee € 35).</p>
8.	Report of the Auditors	<p>Six weeks prior to the AGA the society auditors Wolfgang Kaufmann and Pierre Maliver had received all balance sheets from 2020. Wolfgang confirmed that they had found the accounts in excellent order and recommended them for acceptance by the membership.</p>
9.	Votes: Acceptance of Financial Report Exoneration of Executive Committee	<p>The membership granted its approval for the financial report (for: 44; against: 0; abstention: 3).</p> <p>The membership voted for maintaining the current fees for 2022. (for: 46; against: 0; abstention 2).</p> <p>The membership granted its approval for the work of the Executive Committee (for: 42; against: 0; abstention: 3). The EC has herewith been exonerated.</p>
10.	Confirmation of Auditors	<p>The chairperson thanked the auditors for their work.</p> <p>The assembly approved of the continuation of Wolfgang Kaufmann and Pierre Maliver as auditors (for: 46; against: 0; abstention: 4).</p>
11.	Interim Solutions for ESTP Secretary and ESTP Councillor for the Younger Generation	<p>Franck recalled that Gabi had wished not to continue in her position as Secretary after seven years of excellent work. He thanked her for doing a great job in this demanding position. According to the Society's constitution, on the 28th April 2021 the EC had chosen Emmanuelle Balme as Substitute Secretary until the end of this term (2022).</p>

		As Emmanuelle had been the Councillor for the Younger Generation before, this was now taken over by Simone Tangermann.
12.	Proposal for Honorary Members	<p>Franck reminded the membership, that ESTP members may suggest nominations for honorary members throughout the year. This year, the executive committee wishes to recommend three persons for honorary membership.</p> <p>The first person is the internationally well-known toxicologic pathologist Chirukandath Gopinath, who has contributed substantially to shaping modern toxicologic pathology, and extensively lectured in educational activities worldwide.</p> <p>The second one is ESTPs former treasurer, Matthias Rinke, who has played a great role in shaping the ESTP and in the project “Registry of Industrial Toxicology Animal-data” (RITA). Currently he still plays an enthusiastic and active role in the working group for the webinar organization and the Guess What Committee.</p> <p>The third one is one of the ESTPs financial auditors and former chairman, Wolfgang Kaufmann, who shaped not only the Society but also the discipline of (toxicologic) neuropathology and is internationally recognized as an expert in this field.</p> <p>The membership approved the honorary membership status to C. Gopinath, M. Rinke and W. Kaufmann (for: 45; against: 0; abstention: 4).</p>
13.	Presentation and Vote: Amendments to ESTP Constitution	<p>Gabriele Pohlmeier-Esch presented the proposed amendments to the ESTP Constitution regarding the membership statuses. These had been circulated to the members eight weeks prior to this AGA with the invitation.</p> <p>These amendments had been discussed extensively in the EC and reflect a need to bring more clarity to the procedure of membership application especially for applicants coming from non-European countries and to the conditions of membership for scientists from “non” toxicologic pathology professions.</p> <p>The amendments, concerning §5: Membership, proposed for vote were the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to define more clearly the prerequisites for full membership - to allow for associate membership and define prerequisites and restrictions for this membership type - to facilitate application for applicants without network within the ESTP - to define more clearly prerequisites for honorary membership <p>The assembly voted by majority vote for the proposed amendments to the ESTP constitution (for: 48; against: 0; abstention: 2).</p>
14.	New Members	<p>The secretary presented the list of 17 new members. All of them were approved as members by the EC as they fulfil constitutional criteria. The new members are (in the order of entry date):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monika Keresztes - Fernando Romero-Palomo - Marco Tecilla

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tao Chen - Rikke Kaae Kirk - Martin Baatz - Kerstin Hahn - Yinghua Li - Rita Deuchande - Stephane Lezmi - Barbara Raddatz - Monica Daniela Ronderos Herrera - Chandra Saravanan - Katja Steiger - Kathrin Becker - Leonie Herkommer - Katrin Printz
15.	Proposal and Ratification of Representatives for Sister Societies/ Other Bodies	<p>Prior to the AGA, the secretary had asked sister societies to nominate their representatives within ESTP. The following representatives had been renominated by the societies:</p> <p>French Society: Béatrice Gauthier</p> <p>Dutch Society: Eveline de Rijk</p> <p>Hungarian Society: György Selenyi</p> <p>British Society: Zuhail Dincer</p> <p>The assembly approved the above-mentioned societies as sister societies of the ESTP (for: 45; against: 0; abstention: 2).</p> <p>The representatives named above were confirmed by the assembly (for: 44; against: 0; abstention: 3).</p>
16.	ESTP International Expert Workshops 01.07.09	<p><u>Update 7th ESTP International Expert Workshop “Towards Regulatory Acceptance of Digital Toxicologic Pathology”</u></p> <p>Vanessa informed the membership that the workshop manuscript had been published in the digital pathology special issue. It has been (is it still available?) available from 10th December 2020 under the following title: <i>“The Application, Challenges, and Advancement Toward Regulatory Acceptance of Digital Toxicologic Pathology: Results of the 7th ESTP International Expert Workshop (September 20-21, 2019). This manuscript received the 2021 SOT Regulatory and Safety Evaluation Specialty Section Best Paper Award.</i></p> <p><u>Update 8th ESTP International Expert Workshop “IT/QA aspects of Digital Pathology”</u></p> <p>The topic was chosen in order to continue the work started in the previous workshop. The primary goals were, on the one hand, to initiate a precompetitive practice network to share and define the IT technical and security requirements as a prerequisite to digitalize pathology and, on the other, to provide a guideline that outlines the basic principles for the validation of digital primary read and digital peer review. In total at least 14 preparatory workshops took place with 45 international multidisciplinary experts and members of the ESTP from 17 Pharmaceutical Companies, 2 CROs and European HA agency. The virtual workshop was very well attended in mid-November 2020 and, currently, the publication is being written.</p>

		<p>Vanessa presented some of the concepts which will be presented the publication (e.g. necessity of archiving scans, “pixel-pathway”).</p> <p><u>Update on 9th ESTP International Expert Workshop “Assessment of the biological/Toxicological Relevance of Clinical Pathology Changes”</u></p> <p>Monika informed the membership that seven of the ten planned preparatory videoconferences had taken place. The primary workshop goals are to provide criteria and appropriate nomenclature for classifying test item-related clinical pathology changes according to their biological and/or toxicological importance and to provide definition of these terms. For spring 2022 a conclusive webinar is planned, also a publication in ToxPath and posters for STP and ESTP meetings will be drafted. The expert panel consists of members from pharmaceutical and agrochemical companies, universities and regulatory agencies.</p>
17.	News from Society Journal and Discussion	<p>The editor-in-chief of ToxPath, Kevin Keane, presented the Journal Report, which is based on the annual report SAGE publishes.</p> <p>He presented the editorial team, including nine associate editors with Béatrice Gauthier as ESTP representative and a large number of members on the editorial board, who work on roughly two manuscripts per year. The new position of “Imaging Strategy Editor” was installed and is held by Mark Hoenerhoff, who will focus on improving the digital presence of the Journal, e.g. working on tasks such as proprietary info, IT support and costs of whole slide imaging.</p> <p>The average review speed has been reduced in 2021 and the average days from receipt at SAGE to Online Publication has gone down to 32 business days. Several publication categories exist. Formal manuscript review is performed for the original articles, review articles and brief communications. Best Practice, Points to Consider, Expert Workshop and Tox Path Forum Opinion Papers are reviewed on society committee level or in an expert working group and not by the editorial board. The acceptance ratio has dropped significantly in 2021, mainly due to articles being out-of-scope, not relevant to Tox Path, or not meeting the standards of pathology methods. The journal impact factor has increased from 1.485 in 2019 to 1.902 in 2020 and will hopefully continue to rise. The formula to define the impact factor is currently being redefined. The number of downloads has been increasing constantly and does not coincide with the list of most cited articles.</p> <p>Kevin congratulated the authors of the two best articles picked in the categories “original manuscript” and “review manuscript”.</p> <p>The upcoming special issue for 2022 “Pathobiology of Nonhumane Primates” comes after the following special issues which were published in the last year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Challenges of Inhaled Biotherapeutics” - “Ocular Pathology and Drug Development” - “Digital Pathology, Tissue Image Analysis, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning”

		Kevin invited members to listen to podcasts presenting interviews with ToxPath authors. Summarizing, Kevin highlighted that his editorial team is highly functional and productive, continuously seeks to improve the journal image, and is always open to any suggestions from readers and members of the societies.
18.	Report of SOC and Presentation of 2022 ESTP Meeting in Maastricht (The Netherlands)	<p>Eveline, co-chair of the SOC, presented some slides about the next (19th) ESTP congress that will be held in Maastricht (NL) from 13th to 16th September 2022. The title of the congress is “Think Female” and will focus on the toxicologic pathology of the female reproductive system.</p> <p>The SOC has 14 members, four LOC members, and the congress will be organized by the Society’s new professional congress organizer Pauwels, located in Maastricht itself.</p> <p>The planned program will cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - State-of-the-art lectures in toxicologic pathology and women health - General histopathology of the female reproductive organs in different species - Hormone-related histopathology and human histopathology - Animal models and New techniques - Endocrine disruption - Interactive INHAND (female reproductive organs) and case presentations <p>Eveline presented the provisional program and the venue, the Hotel Crowne Plaza, which is located on the river Maas. It is a 4-star hotel with conference rooms with rooms at conference rates. It is well connected to the city centre as well as to the railway station and airport.</p>
19.	Vision for the Society	<p>Franck presented the vision for the future of the ESTP. Some steps would be to develop a more impactful digital presence (LinkedIn ESTP account, rejuvenate the CEM LinkedIn account), relaunch the task force “Mission and Vision”, relaunch the Clinical Pathology Committee and reflect on diversity, equity and inclusion.</p> <p>He made a call for volunteers for the “Mission and Vision Task Force” who would be motivated to formulate a mission statement and work on the goals towards the realization of the vision. Subtopics may be advocacy, education, international collaboration, recruitments and innovation.</p> <p>Another call for volunteers was made for the Clinical Pathology Committee. During the latest CEM Gabi had facilitated a short informal virtual meeting with interested members, and Monika Keresztes and Olivier Blanck had volunteered to co-chair the committee.</p>
20.	Announcement: Classic Examples in Toxicologic Pathology XXVIII	Thomas Nolte announced the next seminar Classic Examples in Toxicologic Pathology XXIX which is scheduled for March 10 th and 11 th , 2022. He informed the membership that it will unfortunately be held online as many travel policies from companies will probably still not allow travel in early 2022. An advantage of the virtual format will

		be to allow for a high number of participants, even from non-European countries. An on-site seminar is planned for 2023 in order to celebrate the 30 th edition.
21.	Any other Business	There were no additional questions by the membership.

Secretary, ESTP

Chairman, ESTP