

# European Society of Toxicologic Pathology e.V.

## Minutes of the Annual General Assembly held on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023, 10.30-12.00 pm (CEST), Basel (Switzerland)

93 members attended (including 14 executive committee members)

1.	<b>Welcome and Introductory Remarks</b>	The meeting was opened timely by the chairperson, Silvia Guionaud, 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. The recording of the Annual General Assembly (AGA) to facilitate minute writing purposes and the deletion of this file after its use was announced.
2.	<b>Approval of the Agenda</b>  (VOTE 1)	The Secretary Raffaella Capobianco had circulated the agenda to the membership prior to the AGA, according to the constitution.  The agenda was approved by the membership and the Executive Committee (EC) (VOTE 1: for: 93; against: 0; abstentions: 0).
3.	<b>Approval of Minutes of Annual General Assembly, 2022</b> (VOTE 2)	Prior to the AGA the minutes of the Annual General Assembly 2022 (Maastricht) had been circulated to the membership. There were no comments or questions and the minutes were approved by the assembly and the EC.  (VOTE 2: for: 91; against: 0; abstentions: 2)
4.	<b>Report of the Executive Committee: ESTP Highlights and Achievements of Past Year</b>	The chairperson, Silvia Guionaud, presented the ESTP highlights and achievements of the past year to the membership.  Franck Chanut had started the “Mission and Vision” discussion in 2021, followed by a membership survey in 2022 indicating that the membership agreed with the 3 pillars of remit laid down in our constitution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- To provide continuing education and promote science</li><li>- To influence the regulatory and industrial environment and give our profession a voice</li><li>- To promote our profession and attract new members to the profession and the society</li></ul> Following on from there, the EC conducted a SWOT (strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis at a hybrid meeting in March resulting in more detailed points to work on: One work stream focused on defining major projects and quick wins, another defined interconnections between different topics.  Two key capabilities were communication and visibility. Silvia mentioned the society’s LinkedIn page as one platform to increase visibility and invited all members to actively interact with ESTP posts. One main issue to work on is the increased participation from sides of the members and early career pathologists by “walking the talk”, defining clearly where pathology is heading and increasing the professions and society’s visibility.

		<p>Silvia thanked the EC members involved in these work streams: Eveline, Hans, Lars, Raffaella, Ingo, Anna-Lena, Simone.</p> <p>Silvia reflected upon the society's strengths. Two webinars have been held since last the AGA, Classic Examples XXX had a high participation, the productive Pathology 2.0 working group has made two publications with 2 more in preparation and will lead a workshop at the Microphysiological Systems World Summit 2023 in Berlin. The Digital Pathology group has had a strong start with one sponsored talk in October 2023 in Hungary and one publication in preparation. The organizers of the 9<sup>th</sup> International Workshop have handed in a paper on <i>Clinical Pathology Findings in Preclinical Toxicity Studies</i> which is under cross-organizational review and the 10<sup>th</sup> Workshop on long lasting injectables will take place in connection with this conference. Apart from that, this year's conference attracted a large number of attendants.</p> <p>Silvia displayed also the work of two important groups: The Early Career Pathologists Network lead by Simone Tangermann and the Digital Pathology Committee lead by Lise Bertrand. Simone is making a critical step for the profession of toxicologic pathology by creating a close-knit network also in connection with residents. She has organized three digital lunch break sessions with experienced pathologists speaking about their career paths and problems they faced and presented the ESTP at the ECVP summer school. Lise is leading a group of 49 members which was only launched in 2022 with the aim to provide information and guidance on DigPathology (implementation/Best Practices, Regulatory Questions, Image Analysis, Artificial Intelligence) to the ESTP membership.</p> <p>International collaborations are ongoing with new Memorandums of Understanding with the IATP and ECVP/ESVP regulating the combined events with them. A new worldwide events calendar has been introduced to coordinate congress topics and timings. The ESTP has increased coordination with the STP and BSTP on the management of the ToxPath Journal. Three new ESTP members are to participate on the ECVP committees to ensure that toxicologic pathology has a voice in education pathology residents.</p> <p>Béatrice Gauthier has also increased representation of ESTP on the editorial board by three additional ESTP members being accepted as editors. She is highly involved in improving the communication between ESTP, STP and BSTP by actively revising the Memorandum of Understanding on the management of the journal Toxicologic Pathology and the endorsement of articles (finalization pending). In addition, potential publication solutions for posters and other ESTP-related work are being investigated.</p>
5.	<b>Questions &amp; Answers: Pre-Circulated Reports of Committees and Councillors</b>	<p>Prior to the meeting the membership had received the reports of the committees and councilors by email. Silvia presented a short, written statement made by the chairs of each committee and thanked all of them for their valuable contributions. The highlights were the following:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Nomenclature:</b> The INHAND manuscripts for <u>Fish Pathology</u> and <u>Non-Rodent Ocular</u> will be shortly available for membership review (publication target is 2024). The harmonization of terms across organs and species is in progress. The most updated terminology is available on <a href="http://goreni.org">goreni.org</a>. Organ Working Groups will be asked for review of all published terms. A webinar on the use of goRENI is for scheduled end of 2023/beginning of 2024.</li> <li>• <b>Electronic Communication:</b> The website is being used for the distribution of information (e.g. Documents and presentations from the AGA and congress in Maastricht, newsletter, information on constitutional changes). The document repository has been moved to TEAMS. 13 new job adverts contribute to our revenue.</li> <li>• <b>Digital Pathology:</b> see highlights (No. 5).</li> <li>• <b>Congresses:</b> Anna-Lena is doing a great job in this new position providing continuous support to the LOC/SOC and PCO. The MoU and SOP with the IATP for the Satellite Meeting has been signed, an ESTP travel policy document has been established (it is reviewed annually) and an on-site visit in Madrid with the PCO in July took place.</li> <li>• <b>Award Committee:</b> The selected the paper in 2023 was published in Nature Communications 14, Article number: 3267 (2023). : "Hamster model for post-COVID-19 alveolar regeneration offers an opportunity to understand post-acute sequelae of SARS-CoV-2" by Laura Heydemann, Małgorzata Ciurkiewicz, Georg Beythien, Kathrin Becker, Klaus Schughart, Stephanie Stanelle-Bertram, Berfin Schaumburg, Nancy Mounogou-Kouassi, Sebastian Beck, Martin Zickler, Mark Kühnel, Gülsah Gabriel, Andreas Beineke, Wolfgang Baumgärtner &amp; Federico Armando. The latter will receive the award at the ESTP meeting in Basel. The committee welcomes new members.</li> <li>• <b>Webinar Committee:</b> One webinar has been held by the Pathology 2.0 group on Maldi-Imaging and another is planned for the winter 2023.</li> <li>• <b>Committee for Scientific Standards:</b> The task of this committee, influencing the regulatory and industry environment, is the third main pillar of the work of the society. The EC has decided to support the growth of the membership of the committee and also the high amount of papers being reviewed by them was praised. They initiated a call for comments on the FDA Draft Guidance on the Use of Whole Slide Imaging and a consolidated response was submitted following ESTP EC approval. A new working group, the handling of client material, has been initiated.</li> <li>• <b>Pathology 2.0.:</b> This committee has had two articles accepted for publication by the <i>Toxicologic Pathology</i> journal on "In Situ Hybridization Techniques" and the Survey on the "Use of</li> </ul>
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		<p>Artificial Intelligence in Toxicologic Pathology” and, in addition, two manuscripts are under preparation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classic Examples: The 30th edition of this event took place on March 17th and 18th and attracted 10 presentations and 140 participants.</li> <li>• Early Career Pathologists: see highlights (No. 5).</li> <li>• Councilor to represent University Teachers: This position has been held by Ingo Gerhauser for one year now and he is involved in the local organization of the ESTP classical examples 2023 and of the “Toxicologic Pathology Training Program” in Hannover.</li> <li>• Guess What Committee: Two cases were shown in 2022 and the second is still open. All members are asked to participate.</li> </ul> <p>No questions were asked.</p>
6.	<b>Report of the SOC and Local Representatives</b>	<p>As member of the LOC and SOC 2023 Fernando Romero Palomo presented the work of the LOC and SOC of the congress. The LOC is made up of himself, Thierry Flandre, Marco Tecilla, Armelle Grevot, Kuno Würsch, Josep Monne and Enrico Vezzali, the last three being the co-chairs. He thanked them for their excellent work and collaboration.</p> <p>He informed that the information of the congress is available on the congress website and the abstracts are published in the digital abstract book.</p> <p>He presented the scientific program, which consists of the IATP Symposium including 4 lectures and one panel discussion; one opening session on emerging therapeutic modalities; five lectures on nucleic and acid technologies; four lectures on new generation biologics; six lectures on gene and cell therapies; five lectures on targeted protein degraders; five lectures on miscellaneous topics and four case presentations. The Scientific Organizing Committee, Anna-Lena as Congress Councilor and the professional congress organizer were thanked for their support.</p> <p>The congress was accompanied by various side meetings and a social program. The following awards were presented: the Chirukandath Gopinath Award (BSTP), the Maronpot Guest Lecture Award (IATP), SFTP Best Poster Award and the ESTP Best Publication Award.</p> <p>Fernando informed the members that there were in total 255 participants including the speakers, members and non-members at the congress. 70 attended the IATP Symposium and 63 the International Expert Workshop. The current budget is higher than expected. There were concerns regarding the expensive location, the inflation and the exchange rate which resulted in a slightly higher registration fee. However, in the end there was a high number of participants and sponsors. He thanked the sponsors for their generous sponsorship.</p> <p>The preliminary expenses were estimated at € 220.674,74. The main costs consist of the location, organization of the congress, social</p>

		program and speaker support. The estimated income is € 237.149,26 from registration and sponsorship.
7.	<b>Financial Report and Membership Fees</b>	<p>The financial report was presented by the treasurer Kuno Würsch, it included a report on the year 2022, an update on 2023 and a financial outlook for the budget for 2024.</p> <p>The main activities of 2022 were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For the years 2019-2021 Kuno made the tax submission with support of the tax consultant Confidia and it is not finalized yet.</li> <li>• The ESTP has created additional reserves to avoid/reduce a deficit in 2023.</li> <li>• In a dedicated finance TC in July Kuno gave a detailed overview of the financial situation to the EC. He pointed out that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The membership fees cover about 50-60% of the society's expenses, the other revenue comes from job adverts, Classic Examples or other forms of donations.</li> <li>- The expense structure increased in the last years due to additional admin support and IT infrastructure.</li> <li>- The current financial situation is balanced with revenues just about three times the yearly volume of the expenses.</li> <li>- Kuno compared the location Switzerland as possible site of the headquarters of the society with Germany asking a similar society (ETS) about their experience and concluded that there are no great benefits.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Kuno gave an overview of the ESTP assets which are divided on different accounts. The Commerzbank account is the main account used for daily transactions (membership fees, invoice payments, transfer from Stripe account). The Stripe account is for the credit card payments and the assets are transferred to the previous account within about seven days. The Rabobank account is held by the PCO in the society's name and has been opened to avoid negative interest payments on main account. The last two accounts held by the PCO are for the ESTP congress and the cutting-edge pathology congress.</p> <p>The financial report of the account on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 stated that the assets were €176.456,00 with the surplus in 2022 being €3.592. He highlighted that the working hours of the administrative assistant will probably rise as she is providing more support for the EC and committees. He foresees that despite the assets having a positive trend, the expenses are increasing while the revenue is stable.</p> <p>The financial update for 2023 (18<sup>th</sup> September 2023) stated a current amount on the account of €151.963.00 (surplus of € 1.204,00). He still expects expenses to come for the last three months.</p> <p>For 2024 Kuno gave an overview of yearly and one-off activities which will create in total about €54.000 expenses. He also highlighted the membership fees in relation to expenses and total revenue. The fees make up roughly half the total revenue and cover 54% of the total expenses.</p>

		<p>Demographics and Statistics: There are currently 326 society members from 21 countries including 9 honorary members and 22 members paying a reduced fee (student and retired members). 276 have already paid for 2023 (41 have not paid yet). Open fees for 2022 are 9 and open fees for 2021 are 6. No open payments exist for 2020. Four members have not paid for more than three years and will be written off.</p> <p>The EC proposes maintaining the current fees (regular fee € 80 and reduced fee € 35).</p>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Report of the Auditors</b>	<p>Eight weeks prior to the AGA the society auditors Wolfgang Kaufmann and Pierre Maliver had received all balance sheets from 2022. Pierre confirmed that they had found the accounts in excellent order and recommended them for acceptance by the membership.</p>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Exoneration of Executive Committee and (VOTES 3, 4, 5)</b>	<p>The membership granted its approval for the acceptance of the financial report. (VOTE 3: for: 91; against: 0; abstentions: 2)</p> <p>The membership voted for maintaining the current fees (regular fee € 80 and reduced fee € 35), so the fee will not change for 2024. (VOTE 4: for: 91; against: 0; abstentions: 2)</p> <p>The membership granted its approval for the work of the executive committee. The EC has herewith been exonerated. (VOTE 5: for: 84; against: 0; abstentions: 9)</p>
<b>10.</b>	<b>Confirmation of Auditors</b>	<p>Kuno thanked the auditors for their work, especially Pierre as he had resigned from this position.</p> <p>The assembly approved of the continuation of Wolfgang Kaufmann and Roger Alison as auditors. (VOTE 6: for: 92; against: 0; abstentions: 1)</p>

11.	<b>New Members</b>	<p>The secretary Raffaella Capobianco presented the new members. All of them were approved as members by the EC as they fulfil constitutional criteria.</p> <p>The new members are:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Name</b>          Deepa Bandi Rao          Martina Stirn          Tara Arndt          Ismar Klebic          Ines Berenguer          Diane Brown          Martina Iuliani          Jeffrey Curtis          Michela Levi          Gyula Balka          Ingrid Pardo          Davide Corbetta          Elizabeth Galbreath          Susanne Bran          Begonya Garcia          Theresa Brömel          Svenja Hartung          Agnieszka Karol          Katarzyna Marek          Emily Meseck          Dinesh Bangari</p>
12.	<b>Proposal and Ratification of Representatives for Sister Societies/ Other Bodies</b>  <b>(VOTE 7 and 8)</b>	<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          Dutch Society: Eveline de Rijk          Hungarian Society: György Selenyi          British Society: Zuhail Dincer</p> <p>The assembly approved the above-mentioned societies as sister societies of the ESTP. (VOTE 7: for: 89; against: 0; abstentions: 4)</p> <p>The representatives named above were confirmed by the assembly by unanimous vote. (VOTE 8: for: 89; against: 0; abstentions: 4)</p>
13.	<b>Report of the ESTP Committee for Scientific Standards (CSS)</b>	<p>The chair of the CSS, Annette Romeike, updated the membership on the ongoing activities and changes within the committee. She wished to raise the members awareness to this committee.</p> <p>The committee members, Laetitia Elies, Flavia Pasellos dos Santos, Evelyn DeRijk, Barbara Lenz, Babu Gangadharan, Robert Kreutzer and herself, have decided to change the name of the committee to the more appropriate one „Committee of Regulatory and Scientific Standards“. Annette thanked the current active members for their work.</p>

		<p>Apart from monitoring the regulatory environment, in the last five years, the support of scientific progression in toxicologic pathology, especially in collaboration with STP and BSTP, has increased and the committee has participated more in global initiatives (e.g. STP SRPC). The mandate of the committee is to review incoming publications and provide recommendations to the ESTP EC.</p> <p>Annette informed the members that the committee is seeking more members who are willing to review impactful regulatory guidelines (FDA, OECD; EPA; ICH etc.), points to consider papers, best practice papers and Expert Workshop publications. She described this task as an honor and a unique opportunity to newcomers in the field to become exposed early on to the publications. The CSS schedules monthly TCs, and in addition to the above-mentioned tasks, informs the membership about changes in regulatory environment, offers guidance for author's or working group chairs, who seek to publish papers in ToxPath and is in close contact with international toxicologic path societies. Basis for the work of this committee are memorandums of understanding and SOPs which offer guidance.</p> <p>Silvia also highlighted the opportunity for ESTP members and colleagues to increase their regulatory awareness.</p>
14.	<p><b>ESTP International Expert Workshops</b></p> <p>- Update on 9th Workshop "Assessment of Toxicological Relevance of Clinical Pathology Changes"</p> <p>- Update on 10th Workshop "Designed to stay yet do no harm: Safety assessment of Long-Acting Injectables (LAI) and the evaluation of the injection site."</p>	<p>- Update on 9th Workshop "Assessment of Toxicological Relevance of Clinical Pathology Changes"</p> <p>Gabriele Pohlmeyer-Esch informed the membership that this workshop is coming to an end having fulfilled the goals of better aligning the positioning of clinical pathology findings in reports and to discuss the inconsistent utilization of terms such as "biological relevance" and "toxicological relevance".</p> <p>She described this endeavor as an interesting step into the world of clinical pathology.</p> <p>The expert panel of the workshop held 12 monthly videoconferences, which started in March 2021 and two webinars. She thanked Amy Narewski and Jan Steinke for their support and also the two members of the organizing team apart from herself, Monika Keresztes and Lindsay Tomlinson. She also thanked the ESTP for its support.</p> <p>The week before this AGA the manuscript was handed in for endorsement by the ESTP, BSTP and STP.</p> <p>- Update on 10th Workshop "Designed to stay yet do no harm: Safety assessment of Long-Acting Injectables (LAI) and the evaluation of the injection site."</p> <p>This meeting will take place on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning after the congress in Basel. The organizing team is comprised of Marjolein Van Heerden, Bhanu Singh and Anna-Lena Frisk.</p>
17.	<p><b>Report of SOC and Presentation of 2024 ESTP Meeting in San Lorenzo de El</b></p>	<p>Anna-Lena Frisk presented the 5th Cutting Edge Pathology Congress which is a joint meeting with the ESVP and ECVP. The topic selected by the ESTP Scientific Organizing Committee, chaired by Pierre Maliver and Sameh Youssef, is "Neuropathology – The Vast Pink Wonderland" with the following subtopics: Neuromethods, Nervous System Evaluation, Neurodegenerative disease &amp; Animal Models,</p>



	<b>Escorial (Madrid, Spain)</b>	<p>Developmental &amp; Juvenile, Recent Neurobiology Concepts and Case Studies.</p> <p>The membership was invited to join the SOC if they wish to contribute to the scientific content or participate in the organization of the congress.</p> <p>Further support is provided by the ESTP Admin Assistant, the ESTP Chair, the congress organizer, the ESVP/ECVP SOC chaired by Andrea Gröne and the ESVP/ECVP LOC chaired by Laura Peña.</p> <p>The congress will be held from August 28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> 2024, starting on a Wednesday morning and ending on a Saturday morning.</p> <p>The meeting in 2025 will be a joint congress with the BSTP on the topic "Carcinogenicity". Thomas Nolte and Ute Bach will start forming the SOC to which all members are invited.</p>
19.	<b>Announcement: Classic Examples in Toxicologic Pathology XXXI</b>	<p>Thomas Nolte announced the next seminar Classic Examples in Toxicologic Pathology XXXI which is scheduled for March 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, in Hannover.</p> <p>All are invited to contact him if they wish to present a case. For the future the organizing team is working on solutions on how to provide the cases more international visibility (e.g. work with NTP ongoing).</p> <p>A RITA meeting will take place too.</p>
20.	<b>Any other Business</b>	<p><u>Constitutional Changes agreed by AGA in 2022</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lars Mecklenburg, in his role as vice chairman and responsible for the solid legal foundation of the society, informed the members that the court in Wuppertal wrote a letter to the society just before the AGA stating that they did not approve the constitutional changes agreed by the AGA in 2022 (changes on councilor positions) due to various minor formal inconsistencies. These legal changes become effective once the court approves them.</li> <li>• As the ESTP is registered as non-profit organization in Wuppertal (Germany), the society is obliged to hand in a German version of the AGA minutes when elections are held and constitutional changes are agreed upon.</li> <li>• The writing up, endorsement on EC level, translation into German and signing of the minutes is a time consuming process (signatures need to be certified by a notary in Germany) and resulted in a late response by the court.</li> <li>• The formal inconsistencies referred to by the court were a) the invitation was not signed by the Chairperson but "on behalf" of her by the Secretary and b) the invitation was not sent out exactly or at least 2 months before the AGA but a couple of days later.</li> <li>• This formalism which results in administrative burden for the EC members and the search of a new postal address for the society (currently it is using the private postal address of the vice-chairman) are two major topics the EC is currently addressing.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Silvia added that the EC has dismissed the option of moving the headquarter of the society to a different country as this may put at risk the status of non-profit organization.</li> </ul> <p><u>Update on Journal Activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gabriele Pohlmeier-Esch asked the EC if it was possible to include this update again in the AGA agenda for next year. The EC will invite the chief editor or provide an update via the ESTP liaison of the Journal for 2024. In the meantime, Béatrice will send an update via email to the memberships (minutes from editor meetings and slide from presentation).</li> </ul> <p><u>Administrative costs of the Society</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Silvia highlighted the fact that the administrative burden (administrative support and professional congress organizer) of the Society has risen as the congress has grown and the council has more time constraints. Therefore, the board relies highly on this administrative support both for the congress and the running of the society. She made a call to the membership for alternative suggestions.</li> <li>• She thanked the membership for joining the Annual General Assembly.</li> </ul>
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