



The Intensive Connection

**Draft Minutes of the ESICM General Assembly meeting
on Tuesday 26 September 2017 at 18.15 hrs
at the ACV, Vienna**

Present:

M Antonelli (President); A Girbes (Secretary); C Waldmann (Treasurer); J Kesecioglu (President Elect); M Cecconi (Chair, DSA); L Forni (Chair, Research Committee); J Duranteau (Chair, Communications Committee); E Azoulay (Editor in Chief, ICM); B Weiss (Chair, NEXT); C Boulanger (Chair, N&AHP); D De Backer (President); J Alexandre (CEO); N Van der Elst (Membership); G François (Research); D De Boom (Education); C Martinez (Congress); E Maquestiaux (Congress); E Pasquier (e-Learning); H Ftouh (ESICM) and C McClements (Minutes).

P Abraham; A Alansary; J Bakker; J Barea; R Beale; V Bennett; B Bollen Pinto; H Bracht; L J Comporota; JD Chiche; J Cockings; D de Lange; G De Pascale; J De Waele; F Duska; P Elbers; A Feldheiser; H Flaatten; V Fuhrmann; J Grunow; L Galaza; M Geisen; H Gerlach; R Gerritsen; I Grigoras; B Halacli; A Hollmann; S Horner; E Hoste; I Jammer; K Jancevski; A Jaggernatu; O Khomenko; R Kleinpell; S Kozar; T Kyprianou; J Laake; J Latour; D Ledoux; C Lingg; B Lobo-Valbuena; M Maggiorini; M Mendoza; S Meuse; G Mistraletti; R Mörgeli; B Patel; M Rosenthal; F Rubulotta; D Thomas Rüddel; Y Sakr; F Sanfilippo; C Santonocito; M Santos; S Schaller; T Scheeren; P Schellengowski; C Schrag; C Sitzwohl; J Speier; M Sungur; JL Teboul; A Topeli; M Uyar; C van den Berg; D J Versluis; F Weidanz; X Wittebole; A Wong.

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

MA

The President welcomed all members to the General Assembly. The minutes of the General Assembly meeting held on 4 October 2016 in Milan were approved and adopted as fair copy.

2. REPORT BY THE GENERAL SECRETARY

AG

Membership

The number of members continues to grow and has almost reached 9,000. 6,039 are European and approximately one third (2,863) are non-European, which is overall a good distribution.

The Secretary presented the new national representatives and the officers who have joined the different Sections and Committees and thanked all those standing down for their hard work and achievements.

3. REPORT BY THE TREASURER

CW

Forecast 2017

An expected surplus of €612K from this year's congress is foreseen and this does not include the onsite registrations.

Sponsorship income has touched one million euros for the first time. This and the income from the Forum in Athens will allow the Society to invest more for next year's events.

As the annual congress is one of the Society's biggest financial risks, if there was ever to be a terrorist attack or unforeseen event affecting the congress, the Society would stand to lose a great deal of its revenue. It can, however, cover the costs of at least two cancelled/disrupted congresses, should they occur.

Research

The Society's funding of the Surviving Sepsis Campaign has been reduced this year, as less money is required for the Paediatric Task Force.

The Treasurer is confident that the Society's investment in research will continue along the same lines as this year, although he would like to see even more investment.

Division of Professional Development

Investment in the eLearning Platform has continued this year (€145K).

The EDIC exams have been very successful this year and brought in revenues of €547,000.

Division of Administrative Affairs

The renovation of the stable buildings and transformation into a new training centre is nearing completion. The initial amount approved by the Council in March 2015, including the architect's fees was €540,000.

The budget for the project has exceeded 6.95% of the initial budget. This is mainly due to legal obligations regarding the façade and the need to re-build the concrete beams to restore the building's stability. In the end, the final cost should be around €577,000.

Depreciation is based on 15-20 years, depending on the category. This means a cost of €38-45K per year. The President pointed out that the value of the building would have depreciated more had it not been renovated, as its deterioration was such that it would have had to have been pulled down.

The Society will be able to deliver its own courses at the Brussels headquarters, starting this November. Planned courses include:

- Mechanical Ventilation (November 2017)
- Pneumonia Management (November 2017)
- EDIC 2 Preparation (March 2018)
- Haemodynamic
- Advanced Course in Critical Care Echocardiography
- In addition, we could organise EDIC 1 exam (April 2017)

Editorial and Publishing

There has been a slight dip in the surplus, which sees an overall result of €254K.

Life Priority

The Society has invested almost €80K per annum in the Life Priority Fund. G E Healthcare has this year provided funding of €40K per year for a three-year period. Capital and reserves at the year-end are €100K.

Financial Result of ESICM

The Society's total net assets are worth €6 million.

Although the year ends with a deficit of €102K, the Treasurer emphasised that this is a worse-case scenario.

Dr Sitzwohl asked whether the Euro Asia Conference, which recorded a loss of €122K this year, made financial sense. The Treasurer replied that it made sense to go outside Europe with a congress and that the participation of many different countries worldwide had shown this. Attendance will be monitored and reviewed over the next few years.

The General Assembly unanimously approved and adopted the 2017 Financial Report and Forecast.

4. REPORT FROM THE DIVISION OF SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS (DSA)

MC/LF

a. Congress

The DSA Chair, M Cecconi, presented a statistical overview of LIVES2017. The amount of space in the Simulation Centre has been doubled this year and a new Technology Lounge has been added. The format of open spaces in both these areas allows the sessions or demonstrations to act as a "magnet", pulling people in.

Delegates are engaging more in the congress. The quality of abstracts is getting higher each year. Space in the exhibition has sold out and all PG courses are fully booked.

Although we do not yet have the final figures, around 5,500 participants are thought to have attended. This is in line with previous years. More delegates are attending from countries outside Europe, particularly Asia and Latin America.

LIVES Forum

The title "Regional Conference" has been replaced by "LIVES Forum". Next year's Forum on 3-5 May on the theme of 'Monitoring In Acute Respiratory Failure' will take place in Madrid. The programme is currently being finalised.

Euro Asia 2018

More than 500 delegates attended last year's first Euro Asia Conference and the Society has been asked by the Asian national societies to collaborate on courses and simulation at next year's conference.

b. Research

The Chair of the Research Committee, Lui Forni, reported that more than 25,000 patients have been enrolled in the Society's trials and studies. He thanked the outgoing Research Committee members, C Guérin, I Jammer, T Scheeren and J Wendon, for their service and welcomed the incoming members: J Bakker, L Camporotta, A Feldheiser and V Fuhrmann.

Research Awards 2017

This year there were 115 applications for the ESICM awards, which are worth more than €300,000.

Trials

The PEACE Trial has closed this year and a first manuscript is in the making.

The ABSES trial has also closed and preliminary results were presented at the Trials meeting earlier today.

Endorsement

The Research Chair reminded the Assembly that endorsed projects receive the Society's endorsement and not money. When the Society communicates about its endorsed projects, this provides members with access to more ICUs and potential investigators, who may be interested in contributing to their projects.

Dr Sakr expressed the opinion that it may be time to invest more in the infrastructure for the Society's research and to offer its members more than the "gift" of endorsement. He recommended that the Society acquire its own research platform, or use a different one, along with IT and statistical support.

The Research Chair responded that although he would not rule out the purchase of an eCRF platform in the future, this kind of database would need to be managed by a support staff and would require adequate storage space. The eCRF that the Society uses now is expensive, but it works.

Prof. Chiche added that the support of the Society is in itself valuable and that it would be important to see what the Society can do with the money and staff it already has. Many of the multicentre trials cost a lot of money and have to be funded by other institutions and research centres.

Systematic Review Group (SRG)

The SRG library has taken some time to come to fruition but is now under way, with 100 reviews currently in the online library, accessible to ESICM members. The SRG Chair, Marius Terblanche, has unfortunately resigned for work reasons and the Society will be looking for a suitable replacement for him.

Temperature Target Management (TTM) Library

27 protocols have been received and 12 selected for the library. A further five protocols are in the pipeline.

The Society is currently involved in a number of European public affairs and public health groups. The aim is to make ESICM visible in the Brussels EU Public Affairs and Public Policy circles and to access valuable and relevant information.

When asked about the increased visibility of ICUs and research on a European level, Prof. Forni replied that the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation Horizon 2020 is limited in terms of time. The Society should improve its efforts to lobby the European institutions.

5. REPORT FROM THE DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (DPD)

The Deputy Chair of the DPD, Jacques Duranteau made the presentation on behalf of Pascale Gruber, who is expecting a baby and was unable to travel to this year's congress.

Academy

The eLearning Platform is now a modern, versatile and state of the art platform, able to monitor and store learners' progress and eLearning activities. There are currently 7 eCourses and 11 eModules and by October these will have increased to 20 eModules and 8 eCourses. In a year's time, it is hoped to have 50 eModules and 40 eCourses.

<p>6. REPORT FROM THE COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE</p>	<p>JD</p>
<p>Website</p> <p>The new website has been launched at this year's congress. It offers a more logical and user-friendly format to attract more people to the website.</p> <p>When questioned about the effectiveness of timing the launch of the new website to coincide with the congress and the access and payment problems that followed, the Communication Chair responded that it had been intentional to launch the new website at the congress in order to highlight all the Society's activities and the work of the Sections. Everything was now being done to resolve these problems as soon as possible.</p> <p>The Past President asked members to send their comments to the Secretariat and not to wait until the next General Assembly, as this feedback is important.</p> <p>Webinars</p> <p>Industry-sponsored webinars will start this year.</p> <p>Journal Review Club</p> <p>There have been 290 reviews by 55 reviewers, who were thanked for the quality of their service.</p> <p>Social Media</p> <p>The Social Media Task Force members were thanked for their work to promote the Society.</p>	
<p>7. REPORT ON THE NEXT COMMITTEE</p>	<p>BW</p>
<p>This year is the fifth anniversary of NEXT. As the number of members joining the Society increases, so does the NEXT network. The proportion of NEXT members is 25% (2,200) and there is an active NEXT community outside Europe. A new international NEXT Committee member will join the EDIC Committee to help increase overseas collaboration.</p> <p>The approved change to the SOP to revise the NEXT membership criteria means that doctors in training, or within the first five years of specialisation, have the opportunity to sit on the NEXT Committee for a full term, with a renewable term. In addition, members under 35 years old can become NEXT members and apply for NEXT programmes.</p>	
<p>8. REPORT ON THE N&AHP COMMITTEE</p>	<p>CB</p>
<p>AppIC</p> <p>The new nursing app for intensive care nurses to use at the bedside was launched as a beta/test version at this week's congress and has had 250 downloads since its introduction at the app store. It is available for Apple and Android. Any feedback from members is welcome. Ms Boulanger acknowledged the work of Ann Sophie Debue, who managed the project and task force behind the app.</p> <p>DecubICUs</p> <p>This is the first trial that the N&AHP have been involved in and is a prospective, point-prevalence study to describe epidemiology of pressure ulcers. 403 sites worldwide have registered an interest in 76 different countries.</p> <p>INACTIC (International Nursing Advanced Competency Based Training for Intensive Care) programme has secured a grant worth €142,000 from the EU Erasmus Plus Fund to develop a set of competencies and education resources for advanced level critical care nurses. A meeting of the sub-committee took place at LIVES and planned a work schedule.</p> <p>Rehabilitation Group</p> <p>This multi professional group is planning a rehabilitation survey of practices focusing on respiratory support.</p>	

<p>N&AHP Webinars</p> <p>Ms Boulanger is grateful for the opportunity to be able to hold regular N&AHP webinars.</p> <p>Journal Reviews</p> <p>The N&AHP is trying to encourage new N&AHP reviewers to the Journal Review Club to be able to extend the amount of input.</p> <p>Dr Gerritsen commented that there are still very few nursing members in the Society and asked whether it would help to reduce the fee for N&AHP. Ms Boulanger replied that she would be happy to have a discussion about reducing the fee. She had also noticed that many nurses come to the congress, but do not join the Society.</p>	
<p>9. ICM JOURNAL</p>	<p>EA</p>
<p>The Editor in Chief was unable to attend the General Assembly. The President told the meeting that the journal is in a strong situation and its impact factor has doubled over the last ten years.</p> <p>As the current Editor will end his mandate on 2nd January 2019, a new Editor in Chief will be selected in January 2018 to allow an overlap. There will be a call for candidates following the congress and a dedicated jury will evaluate the candidates in Brussels on 12 December.</p> <p>The President thanked E Azoulay and the Editorial Committee, who all put in the work on top of their clinical and research duties, and have created a journal that is an invaluable asset of the Society.</p>	
<p>10. LIFE PRIORITY FUND</p>	<p>JDC</p>
<p>Jean Daniel Chiche presented a summary of the Fund, which has supported two research projects this year, worth €15K, and five travel grants to help intensivists travel to the congress. €87,261 has been presented in the King Baudouin Foundation's balance, which can be used to fund new research or to strengthen the Fund.</p> <p>At the end of the presentation, the ESICM President addressed the Assembly, stating that a divergent position concerning the management and governance of the Fund existed between some of the Life Priority Executive Board members and the ESICM Executive Committee. A meeting had taken place on Sunday 24 September and the Executive Committee is now exploring various solutions to the problems. The President was keen to point out that there were no financial issues behind the differences.</p>	
<p>There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.00 hrs.</p>	

Signed

Massimo Antonelli
ESICM President

Armand Girbes
ESICM Secretary

Date _____

Date _____