



The Intensive Connection

**Minutes of the ESICM General Assembly meeting  
on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019 at 18.15 hrs  
at the Berlin CityCube**

**Present:**

J Kesecioglu (President); M Cecconi; (President elect); JL Teboul (Treasurer); L Forni (Secretary); A Girbes (Chair, DSA); J De Waele (Chair, Research); P Gruber (Chair, DPD); J Duranteau ; (Chair, Editorial & Publishing Committee); G Citerio (Editor in Chief, ICM); P Radermacher (Editor in Chief, ICMx); B Weiss (Chair, NEXT); C Boulanger (Chair, N&AHP); M Antonelli (Past President); J Alexandre (CEO); N Van der Elst (Membership); G François (Research); S Bensemmane (Research); D De Boom (Education); M Istrate (Education); C Martinez (Congress); E Pasquier (Project Manager); S Ridolfi (Video Production/Editing); S Vandenberghe (Education/Events); H Ftouh (Accounts) and C McClements (Minutes).

J Bakker; G Bellingan; V Bennett; M Berger; S Blot; S Calvino-Günther; L Camporota; S Casu; D Chiumello; C Cobilinski; R Costa-Pinto; D De Backer; D De Lange; G De Pascale; L Derde; S De Rosa; K Donadello; A Falvo; V Fanelli; A Feldeiser; H Flaatten; R Fumagalli; J Fuss; L Galarza; A Glotta; M Greco; I Grintescu; J A Graw; J Gruna; B Halacli; L Hein; M Hiesmayr; G Karlis; E Keloagu; Kiranki; J Laffey; D Leach; B Lobo Valbuena; D Lodahl; D Loncar; J Mancebo; M Maggiorini; P Maja; J Mellinghoff; A Michalsen; R Moreno; O Nishika; M Ostermann; J Pardo Oviedo; C Pauls; M Pellegrini; G Perchiazzi; A Pesenti; P Povoia; J Preller; A Ralvo; M Ranieri; M Reinikainen; L Rosas; F San Filippo; S Schaller; T Scheeren; A Schegolev; D Stergiopoulou; D Thomas-Rüddel; A Topeli; A Torek; A Totzeck; M Turkoglu; C Van den Berg; M Vargas; D J Versluis; JL Vincent; F Weidanz; A Wong.

**1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION**

MA

The President welcomed all those attending the General Assembly and thanked the ESICM office staff for their work, especially for the congress.

The minutes of the General Assembly meeting held on 23 October 2018 in Paris were approved and adopted as fair copy.

**2. REPORT BY THE TREASURER**

JLT

The Treasurer presented the financial report for 2019 (the first 8 months + 4 remaining months) and the budget forecast for 2020, which is an estimation.

**Division of Scientific Affairs**

**Annual congress**

Less income is expected from LIVES 2019 compared to last year's congress in Paris, which was one of the best congresses in terms of attendance and sponsorship. Sponsorship is down this year, compared to last year.

**Euro Asia Conference**

The Euro Asia conference has had a negative balance for the first three years. This was expected, given that the conference is new in Asia and still evolving. The Executive Committee wants to change the financial strategy and the concept of financial responsibility with regard to the host country. This will avoid the Society having to assume the responsibility for any financial loss.

Negotiations are currently taking place with the Asian hosts in Taiwan for the 2020 conference.

**Research**

More sponsorship revenue has been raised for the 2019 awards (total €1,930,000).

**Division of Professional Development**

More people are wanting to sit the EDIC exam. The number of industry-supported webinars has increased and a good number of Master Classes is available at the Brussels Training Centre. This all contributes to a positive balance (€255K) and a large increase compared to last year's budget (€145K).

**Editorial & Publishing**

The estimated budget for the end of the year is €506K, mainly due to the excellent results of the ICM journal.

<p><b>Administrative Affairs</b></p> <p>Membership has remained stable over recent years and this is reflected in the budget and forecast.</p> <p><b>ALIVE Fund</b></p> <p>The Fund has received financial support from GE Healthcare amounting to €30K. Revenue is currently more than expenditure for this year's training courses in Uganda and Pakistan, leaving €14,000 available for the next training projects in Mongolia and the Caribbean.</p> <p>€78,000 remains in the King Baudouin Foundation fund and this has not been included in the 2019 ESICM accounts.</p> <p><b>Financial Result</b></p> <p>The Society's financial result shows a positive €49,000.</p> <p>The General Assembly approved the 2018 Budget, which is now closed and the Treasurer was relieved of his financial responsibility for the 2018 budget.</p>	
<p><b>3. REPORT BY THE SECRETARY</b> <span style="float: right;">LF</span></p>	
<p>The Secretary presented his report.</p> <p><b>Membership</b></p> <p>Total membership is 8,903 members (160 less than this time last year) and explained by the loss of some of the paediatric members after ESPNIC's decision to manage its own administration. 60% of the paediatric intensivist members have renewed their membership of ESICM however.</p> <p>71% of members are European and 29% international. The gender balance (currently 32% of members of female and 68% male) is being addressed.</p> <p>The Society continues to offer multiple membership advantages and value for money.</p> <p><b>Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)</b></p> <p>The Council has approved all the proposed amendments to the SOPs at its meeting on 28 September. There were no major significant changes to the SOPs.</p> <p>The Secretary announced a number of changes to the office staff, including the departures of Sherry Scharff and Elise Maquestiaux, and arrival of Sara Vandenberghe in Education/Events.</p> <p>He ended his report by congratulating the CEO and his staff on achieving the European Association Leadership Awards (EEA) Gold Award, which was very much a team effort.</p>	
<p><b>4. REPORT FROM THE DIVISION OF SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS (DSA)</b> <span style="float: right;">AG/JDW</span></p>	
<p><b><u>Congress</u></b></p> <p>The DSA Chair began his report by thanking all those present for attending the General Assembly meeting and for their involvement in the Society.</p> <p>The annual congress is only possible with the aid of our sponsors and the Society is very grateful to each of them for the part they play in contributing to the success of the congress.</p> <p>Key facts and figures were shown for the 2019 congress, including 5,869 delegates (not including onsite registrations), 1,394 abstracts, 297 ESICM faculty (for the scientific programme), 41 industry speakers, 17 major sponsors and 87 exhibitors.</p> <p>Gender parity and the number of female speakers has continued to increase since 2015 (and this is not due to the number of female N&amp;AHP speakers).</p> <p>The abstracts will be published in ICMx.</p> <p>LIVES Physiology in Prague on 6-8 February 2020 will be the first of its kind and the DSA Chair hopes many</p>	

<p>of our members will attend and encourage colleagues to come.</p> <p>Former President, Daniel De Backer, asked why the congress had been shortened as the Hot Topics session had been moved to an earlier time. Many attendees arrive on Monday afternoon and a two-and a half day congress can be very short. The President replied that this change had been an exceptional this year, for logistical reasons.</p> <p>The congress app was briefly referred to during the meeting, as the search function did not always work. As there is now no printed programme, users would like to see the first name of speakers in the app. The DSA Chair responded that this will be improved for next year.</p> <p><b><u>Research</u></b></p> <p>The new Data Science Section was created earlier this year and the Deputy Chair, Paul Elbers (NL) will be joining the Research Committee as the Section representative.</p> <p>The Committee is engaging with patients and families and would like to involve them in research. A business unit has been created for this purpose.</p> <p><b>Awards</b></p> <p>Almost 230 project applications were received for this year's awards and five (additional) new awards are available. The award ceremony will take place tomorrow.</p> <p><b>Studies</b></p> <p>50,256 patients have been included in ESICM studies since 2013.</p> <p>Prof. De Backer raised the question why some ESICM trials have not yet started. The ICU-Conservative O2 Trial is currently the only one with a delay, caused by the local administrative and ethical committees, but will start at the end of this year. Payment of the ESICM awards is only transferred when the trials begin.</p>	
<b>5. REPORT FROM THE DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (DPD)</b>	<b>PG</b>
<p><b>eLearning Committee</b></p> <p>There are now 62 eCourses. Most are published and the rest are undergoing editorial procedure.</p> <p>Over 5,500 active accounts have been set up for users of the eLearning Platform.</p> <p><b>Master Classes</b></p> <p>UEMS accreditation has been acquired for 18 e-courses (Traumatic Brain Injury (5 chapters); Sepsis and Septic Shock (4 chapters); Nutrition (5 chapters) and Communication (4 chapters). The DPD Chair thanked Kobus Preller, Mo Al Haddad and Estelle Pasquier for their efforts to secure this.</p> <p>The Training Centre has been open for almost two years and this year has seen a 30% increase in the numbers of participants. Educational grants are assisting trainees from low-and middle-income countries to attend. The faculty is multidisciplinary and Melania Istrate from the Secretariat was thanked for advising and training the faculty in different teaching techniques.</p> <p><b>EDIC exams</b></p> <p>Candidate numbers are rising once again and over half are from Europe. The EDIC Diploma is now recognised by the General Medical Council (GMC) of the United Kingdom and successful candidates with the diploma need to register with the GMC.</p> <p>CoBaTrICE</p> <p>The CoBaTrICE has been updated to include echocardiography and ultrasound competencies.</p>	
<b>6. REPORT FROM THE EDITORIAL &amp; PUBLISHING COMMITTEE</b>	<b>JD</b>
<p><b>Website</b></p> <p>The goal of the website is to act as a portal for all the Society's members, to be easy to use and to publish information that demonstrates the work of the different Sections. It is important that the Sections continue to</p>	

<p>regularly provide interesting and relevant information about research trials, manuscripts and articles, and the Sections were asked to assist with this.</p> <p>The website needs to demonstrate that the Society is dynamic and able to provide essential and new information for its members. The new patient and family webpage will also highlight important information and resources.</p> <p><b>Journal Review Club</b></p> <p>The Society needs physicians who can provide high-quality reviews so that members do not miss any important articles.</p> <p><b>Social Media</b></p> <p>There are now 25,311 Facebook fans, 18,600 Twitter followers and 8,243 LinkedIn members.</p> <p>Prof. Duranteau ended his last presentation as Chair of the Committee by thanking the Executive Committee members and expressing that it had been an honour to have helped and been part of what is a wonderful Society.</p>	
<p><b>7. REPORT ON THE NEXT COMMITTEE</b></p>	<p><b>BW</b></p>
<p>NEXT has seen an over-proportional growth this year and remains very diverse, with 40% female members and gender parity in the Committee.</p> <p><b>Fellowships</b></p> <p>Increased funding has allowed a higher number of participants to take part in the Fellowships – 304 applicants applied for 150 places.</p> <p><b>eMove</b></p> <p>The new career job page now contains three job advertisements.</p> <p><b>Mentoring</b></p> <p>There are now 35 active mentor/mentee partnerships since the Mentoring programme was launched in 2015.</p> <p>Dr Weiss now steps down as Chair of the NEXT Committee and Diversity Task Force and he thanked the current and past Presidents for allowing NEXT to develop all these programmes. He described NEXT as a “laboratory” for ideas and a creative element of the Society, that tries new things. He then thanked all the Committee members and Nicholas Vander Elst of the Secretariat for their support and wished his successor, Stephan Schaller, the best of luck.</p>	
<p><b>8. REPORT ON THE N&amp;AHP COMMITTEE</b></p>	<p><b>CB</b></p>
<p><b>Membership</b></p> <p>The number of N&amp;AHP members has increased by 160% over the last five years. The term “associate” has been removed from the SOPs and N&amp;AHP are more active and integrated in the Society.</p> <p>AppIC now has more than 3,300 users.</p> <p>All the Society’s Master Classes now include N&amp;AHP faculty and participants (who pay a reduced fee). This multidisciplinary education reflects how patient care is provided in the ICU. Ms Boulanger thanked Melania Istrate for everything that she has done for the Master Classes.</p> <p><b>INACTIC</b></p> <p>The aim of this project is to develop an international set of competencies and education resources for Advanced Level Critical Care Nurses and it will be completed in January 2020. The N&amp;AHP Chair appealed to physicians to look at the competencies and to send the Committee their comments.</p> <p><b>Journal Review Club</b></p> <p>N&amp;AHP, and in particular Silvia Calvino Gunther, has worked constantly to provide journal reviews for the Society.</p>	

<p><b>N&amp;AHP at LIVES</b></p> <p>The Critical Care Rehabilitation programme had 615 registrants. Those attending the workshop at LIVES will be able to meet the faculty and use what they have learned during the online course.</p> <p>The new Patient &amp; Family webpage provides high-quality information. The link to the resources of the UK organisation <i>ICU Steps</i> provides further information in 17 different languages.</p> <p>Ms Boulanger ended her presentation by thanking the members of the Executive Committee and the team in the Brussels office for their support.</p>	
<b>9. ICM JOURNALS</b>	<b>GC</b>
<p><b>ICM journal</b></p> <p>The Editor-in-Chief described a number of changes to the journal, which now has a new team: 75% of the editors have changed. The ICM Board comprises 3 deputy editors; 17 associate editors; 4 junior editors, 1 guest editor; 2 editorial managers; 1 medical writer; 1 illustrator and more than 600 reviewers. The board of reviewers is made up of 636 international reviewers from 35 different countries, who are rewarded with UEMS credits.</p> <p>No problems have been recorded during the transition phase. The journal has introduced several new series and special issues this year.</p> <p>The journal has this year received 2,096 submissions and 2,096,582 downloads - which the Editor-in-Chief hopes is a sign that readers are happy with the content. Prof. Citerio is confident that the journal is a source of income, but also knowledge.</p> <p>A target of 20 has been set for next year's impact factor. Although the journal is not far off this target, fluctuations must be expected. Growth along the same lines as recent years cannot be expected to continue.</p> <p><b>ICMx</b></p> <p>Editor in Chief of ICMx, Peter Radermacher presented satisfactory figures for the journal's submissions, article accesses and citations. He described the journal as being "small" in comparison to ICM, but an important parallel journal for the Society and for experimental researchers to communicate their concepts and results. It is hoped that the journal will receive an impact factor next year.</p>	
<p>There being no further business, the meeting closed at 19.50 hrs. The President thanked all those present for attending and hoped to see many of them next year in Madrid.</p>	

Signed

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**Jozef Kesecioglu**  
**ESICM President**

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**Lui Forni**  
**ESICM Secretary**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_