

EUBS 2014 General Assembly (GA), Wiesbaden

Saturday, September 27, 2014

Start of the meeting: 11.31

The GA is conducted by the president, Costantino Balestra who welcomes all the participants.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the General Assembly 2013.

These have been published on the EUBS Website, Members' Pages. There are no further comments to them and they are approved.

2. Status of the present meeting.

There was a very high attendance to the meeting: 334 participants, 176 members of EUBS, 123 non-members, 35 students/nurses/technicians and 30 staff and sponsor attendees. 115 abstracts were submitted, there were 2 invited lectures, one special session for physicians and intensive care as well as many workshops. There was an excellent sponsoring from the city of Wiesbaden, from the exhibitors and from the ONR for EUBS. There were again too much late registrations, which make the organization of the congresses more difficult. The president appeals to members to try to make in the future more early reservations. The sponsoring of ONR will be used to finance invited speakers, Travel Grants and the Abstract and Conference Book.

The feedback for the special sessions from the audience was excellent. The social events, vineyards and banquet were well appreciated.

3. Awards and Grants.

I. Travel grants.

There were 3 requests

- a) Claire Walsh, Centre for Mathematics, Physics and Engineering in the Life Sciences and Experimental Biology (CoMPLEX). UCL London
- b) Amir Hadanny, The institute of Hyperbaric Medicine, Assaf Harofeh Medical Center, Israel
- c) Michael Mullokandov Department of Molecular Pharmacology, the Ruth and Bruce Rappaport Faculty of Medicine, Technion, Israel

All three fulfilled the basic eligibility conditions and will be reimbursed their travel expenses when submitting a paper to DHM judged suitable for peer-review by the DHM Editors

II. Zetterström award for the best poster presentation:

Award committee: Peter Germonpré, Peter Müller, Jörg Schmutz

Awarded to:

Dror Ofir, Yehuda Arieli, Michael Mullokandov, Ben Aviner, Alexander Liboff, Yoav Yanir.

Quantifying the risk of acute neuronal injury after a "Yo-Yo" dive in swine by histopathological evaluation of the spinal cord.

One of the authors will be reimbursed next year's registration fee if a paper has been submitted to DHM judged suitable for peer-review by the DHM Editors

The award was handed out to Dr. Shai Efrati.

- III. Patrick Musimu Award for the best presentation (oral or poster) on breath-hold diving.

Award committee: Peter Germonpré, Peter Müller, Jörg Schmutz

Awarded to:

D. Cialoni, M. Pieri, N. Sponsiello, V. Lucchini, A. Marroni. Genetic predisposition to Breath-Hold Diving Induced Pulmonary Oedema - update.

One of the authors will be reimbursed next year's registration fee by the Belgian Society for Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine.

4. Report on Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine Journal (Peter Müller)

In previous years very hard work has been done. The journal is now running well. Good manuscripts have been submitted, mainly on diving medicine and diving physiology with few HBO. The Impact Factor is similar to the one of the UHMS journal and is satisfactory (0.607 in 2014 and before 0.660 2013 where the UHM journal was 0.722 in 2014 and 0.586 in 2013). Last year the Editorial Board was enlarged because of the increasing number of submission, and to cope with some specialized topics. Claus Martin Muth, Monica Rocco, Robert van Hulst and Erika Schagatay joined the editorial board. Last year in Reunion there was for the first time a face to face EB meeting. Topics like electronic journal, open access were discussed, but no real conclusion could be drawn. A software manuscript manager which could facilitate the editorial process is presently under examination. Many financial and governmental aspects are presenting which have made necessary the creation of an independent governance board to manage them. Candidates for this governance board, which will be fully independent from the DHM Editorial Board, are Peter Mueller and Jörg Schmutz.

There were 4 applications for successor of the European Editor of the Journal. After analysis of all applications and CVs of applicants, the ExCom proposes Lesley Blogg as the best person to replace Peter Müller in this job. This choice is supported by the General Assembly of the EUBS. It appears also in agreement with the opinion of the Editorial Board and the Editor.

5. Financial Report

The report is presented by Patricia Wooding, audited and approved by Mr. Richard Wate from DDRC, UK. ExCom thanks Mr Wate for taking over this task after the retirement of Ms Stillman. The report is also accepted by the GA and will be available for 3 months on the "members only" section of our website.

The financial situation of the Society has improved again. One account entitled "Tricontinental Meeting" does not belong to EUBS solely but to the three organizing societies of the meeting in La Réunion. It represents the savings which were realized during the meeting and will be used for the organization of future meetings.

It is proposed by ExCom to harmonize the beginning of the membership year with the fiscal year by changing membership from 1st of July (how it was up to now) to the 1st of January. This will start on January 1st 2016. This means that this year EUBS will offer an 18 months membership for the price of one year. More expenses are awaited: grants and awards, sponsorship of the invited speakers, DHM Journal trimesterial payments. The balance of the present meeting must also be awaited. For this reason it is proposed to the GA to increase all membership fees by 10% for the year 2016. This is accepted by the GA.

The membership remains stable (311). There are unfortunately only 5 corporate members. The Italian (35) and the Belgian (29) societies have made use of “group membership”. This membership combines a discount of both national and EUBS fees. EUBS grants a discount of 5% on its annual fee if the group is larger than 15 persons and 10% if it is larger than 25 persons. ExCom proposes to actively approach the Presidents of European societies to propose such an agreement.

Many members have requested the possibility to have their membership made automatically renewable. This is technically possible on the website with PayPal; alternatively, they can ask their bank to automatically make the payment each year by bank transfer. The bank details of EUBS are available on the website. PG proposes to implement this on the website as of 2016. The proposal is accepted by the GA.

6. EUBS ExCom elections

The internet ballot was started on July 17th 2014. An invitation to vote has been sent and non-voters have received up to 4 reminders. Short CV's were on the ballot form and longer ones were available on the website. The response rate was 45% (150 out of 330).

There were 4 candidates: Michal Hajek, Andreas Mollerlokken, Ruth Stephenson and Robert van Hulst. Robert van Hulst was elected member at large and will replace Fiona Sharp whose three year term is ending this year.

The honorary secretary Jörg Schmutz has been giving his demission and the position is now vacant. ExCom proposes Peter Germonpré to take over. This is accepted by the GA. We have now a new composition of the EUBS Executive Committee.

President: C. Balestra

Vice President: J. Kot

Immediate Past President: P. Germonpre

Past President: AO. Brubakk

Member at Large 2012: S.L. Blogg

Member at Large 2013: P. Lafère

Member at Large 2014: R. Vanhulst

Membership Secretary – Treasurer: P. Wooding

Honorary Secretary: P. Germonpre

EUBS Liaison Officer: P. Bryson

DHM, European Editor: S.L. Blogg

DHM Governance Committee: P. Mueller, J. Schmutz

7. Future meetings

- EUBS 2015 meeting: Amsterdam, NL, Aug 19-23, 2015.
Secretary-General: A. Van den Brink.
A. Van den Brink announces that preparation is well on its way. The meeting will take place at the University hospital of Amsterdam, located south of the city. During the period of EUBS, there will also be the Tall Ships festivities with many sail ships in the harbor that can be visited. An extensive presentation has been made during the scientific session on Friday.
- EUBS 2016: Switzerland
- EUBS 2017: Tricontinental Meeting ? Because of the concurrent organisation of the International Congress for Hyperbaric Medicine (ICHM, every three years) ExCom needs to discuss this rapidly with SPUMS/SAUHMA
- 2018 a written application has been received from Israel
- 2019 Italy which is ready to move its candidature to 2017 if the Tricontinental meeting does not take place in 2017.

8. Any other business

Costantino Balestra informs the audience that the Phypode project has ended. A book written with 11 chapters written by 35 different authors will be published. The book will be available in paper form as well as in PDF format. All profit will go to EUBS.

A comment from the audience would like to have all numbers of DHM available for download. Peter Germonpré explains that the full DHM journal is available for 6 months on the Membership Pages of the EUBS website, and that it is easy to download them during this period of time. From the floor it is argued that having the PDF easily accessible on the web would increase the diffusion of the journal or to be able to choose between electronic and hard copy. This selection process would demand extensive secretarial work and increase membership fees. Tino Balestra answers that the diffusion and the visibility of the journal depends merely on its impact factor and that this impact factor depends on the number of articles cited in the literature. He encourages our members who publish to cite largely papers published in DHM.

Jacek Kot thanks Peter Müller and the Congress Organization for their excellent support to the steering committee of the new version of the European code of good practice for hyperbaric oxygen.

9. Closing Ceremony

Peter Müller, Secretary General of the meeting thanks all sponsors of the meeting, the German Society for Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine, GTÜM. The president of GTÜM, Dr. Karin Hasmler thanks also EUBS and the organizing committee of EUBS2014; she presents in the name of GTÜM a fruit basket to Dr. Müller and to Dr. Kemmerer, head of the local organizing committee. Peter Müller takes again the microphone and thanks all the sponsors and the participants. 150 abstracts were sent, some were written in English that needed extensive rewriting. Peter Müller thanks Dr. Buzzacott who did all this editorial work and finally also Dr. Kemmerer and family and all the team of the local hyperbaric chamber for the perfect local organization.

As last words, Peter Müller wishes good luck to Dr. Van den Brink for the next meeting in Amsterdam and hands over him the "session bell".

End of the General Assembly: 12.50