

**MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL MUTAGEN SOCIETY**

September 9, 2007

Pharmacentre, Basel, Switzerland

Officers present:

Micheline Kirsch-Volders	President
Eugenia Dogliotti	Vice-President
Krzysztof (Chris) Szyfter	Past-President
Robert Baan	Treasurer
Marlies De Boeck	Secretary

Officer excused:

Jim Parry	Executive <i>ex officio</i>
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Invited:

Francesca Pacchierotti	ICEM 2008 Organizer/ EEMS Secretary 2007-2009
Hans-Jörg Martus, Pablo Tosin	EEMS 2007 Local Organizers
Jasna Franekic Èoliæ and Verica Garaj	EEMS 2008 Local Organizers

1. Approval of Agenda

Agenda was accepted.

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last Executive Committee Meeting (March 17, 2007) were approved.

3. Report from the Secretary

3.1. New EEMS Councillors

New appointments were made for the following countries since the last Executive Committee meeting:

Belgium: Kim De Ruyck (Luc Verschaeve)

Finland: Hannu Norppa specifically requested for permission to continue his term as Councillor, although he has served already two times a 2-year term. After consulting Micheline, it was decided that he could stay on.

Spain: Ricardo Marcos (Jordi Surreales)

Italy: Alberto Izzotti (Ricardo Crebelli)

Hungary: Livia Anna (Erika Gyorffy)

Slovenia: Bojana Žegura (Metka Filipic)

Still to be replaced: Ase Krokje (Norway) and Seikbay Abilev (Russia)

3.2. Electronic membership directory

At present, we have approximately registered 1409 members in our society. Of 1303 of those, we have an e-mail address, of 52 we have only a postal address and of 54 members we have no contact details at all. No membership info has been received from Norway, Russia and Slovenia. An e-mail address is required to obtain a password to access the members' section of the EEMS website for the electronic voting of the new vice-president. The membership directory (local Excel file at Secretary's office and online database) will need to be updated by the new Secretary. The Councillors will be requested to indicate changes to their membership directory to make this update easier.

Of the 1303 members with e-mail address, only 205 actually participated in the e-voting for the new Vice-President. Thus, although the tools are available to get connection with our members, the EEMS needs to find a way to do this better.

3.3. Newsletter

Version 48 was available in July 2007 and contained contributions from different national societies on past and upcoming activities. The Newsletter page on the general EEMS website is one for the most popular; it received 1084 visits since the launch in March 2007.

3.4. Website

Post-meeting note: Open items since last Executive committee meeting:

The Google reference needs to be updated (cost price) → **Micheline** will inform with Greenfacts colleague

Management of the discussion forum: SIG chairs will be contacted (**Micheline**)

Since the launch of the general and conference websites in March 2007, it has been a continuous learning and updating process. Small adaptations were required upon first use and feedback from users and we needed to "learn to work with it". A major problem was discovered by Lutz: after the deadline for early (and cheaper) registration had passed, the amounts to be paid were adapted but in the background calculation these were not adapted. Hence, registrants were requested to pay the original (cheap) amount. This resulted in a loss

of income of 3400 euro. NewLink correctly reimbursed this loss to the society and this was taken into account in the invoice sent to the Basel meeting organizers.

Post-meeting note: A “lessons learned” teleconference will be organized on November 9th, 2007, to evaluate and discuss the conference website in order to make future sites even more user friendly and informative.

Specific menu items on general EEMS website:

Vacancy tool: has been used by 3 companies so far

CV tool: no CV's uploaded → should be advertised more to members by new **Secretary**

Discussion forum: no activity so far → should be advertised more to members by new **Secretary**

SIG: info for only 3 → chairs should be contacted by new **Secretary**

Other conference announcements: several have been posted (Gordon conference, UKEMS, Comet Workshop, ...)

Links: no update received from executive committee members or others

Training and courses: idem

Mutagenesis: update on reduced fee for personal subscription? **Rob** will check if Mutagenesis still offers this possibility (if it was offered at all in the past...).

Statistics:

homepage visits 70000 since March 2007 → ± 400 /day

Conference homepage 17000

Most popular pages: Regional societies and Newsletters

The activity of some councillors still not optimal → how to improve this will be the challenge of the new executive committee, e.g. involvement in award committees, organization of meetings...

4. Report from the Treasurer

Rob provided the report of the EEMS accounts from January to December 2006 and from January to August 2007. For 2006, the membership fees from the different local Societies were the major source of income. A major point was the money that was paid back to the EEMS by the Organizers of the Kos Meeting; this was the loan plus extra profits (2250 Euro) that were made. Expenses included payment of the auditors and the different EEMS Awards (including 1 poster award and 8 YS Travel awards). The ICEMHP organized by William Au in Turkey was sponsored as was done previously (to support YS); but attendees commented that European scientists were severely underrepresented at this meeting.

For 2007, the largest expense was for the development of the new EEMS website. Eight YS travel awards will be given during the Basel meeting. For more details on the finances, see Rob's report.

Rob mentioned that NordEMS has been paying for several years 750 Euro for 100 members because they thought that 100 was the minimum required number of members to have a representative in the Council. This will be clarified during the Council meeting.

5. Report from the Vice-President

Eugenia reported on the difficulty to find candidates for the FS award. Finally, UKEMS proposed Alan Lehman who was accepted by the committee. Unfortunately, Alan will not be coming to the Basel meeting due to previously made commitments. Hence, he will give his award presentation next year. Thus, during the Cavtat 2008 meeting, there will be 2 FS award presentations.

For the YS award, three CV's were presented which all were valuable and of high scientific quality. It should be mentioned that no CV was received from candidates from Eastern European countries. One very young candidate could not compete against the two more experienced ones. Finally, Karen Brown received 6 votes out of 8 in total. She should be requested to submit a manuscript for the online journal.

6. Report from the Past-President

Chris reported on the results of the Vice-President election:

Total number of paper votes:	7
Total number of electronic votes:	205
Invalid votes:	0
Number of valid votes:	212
Votes for David Kirkland:	135
Votes for Barbara Tudek:	77

Hence, David Kirkland will be the new Vice-President. Both candidates have been informed on the election results. During the Council meeting, Chris will report the number of votes but not the result; this will be reported during the General Assembly.

As possible candidates for the next Vice-President election, Chris suggests Joost van Delft and Guenther Speit.

7. Report from the President

Nine nominations have been received for YS Travel awards; one withdrew since she/he got a position in industry. Two nominations were received too late (deadline had already been extended). The awardees will be requested to write a report for the December Newsletter.

The Molecular Epidemiology SIG attends this year's conference and is planning on organizing a meeting in Spain in 2008. They are requesting financial support from EEMS.

The chair of the Industrial/Regulatory Issues SIG (David Kirkland) will need to be replaced.

Initiatives by SIG can be financially supported following evaluation of the suggestions received.

8. Report on EEMS Online Journal

The European Journal of Genetic and Molecular Toxicology

Introduction

The online journal was created to provide both a rapid and convenient place to publish research in genetic toxicology (particularly the abstracts of our annual meeting) and to provide an income to the EEMS. This latter potential is illustrated by the very substantial income the UKEMS now receives from the journal **Mutagenesis** (which I founded in 1985), mainly from electronic publishing.

Currently, the online journal publishes the abstracts of our annual meeting, the young scientist lecture, the Frits Sobels lecture (difficult to persuade the lecturer to produce manuscript) and original papers. We are currently highly effective in a "Google search" in that we appear in the top ten hits using combinations of our name.

The conversion of the journal into a generator of income is highly dependent upon the publication of original papers. We now receive a small flow of submitted manuscripts, which thus far most have been of poor quality and have been rejected by the referees.

I have had an informal discussions with two publishers who have shown an interest in managing the journal. They have both indicated that their interest is currently limited by the shortage of original papers.

Key to financial success is the publication of original research papers which can be linked to products and thus use the Google model to charge companies when someone links from our journal to their product. This model would allow the journal to be free to users. The alternative model requires a subscription from users or from those submitting manuscripts.

Proposal

The new EEMS web site provide and opportunity to re-invigorate the online journal. We should attempt to correlate a switch to the EEMS site with a drive to input manuscripts. I fully appreciate that Impact Factor is critical in the current scientific environment but this is less important to our more mature colleagues.

Suggested steps :

1. The EEMS member societies nominate committed editorial board members

2. We insure that our prize winners fulfil their obligations to the society by supplying their manuscripts
3. Undertake a concerted campaign to recruit manuscripts
4. Transfer the journal to the EEMS web site
5. Undertake further discussions with potential publishers

I am sorry I can't be with you on Sunday but I would be happy to discuss the proposals with you during the course of the week in Basel.
Best wishes to you all

Jim Parry

The Executive Committee does not see any future for the online journal.

9. EEMS 2007 meeting

Hans-Jörg Martus and Pablo Tosin reported on the organization of the Basel meeting. There will be 332 attendees of whom 90 are invited. The organizers have arranged individually based packages for reimbursement of chairs and speakers. 130 posters will be presented during the meeting.

10. Future meetings

2008 Cavtat

Verica Garaj presented the meeting venue and reported on the status of the scientific programme and finances. A loan of 2250 Euro will be given to the organizers. The Executive Committee will visit the conference facilities approximately 6 months prior to the meeting date. A SIG workshop should be organized during the meeting → 2 speakers for this workshop could be financially supported by EEMS (travel and accommodation).

There should be a focus on YS: poster awards, cheap accommodation, adapted registration fees,...

A separate meeting with the Cavtat organizers was held later during the Basel meeting.

2009 Florence

During General Assembly

11. Any other business

Nihil

Marlies De Boeck, EEMS Secretary