

Minutes of the ESO General Assembly 2017 Wednesday 17 May 2017, 18.00- 19.00 h ESOC 2017, Prague

1. Welcome & President's Report (V. Caso)

V. Caso opened the meeting and welcomed all participants to the ESO General Assembly 2017.

She highlighted the following topics from the President's report:

- **ESO** as a **society** is doing very well. **Membership** numbers have grown to over 7.000 by introducing associate memberships. Based on the increasing number of members, ESO strengthens its political influence.
- The **European Stroke Journal** is going well.
- The **Action Plan for Stroke in Europe 2018 – 2030** has started and a document is currently drafted. This initiative is chaired by Bo Norrving.
- The number of participants at the **ESOC 2017** is expected to exceed 4.000 and the number of submitted abstracts has risen to over 1.800.
- The **ANGEL initiative** will be integrated into the *ESO Quality Improvement Program (Angels Initiative, SITS/RES-Q registries, Angels awards)*. It is a non-promotional initiative initiated by Boehringer Ingelheim and endorsed by ESO. Medtronic will be supporting this project as a 2nd sponsor. The Angels Initiative is focused on supporting the implementation of evidence-based solutions with the goal of creating a community of at least 1,500 stroke centres and stroke-ready hospitals across Europe by May 2019. Data collection will be handled by RESQ and SITS Registry and thus have no industry involvement.
- The Angels Project will also include the **QASC Trial** (Quality in Acute Stroke Care); which is conducted by an Australian institution, the NRI – Nursing Research Institute, under the leadership of Professor Sandy Middleton.
- The first part of the Survey on Endovascular Stroke Treatment and management standards throughout Europe is finalized and the results will be presented during the ESOC 2017. The second part is underway. This is a joint endeavour of ESO, ESMINT, EAN and SAFE.
- With the growing of the society, ESO has decided to further structure its activities. It is important to consolidate and clearly plan the required resources. The ESO Business Plan was drafted to prioritize ESO activities in order to continue growing and being successful in the role of the voice of stroke in Europe.

Executive Committee

President:
Valeria Caso
(Perugia, Italy)

President Elect:
Bart van der Worp
(Utrecht, Netherlands)

Past President:
Kennedy Lees
(Glasgow, United Kingdom)

Vice Presidents:
Miguel Gallofré
(Barcelona, Spain)
Charlotte Cordonnier
(Lille, France)

Secretary General:
Urs Fischer
(Bern, Switzerland)

Treasurer:
Turgut Tatlisumak
(Helsinki, Finland)

Members at Large:
Heinrich Mattle
(Berne, Switzerland)
Nils Wahlgren
(Stockholm, Sweden)

Co-opted Members at Large:
Martin Dichgans
(Munich, Germany)
Robert Mikulik
(Brno, Czech Republic)

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- In summary, V. Caso concluded, that ESO is a very successful society: with membership having risen to over 7.000, establishing the ESO Conference as the leading stroke event globally, a secure financial base, its own specialist journal, a stroke unit certification program and a guidelines app, and with various ambitious political programmes as the Action Plan for Stroke in Europe and the Angels initiative.

2. Financial Report 2016 (T. Tatlisumak)

T. Tatlisumak presented the ESO final financial statement 2016 (see *Attachment 1*).

He explained that in late 2015 the budget for 2016 was prepared and then later in July 2016 revised. The Executive Committee had approved both. The statement for 2016 is in line with all the budgeted income and expenses. With a positive balance of 980K EUR and a capital of 2.1 Mio EUR at the end of 2016, ESO is in a very sound financial position. Expenses amounted to less than ½ million EUR and an income of 1,463 Mio EUR was generated. He commented that the budgeted revenue of the Stroke Unit/Center certification is lower than expected, but it is expected to have more Stroke units/centers certified in 2017, which will then increase the related revenues. He also said, that the income from sponsoring contributions was lower due to two companies which had not paid their annual Industry Roundtable membership fee on time (payments were received in 2017) and with one company withdrawing its sponsorship.

T. Tatlisumak also mentioned that the contract with the Head Office was extended.

The statement 2016 was reviewed and approved by a professional company, KPMG. No questions or comments from the floor.

V. Caso warmly thanked Turgut for his continued contributions to ESO and his excellent work in the Executive Committee in his role as the ESO treasurer for the last 6 years.

3. Report of Auditors (D. Jovanovic)

D. Jovanovic reported that she and D. Strbian, the two internal auditors of ESO, had reviewed the financial statements for 2016 and had received satisfactory answers to all of their questions. She congratulated ESO on the profit and success and recommended the approval of the financial statement 2016 to the General Assembly. The financial statement 2016 was approved by the General Assembly.

**4. Discharge of the Board
(D. Jovanovic)**

The General Assembly also agreed to grant full discharge to the directors, officers and auditors of their liability for the 2016 accounts.

**5. ESOC 2017 & 2018
(M. Dichgans)**

M. Dichgans stated that ESOC has grown to be very successful and established the most important, dynamic and truly international stroke conference. He warmly thanked all contributors who helped to reach this success (Conference Planning group, Scientific Abstract committee, local organizing committee, etc.)

M. Dichgans pointed to some of the highlights of the current conference: Number of delegates are up 13% (4.200), there are 100 countries participating and 1.806 abstracts (+24%) were submitted, most of them of very high quality. The sponsored sessions are up to 12, there are 19 teaching courses, many workshops and 286 faculty members (+9%). Overall, the third ESO Conference has been very successful with high scientific quality. He also said that social media is becoming more and more important and shows the vitality of the society.

M. Dichgans explained that leadership of ESOC had again successfully been delegated to subcommittees, and acknowledged their members. Despite a larger faculty (286 invited faculty), many contributors were rotated in favor of younger speakers. With ESO's commitment to rotation and inclusion of younger speakers, he stressed the importance to help keeping ESOC alive and growing.

The ESOC 2018 will be in Gothenburg / Sweden, from 16-18 May, 2018. The new website will be opened shortly and proposals can then be submitted.

**6. Report of the Board of Directors
(E. Berge)**

E. Berge briefly recounted the tasks and role of the ESO Board of Directors. Its role is to set and supervise the strategy, supervise the Executive Committee, make proposals for the election of President, President Elect, Treasurer and Secretary General and give approval of financial reports.

The ESO Board of Directors has met twice in 2016, during the ESOC 2016 and during the Karolinska Stroke Update meeting in November. It has approved the President's Report as well as the financial audit.

E. Berge reminded of the importance for the Executive Committee to inform their Board of Directors timely.

In 2017, the Board has met during the ESOC this week and will do so in November during the European Stroke Science Workshop as well as planning on an additional telephone conferences.

7. Report of the Council of Fellows (H. Christensen)

H. Christensen gave a brief update from the Council of Fellows. Currently, there are 241 fellows of whom 74 are new this year.

This year's Council of Fellows meeting took place on Monday, 15 May. She reported that the process to become a Fellow has changed and that, from now on, one can become a fellow by nomination only.

She explained that the Council of Fellow is embarking on new activities, such as increasing attention to significant European stroke research results by increasing related press releases, by nominating a "Stroke Paper of the month" A task force to elaborate on such activities is being established.

Another new activity of the Council is to look into providing hosting opportunities for Fellows. As there is an increased need of internationalization of research students, ESO could extend its ESO job platform by e.g. including «Research Exchange Stays».

The council will further work on these projects.

8. Reports of ESO Committees (Summary) (U. Fischer)

U. Fischer was highlighting some activities of the various ESO Committees. He informed that details and full Committee reports for 2016 are available on the ESO website at: <http://eso-stroke.org/eso-committees/>

1. Education Committee:

This committee is very active. The ESO Stroke Summer School **2016** was successfully held in Madrid, Spain. The Summer School **2017** will take place in Larissa, Greece

(George Ntaios) and is on track. ESO has also selected the future Summer School locations, respecting its principle on rotation.

Locations and leads for the next Summer Schools:

- **2018** (Berlin, Jan Sobesky)
- **2019** (Helsinki, Satu Mustanoja)
- **2020** (Caen, Emmanuel Touze)

The committee is also working on a partnership with the WSO Stroke Academy to form an **ESO-WSO Stroke Academy** to deliver content on behalf of ESO.

2. Endovascular Stroke Treatment Task Force:

ESO ESMINT EAN SAFE Survey to identify the level of Stroke Care in Europe.

3. Guidelines Committee:

U. Fischer informed, that the Guideline Committee will be changed into a Guideline Board consisting of:

- Guidelines Preparation committee
- Guidelines Workshop committee
- Guideline Publication committee
- So far, a guidelines support person and additional person at the head office were recruited
- The Committee has also worked on publishing new ESO Guidelines and Recommendations (*ESO-Karolinska Stroke Update Recommendations and Guidelines for Management of Post-Stroke Seizures and Epilepsy*)
- Many guidelines are currently in preparation

4. Industry Roundtable Committee:

This committee had two meetings in 2016. This bond with the industry is very important and the recent developments - the supporting and collaborating within the Angels project – prove its importance. There is a continuous need to increase number of the Industry Roundtable Committee members.

5. International Liaison Committee:

This very active committee, is handling all ESO endorsement requests for events and is reaching out to Stroke Societies as well as working on forming formal collaborations.

6. Membership Committee:

The membership committee was working hard in 2017 to introduce the associate membership (members of ESO Organisational Members) as well as on recruiting new organisational members. They also were working on the new fellow nominations, which all resulted in an increased ESO membership of 7'084.

7. Public Relation Committee and 8. Social Media Committee are very active as one can see during the conference with press releases, social media communication etc.

9. Stroke Unit Committee:

The committee gained its first experiences with the certification process and was working on improving guiding information for the questionnaires. New versions of Stroke Unit and Stroke Centre questionnaires are launched on the website at the ESOC 2017 in Prague at www.eso-certification.org

10. Telestroke Committee:

The committee worked on the increased use of IVT in remote European areas by conducting a survey of telestroke networks in Europe. This is being finalized. They are also working on a publication of purpose and aims of the telestroke Committee to be published in Stroke 2017;48.

11. Trials Network Committee:

This is an active and scientifically very successful committee. They are working on a good database, have published a paper and added an ESO Trials Alliance Workshop during the ESOC 2017.

12. Young Stroke Physicians

The YSP Committee was hosting a career mentoring workshop at ESOC 2016 in Barcelona and organised the selection of candidates for the ESO Department to department visiting programme 2017. They are also very active with the ESO Blog.

U. Fischer mentioned that two new committees have been formed: the Paediatric Stroke Committee and the Simulation Training Committee.

He acknowledged the hard work each of the ESO committees has contributed and thanked them for their commitment and support of ESO. He emphasized that the committees remain a strong and essential part of ESO.

9. Report from the European Stroke Journal Editor (B. Norrving)

Bo Norrving, the Editor-in-Chief of the ESJ, gave a brief update on the journal. He explained that the ESJ is in good balance, growing steadily and healthy. The journal will further continue with 4 issues per year, the acceptance rate balanced at 32% and the number of manuscripts that had been handed in doubled. A major step will be to enter PubMed. The ESJ is on track of being accepted by PubMed later in 2017, which provides quality control in scientific publishing and journals need to

meet their scientific standards before being indexed. B. Norrving said that it remains important to promote the submission of manuscripts to ESJ as well as receiving reviews on time.

10. Result of electronic voting (V. Caso)

V. Caso informed that 219 eligible votes had been received through the electronic voting.

V. Caso announced the results of the ESO Elections 2017:

Treasurer:	Daniel Strbian, Helsinki/Finland
Vice President:	Miquel Gallofré, Barcelona/Spain
Members at Large:	George Ntaios, Larissa/Greece Peter Schellinger, Minden/Germany
Auditor:	Aznil Abdul-Rahim, Glasgow / United Kingdom

V. Caso also announced the results of the electronic voting on changes to the ESO statutes and bylaws.

The results are as follows:

Votes for the suggested changes:	170
Votes against the changes:	4
Abstention from voting:	45

According to the results, the changes to the ESO statutes and bylaws were accepted by the General Assembly.

V. Caso congratulated the new members of the Executive Committee, the new ESO auditors and warmly thanked all the leaving Executive Committee members (Martin Dichgans, Heinrich Mattle, Robert Mikulik, Turgut Tatlisumak, Nils Wahlgren) for their continued and impactful work for ESO and their collaboration in the ESO Leadership Teams. She also thanked all the other candidates for their commitment to ESO and willingness to stand for elections.

Honorary Membership:

As suggested during the last General Assembly, ESO is confirming Michael Brainin for the ESO Honorary membership. V. Caso acknowledged his important and long-lasting contribution to ESO and his contributions to the European Stroke medicine over the past years.

M. Brainin accepted the honor with gratitude. He added that he is looking forward to working together with ESO on the joint conference with the WSO in 2020.

12. Questions

None of the members raised any questions.

V. Caso thanked ESO members, Executive Committee members and the head office at Congrex Switzerland for their commitment, effort and support.

The next ESO General Assembly will take place during ESOC 2018 in Gothenburg.



Valeria Caso
President



Urs Fischer
Secretary General

20.05.2017/DNI