

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting
ESM-EVBO 2019 Congress, Maastricht, NL
10.00-11.30 AM April 15, 2019

Executive Committee: Boy Houben (President **BH**), Akos Koller (Secretary General **AK**), Henning Morawietz (Secretary General Elect **HM**), Nicola Brown (Treasurer **NJB**), Jing Yan Han, Jeremy Pearson, Angela Shore.

Guests: Christian Aalkjær, Michael Hill, Romeo Martini, Jo De Mey

Apologies: Antonio Colantuoni, Gerald Meininger, Ulrich Pohl, Axel Pries, Marco Rossi, Richard Siow, Judith Slummier, Eric Vicaut

1. Welcome

AK thanked all for attending and welcomed the guests to the meeting.

2. ESM-EVBO 2019 Congress Organisation

BH presented a brief summary of the 2019 Congress. A111 Conference organisers had assisted in organisation of the meeting. 340 abstracts had been received and following a selection process by the Executive Committee (EC) 44 had been selected for oral presentation with a focus on early career investigators. The remainder had been invited for poster presentation. The abstracts were available in the JVR supplement and on-line. There had been 450 registrants from 42 countries 443 registrants from 43 countries, Fundraising for the meeting had been challenging but 7 sponsors/12 partners/20 exhibitors/sponsors had been secured, with a full list available in the abstract booklet. The final budget will not be available until after the meeting, but there may be a small surplus, which will be credited to ESM and EVBO.

During the Congress the first ESM working group was launched, called REtinal-SEARCH. This WG, chaired by Boy Houben (Maastricht) and Henner Hanssen (Basel), aims on establishing an international network of experts in the field of retinal microvessel analysis which works towards standardization of SOPs for image analyses; generation of position papers and guidelines; joint research proposals; retinal vessel analysis academy etc. More information can be found on ESM website.

3. ESM Awards Report

- **Malpighi Medal:** Professor Akos Koller – University of Physical Education and Semmelweis University, Budapest, Hungary, and New York Medical College, Valhalla NY, USA
- **ESM-JVR Award Lecture: Prize** Professor Lydia Sorokin – University of Muenster, Germany
- **Servier Award:** Dr Tamara Girbl – Institute of Science and Technology, Austria
- **Early Career Investigator Awards 400€ :** Dr Stephanie Herkenne, Ms Marloes Sol, Ms Nicole A.M. Dekker, Dr Rio Juni, Ms Sarah McNeilly
- **International Early Career Investigator Awards 400€:** Mr Sai Kiran Reddy Samawar, Ms Nathalie Obadia, Miss Rui Ning Chia, Ms Aleksandra Kopacz, Ms. Marina Leardini-Tristão
- **Poster Awards 100€:** 5 ESM and 3 GfMVB to be decided after the two poster sessions

4. ESM Finance Report

NJB presented the current status of the accounts. This two year financial period runs from 1st June 2017 to 31st May 2019 thus the 2018-2019 accounts are interim and adjustments made at the year end. The accounts had been audited by PKF Francis Clark. During this period, total receipts were £14,267 and total expenditure was £12,939. Total current assets were £53,395, a small increase from the previous period 2015-107 (£52,068) largely due to an increase in subscriptions, but also due to a welcome surplus from the Geneva meeting in 2017. However, the commitments for the remainder of the accounting period include; 10 Early Career Investigator Travel Awards (4000€) and five Poster Awards (500€) for ESM-EVBO 2019, in addition to costs for on-line access to the Journal of Vascular Research 6000€. During this period, the ESM general expenditure included administration, website,

Malpighi Medals, committee and accountancy charges. The full report will be appended to the General Assembly minutes.

5. Membership, GPDR and Subscriptions

The membership and subscription lists both for individual members and for the affiliated societies have now been updated. Due to the new GDPR, effective from May 2018, permissions were required to contact members directly via email, with society information. This has now been obtained from the majority of members and an email distribution established for circulation of information and news. Annual subscriptions have been received from the majority of the affiliated societies through dual membership. Total membership of the society currently stands at 536, with 510 by dual membership. We also have approaching 30 honorary, emeritus and retired members.

6. Next ESM Congress 2021

At the ESM-EVBO meeting in Geneva it was agreed by both societies that the 2021 meeting would again be a joint meeting with EVBO, to be held in Manchester UK and organized by Yvonne Alexander, President of EVBO. However, in late 2018, Yvonne communicated that she was no longer able to organise the meeting. Subsequently AK corresponded with a number of individuals to encourage bids to host the 2021 meeting. An email expression of interest was received from Christian Aalkjær, Jo de Mey and Cor de Wit to organize the next meeting. However communication received indicated that EVBO no longer wished to host a joint meeting with ESM in 2021. [Post meeting note – HM+NJB had met with members of EVBO Council to discuss the possibility of 2021 being a joint meeting of the Societies; a final decision will be taken by EVBO in 2020]

Christian presented outline plans for the ESM 2021 meeting, with potential venues being either Aarhus or Copenhagen. Potential dates were discussed and it is likely that the meeting will be held in May 2021. Following discussion and a vote, Christian Aalkjær was elected the next President of ESM.

7. Journal of Vascular Research

The JVR free on-line access for ESM members is now available and the 2019 login details had been circulated to the society members.

8. Meeting Reports (in brief):

11th World Congress on Microcirculation, Vancouver, CA, 2018: *Microcirculation in Health and Disease: Focus on Emerging Research and Technologies* defined the theme of the meeting. International investigators delivered key presentations in six main thematic areas, and the symposium included basic science, translational and clinical presentations. This was an excellent, educational and vibrant meeting attended by 400 delegates. The meeting was cost neutral.

World Congress on Microcirculation, in Beijing 2022: Professor Jing-Yan presented a meeting summary including outline scientific programme, international and local programme committees, venue, budget, sponsorship, registration costs, social programme, timeline. All agreed that preparations were progressing well and that the meeting would be announced on the ESM website, with a link to the WCM website once available.

9. The Society had been approached by Mariella Catalano to establish a privileged partnership between ESM and VAS (a European Scientific Association for the development of Angiology/Vascular Medicine; www.vast-int.net). With this partnership both societies aim to collaborate in advancing microcirculatory research, education, dissemination, and clinical evaluation.

10. ESM – MCS Liaison

Following an approach in 2018 by the US Microcirculatory Society to increase transatlantic microcirculation related activities (detailed in the previous minutes) Gerald Meininger (US representative and ILCM Chair) had held discussions at EB, 2019, with the MCS President, Lee Murphee, Past-President, Shayn Pierce-Cotler, Treasurer, Shaun Bender, Secretary, Amanda Jo LeBlanc, Michael Hill and Andy Braun were also in attendance. The MCS was excited to move forward on the collaborative initiatives. Particular areas of interest are in sponsorship of early career investigator and student travel awards and jointly funded symposia that would alternate between the respective society meeting, e.g. an MCS-ESM Symposium in the US and an ESM-MCS symposium

in Europe. The format was suggested as one senior/PI from each society and two early career representatives from each society. ESM Symposium Travel awards would reflect whether the meeting be in Europe or US (400 & 700 €). The MCS is also interested in helping to promote the translational medicine and microcirculation focused areas e.g. ESM retinal working group proposal by Boy Houben and Henner Hanssen and to increase social media presence. Lee Murphee, President of MCS, has indicated he would be the contact person to help move these initiatives forward. GAM will commence the dialogue with the MCS President. All were in agreement that these were excellent initiatives and that funds would be made available to support the joint symposia initiatives.

11. ESM Strategy Committee

The highly successful Summer School organized in Dresden in 2018 and other initiatives instigated by Henning Morawietz and Richard Siow, were presented by HM. The 1st ESM/EVBO Summer School was organized by Henning Morawietz from TU Dresden and Richard Siow from King's College London from July 1-5, 2018 in Dresden. The major aim of this 1st ESM/EVBO Summer School was the support of young scientists in the field of vascular research. 20 excellent international speakers from the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Poland and Germany presented the 30 MD/PhD students from 12 European countries basic knowledge and cutting-edge novel results from experimental and clinical research in the areas of vascular biology and microcirculation. During the Summer School the MD/PhD students could actively take part in three method courses analysing vascular cells under flow conditions, contractility of blood vessels and the analysis of the vascular function in the microcirculation of patients. Young scientists from all over Europe, at the beginning of their thesis, some already with high-ranked own publications, discussed their projects and results in two poster sessions very actively together with the international experts. On the last day, the early career colleagues got information how to some successfully write and publish scientific research papers by the editors of renowned European journals (Cardiovascular Research, Journal of Vascular Research) and how to get funding for their research and future fellowships. From the first day, the participants shared the enthusiasm about their scientific work. The meeting of young scientists and experts from all over Europe was considered by the participants as very inspiring and enriching. Joint novel projects, collaborations and friendships were initiated. The complete scientific programme can be found at: <https://www.uniklinikum-dresden.de/medmiz/ESM-EVBO-Summer-School>. Further information: Siow RC, Morawietz H (2019) Vascular networking for the young at heart: Joint European Summer School for microcirculation and vascular biology Cardiovasc. Res. 115:e49-e51.

The 2nd ESM/EVBO Summer School will be held at ICE Congress Centre Krakow, 7-10th July, 2020, organised by Agnieszka Jazwa-Kusior, Anna Grochot-Przeczek, Witold Nowak and Jozef Dulak. More details can be obtained from Agnieszka.Jazwa@uj.edu.pl

The suggestion to combine an ESM summer school with the Lasers in Medicine and Life Sciences (LAMELIS), summer school Szeged, Hungary, a regular forum to establish a knowledge base on modern applications of lasers in life sciences will be revisited at a later date.

12. Election of new members of the Executive Committee

President: Professor Christian Aalkjær

Secretary General: Professor Henning Morawietz

Communication, Publication and International Liaison Representative: New position to liaise with JVR representative on journal business; liaison with international societies Professor Akos Koller

Strategy Committee: Richard Siow and Boy Houben to lead on Translational Medicine initiatives. Additional strategy ECR members will be sought via expressions of interest from the membership.

German Society Representative: Cor De Wit.

Non-Professorial Representative: A nomination has been received from Eszter Farkas (Szeged, Hungary) but there will be a call to the ESM members for additional nominations.

13. Free Discussion/AOB