

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF DIABETES e.V. held in the Hirsch Hall at Messe Berlin, Berlin, Germany on Tuesday, 2 October 2018 at 18:10

Chairing the General Assembly: Dr Juleen R Zierath (President)
In attendance: Dr Monika Grüsser (Managing Director/CMO)
Senior Executive Assistants: Ms Mary Hata (EASD)
Ms Petra Niemann (EASD)

and 78 members

Name badges were scanned at the entrance to establish valid membership; only members received voting cards.

Before the General Assembly was opened by the President, concerns were raised regarding the voting system with voting cards (agree – disagree) and a secret ballot was requested. After discussing this matter, the following was agreed on:

For Agenda items 1, 5 and 6 open voting with the voting cards was accepted.

For Agenda item 3. *Motions to Vote*, which involved voting for individuals, a secret voting system was agreed on. The members were requested to write the names on the back of the 'agree' voting card, if they were in favor and cross them out if they were against. This Agenda item was moved to the end of the Agenda.

After finalising the votes under Agenda item 3, a box was circulated to gather the voting cards for this item. The number of votes cast were then counted and verified by the two EASD staff members appointed as tellers, Ms Mary Hata and Ms Petra Niemann together with two EASD members, Drs Paola Fioretto and Florian Toti appointed by the General Assembly as observers.

The President, Dr Zierath, welcomed everyone to the General Assembly 2018 and asked them to stand for a minute's silence for those who had passed away since the last General Assembly: Lois Jovanovic, Hans Ørskov, Gerald M. Reaven, Michael Seibel and Isabel Valverde.

1. Minutes of the General Assembly, Lisbon, Portugal 2017

The Minutes of the General Assembly Lisbon, Portugal 2017 were unanimously approved.

2. Reports

a) President

Dr Zierath gave an overview of the achievements under her presidency:

- Organisational review and expansion of the Executive Committee
- Presentation of a 5 year business plan
- EASD/EFSD working under a budget approved by the Executive Committee
- Evaluation of the Postgraduate Education Courses
- Launch of the new e-Learning modules
- Review of EFSD programmes and enhancement of marketing/communication
- Enrichment of EFSD programme portfolio with the new collaboration with the Novo Nordisk Foundation
- Development of the Young Academy (YA) and establishment of YA as a new programme at the Annual Meeting
- Consolidation of the Study Groups
- Formation and launch of the European Diabetes Forum (EUDF)

- Highlighting of the visibility of the EASD Journal *Diabetologia* → Diabetologia Symposium at the Annual Meeting

The entire President's Address given before the Claude Bernard Lecture is available under:

<https://www.easd.org/virtualmeeting/home.html#!contentsessions/2842>

b) Honorary Treasurer, Dr Raimund Weitgasser reported

EASD accounts 2016/2017

- Finance Committee

The Honorary Treasurer reported that the EASD Finance Committee had telephone conferences on 16.04.2018 and 03.09.2018 to discuss the financial situation and put together a budget.

- Dr Weitgasser reported that the EASD financial situation in 2017 was healthy and the total assets only slightly decreased to €7,099,015.85 compared to the previous year. Dr Weitgasser reported that the outcome of the assessment by the external auditors, *Märkische Revision GmbH*, showed that the EASD accounting and documentation were in perfect order and that an unrestricted certification for the bookkeeping and the annual financial statement (net-income accounting and internal balance sheet) had been issued.

Dr Weitgasser thanked the EASD staff and in particular Dr Grüsser for their continued support. He also thanked the President, Dr Zierath, for the friendly collaboration. When there were no questions, those present were asked to vote to discharge the Honorary Treasurer. Dr Weitgasser was discharged with 75 votes in favor, none against.

Dr Zierath thanked the Honorary Treasurer for his diligence.

c) Honorary Secretary

Dr Francesco Beguinot expressed his thanks to the Programme Committee 2018. He explained that the Programme Committee for Barcelona 2019 had met the previous day and would meet again in May 2019. He reported that a total of 1218 abstracts had been accepted, with the highest numbers coming from United Kingdom, United States and Germany. Dr Beguinot closed his report by thanking Drs Zierath and Grüsser in particular and the whole EASD team for their dedicated support.

Dr Zierath thanked the Honorary Secretary for his dedication.

d) Editor-in-Chief, Diabetologia

Dr Sally Marshall explained the initiatives to raise the profile of Diabetologia:

- New website (launched July 2018)
- EASD members now notified weekly of papers published online
- Presence at major meetings
- Promotional animation
- Downloadable slide sets for review articles
- Interviews with authors (coming soon)
- Annual special issue and symposium

Following the success of the Special Issue 2017 on Metformin, a 2018 Special Issue has been developed on SGLT2 inhibitors. A Diabetologia symposium will be held on Thursday 4 October 2018 in the Langerhans Hall from 12:00 – 01:00 pm.

Dr Marshall thanked all those involved in the journal, especially the team in Bristol headed by Dr Judy Naylor and the team in Düsseldorf for their friendly collaboration.

The President expressed her gratitude to Dr Marshall for her dedication and valued input.

e) Chair, Postgraduate Education Committee

F2F meetings:

Dr Mathieu reported that the following courses took place/will take place in 2018:

- Wrocław, Poland
- St. Petersburg, Russia

- Tbilisi, Georgia
- Belgrade, Serbia
- Athens, Greece
- Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina
- Marrakech, Morocco
- Prague, Czech Rep.
- Lahore, Pakistan
- Robert Turner Course, Oxford, UK
- EASD-Hagedorn Oxford Workshop, Oxford, UK
- Scientists Training Course, Montpellier, France
- 7th EASD-GGSD Course, Muscat, Oman

Approved courses for 2019:

- Budapest, Hungary
- Kiev, Ukraine
- Cairo, Egypt
- Tirana, Albania
- Sofia, Bulgaria
- Robert Turner Course, Oxford, UK
- EASD-Hagedorn Oxford Workshop, Oxford, UK
- Scientists Training Course, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 8th EASD-GGSD Course, TBD
- EASD-SAFES Course, TBD
- 1st Joint AASD-EASD Clinical Research Course in Diabetes, Osaka, Japan

EASD symposia:

The aim is to develop more collaborations and to hold “EASD Symposia” at other national and international meetings with the purpose of promoting the brand EASD and keeping the costs for EASD within the budget. Symposia in 2018 successfully took place in Japan, Sri Lanka, India, South Africa and Jordan.

e-Learning: For the development of the EASD e-Learning modules, unrestricted educational grants have been received from European Diabetology, Boehringer Ingelheim + Eli Lilly Alliance, AstraZenca, NovoNordisk and Sanofi. Under negotiation: MSD. The development of the modules is progressing rapidly and the launch of the first module (Diabetes and Ramadan) of EASD’s new e-Learning programme had been well received earlier that day, with two more sessions to follow on Wednesday 3 October 2018 (SGLT2 inhibitor) and Thursday 4 October 2018 (Diabetes and Pregnancy).

Dr Mathieu thanked the PGEC, Dr Eleanor Kennedy and her team and the team in Düsseldorf for their continued support.

Dr Zierath thanked Dr Mathieu for her dedication and commitment to EASD and postgraduate education.

The term of office of the EASD Senior Vice President Markus Stoffel will come to an end on 31 December 2018 and the President expressed her thanks for his hard work and continued support.

4. Points of Information

4.1 regarding EASD/EFSD Executive Committee

a) Chantal Mathieu Senior Vice President 01/2019 – 12/2020

Dr Mathieu was elected Senior Vice President by the Executive Committee with 8 votes in favor and 1 abstention

b) Matthias Blüher Vice President 01 – 12/2019

Dr Blüher was elected Vice President by the Executive Committee with 8 votes in favor and 1 abstention

5. New EASD Study Groups

5.1 Study Group on Health Services Research and Health Economics

Dr Grüsser reported that this Study Group is being established to bridge the gaps in the field of diabetes regarding health service research and health economics.

The group is aiming at consolidating already existing research initiatives in economic aspects of clinical- and cost-effectiveness in routine care, efficiency of clinical research studies or interventions with emphasis on patient-centeredness.

5.2 European Group for the Study of Insulin Resistance (EGIR)

Dr Grüsser informed that the aim of the EGIR group would be to study insulin resistance and its relationship with beta cell function, risk of cardiovascular disease, diabetes and other metabolic diseases. The first combined activity of the group had been a data pooling project from euglycaemic hyperinsulinaemic clamp experiments performed in 21 centres across Europe. This unique database has now produced more than 30 publications.

6. Any Other Business

6.1 Authorisation of changes to the by-laws:

Legal incorporation of the EASD Study Groups into EASD

Dr Stoffel gave an overview of the current situation:

- Study Groups are heterogenously organised and act independently
- Study Groups have an independent legal status
- Study Groups function free of EASD interference but within the guidelines as set-down by the Association
- EASD has no legal and financial responsibilities

It had been decided that a re-organisation of the Study Groups was necessary. EASD offers to:

- provide resources to facilitate planning of study groups events
- support of study groups with logistics and registration for their scientific meetings
- coordinate fund raising and accounting activities
- support and professionalise external relations and communication
- support networking events during EASD annual meetings

Dr Stoffel reported that this will have the following implications:

- Study Groups will become a dependant entity of the Association
- Study Groups will receive tax privileged status under umbrella of EASD
- Study Groups will lose legal independence
- Study Groups will retain scientific autonomy
- EASD will be responsible for accounting and compliance
- EASD will hire additional staff to support study group administration

A motion to vote was brought forward to change the EASD by-laws to provide the legal basis for incorporation of the Study Groups into the Association as dependent entities. The motion was accepted with 77 votes in favor and none against.

3. Motions to Vote

3.1 Election of new Executive Committee members:

a) Fiona Gribble 01/2019 – 12/2021

The motion was denied with 32 votes in favor and 36 against.

b) Mikael Rydén 01/2020 – 12/2022

The motion was denied with 26 votes in favor and 41 against.

3.2 Extension of membership on the Executive Committee

a) Sally Marshall 01/2019 – 12/2020

The motion was denied with 29 votes in favor and 37 against.

b) Stefano Del Prato 01/2019 – 12/2021

The motion was denied with 30 votes in favor and 35 against.

c) Juleen R. Zierath 01 – 12/2019

The motion was denied with 24 votes in favor and 39 against.

3.3 Honorary Membership

Apologies for absence were received from Drs Francine Kaufman and Mladen Vranic. Dr van Obberghen left the room.

Dr Francine Kaufman was approved as Honorary Member with 53 votes in favor and 13 against.

Dr Emmanuel van Obberghen was approved as Honorary Member with 51 votes in favor and 13 against.

Dr Mladen Vranic was approved as Honorary Member with 51 votes in favor and 14 against.

Dr. Zierath brought the General Assembly to a close at 20:10.