



EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF COLOPROCTOLOGY

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Executive Committee

President: Prof. T. Skříčka **President Elect:** Prof. G. Romano **President in Waiting:** Prof. F. Penninckx
Treasurer: Mr. M. Parker **Secretary:** Prof. Ronan O'Connell **Journal Representative:** Prof. N. Haboubi
Program Committee Chairman: Prof. R.J. Nicholls **Program Committee Assistant Chairman:** Prof. E. Tiret
UEMS Representative: Prof. L. Pahlman **Research Committee Chairman:** Prof. S. Laurberg
Non-Exec. Membership Officer: Prof. S. Post **Website Committee Chair:** Prof. D. Bartolo

Minutes of the ESCP Annual General Meeting Saturday 27 September 2008

Nantes Convention Centre, Nantes, France

Chair: Andrew Shorthouse

1 1.1 **Present**

Executive:

Andrew Shorthouse, President
Tomas Skříčka, President Elect
Giovanni Romano, President in Waiting
Anders Mellgren, Secretary
Roan O'Connell, Assistant Secretary

Mike Parker, Treasurer
John Nicholls, Chair Scientific Cttee
Lars Pahlman, UEMS Representative
Najib Haboubi, Journal Representative

1.2 **Members** – see appendix 1

2 **Minutes of the last AGM**, Malta, September 2007, were agreed *nem con*.

3 **Matters arising:** Andrew Shorthouse opened the meeting; there were no matters arising.

4 4.1 **President's Welcome & Report:**

Andrew Shorthouse addressed the meeting as outgoing President, saying that ESCP is now recognised as a dominant colorectal body across the world. ESCP is working closely with UEMS to achieve specialist recognition within the EU in the course of time. Prof. Shorthouse said that ESCP was making strides towards providing value for its members, with developments such as the Education Committee chaired by Lars Pahlman.

Prof. Shorthouse thanked the Programme Committee for performing a vitally important role in delivering such an exciting scientific meeting. He also thanked the Website Committee, highlighting the importance of ESCP's website as its shop window, and underlining the Committee's commitment to the website's continued improvement. He also thanked Najib Haboubi for his support as Journal Representative, referring to the tabled report.

Prof. Shorthouse reported that there were in excess of 800 delegates attending the meeting in Nantes, and gave special thanks to Paul Lehur for his attention to detail of local arrangements, which had been enormously appreciated by the Executive. The members applauded Prof. Lehur's contribution.

Prof. Shorthouse thanked Lindsey Whitehouse and Integrity for their strong commitment, adding that the contract was agreed through to 2011, whereupon it would be tendered on a competitive basis. He highlighted awareness of the Executive of the political issues around the location of ESCP's offices.

4.2 **Travelling fellowships:** Prof. Shorthouse reported regarding collaborations for Travelling Fellow opportunities, including an opportunity for the best ESCP abstract winner to attend the Alpine Colorectal meeting in Verbier, and also Bill Speake who will visit the Japanese Colorectal meeting and spend time there with Professor Konishi, adding that it is planned that this should become a reciprocal arrangement in years to come. He outlined arrangements for 11 surgeons who had visited north western French hospitals prior to the meeting, and which had been very fruitful.

Furthermore, there would be a US fellow opportunity in the UK resulting from ESCP's involvement in the Boston Tripartite meeting this year for first time. This will be an ESCP/ACPGBI combined gift to the Americans for hosting the event, also involving the Royal Society of Medicine in the UK, with ESCP paying one third of costs for that Travelling Fellow.

- 4.3 Prof. Shorthouse advised the Executive's decision that ESCP should continue as a company established in Scotland for the time being, and that the constitution would be revised from the Austrian one; he explained the tax and banking benefits, although noted that this presented a dilemma of symbolism versus pragmatism. He said that ESCP had already spent a lot of money on the proposed transfer to Vienna, and a great deal of time and energy had been spent in trying to resolve this without compromising the smooth running of the organisation.

He advised that the Executive had agreed that Integrity would be retained through to 2011, and that during that time, accounts will continue to be submitted in the UK, but that the ESCP Committee meetings (Spring) will be held in Vienna for symbolic reasons. In addition, as an interim measure, a trading address will be established in Vienna. It was reported that in the lead up to 2011, alternatives anywhere in Europe would be considered, and Integrity had offered to assist with that, including assisting in the interviewing of prospective organisations if helpful to the Executive. Prof. Shorthouse said that it was important to retain unity, that we are all Europeans, and want this organisation to succeed and put its problems behind it.

Finally, Prof. Shorthouse thanked Anders Mellgren, Mike Parker and John Nicholls. Anders Mellgren, as outgoing Secretary, had been a tower of strength, even with the challenges of being based latterly in Minneapolis. Professor Shorthouse also thanked Mike Parker for his financial stewardship, resulting in the securing of substantial funds putting the Society on a sound financial footing. He thanked John Nicholls for the quality of scientific meetings that had relied on his wisdom, and strong chairmanship.

5 **Secretary's report**

Anders Mellgren reported briefly, saying that he felt that ESCP had developed successfully as a Society through its membership, which had increased significantly since last year. He highlighted the importance of the Society being run on sound economic principals, maintaining adequate membership income to cover its secretariat costs.

6 **Treasurer's report**

6.1 **Finances year ending December 2007:**

Mike Parker reported on the financial year ending December 2007. At the end of that year, funds held in the bank amounted to €136,542, and due to progress made during 2008, the projected year end balance was expected to be approximately €317,741.

Mr. Parker reported that ESCP was now gradually becoming financially sound; its incoming resources had increased steadily. He reported that there are two principles that he had worked to, firstly adequate membership income, and secondly, funds to the equivalent of one annual meeting in the bank, in the event that anything adverse happened preventing the event taking place, but with costs to bear. Mr. Parker reported that the organisation is getting close to both being in place, and in fact was now there in terms of membership achieving adequate revenue.

Mr. Parker reported that he was delighted with the level of support from ESCP's commercial partners which had increased significantly in 2008, with more companies taking part in the exhibition. Income from annual meetings: since the Lisbon meeting in 2006, profit from meetings had gradually increased, to the point of an estimated €103,000 for Nantes. Mr. Parker said that if ESCP maintains quality in its meetings, this degree of support will continue to grow and the bank target €400,000 would be within reach.

6.2 **Membership fees:** Mr. Parker reported that there would be one change to membership fees for 2009; it was agreed two years ago that the Eastern European member rate should gradually be increased to bring parity by 2010, and therefore the price of €55 would be increased to €75. All other member fees would remain the same.

6.3 **Non EU Country Membership fees:** there was a request that membership fees in Albania be reconsidered due its economy still being out of balance with other countries. Mr. Parker reported that colleagues on Committee have been involved in decisions about membership rates, that it was recognised that economies were changing, and that it had been agreed by all that this change should be made gradually. He highlighted that membership had again been discussed yesterday with National Representatives at their meeting.

Andrew Shorthouse said that he felt the matter raised was valid; when the Committee decided on reduced registration fees, it had been based on the old Soviet block countries, from which some had become wealthier than others. He suggested that there should be National Representative feedback on affordability based on income structure in each country.

Krzysztof Bielecki questioned the meaning of an Eastern European category. Prof. Shorthouse explained that this had simply been a way to structure ESCP, dividing geographically into three areas, in order to achieve fair representation. It had been acknowledged that incomes differed a great deal, and was designed to reflect that.

Tomas Skříčka suggested in response to the question about Albanian membership fees, that non EEC member countries should be eligible for lower fees to enable them to take part in membership; he highlighted that this would not apply to too many countries. Anders Mellgren agreed that the point raised by Tomas Skříčka should be discussed at the next Committee meeting in Vienna.

John Nicholls proposed that Tomas Skříčka's suggestion be adopted, considering it to be a neat compromise; Andrew Shorthouse seconded the proposal that it be adopted as policy. There were no objections and this was agreed. Peter Mattys highlighted there are countries not in EU that need to be considered in balance of their economy.

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6.4 **Meeting venues:** Mr. Parker reported that the evaluation of prospective venues was an ongoing matter, and Integrity were undertaking a site visit wherever it was considered that the annual meeting could take place to check that value for money and facilities are in the right balance.

6.5 **Reappointment of Auditors:** the re-appointment of Whitelaw Wells as auditors to ESCP was proposed by Ronan O'Connell and seconded by John Nicholls; the proposal was passed with no objections.

7 **Trustees report:** Jens Kirsch outlined the responsibilities of the Trustees to monitor the activities of the Executive, ensuring that ESCP's charitable status is maintained and that activities would not endanger that status. Dr. Kirsch said that the Trustees were comfortable that the work of the Executive had established a stable and reliable Society through the actions agreed in London at the March 2008 meeting:

- Continuation of Secretariat based with Integrity Events
- A trading address in Vienna
- Committee meetings held in Vienna, when not at the annual conference
- Banking/finance of membership fees remaining in the UK mainly due to VAT loss
- The start of negotiation with ACPGBI regarding ownership of the journal *Colorectal Disease*

Dr. Kirsch then made a short personal statement; as Treasurer of ECCP for many years, he had desired to see the two societies merge, since Europe is too small to have more than one. He said that he had always worked with enthusiasm, but in recent days, there had been disagreement between himself and the Executive. Dr. Kirsch therefore felt it appropriate to resign as chairman of Trustees.

Anders Mellgren thanked Dr. Kirsch for his contribution, particularly noting his work with Andrew Shorthouse in the preparation of the ESCP Constitution; he said that without him, ESCP would not be where it is today, and he thanked him sincerely for his contribution.

8 **Election of Officers**

8.1 **Executive Committee:** Andrew Shorthouse outlined the Executive for the coming year to be confirmed at the AGM on 27 September:

President: Tomas Skříčka
President Elect: Giovanni Romano
President in Waiting: Freddy Penninckx
Secretary: Ronan O'Connell
Treasurer: Mike Parker
Scientific Committee Chair: John Nicholls
Journal Representative: Najib Haboubi
UEMS Representative: Lars Pählman

Prof. Shorthouse invited members to ratify these appointments, which was carried unanimously.

8.2 **Co-opting of Executive Members:** Prof. Shorthouse also advised members that in accordance with the Constitution, the Executive had decided that Sören Laurberg, newly elected Chair of the Research Committee, and Emmanuel Tiret, newly elected Assistant Programme Committee Chair, should both be co-opted formally onto the Executive. This was unanimously agreed.

8.3 **Membership Officer:** Anders Mellgren reported that the Committee had appointed Stefan Post in this new role, in order to focus on developing membership. This was confirmed.

8.4 **National Representatives :** The appointment of new National Representatives in various countries was highlighted (see Appendix II) and this was endorsed by those present.

- 8.4 Ronan O'Connell reported regarding the National Representatives workshop that took place on Friday 26 September. He said that it was clear that there needs to be more frequent communication between National Representatives. He highlighted the role of Representatives to represent individual members, rather than to represent National Societies, although liaison with those Societies was important. Prof. O'Connell proposed that over the next three years, a member of the Executive might each visit 2-3 National Societies in order to increase local interaction between surgeons and the ESCP Committee. He also reported that he proposed that a newsletter be printed and distributed.

Prof. O'Connell also highlighted the challenges of e-mail address changes, making it difficult to reach everyone in a cost effective way. He also confirmed that he planned to produce a membership booklet, that would be a resource to all, in the same way that the American Society do. He added that he hoped that there might be greater awareness of speakers that individuals might suggest, that would expand the scientific meeting in a vibrant, more politically active way, that would yield better value for members

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Close of meeting

Andrew Shorthouse closed the meeting with a final address as outgoing President. He said that it had been an interesting year, and that he was happy to introduce Tomas Skricka as incoming President, highlighting his importance in the Society, representing more than anyone the bridge between east and west. He highlighted that his own invitation to Russia recently had been facilitated by Tomas. Prof. Shorthouse wished him a wonderful year, and the Prague meeting every success.

Tomas Skricka thanked Andrew Shorthouse, he said that his task was not an easy one in this particular period, but that he will try to assist and bring about the unification of European Coloproctology in a smooth, friendly and successful way.

Date of next meeting

The next Annual General Meeting will take place in Prague at the 4th ESCP Scientific and Annual Meeting, the date being Saturday 26 September 2009.

APPENDIX 1 – Attendee List

Title	First Name	Last Name	Country	
Dr	Sergey	Achkasov	Russian Federation	
Dr	Mohamed	Almaghrabi	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	
Mr	A Ibrahim	Amin	UK	
Mr	Gunnar	Arbman	Sweden	
Dr	Corrado	Asteria	Italy	
Dr	Rasoul	Azizi	Iran, Islamic Republic of	
Mr	Gunnar	Baatrup	Norway	
Mr	David	Bartolo	UK	
Prof.	Giulio	Belli	Italy	Non-Member
Mr	Panchanan	Bhattacharya	UK	
Prof	Krzysztof	Bielecki	Poland	
Dr	Sokol	Bilali	Albania	Non-Member
Dr	Sebastiano	Biondo	Spain	
Mr	Francisco	Blanco Antona	Spain	
Dr	Mihalj	Bogar	Serbia and Montenegro	
	Benoit	Bomans	Belgium	
Dr.	Herve	Bothereau	France	
Dr	Pierre-Yves	Bouteloup	France	
Dr	Milan	Breberina	Serbia	
Dr	Pamela	Buchwald	Sweden	
Dr	Attila	Bursics	Hungary	
Mrs	Anne	Cardon	The Netherlands	
Dr	Stefan	Carlens	Sweden	
	Jose Enrique	Casal	Spain	
Dr.	Dimitri	Christoforidis	USA	Non-Member
Dr	Alessandra	Cola	Italy	
Mrs	Dajana	Cuicchi	Italy	Non-Member
	Samuel	Debrah	UK	
Dr	Xavier	Delgadillo	Switzerland	
Dr	Andras	Doka	UK	
Dr	Vitezslav	Duchac	Czech Republic	
	Marc	Duinslaeger	Belgium	
Mr	Graeme	Duthie	UK	
Mr	Tawfik	El-Sayed	UK	Non-Member
Dr	Eloy	Espin-Basany	Spain	
Dr	M.P.	Gosselink	The Netherlands	Non-Member
Mr	Jan	Gryf-Lowczowski	UK	
Dr	Tobie	Gys	Belgium	
Prof	Najib	Haboubi	UK	
Prof	Roman	Herman	Poland	
Prof	Jiri	Hoch	Czech Republic	
Dr	Marja	Hyoty	Finland	
Dr	Roberto Paolo	Iachetta	Italy	
Prof	Aldo	Infantino	Italy	Non-Member
	Lene Hjerrild	Iversen	Denmark	
Ms	Sahila	Jaleel	UK	
Prof	Lucas	Janssen	The Netherlands	
Dr	Claes	Johansson	Sweden	
Dr.	Valdemaras	Jotautas	Lithuania	
Mr	Miklos	Kassai	UK	
Dr	Ahmad	Kassem	Sweden	
Dr	Werner	Kneist	Germany	
Dr	Ulf	Kressner	Sweden	
Prof	Zoran	Krivokapic	Serbia and Montenegro	
Prof	Filippo	La Torre	Italy	Non-Member
	Rait	Labotkin	Estonia	
Dr	Geir Arne	Larsen	Norway	
Prof	Søren	Laurberg	Denmark	

Prof.	Paul	Lehur	France	
	Julio	Leite	Portugal	
Dr	Claes	Lenander	Sweden	
	Mikael	Machado	Sweden	
Mr	Ali	Malik	UK	
Dr.	Peter	Mangell	Sweden	
Dr	Lindita	Mano	Albania	
Ms	Anna	Martling	Sweden	
Dr	Peter	Matthiessen	Sweden	
Mr	Roy	Maxwell	UK	
Prof.	Anders	Mellgren	USA	
Dr	Maarten	Michiels	Belgium	
Dr	Litza	Mitalas	The Netherlands	Non-Member
Mr	Christopher	Morris	UK	
Dr	Nazir	Naimy	Norway	
Prof	John	Nicholls	UK	
Dr	Per J	Nilsson	Sweden	
Prof	Per-Olof	Nyström	Sweden	Non-Member
Prof.	P.Ronan	O'Connell	Ireland	
Dr.	Daniella	Oom	The Netherlands	Non-Member
Prof	Tom	Oresland	Norway	
Dr.	Julius	Orhalmi	Czech Republic	
Prof.	Hector	Ortiz Hurtado	Spain	
Dr	Asbjörn	Österberg	Sweden	
	Faramarz	Pakravan	Germany	
Prof	Yann	Parc	France	
Mr	Mike	Parker	UK	
Dr	Gregorios	Pechlivanidis	Greece	
Mr	Erkki	Pekkala	Finland	
Prof.Dr.	Freddy	Penninckx	Belgium	
Dr	Tadeusz	Peterlejtner	Poland	
Dr	Jonas	Petersson	Sweden	
Prof.	Johann	Pfeifer	Austria	
Dr.	Eligijus	Poskus	Lithuania	
Prof	Igor	Pravosudov	Russian Federation	
Prof	Micha	Rabau	Israel	
Dr	Murmans	Ratiani	Latvia	Non-Member
Dr.	Christophe	Remue	Belgium	
Dr	Andreas	Rink	Germany	
Prof	Giovanni	Romano	Italy	
Prof	Eric	Rullier	France	
Mr	Mohammed Mazen	Sadat	UK	
Dr	Roland	Scherer	Germany	Non-Member
Prof.	Thomas	Schiedeck	Germany	
Dr.	Zuzana	Serclova	Czech Republic	
Prof	Andrew	Shorthouse	UK	
Mr	Mike	Simms	UK	
Dr.	Tomas	Skříčka	Czech Republic	
Prof	Goran	Stanojevic	Serbia and Montenegro	
	Marek	Szczepkowski	Poland	
Prof	Algimantas	Tamelis	Lithuania	
Prof	Emmanuel	Tiret	France	
Dr	Anna	Van Geloven	The Netherlands	
Dr	Yves	Van Molhem	Belgium	
Dr	Alexandra	Vladimirova	Russian Federation	
Mr	Elroy Patrick	Weledji	Cameroon	
Dr.	Marieke	Witvliet	The Netherlands	
Dr	Philippe	Wuthrich	France	
Mr	Firas	Younis	UK	
Dr	Antoni	Zawadziki	Sweden	
Prof	Paulius	Zeromskas	Lithuania	
Dr	David	Zimmermann	The Netherlands	

Appendix II: List of National Representatives elected in September 2008

Matti Kairaluoma	Finland
Paul Antoine Lehur	France
Alois Fuerst	Germany
Ioannis Karaitianos	Greece
Kaspars Snipes	Latvia
Algimantas Tamelis	Lithuania
Barthold Vonen	Norway
Jaoa Pimentel	Portugal
Sergey Achkasov	Russia
Milan Breberiha	Serbia & Montenegro
Mirko Omejc	Slovenia
Jose M Enriquez-Navascues	Spain
Per J Nilsson	Sweden