



Executive Committee

President: Prof. G. Romano **President Elect:** Prof. F. Penninckx **President in Waiting:** Prof. Z. Krivocapic
Treasurer: Mr. M. Parker **Secretary:** Prof. Ronan O'Connell **Journal Representative:** Prof. N. Haboubi
Program Committee Chairman: Prof E. Tiret **UEMS Representative:** Prof. L Pählman **Research Committee Chairman:** Prof. S. Laurberg
Non-Exec: Membership Officer: Prof. S. Post **Website Committee Chair:** Prof. D. Bartolo

MINUTES OF ESCP ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday 26 September 2009 at 12:30

Prague Congress Centre, Prague, Czech Republic

1 Present

See appendix 1

2 President's Report

Ronan O'Connell opened the meeting and invited Tomas Skříčka to give his President's report. Dr. Skříčka said that he was delighted that the Congress had been so successful, with more than 1,000 participants, a new record for ESCP. He wished Giovanni Romano an attendance of at least 2,000 in Sorrento! Dr. Skříčka thanked everyone who had participated, and wished them a safe journey home.

3 Minutes of the last meeting

These were proposed by Najib Haboubi and seconded by Alexander Engel. The minutes were agreed *nem con*.

4 Special Resolutions

Prof. O'Connell highlighted the special resolutions outlined from page 74 of the ESCP members book (also available as a handout at the meeting) with the proposal set out on pages 82-83 and which had also been posted on the ESCP website and circulated from June onwards. Prof. O'Connell read each Special Resolution out to attendees.

The proposal to adopt the first resolution (amendment to Articles of Association) was proposed by Mr. Mike Parker and seconded by Prof. Najib Haboubi and was agreed *nem con*. The 2nd special resolution (amendments to Memorandum of Association) was proposed by Søren Laurberg and seconded by Anders Mellgren and was agreed *nem con*. The 3rd special resolution (transfer of Executive body and responsibilities from Austria to UK organization) was proposed by Giovanni Romano and seconded by Prof. Freddy Penninckx; it was agreed *nem con*.

5 Report from the Trustees

Hector Ortiz reported on behalf of the Trustees, advising that it had been agreed that in future, one Trustee from each region (east, central, and west) would change in order to create a rolling programme giving the board of Trustees greater continuity from year to year.

Secretary's Report

Ronan O'Connell reported that there had been two committee meetings during the past year, the first in Vienna in January 2009 and also a meeting in Prague. He advised that the Executive had decided that, in view of the fact that National Representatives cover their own travel/accommodation at the main meeting in Prague, costs relating to the interim meeting in Vienna should be covered by ESCP funds.

Prof. O'Connell advised that communication across the Society had continued to improve, the website was much improved and he thanked David Bartolo and the Website Committee for their efforts. He advised that a newsletter had been added to the website in Spring 2009 and that he planned to do another newsletter in Spring 2010, adding that if there is more news, up to 2-3 newsletters might be issued next year.

6.1 ESCP Membership booklet

Prof. O'Connell highlighted the new membership booklet and said that he hoped it would prove to be invaluable to all. He thanked Lindsey Whitehouse and her colleagues for their hard work in producing this.

6.2 ESCP Sub-Committees

Prof. O'Connell highlighted the work of the Education Committee under the chairmanship of Lars Pålman, and the Research Committee under the chairmanship of Soren Laurberg. He said that they were two essential elements within ESCP, adding that members would begin to see the work of these two committees over the coming year.

6.2.1. Research: a research symposium had taken place for the first time on Thursday and was one of the highlights of the meeting and was well attended, giving impetus to the Committee to develop this in the coming year.

6.2.2. Education: Prof. O'Connell reported that it was the Education Committee's desire to create a record of educational requirements in each country across Europe in order to reach a common high standard of training in coloproctology. This was involving considerable interface with UEGF, a powerful umbrella organization, with ESCP represented by Alexander Engel (UEGF Scientific Committee representative) Johann Pfeifer (UEGF Education Committee representative), and Freddy Penninckx and Cor Baeten (UEGF Assembly representatives). He added that one of the most important meetings of the year was approaching in London when ESCP will participate in the training programme on Saturday, details of which were included in delegate bags in Prague.

6.2.3 Journal: Prof. O'Connell reported that the Society continues to have good relationship with *Colorectal Disease*, ESCP's official journal. The journal's board meeting had again taken place at the ESCP meeting in Prague. The journal is edited by Prof. John Nicholls with Najib Haboubi as ESCP's journal representative. The Board is chaired by Prof. Freddy Penninckx. The journal will increase from nine issues (2009) to 12 in 2010 and has achieved an impact factor of 2.293 which places it firmly in the rearview mirror of *Diseases of the Colon and Rectum*!

6.3 ESCP Membership

Stefan Post, Membership Officer, reported regarding ESCP's membership which is distributed across three regions, east, central and west:

- North western Europe accounts for 50% of membership and this has not altered which means that ESCP does not have a proportionate representation across Europe
- Membership in all three regions has increased however, also the "rest of the world" members
- The central region is of most concern, it catching up but has now fallen behind
- There is continuous improvement in the eastern region
- Relative to population, countries with higher membership are not necessarily as high in the table, for example the UK (largest member contingent) is 10th when taken as a % of population, and Scandinavian & Benelux countries are stronger in the Society.
- Larger countries including Germany Poland France Turkey and Russia are under represented % wise, and it would be a huge society with better representation in these countries

7 Treasurer's Report

7.1 Year end position:

Mr Mike Parker updated the meeting regarding the state of finances for ESCP.

- Year end 2008: bank balance at 31 December 2008 was €250,000
- Estimated year end position for 2009: €338 000*

*Mr. Parker highlighted that this forecast was prepared before registration opened in Prague and was expected to improve based on registrations completed on site.

Mr. Parker confirmed that ESCP is growing steadily, highlighting the significant increase in conference income and expenditure as the meeting grows in size. He confirmed that this year there had been a big jump in income from 2008 due mostly to higher membership levels and substantial industry support (€220,000). He reported that corporate companies recognize the quality of the ESCP meeting.

7.2 Non-conference income and expenditure:

Mr. Parker confirmed that the principle of office administration costs being adequately met by income from membership together with having adequate resources in place to cover the short term cancellation of a conference were secure. He highlighted increased non-conference income due to €25,000 from ESCP's UEGF membership and reported an expected non-conference surplus of €28,262.

Mr. Parker thanked Paul Lehur for his contribution to success of Nantes which yielded a surplus of €60,000. He indicated that a positive position of €59,000 for Prague would be increased, given that over 1,000 delegates had registered.

7.3 Membership rates

Mr. Parker reminded members that it had been agreed that there would be parity on rates across Europe from 2010, and the price for next year would be €90 for Regular Membership in all European countries, however he advised that he planned to hold the price for Trainees and Affiliates at €55 in order to encourage more Trainees into membership.

7.4 ESCP Council Meeting Costs

Mr. Parker confirmed that ESCP will again fund Committee attendee expenses to the interim meeting in Vienna, which amounted to €13,000 for January 2009. He said that he felt it was important that there was full and proper representation with all National Representatives in attendance.

7.5 Allocation of funds: Mr. Parker advised that he had received a verbal proposal from Søren Laurberg regarding a research grant, and indicated that it was likely that a fund might be created for research purposes; he indicated that it would be the case now that ESCP is financially secure that some money is spent in areas that are relevant to ESCP's aims.

Mr. Parker also reported that Jim Fleshman, President of ASCRCS had suggested that a link be set up between the US Association and ESCP whereby a reciprocal arrangement to access member conference registration rates at each annual meeting be made available.

Mr. Parker summarized his report by confirming that office costs are in balance with membership which has increased to 658, that annual meeting costs are rising as the size of the event increases, but that Prof. Romano is doing excellent work to ensure that costs for Sorrento are kept as low as possible. Future priorities are to achieve a further rise in membership, to attract more corporate membership, and to maintain scrutiny on venue costs for the conference using the template for venue hire and catering costs that has been used now for some years. Mr. Parker thanked the Secretariat for their support and congratulated Tomas Skříčka on an outstanding meeting.

8 Re-election of Auditors

The re-election of Whitelaw Wells as ESCP auditors was proposed by Prof. John Nicholls and seconded by Prof. Najib Haboubi.

9 Inauguration of President

Prof. O'Connell thanked Tomas Skříčka for his involvement in the evolution of the two organizations (EACP, ECCP) and his help during the last year in getting through the constitutional difficulties. He invited him to greet new President Giovanni Romano. Giovanni Romano recalled John Nicholls' words "this Society is growing up nicely" and said that he was proud to take on the challenge as President for 2009-2010. He promised to try to be up to the task, to further improve standards, and to aim that all should feel "at home" in a Society that has a friendly atmosphere and is focused on the interests of patient care and scientific progression. He invited everyone to attend the meeting in Sorrento next year, and said that it was a privilege to be involved in its organization.

10 Election of Officers

Ronan O'Connell then went on to outline those officers due for agreement by those present:

Executive

President	Prof. Giovanni Romano
President Elect	Prof. Freddy Penninckx
President in Waiting	Prof. Zoran Krivokapic
Scientific Committee Chair	Prof. Emmanuel Tiret

National Representatives

Austria	Anton Stift (replacing Bela Teleky)
Denmark	Mogens Rørbaek Madsen (replacing Søren Laurberg)
Estonia	Margot Peetsalu (replacing Rait Labotkin)
Turkey	Ethem Gecim (replacing Omer Alabaz)

The appointments were agreed by all present.

11 Future meetings of ESCP

Prof. O'Connell highlighted the forthcoming events in Sorrento in 2010 and Valencia for 2011. He advised that in 2012 it was likely that the event would take place in Istanbul where there was interest from ESCP Turkish members to become involved; closer examination will soon be underway to check costs and venues. Prof. O'Connell suggested that for events from 2013, proposals would be welcome, highlighting how essential it is to have local commitment to assist the Secretariat.

12 Close and date of next meeting

Prof. O'Connell brought the meeting to a close, confirming that the date of the next Annual General Meeting would be Saturday 25 September 2010 in Sorrento.

Appendix 1 – Attendees

First name	Last name	Member
Omer	Alabaz	Member
Donan	Altomare	Member
Volodymyr	Andriiets	Member
Panagiotis	Antoniou	
Okjar	Asoglu	2008
Corrado	Asteria	Member
David	Bartolo	Member
Sokol	Bilali	Member
Sebastian	Biondo	Member
Milan	Breberina	Member
Attila	Bursics	Member
Pierre	Chapuis	Member
Antonio	Codina-Czador	Member
Barbara	Dalla Via	Member
Peter	Dawson	Member
Xavier	Delgadillo	Member
Marc	Duinslaeger	2008
David	Edwards	Member
Emmanuel	Eguare	Member
Alexander	Engel	Member
Jose M	Enriquez-Navascués	Member
Luke	Evans	Member
Rita	Gyanti	Member
Najib	Haboubi	Member
Ahmed	Hammad	Member
Jiri	Hoch	Member
Aldo	Infantino	Member
Mihály	Jankovich	
Constant	Jehaes	Member
Franc	Jelenc	Member
Miklos	Kassai	Member
Zoran	Krivokapic	Member
Soren	Laurberg	Member
Richardas	Liubauskas	Member
Mogens	Madsen	Member
Yasuko	Maeda	
Velimir	Markovic	2008
Roy	Maxwell	Member
Anders	Mellgren	Member
Massimiliano	Mistrangelo	Member
Riccardo	Nascimbeni	Member
John	Nicholls	Member
Per J	Nilsson	Member
Ronan	O'Connell	Member
Amer	Odobasic	Member
Hector	Ortiz	Member

First name	Last name	Member
Mike	Parker	Member
Dainius	Pavalkis	Member
Georgios	Pechlivandidis	Member
Freddy	Penninckx	Member
Johann	Pfrefer	Member
Sergii	Podpriatov	Member
Stefan	Post	Member
Michael	Powar	
Peter	Rasmussen	2008
Jose	Roig	Member
Giovanni	Romano	Member
Ruben	Romero	Member
Jörgen	Rutegård	Member
Marcel	Sadeghi	Member
Zilvinas	Saladzinskas	Member
Tomas	Skricka	Member
Algimantas	Tamelis	Member
Mario	Trompetto	Member
Lorenzo	Viso	Member
Ruben	Weil	Member
Yehiel	Ziv	Member