

Minutes of EUNOS Business Meeting
Helia Conference Hotel, Budapest
Wednesday 13th September 2017

Attended:

Council members:	Klara Landau	President	(KL)
	Fion Bremner	Secretary	(FB)
	Konrad Weber	Treasurer	(KW)
	Susanne Trauzettel-Klosinski		(STK)
	Marko Hawlina		(MH)
	Paul Riordan-Eva		(PRE)
	Tulay Kansu		(TK)
	Caroline Tilikete		(CT)
	Patrick Yu-Wai-Man		(PY)
	Hana Leiba		(HL)

Ordinary Members and meeting delegates: over 50

Agenda items

1. **Minutes of Business Meeting held in Ljubljana 2015:** approved

2. **President's Report (KL):** approved
 - KL reviewed the progress made in the last two years, the main item being the development of a new website for EUNOS

3. **Secretary's Report (FB):** approved
 - Since the new website has started we have seen an improvement in society membership from an average of about 30 to over 60 (with more registering during this meeting). Moreover we now have a 'live' (i.e. continuously updated) list of paid-up members as well as additional information (email addresses, institutional addresses, specialty and research interests) that is searchable so should prove an invaluable resource for members who want to communicate and collaborate with other members across Europe
 - Neuro-ophthalmologists from the UK constitute around 20% of the EUNOS membership, and FB urged delegates from the UK to continue to be part of this organisation and contribute after 'Brexit' (2019)
 - Where specialty is known among the EUNOS members, ophthalmologists currently outnumber neurologists by about 4:1, which is not representative of the distribution of patients in clinical practice. FB proposed that we should make a point of extending our welcome to colleagues in neurology and dispelling any notions that this society is intended only for ophthalmologists working in this field

4. **Treasurer's Report (KW):** approved

- Presented by KW; balance at the end of 2016 was €9,495
- Figures were independently audited and approved by Tim Matthews and Ghislaine Traber
- Members all voted in favour of approving these accounts (with 2 abstentions)
- Walter Jay asked if EUNOS should consider investing some of its cash in stocks (or equivalent) as its assets rise (which is done by NANOS). However KW pointed out that interest rates are currently very low so there is not likely to be much of a return on this investment in the prevailing economic climate. Moreover Gabriella Wirth Barben who is treasurer of EPOS reminded members that any profit from these investments would be liable to tax. The consensus view was to keep the funds as cash for the time being

5. **Webmaster's Report (KW):** approved

- KW updated the members about the new website and demonstrated its functionality - both the 'front end' that is visible to the public, the members only section, and the 'back end' that is accessible only to Council members and includes live information on members, subscription status as well as the opportunity to upload new material
- The new website will also carry information and links to any relevant courses, and may even be used to organise and manage these events

6. **Education Committee Report (HL):** approved

- SOE: once again, a full programme of didactic lectures was delivered at the Barcelona meeting of SOE in June by EUNOS in collaboration with NANOS and organised by Shlomo Dotan
- The committee will now start the process of developing a framework for certification of subspecialty ('fellowship' level) training posts in neuro-ophthalmology across Europe

7. **Research Committee Report (STK):** approved

- All of the goals identified in the mission statement of the research committee in 2015 have either been achieved, or at any rate started. These include the establishment of research networks and cross-border collaborations, and improved patient recruitment into studies and trials. Funding remains the most difficult goal to achieve
- A research symposium organised by Jette Frederiksen and PY on behalf of the research committee has been held for the first time during this EUNOS meeting on the topic of optic nerve disease.

- STK announced her intention to stand down as Director of the Research Committee, and proposed that PY take over this role. KL expressed her gratitude to STK on behalf of EUNOS for her huge achievements in getting the research committee off the ground
- STK described some proposed changes to the structure of the research committee - mainly involving a broadening of the 'topics' as well as some changes to the chairs and members for each of these separate sub-committees. Details will be uploaded onto the EUNOS website, along with information on how to participate in any of these studies/trials and how to propose new projects.

8. Retirement/elections of EUNOS Council members (KL):

- Four Council members (STK, PRE, TK and HW) are stepping down. KL thanked them all for their many contributions to EUNOS, and presented those three who were there with gifts of Swiss chocolate
- The nominations of candidates to fill these vacancies were displayed, and members invited to vote by listing the candidates in order of preference
- The votes were collected and counted by Rawan Omary and CT. Successful applicants who will now join the EUNOS Council were: Jette Frederiksen (Denmark), Irene Gottlob (UK), Bjorn Hammer (Sweden) and Tim Matthews (UK)
- KL announced that she will step down as President during the next biennial EUNOS conference in 2019. She proposed that FB should be appointed as Vice President with a view to becoming the new President when she retires. There was unanimous approval for this proposal

9. Establishment of a Membership committee (KL):

- Although all agreed that we want EUNOS to be as inclusive as possible, KL suggested that the criteria for membership may be a little too permissive at present - for example, one of her patients had expressed an interest in becoming a member
- KL therefore suggested forming a membership committee to consider these and related membership issues. Gabriella Wirth Barben asked if the Byelaws allow for any restriction to our membership; no-one at the time could recall this detail, although subsequent inspection confirms that these define EUNOS membership as appropriate for “physicians, surgeons, scientists or other professional personnel actively engaged in clinical neuro-ophthalmology and related disciplines” [Article IV:1]
- KL suggested Sylvia Munoz might chair this committee, and FB will contact her to ask for her help with this

10. Links with the journal *Neuro-ophthalmology* (KL):

- KL and WJ confirmed that finally (after many years!) a contract has been signed between EUNOS and Taylor & Francis, publishers of *Neuro-ophthalmology*, giving all paid members of EUNOS both a print copy of the journal as well as web access from January 2018
- Simon Hickman enquired as to whether this would include web access to the whole of the historical archive, and Walter Jay confirmed that it would

11. Location of next EUNOS Update meeting in 2018 (KL):

- KL reminded the members of the history of this event; the first was held in Budapest in 2012 (also organised by Gaby Szatmary) and subsequent update meetings have taken place in Zurich (2014 & 2016) as part of the training course run by Jonathan Trobe. The location of this event in Zurich originally came about because there were no volunteers to host the event elsewhere, but KL said she was perfectly happy with the idea of someone else running this if they wanted to
- The next Update meeting will be in 2018. There is not enough time for anyone else to organise an alternative venue for that Update meeting, so KL will once again offer 50 places to EUNOS members on the training course in Zurich. KW confirmed that the dates for this will be 22-23rd June 2018
- KL asked members to contact her or any other members of the Council if they want to host the following Update meeting in 2020

12. Location of the next biennial EUNOS meetings (KL & Dalia Meira):

- The next EUNOS conference will be held from 16-19th June 2019 in Porto, Portugal
- The conference will be chaired by Dalia Meira, who gave a wonderful slide presentation about the city showing the conference venue with glimpses of what we can expect two years from now
- KL asked any members interested in hosting the following EUNOS meeting (in 2021) to contact herself or other members of Council. Details of criteria as well as an application form will be made available on the new EUNOS website

Fion Bremner [13th September 2017]