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MINUTES

General Assembly of Members of the 12th Annual Meeting of the European Society for Dermatological Research

Rai-Congrescentrum, Amsterdam, April 5, 1982

H. HÖNIGSMANN, SECRETARY

Present: Seventy-six active and senior members.

Presidential Address: The President, M. Greaves, first paid tribute to the death of Professor G. Kalsbeek from Utrecht by observing two minutes' silence which was respected by the members. He then sounded a gentle note of caution to the Society that, after 12 years, it had not increased its impact. Although the number of applicants had risen, this was a poor measure of the health of the Society, and its success should depend on the quality of the science being transacted during its proceedings. He pointed out that the quality of abstracts submitted to the Programme Committee was variable this year and expressed concern about some stagnation in creativity. He felt unhappy that there had been no real involvement with nondermatological investigators in past meetings; this year, however, the Programme Committee had taken a small step by inviting several distinguished nondermatologists.

Minutes of the 1981 General Assembly: These were approved without dissent.

Report of the Secretary: H. Hönigsmann reported on the present state of membership. Until the deadline, November 30, 1981, 40 applications were recommended by the Board. As of March 31, 1982, the ESDR had 400 members: 338 active, 52 senior, and 10 supporting.

The Secretary also reported on the negotiations with Syntex, originally initiated by Malcolm Greaves, which had resulted in regular annual support of US \$5,000 for the ESDR secretariat. This grant covers the salary of a part-time secretary.

The Newsletter, now edited by the Secretary, had received disappointingly little attention from the membership. It was established as a source of information and as a forum for the exchange of ideas. The Secretary pointed out that he has tried to encourage people to contribute to the Newsletter and urged organizers of ESDR-sponsored meetings and symposia to send short reports for publication. He stressed that the input had been very poor and this was reflected by the contents of the Newsletter which consisted mainly of organizational items.

In order to encourage younger investigators to attend the Annual Meeting, graded registration fees have been fixed. For future meetings, it is planned to pose travel support for residents who are presenting a paper. In addition, the Board has decided to subsidize a limited number of individuals from eastern European countries with currency difficulties. The national Dermatological Societies have been informed of this decision.

Effective June 15, 1982, Dr. Howard P. Baden from Harvard Medical School, Boston, will be the Editor of the JID. As the ESDR members of the Editorial Board, he has appointed Dr. Charles Lapière as European Chief Editor, and Drs. Rona MacKie and Georg Stingl as coeditors. Dr. Lapière will attend future ESDR Board meetings as a cooped member.

The Secretary thanked Drs. Frenk, Schaefer, and van Joost for their help in amending the statutes.

Report of the Treasurer: W. van Vloten reported on the expenses and income of the last year. The credit balance stood at Fl. 31,636.46 (savings account - Fl. 80,000.00). He pointed out that, due to economic problems, there might have to be an increase in the subscription fee. The Treasurer's report was accepted without dissent.

Report of the Programme Committee (M. Greaves, Chairman, G. Plewig, A. Giannetti): For the first time, a central theme was chosen for the Annual Meeting: The Pharmacology of Inflammation. The Committee would, however, value written or verbal comments from members on whether to continue with this practice. Of the abstracts received for the 1982 Meeting, approximately 50% had been accepted. M. Greaves further commented on the fact that some posters, which had been accepted for presentation, had already been presented two days previously at the Meeting of the Society for Cutaneous Ultrastructural Research. Although the rules state only that material must not be presented before submission, this practice appeared nevertheless highly undesirable.

Report of the Editor of The Journal of Investigative Dermatology: M. Greaves welcomed both officers of the forthcoming Board of the JID, Howard P. Baden and Charles Lapière, to the Meeting and wished them every success for the future.

G. Plewig reported on Ruth Freinkel's annual report and quoted two letters, the Editorial Board Meeting note of December 1981 and the Editorial Report. According to the financial position of the JID, an increase from \$40 to \$45 in the subscription would be necessary to adjust to inflation. In order to publish 50% of unsolicited manuscripts submitted to the Journal, the JID would require an additional 100 pages in 1983. This could be financed as follows: 1) increase in the subscription rate, 2) charging a submission fee, or 3) charging a fee for publication.

In a lively debate, the Membership strongly opposed a page charge.

Dr. Greaves informed the Membership that the decision had already been made, that the Editorial Board of the JID had presented the ESDR with a fait accompli concerning a \$25 per page charge on accepted manuscripts. The ESDR Board, nevertheless, cast a vote, 7 to 4 in favor of proposing an increase in the subscription rate as opposed to a page charge.

In reply to Drs. Plewig's and Greaves' reports, the new Chief Editor, Dr. Baden, stated that the quality of the Journal had much improved during the last years. The number of pages had also increased by 25% annually, far more than the page allotment negotiated with the publisher. This was due especially to an increase in immunological papers. Dr. Baden also stressed that the basic costs of running a journal depended very much on the membership. He felt that asking submitters for a publication fee was less distasteful than charging a submission fee. A \$25 per page charge might be relatively expensive, but the costs had to be borne in some acceptable way and this appeared to be the only way to publish a reasonable percentage of good papers. Dr. Baden also pointed out that there were many nondermatologist subscribers and if the subscription rate were increased the Journal would be too expensive for many subscribers. At the moment the Journal is healthy, strong, and growing and this should not be discouraged. Advertising could be an important factor in lowering the costs. He indicated that page charges could be waived for people who simply could not pay them.

G. Plewig further commented on the problem of shipping the Journal via bulk airmail shipment, which had been discussed recently by the Board, in order to avoid the delay in delivery to European subscribers; such bulk shipment via KLM service would run at an additional charge of \$27 per subscriber. This could not be done on an individual basis as it is not possible for the printers to pick out individual people. After discussion, the General Assembly felt that the high costs of bulk shipment were not acceptable. Dr. Lapière, the new European Chief Editor, expressed his willingness to explore alternative ways and means of receiving the Journal faster. Meanwhile the ESDR will continue with the present arrangement of surface mailing.

Appointment of New Members: Forty applications were considered and accepted by the Society: 36 active, 1 senior, 3 supporting.

Appointment of Members of the Board: The President reported that the following members were due to retire: M. Greaves, S. Lidén, A. Giannetti, A. Garcovich, and J. Camarasa. J. Lachapelle expressed his wish to resign from the Board. The Board proposed the reelection of A. Giannetti for one further term of office, to ensure continuity. The Board also recommended the election of W. Cunliffe (Leeds), P. Fritsch (Innsbruck), J. Karnoven (Oulu), and J. Saurat (Geneva) to the Board. In the absence of any counternominations, the General Assembly approved the nominations without dissent.

Amendments to the Statutes: The President opened the discussion on the amendments and stated that the convening notices for the Meeting were sent by the Board by circular to the addresses of the members known to the Board not later than one month prior to the day of the Meeting, that the notices contained the subjects to be dealt with, including the proposal of the Board to amend the Articles of Association as laid down in the new text of the complete Articles of Association.

Copies of said text in its Dutch authentic form as well as in an English translation have been deposited at the addresses of all Board members as well as at the notary-lawyer's office in Amsterdam, and was at the disposal of all active and senior members as an annex to the convening notices.

The President also proposed giving power of attorney to each member of the Board to sign the notarial deed establishing the Articles of Association as they shall be adopted.

There was some concern from several members that the General Assembly had no direct influence on the nominations of Board members. In replying, the President clearly pointed out that according to the old and the amended statutes, the members were already entitled to nominations of the Board. This right, however, had rarely been exercised in the past, but the Board would welcome any input from the membership. He also drew attention to the fact that, with a multinational society, there was difficulty in nominating candidates in order to maintain a well-balanced composition of the Board.

After a discussion, a ballot was taken. The votes on the proposal to amend the Articles of Association and to establish these as proposed with the amendments

Section 6/3—Delete.

Section 7/4—The Board shall notify members of a list of recommendations for appointment. . . .

Section 7/4—(Second paragraph): The Board shall notify members of the deadline for submission of nominations.

Section 7/6—Replace by: The term of office of a member of the Board shall be three years. The retiring members are eligible for reelection for one term only, immediately after a period of office. At the annual general meeting of members at least one, but not more than one-third of the members of the Board shall definitely retire in accordance with a rota to be drawn up by the board.

Section 8/2—Delete "as well as their substitutes."

Section 9/10—Delete "or his substitute."

Section 10/1—Delete "his substitute appointed by the Board,"

Section 13/1—Insert "(e) appointment of new members shall be made according to section 4 clause 4."

Section 13/1—"f" = former "e")."

Section 14/1—The general meeting shall be held in the location the Board shall decide on.

Section 16/5—Correct to "Abstracts" instead of "Extracts".

was cast by word of mouth: 0 votes against, 4 abstentions, 39 votes in favor.

The President concluded that the proposal had been adopted, and that each member of the Board was entitled to sign the notarial deed establishing the Articles of Association thus amended.

Location and Date of 1984 Meeting: The majority of the membership was in favor of the Rai-Congrescentrum, Amsterdam. The date will be 20–23 May, 1984.

Officers of the Board: The President informed the membership of the following appointments: G. Plewig, President, H. Hönigsmann, Secretary, W. van Vloten, Treasurer. Programme Committee: G. Plewig (Chairman), A. Giannetti, W. Cunliffe.

Other Business: There being no other business, the session was closed.