

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL MUTAGEN SOCIETY**

July 1, 2006

Prague Congress Center, Prague, Czech Republic

Officers present:

Micheline Kirsch-Volders	President
Eugenia Dogliotti	Vice-President
Krzysztof (Chris) Szyfter	Past-President
Marlies De Boeck	Secretary

Officers excused:

Robert Baan	Treasurer
Jim Parry	Executive <i>ex officio</i>

Councillors present:

Luc Verschaeve (Belgium)
Jasna Franekić Èoliaè and Verica Garaj-Vrhovac (Croatia)
Pavel Rossner (Czech Republic/Slovak Republic)
Jette Rank (Denmark)
Hannu Norppa (Finland)
Elisabeth Lorge (France)
Sarolta Gundy (Hungary, replacing Erika Gyorffy)
Ase Krokje (Norway)
Danuta Mielzyńska (Poland)
Jelena Knežević-Vukčević (Serbia)
Anthony Lynch (UK, replacing Steve Dean)

1. Approval of Agenda

Agenda was accepted.

2. Report from the President

The EEMS wishes to improve communication, at different levels and demands the collaboration of the councillors to achieve this.

- EEMS website: GUM and UKEMS were contacted to inquire how they organized the renewal of their websites. EEMS wanted to give the opportunity to young scientists to develop the new EEMS website and held a contest, which was announced in issue no. 45 of the Newsletter. However, no response was received to this call. Therefore, it was decided to have the new website developed by a professional company. The aim was to have it running by December 2006. The organizers of the 2007 annual meeting in Basel

proposed to unite efforts to develop a website that contains the general EEMS information and also a separate frame for the annual meetings (including online registration, online payment, accommodation reservation...). This will avoid that each local organizer needs to establish its own website for the annual meeting, which is always a large budget item. It was decided that the EEMS will invest 3000\$, provided that the Treasurer agrees with this.

- Activity of councillors: the EEMS would like to encourage the councillors to transmit all provided info to the local society members; meeting announcements, calls for nominations for awards, Newsletters,... it is important that this information reaches the intended audience. In the future, it will also be possible for the EEMS secretary to directly contact all EEMS members, once the electronic membership directory is created.
- Elections: the EEMS is a society that follows a democratic approach both for the nomination of new officers (vice-president) and for all the awards. For your information, the responsibilities of all officers are listed below:
 - President: overall management of the society, young scientist travel awards
 - Vice-president: scientific programme of the annual meeting, chair of Award Committee
 - Past-president: international contacts, chair of Nominating Committee
 - Treasurer: financial aspects
 - Secretary: administrative support
- Young scientists: the number of travel awards for young scientist has been increased over the last few years: there were 4 in Maastricht (2004), 6 in Kos (2005), 8 in Prague (2006) and next year in Basel there will be given 10. In addition, next to the 2 poster prizes provided by Mutagenesis, the EEMS will also grant 2 poster prizes this year in Prague and next year in Basel.
- The EEMS suggests to have one session at the annual meeting organized by the former young scientist awardees. Speakers for this session would be proposed by the local societies, i.e. the winners of the local society's young scientist award. Their participation to this session would not exclude them from winning a young scientist or travel award. The local society should financially support this person's participation to the meeting. The councillors are requested to select the candidates at their local society's meeting.
- The councillors are encouraged to have EEMS activities and information highlighted at their local society's meeting to help EEMS to reach a broad audience.

E. Lorge (France) and D. Mielzyńska (Poland) point out that their local society has only a small number of young scientists.

3. Report from the Secretary

3.1. Renewal of Award and Nominating Committees in 2005

The Award committee is responsible for the selection of the Frits Sobels and Young Scientist Awards and is chaired by the vice-president. The Nominating committee is responsible for nominating 2 candidates to become the new vice-president and is chaired by the past-president.

Award committee

Chair: E. Dogliotti (Italy)
I.-D. Adler (Germany)
A. Carere (Italy)
P. Jenkinson (UK)
H. Norppa (Finland)
B. Schoket (Hungary)
R. Stetina (Czech Rep.)
H. Vrieling (Netherlands)

Nominating committee

Chair: K. Szyfter (Poland)
S. Dean (UK)
R. Crebelli (Italy)
A. Gabelova (Slovak Rep.)
D. Marzin (France)
R. Marcos (Spain)
L. Knudsen (Denmark)

3.2. New EEMS Councillors

The new EEMS councillors are:

- Croatia: Jasna Franekia Èolia (replacing Vera Garaj-Vrhovac)
- Czech & Slovak EMS: Pavel Rossner (replacing Alena Gabelova)
- Denmark: Jette Rank (replacing Lisbeth Knudsen)
- Greece: Dimitrios Kouretas (replacing Nikos A. Demopoulos)
- The Netherlands: Frederik-Jan van Schooten (replacing Joost van Delft)
- Poland: Danuta Mielcyńska (replacing Marcin Kruszewski)
- UK: Steve Dean (replacing Ian Mitchell)

3.3. Electronic membership directory

The secretary will shortly send out a template file to the national councillors (in Excel) containing a number of pre-defined column titles that should be completed with member info. This file can then be updated each year by the councillors.

3.4. Website

The current website requires some “modernization”; currently it does no longer meet the requirements of an informative and dynamic website. The style of the UKEMS and GUM websites is a good example. There was no response to the contest to design the new EEMS website, therefore a professional company will be contacted (see also Report from the President).

3.5. Newsletter

Starting from issue number 45, a PDF version of the Newsletter is available on the EEMS website. The newsletter was also sent out by e-mail to the national councillors for distribution among their members, with a request to specifically pay attention to the call for nominations for the YS, YST and FS awards and to the contest to design the new website. However, given the limited response that was received, it was felt that the intended audience was not reached. The committee considers that this is the responsibility of the councillors wishes to encourage them to take action.

The new newsletter (issue no. 46) is ready and will be available on the website shortly. A hard copy was given to the councillors and will also be sent to them electronically.

3.6. Vice-president elections

Given the cost price of the last elections (mailing of ballots), it was agreed that a new system for sending and receiving ballots is required. For the following elections of the EEMS vice-president in 2007 the following format was agreed: a cover letter and ballot will be sent by e-mail (PDF version), votes will be received by fax accompanied by cover letter with identification of member (ballot and cover letter are kept separately to ensure anonymous vote). Alternatively, completed ballots may be scanned and returned by e-mail (e-mail will serve as identification). In case a member has no e-mail available, the ballot and cover letter will be sent out by regular mail. Note: with the development of the new EEMS website, the possibility to implement an on-line voting system will be considered.

4. Report from the Treasurer

The Treasurer, R.A. Baan, provided the report of the EEMS accounts by e-mail: we were somewhat behind in paying our IAEMS dues, and a payment was made for 3 years, taking advantage of the low dollar. There were also some additional expenses in connection with the vice-Presidential elections. The winter meeting of the Executive Committee took place in Athens. To cover all the expenses, there was some money taken from the savings account. The Membership Fees from the different local Societies are our major source of income. The EEMS 'loan' that was given to the Organizers of the Maastricht Meeting has been returned. The EEMS US\$ account was terminated.

Interim Financial Report 2006 (this covers the first half of 2006):

A major - and very positive! - item is the money that was paid back to the EEMS by the Organizers of the Kos Meeting. Soterios Kyrtopoulos and his team achieved a great financial success and not only returned the EEMS 'loan', but a substantial sum on top of that. For this reason we were able to be generous in giving travel grants to young scientists. The winter meeting of the Executive Committee took place in Prague. Membership Fees for the current year will be collected in the next few months.

5. EEMS Awards 2005 (E. Dogliotti)

There was one nomination for the 2005 Fritz Sobels Award: Prof. Herman Autrup. He was nominated by Lisbeth Knudsen, president of Nord-EMS. His nomination was supported by the whole Award committee.

There were two nominations for the 2005 Young Scientist Award: Dr. Volker Arlt, nominated by Ian Mitchell (UKEMS) and David Phillips and Dr. Tania Schwerdtle, nominated by GUM. Because of his scientific quality, the large number of publications and his highly innovative research, Dr. Arlt was selected to be the winner.

It was noted that Dr. Arlt had received an EEMS Young Scientist Travel Award in 2000 (Budapest). S. Gundy wondered why she had not received the dossiers; it was noted that she is no longer a member of the Award Committee. The executive committee acknowledges the need to notify members that their term on a committee has ended.

6. EEMS Young Scientist Travel Awards (M. Kirsch-Volders)

See also Report from the President. The awardees are: Zuzana Dzubinkova (Slovak Republic), Hara Episkopou (Greece), Alexandra Horska (Slovak Republic), Lucyna Kapka (Poland), Pawel Kowalczyk (Poland), Eszter Nagy (Sweden), Anna Panek (Poland), Beatriz Perez (Spain).

7. Activity reports of the Councillors

UKEMS (A. Lynch)

UKEMS organized a joint meeting with the British Society for Toxicology. The meeting was very successful with 350 participants. Some of the topics were: genomic instability and ageing, use of stem cells in toxicology, current thinking in genetic toxicology and several young scientist presentations. In 2007, the annual meeting will be held in Cardiff and in 2008 potentially a joint meeting with Nord-EMS will be organized. The former president, Ian Mitchell, has been replaced by Steve Dean and Peter Farmer is his deputy.

The Masters programme in Genetic Toxicology has started its first year and there is an increasing interest in the course. The society's journal, Mutagenesis, continues to be successful. UKEMS has a very healthy financial status and wishes to point out that UKEMS bursaries are open to non-UK students also.

SIMA (E. Dogliotti)

SIMA has its annual meeting at the end of September together with the Life Science Societies. Two sessions will be the responsibility of SIMA: coordinating DNA repair processes and p53 from molecule to clinical applications. E. Dogliotti wishes to encourage the national societies to highlight EEMS related activities and calls for nominations etc at the annual meetings of the national societies.

GUM (H.J. Martus)

The annual meeting was organized in Darmstadt by Merck, RCC and Wella and was very successful. The board of the GUM was re-elected for a second term and the society has a good financial status. A second activity this year will be the DNA adduct workshop that is organized in Heidelberg at the end of September in association with ECNIS and the German Cancer Research Centre.

Belgium (L. Verschaeve)

Last year, the BEMS organized its annual meeting joined with the section of Genetic Toxicology of the Dutch Society for Toxicology. This year, there will be a joint meeting with the Belgian Society for Toxicology and Ecotoxicology in December. The meeting will cover new methods in toxicology and ecotoxicology, in a broad sense – from molecule level (in silico) to the ecosystem. The BEMS is a small society with approximately 30 members but a good financial status.

Norway (A. Krokje)

The society did not have an annual meeting for some years but will have a general assembly during the EEMS meeting in Prague. A possibility for the future is to organize a joint meeting with the Nordic Toxicology Society. Some of the members are active in ECNIS.

Hungary (S. Gundy)

A conference on Primary Prevention was organized this year; the meeting focussed on general aspects of prevention of cancer, cardiovascular disease and psychological disorders. The Hungarian EMS is a section of the Hungarian Society for Geneticists and organizes yearly a congress on toxicology. The society has only a limited number of members and therefore S. Gundy wondered what the minimal required number is for a national society. The secretary will distribute the EEMS rules to all councillors.

Croatia (J. Franekić Èoliæ)

This year, the annual meeting of Eurotox is held in Croatia and a lot of the members of the Croatian EMS are involved in the organization of this meeting. In addition, the society is busy with the preparation for the 2008 annual meeting of the EEMS.

Serbia (J. Knežević-Vukčević)

The Serbian section of EMS is part of the Serbian Society for Genetics and has a meeting every 5 years. Their last meeting was in December 2004. They participated to meetings of the Croatian Genetic Society last year and to the Slovenian Genetic Society this year. There will not be a meeting of the Serbian section this year.

Poland (D. Mielzyńska)

The Polish section elected a new board in 2005 and reports a decreased number of members and activities. Their main activity last year was the organization of the Gliwice Science Meeting with 4 scientific sessions.

The society has 47 members, of which only half has paid their annual fee. The councillor will contact these members to inform whether they still wish to be a member or not. D. Mielzyńska wishes to note that the registration fee for the annual meeting is very high and requests a reduced fee for 1 or 2 persons per national society. It is the position of the EEMS that the fee will not be modified. In compensation, the EEMS has increased the number of travel awards for young scientists.

Czech and Slovak EMS (P. Rossner)

The major activity of this society was obviously the organization of the 36th annual meeting of the EEMS in Prague. They also had an annual meeting in Brno in May. One of the topics was the reorganization of the Hygiene Service in the Czech Republic. This resulted in the closure

of several cytogenetic laboratories. An other topic was the impact of genotoxic and non-genotoxic compounds on human health and selected markers of exposure. There were several poster presentations and discussions.

SFTG (E. Lorge)

The French section of EMS had its annual meeting in June in Lyon and it s was a very successful event. Some of the topics were: overview of the outcome of the IWGT meeting in San Francisco and genetic polymorphisms and susceptibility for cancer. They also held a general assembly. SFTG will make an effort to try to attract more young scientists to join the society. The training course organized by Daniel Marzin will have its next session in December.

Denmark (J. Rank)

The Danish section of EMS is part of Nord-EMS and has approximately 30 members. The problem is that in general toxicology is not an “attractive” science at the moment and this is probably why there are not may members in the society currently.

8. Reports from the Special Interest Group coordinators

No SIG coordinators were present.

9. Report on EEMS journal on website (J. Parry)

J. Parry has had approaches from a number of publishers who are interested in incorporating the journal into their portfolio of publications. This could be a potential future income for the society. For this to be a success, original papers need to be published in this journal. He realizes that everyone is desperate for high impact papers but still considers that there could be interest for the sake of EEMS. Although the committee does not see a great future for this initiative and for the journal in general, they grant Jim the permission to negotiate with the publishers. An editorial board will be established. The councillors fear that when this journal has no impact factor, it will be unlikely that many manuscripts will be sent to this journal.

10. Future meetings

37th EEMS Meeting - Basel

The meeting organizers are Hans-Joerg Martus, Lutz Mueller and a local professional event organizer (Pablo Tosin). The venue is a university centre with lecture hall and meeting

infrastructure for break out sessions, catering,... and is located in the city centre. Contingents were blocked at local hotels. An insurance will be taken out to cover liability in case of total loss, payment cancellation etc. Wilfried Frieauff will be responsible for contacting potential sponsors and exhibitors. The scientific committee has been tentatively established. The programme topics are still under discussion. With 250 participants, a break-even balance would be obtained.

38th EEMS Meeting - Cavtat

The 38th Annual Meeting will be held in Cavtat (near Dubrovnik), Croatia, from September 21-25, 2008. The theme of the meeting is «Environmental Mutagens and Human Health». The local organizing committee will be formed around the group of Croatia Genetic Society. The scientific program of the meeting will cover the study of the genotoxic effects of threats to human health from chemicals, toxins and radiations in our environment. Molecular and structural studies have also augmented our understanding of many inherited and acquired genetic alterations that predispose individuals to cancer, premature aging and other diseases. The hotel Croatia will serve as the venue for the meeting. Trips to historical and cultural attractions will be organized. For more information, please see: www.hoteli-croatia.hr, www.visitdubrovnik.hr. More details on the program will be available later. Contact: Prof. J. Franekić Čolić (jfran@pbf.hr) and Prof. V. Garaj-Vrhovac (vgaraj@imi.hr).

ICEM Meeting - Florence

S. de Flora has given a presentation at the General Assembly.

Marlies De Boeck, EEMS Secretary