

16th Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 26 May 2021, 15.15-16.00 CEST

Meeting held virtually via Zoom Webinar

MINUTES

NB: Some items in the meeting were covered in a different order from the agenda. However, for the purpose of the minutes the items follow the order of the agenda.

1. Welcome and approval of agenda items

Andrea Giustina welcomed everyone to the AGM. There were no additional agenda items to be discussed and the agenda was approved.

2. Minutes of the 15th Annual General Meeting, 26 May 2020

Andrea Giustina asked for approval of the minutes of the 15th Annual General Meeting, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the meeting papers. No questions were raised, and the minutes were agreed and would be signed.

3. President's report

a. Farewell and welcome to the new Executive Committee Members

Andrea Giustina congratulated and welcomed the new President-Elect Jérôme Bertherat (France) and the two new Executive Committee members, Philippe Chanson (France) and Martin Fassnacht (Germany). He also welcomed Eva Coopmans as the ESE Young Endocrinologists and Scientists (EYES) representative as an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee.

Andrea Giustina thanked the retiring Executive Committee members: Felix Beuschlein (Germany, Science Committee Chair), Beata Kos-Kudła (Poland, Publishing and Communications Committee Chair) and Ayse Zengin (Australia, EYES representative).

Andrea Giustina informed the meeting that Philippe Chanson would take on the role of Publishing and Communications Committee Chair and Martin Fassnacht would take on the role of Science Committee Chair.

As this was his last meeting as President, Andrea Giustina summarised the objectives for his Presidency as part of the Inclusion Plan, which were all successfully met in this two-year term and included:

- Increase membership
- Improve collaboration with ESE National Affiliated Societies
- Develop a clear approach and set of activities for early career endocrinologists
- Improve the dissemination of the ESE brand
- Develop a strategy in relation to policy and advocacy
- Improve ESE's image and the level of media coverage around endocrinology
- Focus on rare diseases
- Improve the nomination process
- Expand the number of companies supporting ESE
- Develop a financially sustainability society

Andrea Giustina also summarised the COVID-19 related resources which were available to support the endocrine community, including:

- ESE Statements and 'Decalogue for endocrinologists in the COVID-19 pandemic'

- 6 COVID-19 related webinars on ESE Talks
- Centralized COVID-19 related resources on [ESE website](#)
- 'Endocrinology in the time of COVID-19' review series in EJE
- Joint COVID-19 data collection - ESE Rare Disease Committee, ENDO-ERN
- Survey to early career trainees to understand what additional resource could be provided during this period to support their careers
- ESE, the Endocrine Society, the Brazilian Society and UK Society for Endocrinology - shared COVID-19 web page for trainees

Andrea Giustina thanked the Executive Committee and the ESE Team.

4. Treasurer's report

a. Update on the report of the trustees (Executive Committee) and the audited accounts for the year ended December 2020

Djuro Macut presented a summary of the 2020 Financial statements. It was noted that the detailed Trustees Report and Financial Statements (draft) were included in Appendix 2 of the meeting papers, and, in addition, Appendix 3 provided a summary document "ESE Financial Headlines 2020 and outlook for 2021" had been circulated by email to all members prior to the AGM.

Djuro Macut reported that there was an operating deficit of €27 900 on activities in 2020; there had been a positive impact on investments with an unrealized gain of €79 200 and therefore the final movement in the funds showed an increase of €51 300 from the previous year.

Djuro Macut reported that the EJE reserve fund had been calculated as €1 414 000 and the ESE general reserve had been calculated at €1 785 000, the total of the reserves being €3 199 000.

The ESE general reserve policy was calculated to allow ESE to run the majority of its activities for a two-year period. The level of reserves recommended at €1 785 000 is less than 2020 (€2 334 000) as some of the elements of risk have been reduced due to the experience now gained through the pandemic in pivoting from in-person to digital events.

After deducting the restricted funds brought forward from the previous year the total held above the reserve requirement was €1 572 141. Djuro Macut noted that the Executive Committee was aware that at the end of 2020 significant funds were being held above the reserves and would take this into account when reviewing the strategy and investment in activities for future years. However, a relatively careful approach would be necessary due to the continuing uncertainty in relation to the pandemic and to ensure ESE's financial stability.

Questions regarding the Awards and Grants funding were raised. Awards and Grant funding in 2021 was approximately €70 000 compared to €180 000 2020. This was not because ESE had reduced the amount of funding available, but more because in-person events were not being organised and therefore members were not travelling to attend meetings (due to the pandemic). Registration grants for online ESE meetings had been available.

b. Resolution to appoint the auditor until the next AGM and to authorise the trustees (Executive Committee) to fix their remuneration

Djuro Macut informed the meeting that ESE is required to ask the members for their approval and acceptance of Moore Kingston Smith as the auditors until the next AGM and to authorise the trustees (Executive Committee) to fix their remuneration. Members who were not able to attend the AGM had the opportunity to submit their vote in advance by proxy and those who were present were able to participate in an online vote. The final result was confirmed as: 59 agreed, 0 did not agree and 4 abstained.

5. Secretary's report

Mónica Marazuela presented the Secretary's report and informed those present that the ESE membership was currently 5 009 representing 116 countries. Mónica Marazuela summarised the geographical and membership category data of the Ordinary members and reported on the Affiliated Society Members (53 national and 13 specialty) and Associate Members (6).

Mónica Marazuela informed the meeting that a total of €72 000 had been awarded to ESE Members in 2020 through the different ESE Awards and Grants on offer. This was lower than in 2019 as the pandemic had restricted the organisation of in-person meetings and travel. The Impact Factors for the journals were also presented, with the *European Journal of Endocrinology* (EJE) at 5.308, the highest ever; *Journal of Endocrinology* (JOE) at 4.041; *Journal of Molecular Endocrinology* (JME) at 3.562; *Endocrine-Related Cancer* (ERC) at 4.800; and *Endocrine Connections* (EC) at 2.592.

Mónica Marazuela informed the meeting of the upcoming meetings and events still being planned for in 2021, and these were mainly online for 2021 due to the ongoing restrictions: EYES 2021 (3-5 September 2021); 28th ESE Postgraduate Training Course on Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism (Autumn 2021); EndoBridge 2021 (21 – 24 October 2021); ESE Clinical Update on Acromegaly 2021 (Autumn 2021); ESE Clinical Update on Obesity 2021 (Autumn 2021); and EuroPit 2021, 21-23 November 2021 (to be confirmed). It was noted that the next ECE congress would be held in Milan, Italy, 21-24 May 2022.

Mónica Marazuela thanked the Corporate Members for their continued support.

a. Membership Review project

Martin Reincke updated the meeting on the progress of the membership strategy review and explained that the ESE Membership Committee had been reviewing the membership categories. The main objective of this part of the review had been to develop membership categories which would better serve the individual member and also reflected the diversity of our community. As a result of the review, and as explained in Appendix 3 of the meeting papers, members would now fit into one of five categories: Clinician, Clinician Scientist, Scientist, Nurse and Allied Health Professional. Each category would then be separated into Full, Early-Career, Student and Retired.

Martin Reincke explained that implementing this change would better place ESE to tailor the activities to each members need and provide relevant communications and benefits, rather than the 'one size fits all' approach. Members would receive notice of the changes and the process to ensure that they were placed in the most appropriate category. The new categorisation would be ready in time for the membership renewal process, which would start around October 2021. Martin Reincke also confirmed that there would be no change in the membership fees for 2022.

Martin Reincke announced that the new Patient Advocacy Group Membership would be launched later in the year, and the details were included in Appendix 3 of the meeting papers.

b. Changes to the ESE Constitution documents

Mónica Marazuela explained that changes to the Memorandum and Articles of Association (governing/constitution documents) required approval by the voting members. Appendix 4 of the meeting papers detailed the current wording and the proposed new wording. In summary, the amendments included:

- Location of meetings – wording to make clear that meetings could take place virtually, in person or a combination of both. This was in terms of Executive Committee meetings, the AGM, and the annual congress (ECE). In addition, clarity has been added regarding voting at virtual AGM meetings.
- Membership termination – a reduction in the time allowed for members to pay their membership fee from 6 months to 3 months.

Members who were not able to attend the AGM had had the opportunity to submit their vote in advance by proxy and those who were present were able to participate in an online vote. The final result was confirmed as: 61 agreed, 0 did not agree and 3 abstained.

6. Date of next Annual General Meeting

The next Annual General Meeting would be held during ECE 2022, Milan, Italy, 21-24 May 2022.

7. Any other business

There was no other business to discuss.

The results of the two votes held earlier in the meeting were announced (and the results are noted under the relevant agenda item).

8. Message from the President-Elect and the official hand-over of the ESE Presidency

Martin Reincke informed the meeting that he was extremely proud and happy to serve as President. With the support of Andrea Giustina, the Executive Committee, and the ESE Team he was fully prepared and ready to take on the responsibility. During his term as President, Martin Reincke would focus on innovation, building on ESE’s strengths and capacity – the best minds, the best strategies, and the best collaborations. Innovation was the natural basis of organic development and growth. It would help us through the unforeseen – the best way to prepare for the future was to generate our future. Having the best minds in our membership was exactly why our society was so strong. In his term of office, the ESE strategy would be revisited, as the current strategic plan ran until 2021. He would also look to introduce a strategic committee, a speciality society working task force and an ESE Academy for the next generation of ESE’s leaders. The most appropriate and best technologies would also be used to support our members.

Martin Reincke, on behalf of the Executive Committee, paid tribute to and thanked Andrea Giustina for his leadership, support, and dedication to the European Society of Endocrinology during his term of office.

Signed	_____	Andrea Giustina ESE President	Date	_____
Signed	_____	Andrea Davis ESE Office	Date	_____