

Minutes of the Meeting of the ESH Scientific Council

Milan, January 28, 2017

Present:

E. Agabiti-Rosei, President

C. Tsioufis, Secretary

M. Burnier, Treasurer

A. Dominiczak, Immediate Past President

ESH Council members:

M. Bochud

T. Kahan

E. Lurbe

P. van de Borne

D. Lovic

B. Williams

A. Coca

Executive officers

G. Mancia

G. Parati

D. Clement

C. Borghi

Apologies:

M. Azizi, Vice President

B. Jelakovic, Officer at Large

R. Kreutz

1. PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

The meeting was opened by the ESH President E. Agabiti-Rosei, who conveyed the apologies of M. Azizi, B. Jelakovic and R. Kreutz.

2. MINUTES OF ATHENS SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL MEETING, OCTOBER 29, 2016

The document was distributed to all Council members before the meeting, by the ESH Secretary C. Tsioufis and the Council unanimously accepted the minutes.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

M. Burnier has not made available the current ESH financial status by numbers but he stated that in general the economic situation of ESH is stable.

4. ESH FOUNDATION (BRIEF REPORT)

The Council discussed possible ways to increase the income of the ESH Foundation.

5. ESH COUNCIL 2017-2019

The President of ESH Prof. E. Agabiti-Rosei led the discussion for the nomination of the next President of the Society. Prof. E. Agabiti-Rosei stated that after previous long discussions with the members of the Council, the person that has unanimously concentrated the support of all the members is the Secretary of the Society Prof. Costas Tsioufis and that he will be in charge of the presidency after the Milan scientific meeting, in June 2017. The Council unanimously accepted the nomination of C. Tsioufis as the next President of ESH who will be elected by the ESH General Assembly in June 2017.

Along the same lines, Prof. E. Agabiti-Rosei nominated Prof. Andrzej Januszewicz (a.januszewicz@ikard.pl) from the Institute of Cardiology in Warsaw (Poland) as a new Council member who will be elected by the ESH General Assembly in June 2017.

Also, the ESH President proposed Prof. M. Bochud, to serve as the new Treasurer of the Society since M. Burnier will step down from the Council in June 2017 but he will remain as Treasurer of FESH.

6. FUTURE ESH MEETINGS

(a) 2017 ESH MEETING, MILAN

The Council participated in the programme committee meeting the morning of the same day so the scientific programme has been finalized with the exception of the selection of the abstracts for oral presentation or posters that will be done within the next few days, once the grading of the reviewers has been completed. The number of submitted abstracts (1346) was a little higher compared to the Paris meeting.

Maddalena Massaro presented some preliminary data regarding the sponsorship symposia and the schedule for the accommodation of the rooms.

The Council discussed again possible ways to improve the participations of the WG in the scientific programme of the meeting.

(b) 2018 ESH MEETING, BARCELONA

No specific news.

(c) 2019 ESH MEETING, MILAN

G. Mancia said that the discussion is open concerning the venue of the meeting, either in Rome or Milan.

(d) 2020 ESH/ISH MEETING, GLASGOW

A. Dominczak confirmed that the date of the 2020 ESH/ISH meeting in Glasgow will be moved to late May, in order not to coincide with the 2020 Euro Cup.

7. ESH EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

a) CURRENT STATUS ON THE RELATIONSHIP WITH ESC (JOINT SESSIONS, ESH/ESC GUIDELINES)

The Council was informed of the structure of the ESH/ESC joint session in the upcoming ESC meeting. A joint session for the upcoming ESH meeting will be submitted for approval by ESC.

B. Williams and G. Mancia commented on the on-going process of preparing the joint ESC/ESH guidelines in order to be ready for presentation in the ESH meeting in Barcelona, June 2018.

b) EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS WITH HYPERTENSION SOCIETY OF INDIA, UACME, CHL

E. Agabiti-Rosei and C. Tsioufis presented to the Council the proposals by Centrix concerning an ESH Educational Course for India on Hypertension and participation of India doctors in the ESH meeting.

c) MASTER COURSES

E. Agabiti-Rosei informed the Council of the Master courses organized by Menarini, Servier and Prof. Tsioufis of the Master class organized by Pfizer in Russia during the summer period. The organizers will pay a fee of 2000 euros to the Society according to the established rules.

d) ESH OMRON ACADEMY CONTRACT

Prof. A. Dominiczak and C. Tsioufis reported that the greater part of updating the slides set in order to be in line with the ESH guidelines has been done and that within the next few days the whole set of slides will be submitted to OMRON.

8. RESEARCH PROJECTS

The Council discussed the current status of ESH research activities in general.

9. UEMS AND EU CONNECTIONS - BioMed Alliance

First of all, Prof. E. Agabiti-Rosei thanked D. Clement for his continuous efforts and reminded the Council of the recent decision to cancel our membership to the BioMed Alliance. A series of considerations led to the final decision, although the Council certainly recognizes the highly cultural and scientific approach of the Alliance.

Prof. D. Clement reported the following:

1. ECDA and WHO in Brussels

There have been several meetings in EU context in the sector of health. The general trend is that chronic diseases in general get more interest, which was not the case until recently. Also, the Commissioner for health, a physician, has given several talks focusing on chronic disease with emphasis on cardiovascular risk factors. This is good for our Alliance (ECDA), as hypertension is a founding part

of it and we probably can be helped in our action on hypertension with focus on salt on one hand and insufficient control of BP in Europe on the other hand.

The meeting that summarized the interests of several countries best was the one organized by ECDA, NCD (chronic disease worldwide, not only European) and WHO. This meeting, largely closed, brought about 60 people around the table in Brussels and had clear participation from EU people (DGSanté) and from WHO. There were interesting talks on chronic disease in general and on specific topics such as food, alcohol, nicotine, salt (given by my colleague R. Vanholder, Head of Nephrology) and a few others.

There are a number of points to be remembered.

The first, as said above, is that awareness of chronic disease and its many implications such as the financial burden is sharply rising. This means that the time is ripe for contacting again the politicians responsible for the matter to get them informed on the topic of hypertension as a part of chronic disease. The best way to stimulate them in that respect is placing emphasis on stroke and cerebral vascular diseases linked to hypertension. I shall try to approach a number of these politicians again as done several times in the past, but it would be extremely helpful if all of us could stimulate their country members of the EU parliament (MEP) support.

Meetings like this (with WHO) are always quite interesting because they offer us the opportunity to contact high-level people that are otherwise difficult to reach in an informal way. The term “networking” which is becoming very fashionable, is very appropriate. It also is time to re-approach the people responsible at DC Santé, WHO (I have their addresses and re-opened the approach).

The endpoint for many actions is more and more shifted to 2025! Up to now, it was 2020. This can be considered as both good and bad. It is good, as they want to continue the actions set on but not finished, and bad as many feel that the goals of 2020 will not be reached on time.

2. UEMS in Brussels

We participated with the Thematic Federation on Hypertension at the October meeting of UEMS in Brussels. Interest in Hypertension is growing. We stimulated that interest substantially by organizing a blood pressure measurement session during the meeting. Almost everyone passing by accepted to get their pressure measured. Results are astonishing: 53% of the physicians present had values

above 140 and/or 90 mm Hg! Such unexpected results were announced at the general session of UEMS and opened the eyes of several. Chances to improve our impact there are evident.

One may wonder whether it could be of interest to organize such a session during our ESH meetings (for example in Milan).

10. ESH WEB PORTAL

The Council also discussed and decided to renew the proposed contract with Infomedica.

11. WORKING GROUPS – BRIEF UPDATE

G. Parati proceeded to a brief-update concerning the ESH Working Groups.

12. EUROPEAN HYPERTENSION SPECIALIST PROGRAMME (BRIEF UPDATE)

C. Tsioufis presented a brief report sent by M. Azizi of the European Hypertension Specialist Programme and the Council discussed the burning issue that ESH **Specialists who are not yet members should apply for ESH membership in order to maintain their status**. There are 1061 approved ESH Hypertension Specialists. Over 500 are both ESH Members and Hypertension Specialists of the ESH and over 200 Hypertension Specialists have been recertified since 2012. One factor contributed to that discrepancy is related to the fact that most of the ESH Specialists who are not members applied for Hypertension Specialist status before it became mandatory for Hypertension Specialists to be ESH Members and have never regularized their position. R Lynch sent out a test email to the 294 Hypertension Specialists in the ESH website database who are not ESH Members. No emails returned, so we can assume the email addresses are all valid. The remaining 226 Hypertension Specialists who are not ESH Members, have never registered on the ESH website and are not in the ESH website database.

Prior to the website, the list of Hypertension Specialists was kept manually and only a hard copy with the list of names of Hypertension Specialists who were nominated before 2009 (when the website was launched) is available.

After a long discussion, the Council decided that M. Azizi should send a letter stating that:

- To maintain their status as an ESH Hypertension Specialist they must apply for ESH membership no later than 1st July 2017.
- On confirmation of membership they must pay the annual membership fee.
- Specialists who have not applied for membership after 1st July 2017 will automatically lose their status and will be deleted from the directory of Hypertension Specialists.

Also, the Council decided to modify the first of the eligibility criteria regarding the minimum years of clinical experience by reducing it to no less than 5 years.

13. ESH SCIENTIFIC NEWSLETTERS

P. Van de Borne reported that the following 3 newsletters will be ready for the ESH meeting in Milan: **“Update on Hypertension and Left Ventricular Hypertrophy”** by Prof. Enrico Agabiti-Rosei, **“Update on Device Therapy in Hypertension”** by Prof. Costas Tsioufis and **“Detection of Early Cognitive Decline in Hypertension”** by Prof. Dariusz Gasecki on behalf of the Working Group Hypertension and the Brain.

14. ESH ENDORSEMENTS

P. Van de Borne informed the Council on the endorsement of the following meetings:

1. Update on hypertension and cardiovascular protection, Brescia Jan 12-14, 2017
2. Cardioconnect ASIA-PACIFIC, April 1st, 2017
3. Lithuania forum on hypertension, 13st March-1st April 2017

Also, ESH endorsed the following book edited by Emmanuel A. Andreadis :

Hypertension and Cardiovascular Disease, Springer

15. ESH CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE (BRIEF UPDATE)-

C. Tsioufis instead of B. Jelakovic presented a brief report on the ESH Excellence Centers programme.

16. DATES AND VENUES FOR THE FUTURE ESC SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL MEETING

E. Agabiti-Rosei announced that the future ESH scientific Council meeting will be held on September 30, 2017, in Glasgow.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND CLOSURE

E. Agabiti-Rosei thanked all the ESH scientific Council members who participated in the meeting.

Prof. Enrico Agabiti-Rosei
ESH President

Prof. Costas Tsioufis
ESH Secretary

