

**Minutes of the ESH General Assembly
ESH-ISH Joint Virtual Meeting
April 13, 2021 – 1:00 pm CEST**

MODERATORS

R. Kreutz, ESH President

K. Tsioufis, ESH Immediate Past President

AGENDA

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| 1. Opening | K. Tsioufis |
| 2. President's Welcome President's Report | R. Kreutz |
| 3. ESH Activities | A. Januszewicz |
| 4. Treasurer's Report ESH Foundation Financial Report | J. Polonia/M. Burnier |
| 5. ESH Office Bearers | K. Tsioufis |
| 6. Closing | R. Kreutz |

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

The Immediate Past President of the ESH, K. Tsioufis, opened the virtual General Assembly meeting on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 1.00 pm. He welcomed the audience and thanked them all for their attendance.

2. PRESIDENT'S WELCOME | PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President R. Kreutz also welcomed the audience and reported on some important initiatives carried out over the last year.

- The ESH, was one of the first societies to publish online on March 14, 2020 a statement on the Covid-19 pandemic and the use of RAS-blockers. A letter was sent to all ESH members urging them to join forces against the pandemic.
- A paper on "Hypertension, the renin-angiotensin system, and the risk of lower respiratory tract infections and lung injury: implications for Covid-19" was published by the ESH Covid-19 taskforce (R. Kreutz, E. Algharably, M. Azizi, P. Dobrowolski, T. Guzik, A. Januszewicz, A. Persu, A. Prejbisz, T. Riemer, J.-G. Wang, M. Burnier) in August 2020.
- Within the taskforce, many projects have been realized, such as a very successful Covid-19 survey among Excellence Centers and a study on the impact of the lock down and individual lifestyle on hypertension.

He informed the audience about the establishment of the ESH Coordinator position. Mandy Elgner, will work from a "virtual" office to assist with administrative work, coordination of ESH activities, Council meetings, conducting surveys, extent Social Media activities, and communication with members, National and International Societies, sponsors, and others.

Another important topic is the election of a new editor-in-chief for the Journal of Hypertension. Prof. Anthony Heagerty, Manchester, UK will start his work in the second half of the year. We look forward to working with him.

Furthermore, an important consensus document was published in March 2021. After more than one year of intensive discussions and collaboration with several colleagues from around the world the “2021 European Society of Hypertension practice guidelines for office and out-of-office blood pressure measurement” document was finalized and published. The paper and summary posters are available in the Journal of Hypertension for free download. The translation of the document into all important European languages by the National Societies is already in progress.

Finally, R. Kreutz reported on some changes within the ESH Working Groups:

- Re-focus among existing WGs: WG on Large Arteries and WG on Small Arteries
- Establishment of new WGs:
 - WG on Pharmacotherapy and Adherence
 - Future topics for WGs: Special Populations and Lifestyle & Environmental Factors

He thanked A. Persu for his excellent work on the coordination of all WG activities.

3. ESH ACTIVITIES

A. Januszewicz first reported on some personal ESH matters:

- Excellence Research Award from the Council on Hypertension of the American Heart Association was awarded to Prof. Giuseppe Mancia.
- Prof. Mancia and his colleagues published one of the major articles on the treatment of hypertensive patients during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The ESH mourns the loss of two great scientists in the field of hypertension: Peter Sleight (1929-2020) and Jiri Widimsky, Snr. (1925-2020).

He then moved on to the topic of ESH Meetings & Events. The next important meetings are:

- Annual Meetings: 2022 Athens Meeting (June 17-22), 2023 Milan Meeting (June 23-26)
- Pre-ESH Athens Satellite Symposium, September 25-26, 2021 in Milan
- After consultation by the ESH Scientific Council it was decided to postpone the ESH Summer School for another year to September 17-22, 2022 in Sremski Karlovci, Serbia.

As part of the ESH educational program, two webinars on the “Management of Hypertension during the Covid-19 Pandemic and beyond” were conducted and uploaded on the ESH website.

With the support of an unrestricted educational grant from the Menarini Group, two webinars on “Controversial and missing issues of recent hypertension guidelines” will take place in April and May 2021.

In addition, ESH has established another series of live webinars in cooperation with Siemens Healthineers Poland under the name *ESH-Siemens Educational Program*. All three webinars focus on radiological imaging techniques frequently used in hypertensive patients. The first event took place on February 11 and focused on renal Doppler ultrasound imaging in patients with hypertension.

In 2020 and 2021, a number of scientific newsletters have been published addressing novel or controversial topics in the field of hypertension. All newsletters can be downloaded from the ESH website.

Finally, A. Januszewicz reported on some future projects, such as the execution of a second Covid-19 survey among the Excellence Centers. The survey will be conducted through the new SoGo system.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT | ESH FOUNDATION FINANCIAL REPORT

J. Polonia, ESH Treasurer, presented the unaudited figures of the ESH for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2020. All figures were presented in Swiss Francs. He reported that the total ESH assets are slightly higher than in 2019, this is due to the lack of activities in times of the pandemic. ESH's main income results from the Annual Meeting in Athens, the royalties received and some donations. Expenses have also been lower due to the lack of activities. Overall, the financial situation is stable.

M. Burnier, FESH Treasurer, presented the unaudited financial situation of the FESH (Foundation of the European Society of Hypertension) for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2020. The FESH is in a stable financial condition. Incomes and expenditures have been low due to the lack of activities (e.g., Summer School). The profit has been quite low, but positive.

K. Tsioufis asked the audience for comments or questions. No comments or questions were received. The ESH and FESH figures were approved by the ESH members.

5. ESH OFFICE BEARERS

K. Tsioufis reported, that at the end of June 2021, the term of the ESH President, Immediate Past President and two other Council Members will officially end.

Due to the difficult COVID-19 situation and the resulting limited activities of the ESH in the last year and the challenges ahead of us, the ESH Scientific Council proposes the following:

- Extend the terms of the outgoing Council Members and the President/Immediate Past President for another year;
- The replacement of these positions would then take place at the 2022 Annual Meeting in Athens.

The audience was asked for their approval of the proposal. Since no concerns were raised, the proposal was unanimously approved.

6. CLOSING

R. Kreutz thanked the members, the ESH Council, the Working Groups and the entire team for their continuous support during the past year. He closed the meeting.

Berlin, April 27, 2021



Reinhold Kreutz
ESH President

Warsaw, April 27, 2021



Andrzej Januszewicz
ESH Secretary