

**Minutes of the ESH General Assembly
ESH 2022 Annual Meeting
Megaron Athens International Conference Center, Greece
June 19, 2022 – 12:30 PM EEST (local time Athens)**

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. Amendments to ESH By-Laws | R. Kreutz |
| 4. Brief Report on ESH Activities | A. Januszewicz |
| 5. Treasurer's Report ESH Foundation Financial Report | J. Polonia/M. Burnier |
| 6. Election of new Council Members & President | K. Tsioufis |
| 7. Any other business | |
| 8. Closing | R. Kreutz |

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

The Immediate Past President of the ESH, K. Tsioufis, opened the General Assembly on Sunday, June 19, 2022 at 12:30 pm EEST. 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 and on ongoing projects.

a) New Membership Categories (2023, optional 2022)

Membership at ESH has always been connected with a subscription to the Journal of Hypertension. The contract with the Publisher of the Journal, Wolters Kluwer, is currently under re-negotiation. But they already agreed on having no mandatory subscriptions anymore.

As a result, ESH would like to implement the following new membership categories:

Membership – Standard Fee

- With subscription to the online version of the Journal of Hypertension = € 100 + € X (determined by the Publisher of the Journal of Hypertension) per calendar year
- Without subscription to the Journal of Hypertension = € 100 per calendar year

Membership – Reduced Fee

- For ESH Young Fellows, other healthcare professionals (e.g., nurses) and professionals from low-income-countries
- Without online subscription to the Journal of Hypertension
- € 50 per calendar year

A combined ESH – ISH membership will not be offered anymore by ESH, but individuals can apply for individual membership in both societies.

All members will be contacted in due time and asked to renew their membership.

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

b) ESH Clinical Update and News

The ESH newsletters have been renamed "ESH Clinical Update and News". Co-editors have been appointed to review and approve the content (Rosa Maria Bruno, Georg Ehret). The new updates are published in Blood Pressure (open access) and are also available on the ESH website.

The first two issues have already been published:

- Hypertension in older patients: a STEP forward? (A. Benetos, A. Persu, R. Kreutz)
- Mild chronic hypertension in pregnancy: to treat or wait? (C. Thomopoulos, J. Brguljan, R. Cifkova, A. Persu, R. Kreutz)

More issues are already in the pipeline for 2022.

c) Covid-19 Task Force and Papers

A Covid-19 Task Force was already established in March 2020. Under their leadership, a number of papers on this topic have been published since then and some important surveys have been conducted among the ESH Excellence Centers.

Some examples of publications were shown to the audience.

d) Restructure of ESH Working Groups / new sections

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

- WG on Hypertension and Cardiovascular Disease in Special Populations was split into 3 sections:
 - Hypertension in Women
 - Hypertension in Older Adults
 - Hypertension in subjects living in or emigrating from low resource settings
- WG on Small Arteries: there are only 2 sections anymore.
 - Hypertension and Sexual Dysfunction
 - Microcirculation and Inflammation

The section on Endothelins and Endothelial Factors was dissolved.

- The WG on Obesity, Diabetes and Metabolic Risk Factors was renamed into WG on Diabetes and Metabolic Risk Factors
- The WG on Cardiovascular Pharmacotherapy and Adherence was renamed into WG on Lifestyle, Cardiovascular Pharmacotherapy and Adherence

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

e) New ESH 2023 / 2024 Hypertension Guidelines

R. Kreutz briefly reported that the ESH will develop independent Hypertension Guidelines from ESC. It is expected that they will be presented at the ESH Meeting in Milan in June 2023. A first kick-off meeting has already taken place in Athens.

3. AMENDMENTS TO ESH BY-LAWS

The last amendments to the ESH By-Laws were introduced in 2019. In particular, due to the implementation of new membership categories, some slight changes are necessary again.

With the support of the By-Laws Task Force, consisting of G. Mancia, A. Januszewicz, E. Lurbe and R. Kreutz, the amendments can be proposed today. They have already been approved by the ESH Scientific Council.

The amendments are:

- New layout and structure
- New membership categories – as proposed during the President’s Report
- Terms of Office Bearers need to be adjusted: Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Officer-at-Large can operate in their positions for two terms of two years
- Eligibility to vote in the General assembly only to members residing in Europe or from members of affiliated National Hypertension Societies

K. Tsioufis asked the members for their approval of the proposed amendments. There were no objections.

4. ESH ACTIVITIES

A. Januszewicz reported on some selected ESH activities over the past year.

a) Meetings and Events

- Pre-ESH Athens Satellite Symposium on “A roadmap to the new European Hypertension Guidelines, September 25-26, 2021 in Italy
- Post-ESH Athens Satellite Symposium, “30 Years of Cardiovascular Continuum: From Hypertension and Risk Factors to Target Organ Damage”, September 16-17, 2022 in Port Heli, Greece
- 2023 Annual Meeting will take place in Milan, June 23-26
- ESH 2022 Summer School will take place on September 17-22, 2022 in Sremski Karlovci, Serbia

b) Educational Activities

- In November 2021, three webinars on "Update on resistant hypertension: from pathophysiology to clinical management" were held in collaboration with Gedeon Richter Hungary. The webinars were very well attended by almost 800 physicians from all over Europe.
- As part of the ESH-Siemens Educational Imaging Program, a webinar entitled “Use of magnetic resonance and ultrasound in the imaging of the heart of hypertensive patients” was held in February 2022. Further editions in this series are already in the planning.

c) Ongoing and Future Projects

- As the result of two surveys on Covid-19 among the ESH Excellence Centers, two papers were published in the Journal of Hypertension and Blood Pressure:
 - The corona-virus disease 2019 pandemic compromised routine care for hypertension: a survey conducted among Excellence Centers of the European Society of Hypertension (2021)
 - Covid-19 associated reduction in hypertension-related diagnostic and therapeutic procedures in Excellence Centers of the European Society of Hypertension (2022)
- ESH ABPM Covid-19 Study: data collection is still ongoing. A protocol study article is in preparation to be published in Blood Pressure.

d) Publications

A. Januszewicz reported on 4 consensus documents that were published in 2021/2022:

- 2021 European Society of Hypertension practice guidelines for office and out-of-office blood pressure management (translations into more than 15 European languages are available on the ESH website)
- Hypertension and heart failure with preserved ejection fraction: position paper by the European Society of Hypertension
- European Society of Hypertension position paper on renal denervation 2021
- Cuffless blood pressure measuring devices: review and statement by the European Society of Hypertension Working Group on Blood Pressure Monitoring and Cardiovascular Variability

5. ESH TREASURER'S REPORT | ESH FOUNDATION FINANCIAL REPORT

J. Polonia, ESH Treasurer, presented the audited figures of the ESH for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2021. All figures were presented in Swiss Francs.

He reported that the total ESH income is slightly higher than in 2020, this is due to the increase of activities after the pandemic (e.g., virtual Annual Meeting in Glasgow, webinars) and the member subscriptions as well as the royalties received. Expenses have also been slightly higher due to the revived activities. Overall, the financial situation and the trend are stable.

M. Burnier, FESH Treasurer, presented the audited financial situation of the FESH (Foundation of the European Society of Hypertension) for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2021. The FESH is in a stable financial condition. Incomes and expenditures have been low due to the lack of activities.

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.

M. Burnier reported that the previous auditing company, PwC, has terminated its contract with ESH. A new company has to be found for the audit in 2022. After the evaluation of 3 proposals (by ESH President and Treasurers as well as Ornitag AG), a final candidate can be proposed: BRISE Treuhand GmbH.

K. Tsioufis asked the audience for their approval. The proposal to cooperate with BRISE Treuhand GmbH as the new auditor was unanimously accepted.

6. ELECTION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS & PRESIDENT

According to the ESH By-Laws, the terms of 4 elected Council members end up in June 2022. The ESH Council has nominated 4 new candidates:

Outgoing:

Konstantinos Tsioufis (Immediate Past President)
Bojan Jelakovic (Officer-at-Large)
Michel Azizi (Elected Member)
Bryan Williams (Elected Member)

Proposed candidates:

Christian Delles (U.K.)
Michalis Doumas (Greece)
Atul Pathak (France)
Alexandre Persu (Belgium)

Thomas Weber (already Elected Member) is nominated for the position as Officer-at-Large.

Reinhold Kreutz (current President) will continue as Immediate Past President, according to the ESH By-Laws.

K. Tsioufis asked the members for their approval of the proposed candidates. Since no concerns were raised, the proposals were unanimously accepted.

The position of the new ESH President was also vacant. As a candidate, Guido Grassi from Italy was proposed to the audience. This proposal was also unanimously approved.

G. Grassi thanked the former President R. Kreutz and the Council members for the nomination. He also thanked the members for the election and the trust they put in him. He will continue the successful work of R. Kreutz in the upcoming two years of his presidency.

Finally, A. Januszewicz asked the outgoing Council members on stage and presented them a certificate of merit.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other topics were raised by the audience.

8. CLOSING

R. Kreutz thanked the members, the ESH Council, the Working Groups and the entire team for their continuous support throughout his presidency and especially during the past year. He is looking forward to support the new ESH President in all matters. Then he closed the meeting.

Berlin, July 27, 2022



Reinhold Kreutz
ESH President

Warsaw, July 27, 2022



Andrzej Januszewicz
ESH Secretary