

**Minutes of the ESH General Assembly
ESH 2023 Annual Meeting
MiCo Milan Convention Center, Milan, Italy
June 25, 2023 – 12:30 PM CEST**

MODERATORS

G. Grassi, ESH President
R. Kreutz, ESH Immediate Past President

AGENDA

1. Opening | President's Welcome (G. Grassi)
2. President's Report (G. Grassi)
3. Amendments to ESH By-Laws (R. Kreutz)
4. Brief Report on ESH Activities (A. Januszewicz)
5. ESH Treasurer's Report | ESH Foundation Financial Report (J. Polonia | M. Burnier)
6. Change in ESH Office Bearers & Election of new Council Members (G. Grassi)
7. Farewell to departing Council members (G. Grassi)
8. Any other business (G. Grassi)
9. Closing (G. Grassi)

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

ESH President, G. Grassi, opened the General Assembly on Sunday, June 25, 2023 at 12:30 pm CEST. He welcomed the audience and thanked them all for their attendance.

2. PRESIDENT'S WELCOME | PRESIDENT'S REPORT

G. Grassi shared some important ESH matters with the members:

a) ESH Membership

Total number of ESH members = 3,282
European members = 1,677 from 40 European countries
Non-European members = 1,605 from 72 non-European countries

Two membership categories

Standard Membership = € 100 per calendar year*
Reduced membership = € 50 per calendar year* (for young fellows, nurses, other healthcare professionals, colleagues from low-income countries)

Both membership categories do not include the subscription to the Journal of Hypertension. A direct link from the ESH website to the publisher' website is arranged for colleagues who wish to subscribe to the Journal of Hypertension. ESH members are eligible for a special fee of 135 USD per calendar year.

b) ESH Working Groups

G. Grassi reported on the currently existing 12 ESH Working Groups. Elections will be held in some Working Groups to elect new Chairs, Vice-Chairs or Secretaries.

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

c) ESH Hypertension Summer School

The ESH Hypertension Summer School is one of the most important ESH initiatives. In 2023 the event will be held from September 24-29 at Villa Cagnola, Gazzada Schianno (VA), Italy.

There will be around 50 participants from 35 countries.

3. AMENDMENTS TO ESH BY-LAWS

Some changes in the structure of the society have been made and consequently the amendments need to be implemented in the current ESH By-laws. The last amendments to the ESH By-laws were made in June 2022 at the ESH Meeting in Athens.

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

The amendments consist in:

a) Abolishment of “Cross-Society” representations between ESH and ISH (§ 15.e)

Due to a re-structuring process within the ISH, they have decided to terminate all “cross-society” representations. As a consequence, there will be no ISH representative attending the ESH Council Meetings and vice versa.

§ 15.e Ex-Officio Members

Ex-Officio non-voting members of the Scientific ESH Council are:

- ~~– One ESH member designated by the International Society of Hypertension~~
- One ESH member representing FESH
- One ESH member representing the affiliated and associated National Hypertension Societies

b) Areas for the appointment of new ESH Executive Officers (§ 15.f)

It was proposed to add some new areas of interest that might be eligible to appoint ESH Executive Officers. In total, the following areas for installing Executive Officers are:

- Coordination of Working Group activities
- ESH Summer Schools
- Educational activities of the Society (reformulated)
- Research and communication activities of the Society (reformulated)

- Liaison with other (non-European) International Hypertension Societies or Scientific Bodies (reformulated)
- Young Fellows (NEW)
- General Practitioners Network (NEW)
- eHealth Technologies (NEW)

c) Establishment of Presidential and Advisory Board (new paragraph § 15.g)

During the ESH Council Meeting on October 29, 2022 in Warsaw, it was decided to install 2 new bodies for departing Council members:

§ 15.g Presidential & Advisory Board

After ESH Presidents have completed their respective two-year terms as President and Immediate Past President, they become members of the ESH Presidential Board. The Presidential Board is consulted whenever guidance is needed. A separate meeting between ESH Office Bearers and Presidential Board shall be held once a year, e.g. at each ESH Annual Meeting.

By decision of the Council, outgoing Council Members or Executive Officers might become members of the ESH Advisory Board to support the Society in specific matters. Selected members of the Advisory Board will be invited to ESH Council Meetings on demand. A separate meeting between ESH Office Bearers and Advisory Board shall be held once a year, e.g. at each ESH Annual Meeting.

R. Kreuzt 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 2023/2024

- 2024 ESH Annual Meeting will be held from May 31 to June 3, 2024 in Berlin, Germany
- ESH 2023 Hypertension Summer School will take place on September 24-29, 2023 in Gazzada Schianno (near Milan), Italy
- Satellite Symposia:
 - 9th Official Pre-ESH International Congress Satellite Symposium “Update on difficult to control hypertension and related comorbidities”, March 31-April 1, 2023, Athens, Greece
 - ESH Satellite symposium to the ESH Milan Meeting on “Environmental contexts of hypertension”, April 21-22, 2023, Cracow, Poland
 - European Forum on Hypertension, May 11-13, 2023, Gdansk, Poland
 - Nocturnal Blood Pressure: Methodological Aspects, Pathophysiological Mechanisms and Clinical Implications, June 22, 2023 – Milan, Italy
 - ESH 2023 Post Congress Satellite Symposium on the release of the 2023 Hypertension Guidelines, September 14-16, 2023 – Porto Heli, Greece
 - Hot topics in the automated BP measurement era, September 8, 2023 – San Daniele del Friuli, Italy

– *ESH Webinars:*

- Hypertension in special conditions and comorbidities: new insights in the therapeutic approach, Part I – January 24, 2023 / Part II – February 21, 2023; Webinars in cooperation with Menarini

b) Ongoing and Future Projects

ESH ABPM Covid-19 Study

A. Januszewicz gave an update on the ESH ABPM Covid-19 Study. 32 European ESH Excellence Centres (plus Israel) took part in the study. 3,384 ABPMs have been collected. A first draft of the manuscript is ready.

Situation of the National Board Certification as a Hypertension Specialist in Europe

A. Januszewicz presented a new study. The idea was born during the ESH 2022 Meeting in Athens during the meetings with Representatives of National Hypertension Societies. On that occasion, the local situation regarding certification as a hypertension specialist was discussed. The conclusion was that the situation varies from country to country and is different even in the same geographic regions of Europe.

A task force for the study has already been established. The first survey on this topic was sent to the Presidents of the ESH affiliated and associated National Hypertension Societies.

So far, 19 responses have been received. A second, more detailed survey will be sent out in the fall of 2023.

Hypertension and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders in Ukrainian Refugees

This new project will investigate “the impact of war-induced stress on the development and progression of arterial hypertension and cardiovascular disease in Ukrainian female refugees” (acronym = War-Scar). The project is conducted in cooperation with the Medical University in Gdansk, Poland. It is an international cooperation with research teams from three countries: Belgium, Switzerland and Ukraine.

The project implementation officially started on March 1, 2023, and it will last for 24 months until February 28, 2025.

c) Publications

A. Januszewicz reported on a large number of consensus documents/papers published in 2023.

Among these publications, the most important one for the Society is the publication of the “2023 ESH Guidelines for the Management of Arterial Hypertension”. The guidelines are endorsed by the European Renal Association (ERA) and the International Society of Hypertension (ISH). The congress program of the Milan meeting includes three different sessions addressing different aspects of the paper.

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, 2022. All figures were presented in Swiss Francs.

- Net assets at beginning of period = 1,996,357.32
- Profit/loss: Net result for 2022 = -2,166.97

- Net assets at end of period = 1,994,190.35
- Total income = 284,910
- Total expenditures = 287,077

Additional data for 2023 (not audited):

- EUR 30,000 was received for a research grant from Servier.
- EUR 54,187 was received from Sanofi as contribution to the ESH 2023 Symposium. The money is expected to be accredited to the ESH account in the next two/three weeks.
- Membership fees are still incoming.

Although there was a slight loss in 2022 compared to 2021, the overall situation continues to be stable.

M. Burnier presented the audited balance sheet of the FESH on December 31, 2022. All figures were presented in Swiss Francs.

- Current assets in 2022 = 562,830.94
- Net result for 2022 = 37,812.16

The financial situation continues to be stable.

R. Kreutz asked the audience for comments or questions. No comments or questions were raised.

R. Kreutz asked the members present and entitled to vote if they had taken note of the audit report and if the annual financial statements presented were unanimously approved. There were no objections. Thus, the Scientific Council is declared discharged.

6. CHANGE IN ESH OFFICE BEARERS & ELECTION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

a) Election of new Council members

According to the ESH By-Laws, the terms of 2 elected Council members ended in June 2023. The ESH Council has nominated 2 new candidates:

Outgoing:

Empar Lurbe (Vice-President)
Thomas Kahan (Elected Member)

Proposed candidates:

Enrique Rodilla (Spain) → to replace E. Lurbe as Spanish representative
Lene Halvorsen (Norway) → to directly succeed T. Kahan as Scandinavian representative

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

b) Change in ESH Office Bearers

As the term of E. Lurbe as Vice President is expiring, this position is vacant. Andrzej Januszewicz, the current ESH Secretary, is proposed as a candidate for this position.

If the nomination of A. Januszewicz is accepted as the new Vice President of the Society, the position of Secretary will become vacant. Thomas Weber, currently the Officer-at-Large of ESH, has been proposed as a candidate for this position.

If the nomination of T. Weber as the new Secretary of the Society is accepted, the position of Officer-at-Large will become vacant. Michalis Doumas, currently one of the elected members of the Council, was proposed as a candidate for this position.

G. Grassi asked the members for their approval of the proposed candidates. As no objections were raised, the proposals were unanimously approved.

7. FAREWELL TO DEPARTING COUNCIL MEMBERS

G. Grassi thanked Thomas Kahan for his tireless commitment to the Council and presented him with a Certificate of Merit.

Unfortunately, E. Lurbe could not attend the Milan meeting for personal reasons. She will receive her Certificate of Merit after the congress.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

G. Grassi reported that three countries submitted a proposal to host the 2026 ESH Annual Meeting. These countries were invited to give a short presentation at the Milan meeting (June 24). Poland, Latvia and the Baltic States, and Turkey presented their proposal. Following the presentations, the ESH Bid Committee (ESH President, ESH Immediate Past President, ESH Treasurer, ESH Working Group Coordinator, ESH Officer at Large, ESH Educational Committee Chair) met to decide on the winner.


G. Grassi announced that Poland has been selected to host the 2026 ESH Annual Meeting. The congress will be held in Gdansk. K. Narkiewicz and A. Januszewicz, both members of the organizing committee for the 2026 ESH Meeting, thanked the Bid Committee for their decision.

The President encouraged the other candidates to reapply for the 2028 call for proposals.

9. CLOSING

G. Grassi thanked the members, the ESH Council, the Working Groups, and the entire team for their support during the past year, he then closed the meeting.

Milan, August 22, 2023



Guido Grassi
ESH President

Warsaw, August 23, 2023



Andrzej Januszewicz
ESH Secretary