

**Minutes of the ESH General Assembly
ESH 2024 Annual Meeting
Estrel Congress Center, Berlin, Germany
June 2, 2024 – 1:00 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. Brief Report on ESH Activities (T. Weber)
4. Treasurer's Reports | ESH & ESH Foundation Financial Report (J. Polonia | M. Burnier)
5. Election of new President (R. Kreutz)
6. Election of new elected Council members (G. Grassi)
7. New positions in the Council & confirmation of ongoing positions (T. Weber)
8. Any other business (T. Weber)
9. Closing (G. Grassi)

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

ESH President, G. Grassi, opened the General Assembly on Sunday, June 2, 2024 at 1:00 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 = 2,385 (as of May, 2024)

New members (from July 2023 to May 15, 2024) = 121

84 from European countries

37 from non-European countries (Africa, Asia, Middle East, Oceania, North and South America)

Paid and renewed 2024 membership fees = 344

Standard fees paid (€ 100.00 per calendar year) = 318

Reduced fees paid (€ 50.00 per calendar year) = 26

All new members attending the Berlin congress were invited to pick up their membership certificate at the ESH booth.

b) ESH Working Groups

G. Grassi reported on the currently existing 15 ESH Working Groups. Elections will be held during or after the 2024 Berlin congress in some Working Groups to elect new Chairs, Vice-Chairs or Secretaries. Some Working Groups are very active. A lot of papers were published during the last year. He thanked A. Persu for his excellent work on the coordination of all WG activities.

3. ESH ACTIVITIES

T. Weber reported on some selected ESH activities over the past year and for the upcoming year.

a) ESH Hypertension Summer Schools 2023 and 2024

The Hypertension Summer School is one of the ESH's most important initiatives. In 2023, the event took place from September 24 to 29 at Villa Cagnola, Gazzada Schianno (VA), Italy. It was attended by 50 participants from 34 countries. Special thanks to Gianfranco Parati, the local organizer, and Jana Brguljan, the coordinator of the ESH Summer School, for this very successful Summer School edition, where many innovations were introduced to the structure of the school to involve the participants more actively, e.g. in practical sessions on various topics.

The ESH Hypertension Summer School 2024 will take place from September 15 to 20, 2024 in Opio en Provence in France, near Nice. 65 participants from 35 countries (European and non-European) have already registered. Atul Pathak, this year's local organizer, and Jana Brguljan will maintain a similar program structure.

b) Meetings and Events 2023/2024

Satellite Meetings and Symposia

- 10th Official Pre-ESH Congress Satellite Symposium “Update on difficult to control hypertension and related comorbidities”, March 15-16, 2024, Athens, Greece
- European Forum on Hypertension, April 25-27, 2024, Gdansk, Poland
- ESH 2024 Post Congress Satellite Symposium on behalf of the ESH WG on Diabetes & Metabolic Risk Factors “International Meeting on Cardiometabolic Diseases, Obesity and Diabetes”, September 4-8, 2024, Porto Heli, Greece
- 17th ESH Post Congress Satellite Symposium “2023 ESH Hypertension Guidelines and Hot Topics in the Era of Cardiovascular Continuum”, September 12-14, 2024, Greece
- “Highlights of Environmental Factors in Hypertension” on behalf of the new ESH WG on Environment in Hypertension, October 11-12, 2024, Krakow, Poland

ESH Webinars

- “2023 ESH Hypertension Guidelines Insights: What is new?”, June 28, 2023, in cooperation with Servier
- “ESH 2023 Guidelines on the Management of Hypertension: what is new, what is confirmed” (Part I + Part II), February 20 + March 19, 2024, in cooperation with Menarini
- Educational Webinar Series on the implications of the 2023 ESH Guidelines for the Management of Arterial Hypertension in clinical practice, February 27 + March 13, 2024, in cooperation with Recor Medical

Endorsed Meetings

- 8th Hypertension School of the Hellenic Society of Hypertension, February 1-4, 2024 in Athens, Greece

- Hypertension Cardio Course, supported by Servier, February 2-3, 2024 in Croatia
- Workshop on "Deprescribing antihypertensive medications in older patients: Indications, risks, benefits and clinical practice", February 2, 2024 in Nancy, France
- 11th Mediterranean Meeting on Hypertension and Atherosclerosis, April 25 – 28, 2024, in Antalya, Turkey
- 22nd National Hypertension and Cardiovascular Diseases Congress, May 3-5, 2024 in Izmir, Turkey
- FemDIP 2024 - 12th International DIP & FemTech Symposium on Innovative Perinatal Medicine: Improving Global Maternal Offspring Health, May 23 – 25, 2024 in Sorrento, Italy
- Cardiometabolic & Venous Diseases Forum – Moving Towards Holistic Approach to Patients with Multi-Morbidities, May 25 – 26, 2024 in Dubrovnik, Croatia

c) 2023 ESH Guidelines for the Management of Arterial Hypertension

The final version of the ESH Guidelines was published in December 2023. Since then, a large number of articles on the guidelines have been published in various specialist journals.

d) Selected Working Group, Excellence Centre and GP Network Publications

T. Weber reported on a large number of publications generated by the different ESH Working Groups, the ESH Centers of Excellence and the newly founded ESH General Practitioners Network. Since it was not possible to mention all of them, he only presented a few examples.

e) 2024 ESH Clinical Practice Guidelines

The new ESH Clinical Practice Guidelines have been accepted and will be published quite soon in the European Journal of Internal Medicine.

f) Selected Research Projects

T. Weber briefly reported on the progress of 3 important research projects:

- Hypertension and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in Ukrainian Refugees
- ESH ABPM Covid-19 Study
- HAMA project in France on behalf of the Working Group on Hypertension and the Kidney

g) ESH Affiliated and Associated National Hypertension Societies

A list of all currently affiliated (n=36) and associated (n=12) National Hypertension Societies was shown to the audience. The societies are involved in various ESH projects, including the Summer School. A survey was conducted in 2023, to analyze the situation of the National Board Certification as a Hypertension Specialist in Europe. The conclusion was that the situation varies from country to country and is different even in the same geographic regions of Europe. The goal will be to harmonize the programs.

h) ESH Excellence Centres and ESH Hypertension Specialists

Some current figures were shown to the ESH members:

ESH Excellence Centres

Total number of Excellence Centres (EC) = 210

ECs in Europe = 193

European countries = 36

Associated ECs outside Europe = 17

Countries outside Europe = 9 in 4 continents (Asia, Middle East, Oceania, South America)

New ECs approved:

2023 = 3

2024 = 4

ESH Hypertension Specialists

Total number of Hypertension Specialists (EHS) = 646

EHS in Europe = 608

European countries = 36

Associated EHS outside Europe = 38

Countries outside Europe = 38 in 5 continents (Asia, Middle East, Oceania, North & South America)

New EHS approved:

2023 = 4

2024 = 13

Due to the great work by C. Delles and M. Doumas, there is a lively discussion about future projects in collaboration with the ESH Excellence Centres, and the number of ECs and EHSs is slowly increasing.

4. TREASURER'S REPORTS

a) ESH Financial Report

J. Polonia, ESH Treasurer, presented the audited figures of the ESH for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2023. All figures were presented in Swiss Francs.

- Net assets at beginning of period = 1,994,190.35 (in 2022: 1,996,357)
- Profit/loss: Net result for 2022 = -2,189.60 (in 2022: -2,166.97)
- Net assets at end of period = 1,992,000.75 (in 2022: 1,994,190.35)
- Total income = 298,510 (in 2022: 284,910)
- Total expenditures = 300,699 (in 2022: 287,077)

There is no big difference in the results of 2022 compared to 2023. A good balance between income and expenditure was achieved.

One of the expenses was highlighted in particular: the invoice from the publisher Wolters Kluwer for the publication of the 2023 ESH Guidelines (CHF 50,027). As the number of pages included in the contract was far exceeded, an additional payment had to be made.

Overall, the situation remains stable.

b) ESH Foundation Financial Report

M. Burnier, treasurer of the ESH Foundation, presented the audited balance sheet of the FESH on December 31, 2023. All figures were presented in Swiss Francs.

- Current assets in 2023 = 687,456.91 (in 2022: 562,830.94)
- Net result for 2022 = - 183,271.62 (in 2022: 37,812.16)

FESH is still waiting for the allowance for the Summer School from the ESH and for financial support from the industry for two Working Group related projects (WG on Lifestyle, Cardiovascular Pharmacotherapy and Adherence and the WG on Blood Pressure Monitoring). These contributions are expected to amount around CHF 324,941.

Overall, the financial situation continues to be stable.

M. Burnier asked the audience for comments or questions on both financial statements. No comments or questions were raised.

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

c) Change of audit company for ESH and ESH Foundation

The current auditor, BRISE Treuhand GmbH, informed us about organizational changes within the group. Since it will only be an organizational change within the group, the same person will take care of the audit 2023 as was the case for 2022.

However, since there is a change of the audit company, the official approval of the “new” auditor, SMART Audit AG, needs to be done here at the General Assembly for both ESH and FESH.

M. Burnier asked the members for their approval. The new audit company was unanimously confirmed.

5. ELECTION OF NEW PRESIDENT

R. Kreutz explained that the term of Guido Grassi as ESH President will terminate with the 2024 Berlin meeting after 2 years. He will remain in the ESH Council as Immediate Past President.

The proposal of the ESH Council for the position of **President** is: **Thomas Weber** (currently ESH Secretary)

R. Kreutz asked for the approval of the proposed candidate. Since no objections were raised, the proposal was unanimously accepted.

6. ELECTION OF NEW ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS

G. Grassi showed an organigram of the current elected Council members (n=11).

Since the nomination of T. Weber as the new President of the Society was accepted, the position of Secretary will be vacant.

The ESH Council proposes **Christian Delles** as their candidate for the position of **Secretary**. He is already an elected member of the ESH Council and responsible for the Excellence Centre Program, together with M. Doumas.

After 2 years in the position of ESH President and 2 years in the position of Immediate Past President, Reinhold Kreutz will leave the group of elected Council members in June 2024. In order to have 11 elected Council members (according to ESH By-Laws), his seat in the Council needs to be replaced.

The ESH Council proposes **Jan Danser**, currently Executive Officer for ESH Young Fellows, as their candidate for the position of **elected member** within the Council.

G. Grassi asked for the approval of the proposed candidates. No objections were raised. The proposals were unanimously accepted.

7. NEW POSITIONS IN THE COUNCIL AND CONFIRMATION OF ONGOING POSITIONS

T. Weber reported that Reinhold Kreutz is leaving the group of elected Council members. Since he has done a lot during his terms as Secretary, President and Past President of the society, the ESH Council proposed him a new position: Executive Officer for Conference Planning.

The audience responded to this suggestion with great applause.

T. Weber presented an overview of the elected Council members (n=11) following the elections carried out immediately before.

Office Bearers

- T. Weber (President) - NEW
- A. Januszewicz (Vice-President) – REMAINS
- C. Delles (Secretary) – NEW
- G. Grassi (Immediate Past President) - NEW
- J. Polonia (Treasurer) - REMAINS
- M. Doumas (Officer at Large + EC Coordinator) – REMAINS

Other elected Members/Officers

- J. Danser - NEW
- L. Halvorsen - REMAINS
- A. Pathak - REMAINS
- A. Persu (WG Coordinator) - REMAINS
- E. Rodilla - REMAINS

T. Weber suggested that all not newly elected officers will stay for another term of at least 1 year until the next ESH General Assembly.

He asked for the approval of these positions. No objections were raised. Thus, all positions are confirmed.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Association request by two national hypertension societies

T. Weber reported that the ESH has received two applications from national hypertension societies outside Europe to become officially associated with ESH.

These societies are:

- Iraqi Hypertension Society
- AMPAC - Asociación Mexicana para la Prevención de la Aterosclerosis y sus Complicaciones

Both societies have submitted the required documents and are very active in the fight against hypertension in their regions. The ESH Council therefore proposes that both be included in the ESH Association Program.

T. Weber asked the audience for their approval. No objections were raised.

b) Approval of new ESH members (July 2023 – May 2024)

T. Weber presented a list of all new applications for membership of the ESH received between July 2023 and May 2024. The total number of new membership applications is 121 (84 from Europe, 37 from outside Europe).

According to the ESH By Laws, all new members must be officially approved by the ESH General Assembly. T. Weber asked those present for their approval. All new members were confirmed unanimously.

9. CLOSING

G. Grassi thanked the members, the ESH Council, the Working Groups, and the entire team for their support during the past two years of his Presidency. It has been a very good relationship and fruitful cooperation.


He then closed the meeting.

Milan, Italy, June 13, 2024



Guido Grassi
ESH President

Wels, Austria, June 16, 2024



Thomas Weber
ESH Secretary