

XXXVIIIth European Muscle Conference, Lille  
12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> September 2009

Minutes of General Assembly of European Society for Muscle Research held 14<sup>th</sup> September 2009 at the XXXVIIIth European Muscle Conference, Lille, France

**01/09** The President of the European Society for Muscle Research (ESMR), Professor Anders Arner, welcomed the assembly to the meeting and explained the nature of the ESMR and its relationship to the European Muscle Conferences.

**02/09** Professor Arner proposed to the assembly that Prof John Sparrow be appointed to take the Minutes of the General Assembly.

This was **agreed**.

**03/09** Professor Arner reported on the function and membership of the Board of the ESMR.

**04/09** Professor Arner proposed that the Minutes of the General Assembly held at the XXXVII European Muscle Conference in Oxford be approved.

This was **agreed**.

**05/09** Prof Renata Dabrowska:

Professor Arner asked Prof Marcus Schaub to give an 'in memoriam' presentation about Prof Renata Dabrowska, Nencki Institute, Warsaw. He related her long and successful career as a muscle biochemist, her significant contributions to muscle science, her qualities as a scientist, colleague, friend and mentor. Prof Arner thanked Prof Schaub for his eulogy.

**06/09** Homepage:

Professor Arner announced that the homepage of the ESMR was currently being improved and would be shortly on-line. He suggested that it should be seen as a valuable resource to future organisers of EMC meetings and for the discussion and dissemination of issues relating to the ESMR and its Board.

**07/09** Name of the Society:

There had been some proposals to change the name of the ESMR to better reflect the research interests of those who attend the EMC meetings. One proposal was to rename the society – the European Society for Research in Muscle and Motility.

After discussion it was **agreed** that the Board should discuss the issue further and bring any proposal to the next Assembly at the XXXIXth EMC meeting in Padua, 2010.

**08/09** Review of Society Statutes:

Arising from minute 03/08, where Prof Arner had proposed that the ESMR needed to be registered as a charity in a European state, he had drafted statutes (copy attached as Enclosure 1). Prof Arner led the Assembly through these draft

statutes asking for amendments/discussion.

There were no objections or revisions suggested.

The Statutes as proposed were **approved** by the Assembly.

**09/09** Economical statement, charge of liability for board members:

Professor Arner reported that the Society had accrued funds in excess of 26K Euros from returns and membership levies on attendance at EMC meetings.

He informed the Assembly that these funds had been accumulated as an insurance against any unanticipated major losses from an EMC meeting. He invited discussion of whether these funds were an adequate insurance against such losses, whether the ESMR should continue to accrue these funds by a membership levy and, if these funds were deemed adequate, whether the EMSR should continue to collect a levy and, if so, to what purposes.

After quite lively discussion it was **proposed** that the Assembly:

- a) instruct the Board to determine whether current ESMR funds were adequate as an insurance against the risk of losses incurred by a future EMC.
- b) ask the Board if it considered that the funds were now adequate for this purpose, to consider whether further monies raised by the membership levy should be used for other purposes in line with the aims of the ESMR.
- c) ask the Board if it wished to make proposals for other uses of funds to put these to the next Assembly in Padua, for discussion by the membership.

This was **agreed**.

It was proposed that until the Board had been able to meet and discuss the above issues, that the membership levy (10 euros per EMC delegate) would remain unchanged.

This was **agreed**.

On behalf of the Board of the ESMR. Professor Arner invited the members of the Assembly and those members of the ESMR not present to provide Board members with their views on these financial issues.

**09/10** On behalf of the Board Prof Arner proposed that an additional member of the Board be elected and nominated Dr Wolfgang Linke (Bochum, Germany).

This was **approved** by the Assembly

**09/11** Auditors:

For 2009/10 it was proposed that the Auditor be Prof Roberto Bottinelli and the Deputy Auditor be Prof Ingo Morano.

These were **approved** by the Assembly

09/12 Prof Arner reported that the next EMC meeting would be held in Padova in 2010.

The proposal (from Professor Ingo Morano) to hold the 2011 in Berlin was being considered, as were further proposals that future EMC meetings be in Greece and in Moscow.

09/13 Professor Arner asked the Assembly if there were other issues members to raise. There being none, he thanked the members for attending and asked Prof Carlo Reggiani to give an outline for the plans for the XXXIX<sup>th</sup> meeting in Padova 2010, before closing the Assembly.

Prof John C. Sparrow

24<sup>th</sup> September 2009