

European Society of Toxicologic Pathology e.V.

Minutes of the Annual General Assembly held on 17th September 2009, 4:50 – 6:15 pm The Hague, Netherlands

55 members attended

1. **Welcome and Introductory remarks**

The meeting was opened at 4.50 pm by the Chairman Ingrid Sjögren. She warmly welcomed the members and stated that the invitation was sent on 16th July 2009, 2 months prior to the meeting according to the constitution. Thus the assembly had a quorum.
2. **Approval of Agenda**

The previously circulated agenda was accepted.
3. **Approval of Minutes of AGA 2008**

The minutes of the Annual Meeting held in Edinburgh, Scotland, had been sent out to the members by the secretary, Annette Romeike, and were accepted as a true record.
4. **Report of Executive Committee**

The report was circulated by e-mail; printouts were available in the meeting. Ingrid Sjögren presented the executive committee report and pointed out the highlights:

She thanked the scientific and local organising committee which was very able chaired by Bob Thoolen for setting up the 7th congress in the nice venue in The Hague. She also thanked the IATP organisers as well as solution office and Bob's assistant Suzy for the organisation.

She stated that the Executive Committee was elected at the General Assembly in Edinburgh for a two year period. The members of the committee are:
Ingrid Sjögren (Denmark, Chairman), Annette Romeike (France, Designated Chairman), John Finch (UK, Past Chairman), Ursula Junker Walker (Switzerland, Vice Chairman), Annette Romeike (France, Secretary), Matthias Rinke (Germany, Treasurer), Catherine George (France, IFSTP Councillor), Wolfgang Drommer (Germany, Representative of University Teachers), Sibylle Gröters (Germany, Representative of the Younger Generation), Birgit Kittel (Switzerland, Journal), Zuhail Dincer (UK, Newsletter, coopted), Rupert Kellner (Germany, Councillor for Electronic Communication), Susanne Rittinghausen (Germany, Representative RITA and nomenclature, coopted), Erio Barale-Thomas (Belgium, SFPT Representative), Bob Thoolen (The Netherlands, Dutch Society Representative).

By approval of the Annual General Assembly 2008, four sister societies can provide a representative in the board:
Bob Thoolen was accepted as representative of the Dutch Society of Toxicologic Pathology, Erio Barale-Thomas was accepted as representative of the French Society. Dr. Francesco Marchesi

was suggested in February 2009 as representative of the Italian Society and the assembly had to vote on his acceptance later during the meeting. The British Society of Toxicologic Pathology had not suggested any representative so far.

Ingrid Sjögren pointed out the co-operation with the Society of Toxicologic Pathology, especially in North America and Japan in the INHAND initiative, and the development of good relationships with the Society of Hungarian Toxicologists, which will be further established during the 8th congress 2010 to be held in Budapest and hosted by the Hungarian Society.

Also the committee was delighted that the annual BSTP Chirukandath Gopinath Lecture named for one of the most influential and well liked practitioners in the profession was part of the programme. The BSTP is generously funding this lecture for this and future congresses.

On external relations, Ingrid mentioned that a manuscript for publication in different journals for toxicopathology regarding global recognition of toxicopathologists had been circulated by Catherine George to the ESTP membership for comments in the autumn of 2008. In addition a more formal contact with the STPs' Scientific and Regulatory Committee has been established. The contact person is Ursula Junker-Walker. All members were invited to participate by sending comments on such manuscripts.

There were no further questions or comments on the report of the Executive Committee.

5. Report of the Local Organising Committee

Bob Thoolen reported that everything was running according to plan. He suggested an improved possibility for hot spots for the participant's use of laptops. Also he asked the participants to use the feedback forms as there was not much feedback during the assembly.

6. Report of Awards Committee

Thomas Nolte as chair of the awards committee was not present. Ingrid Sjögren summarized the report that had been previously circulated by email. The ESTP offers two awards for scientific publications, a publication award, sponsored by Novartis, and a thesis award, sponsored by Boehringer Ingelheim. They are offered alternating every second year.

Novartis ESTP award 2009 in Toxicologic Pathology

In 2009 it was the turn for the publication award directed to younger society members for an outstanding original article on any aspect of toxicologic pathology.

For the first time the announcements were made fully by electronic media: on the ESTP homepage and by e-mail shot to all members which was very successful. All members of the committee (Elodie Devon, Juergen Funk, Frieke Kuper, Heike Marxfeld, Regis Masson, Lars Mecklenburg, Thomas Nolte (chair) Andrew Pilling, Andrew Spencer) agreed on one best application. The award was presented during the conference on Wednesday

16th.

Award winner: Dr. Alok Sharma for two excellent papers published on a model of mesial temporal epilepsy:

7. Report of the Guess What Committee

The report of activities of the last year had been previously circulated by e-mail. In summary, Susanne Rittinghausen on behalf of her colleagues on the committee (Christine Rühl-Fehlert, Matthias Rinke and Heinrich Ernst) stated that:

The number of submitted diagnoses had decreased in comparison to the year before.

During the reporting period there were two new cases, one of which is still open for diagnoses until February 1, 2010.

Case 11 was closed July 30, 2009 and received 9 diagnoses. Case 12 is in the internet since August 3, 2009, and will be open for discussion until end of January 2010. Until August 27, 2009, no diagnosis had been received.

Table 1: Number of submitted diagnoses from October 15, 2008 – August 27, 2009

Case No.	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12
No. of given diagnoses	2	8	20	9	9	10	22	21	16	14	9	0

To keep the “Guess What” page alive, the help of all members of the society would be needed. Members were encouraged to publish new diagnoses on the website, preferably at least two for every year.

8. Report of the Guideline Committee

The report of activities of the last year had been previously circulated. As Erio Barale-Thomas was not present, Catherine George referred to the document on behalf of the committee (Erio Barale-Thomas, Sivert Bjurstrom, Alys Bradley, Catherine George, Jenny McKay, Rudi Müller, Christine Rühl-Fehlert, Agnes Schulte, Volker Strauss, Inger Thorup) and encouraged the membership to give feedback and comments. The details:

Preparation and launch of the survey on peer review practice.

Preliminary results were presented to the Executive Committee. The survey had been published as a poster in the ESTP-booth in the exhibition area. Erio stated that comments were very welcome.

Implementation of a “Guidance document for the guideline committee” written by the EC, details the roles and responsibilities of the GC towards the EC and the Society by large and will be used as template for other Committees.

Interaction with ESTP membership

Update of the Guideline pages on the ESTP website
Is ongoing

Review of draft guidelines for their relevance to toxicologic pathology and comments.

- contact persons within EMEA and OECD have been identified
- EMEA: Testing in juvenile animals for pediatric use
Hepatotoxicity guidance document
- ICH S9 (nonclinical evaluation of anticancer drugs)
- OECD: BCOP, ICE, Acute fish toxicity, carcino. (TG 451, 452, 453), inhalation (TG 412, 413)

**Collaboration with sister societies
(SRPC-STP and RIC-IFSTP)**

**9. Report of
Membership
Committee**

The report of the Membership Committee was previously circulated by e-mail. Annette Romeike referred to it also on behalf of her colleague Matthias Rinke.

She highlighted that the application procedure was much easier since it was online. Among others one positive effect is that it is less of a barrier for applicants from abroad. Applicants can now apply through an online application form and the whole process is facilitated through a specific web tool put in place by webmaster Dr. Rupert Kellner. ESTP colleagues, who have been chosen as authors of reference letters will receive an e-mail automatically through the webpage and the various forms are automatically sent to the chairman and secretary.

There was a constant flow of new applicants, 16 within the last year. At present there were 355 members.

Annette informed that the membership committee was working on the possibility to accept corporate memberships. This resulted from a request by pharmaceutical companies, in order to facilitate the internal endorsement of their sponsorship.

Many details had to be clarified, the membership would be informed in due time.

Finally she mentioned that the committee had to deal with “lost contacts”, members without any activities, whose email-addresses were unknown and who did not pay their membership fee.

**10. Report of the Case
Committee**

The report of the case committee was previously circulated by e-mail. Sibylle Gröters on behalf of the committee (Sibylle Gröters, Ute Bach, Gabriele Pohlmeyer-Esch) reported that it was still very difficult to collect enough cases in time before the annual meeting. Ingrid Sjögren reminded the assembly that the committee was established by an initiative during the ESTP meeting in La Grande Motte (2006) with the aim to collect, continuously throughout the year, preliminary information about adequate cases. She expressed her thanks for their continuous efforts.

Sybille Gröters went on that even after several e-mail appeals to all ESTP members, as well as a direct reminder at the “Classical Examples” held in February in Hannover, Germany, no cases were sent in. Therefore again she vividly invited all ESTP as well as non-ESTP members to hand in numerous cases, not only short

time before the conference but throughout the year.

There were no further questions or comments.

**11. Journal Report /
Online Journal
access**

The report had been previously circulated and was illustrated by Birgit Kittel.

Publications were the ESTP Newsletter, the Basel and Edinburgh abstracts and the 1st ESTP expert workshop as well as various announcements. The next activities would be the 2nd ESTP expert workshop and the Hague abstracts as soon as possible. The ESTP Newsletter will follow, a publication of the INHAND organ systems is planned and under discussion.

The online access to the journal needs to be clarified with the publisher.

There were no further questions. Birgit Kittel invited the members to send any comments by email to her.

**12. Report of the
Councillor for the
Younger
Generation**

The report had been circulated to the membership by e-mail prior to the meeting. Sybille Gröters stated that:

A general e-mailing list that serves the function of disseminating information regarding forthcoming pathology meetings, courses and job opportunities exists and is constantly extended. A letter to universities all over Europe is in preparation, to get in contact with young pathologists "in spe". Currently there are over 40 trainees on this mailing list, mainly from all over Europe but also from USA and Canada. In addition, the trainees' corner on the ESTP homepage will be updated soon. The meeting calendar is updated regularly.

Interested persons were welcome to contact Sybille Gröters for being put on the list.

**13. Report of the
IFSTP**

Catherine George summarized the IFSTP activities:

Finance

The total balance in May 2009 was 66.562 €, which is a 13 % increase compared to last year. This is a still better result than the year before, when there was an increase of 10%.

There was no change in the **IFSTP Executive Committee** which is represented as follows:

J. Harleman (President), J. Engelhardt (President Elect), Secretary General (Wolfgang Kaufman), F. Schorsch (Treasurer), Representatives of British (Ian Pyrah), Dutch (Piet Wester), European (Catherine George), French (Flavia Pasello), Italian (Anna Maria Giusti), Japanese (Shoji Fukushima), Korean (Jae Hak Park), North American (Brad Bolon) Societies of Tox Path + observers as the past president (Y. Konishi), the past General Secretary (Hugh Black) and a representative of the Latin STP (de Camargo).

She highlighted the **Education & Accreditation Committee** (Robert A. Ettlin, Brad Bolon, Ian Pyrah, Yoichi Konishi, Hugh E. Black) and pointed out that the accreditation as proposed in the North American STP was rejected by 55% of the membership.

Asking for the reasons there were several comments. The situation in United States is different from Europe, especially the older scientists feel in a different situation, it might be a matter of time for a change of mind. Eberhard Karbe described his impression in Washington that the voting were personal decisions, no global decisions. In his opinion the communication of the purpose was important. Robert Ettlin mentioned the possible fear that the level would go down. The recognition of local bodies was necessary. The process just had to be continued.

Catherine continued her report with the **Regulatory Interaction Committee (RIC) of the STP**

A panel discussion took place on “Regulatory Perspective for Pathology Data” on Jan 28, 2009 during the 25th JSTP annual meeting at Hamamatsu (Jan 27-28, 2009). Frederic Schorsch had participated. The aim was to clarify differences between USA, EU and Japan of 1) definition of pathological data and 2) peer review process.

Transcripts of the panel discussion will be published in the Japanese Journal of Toxicology Pathology which is freely accessible from a link on the ESTP website.

Training in Emerging Countries

Proposal : IFSTP/ IATP could help to coordinate training and teaching activities in cooperation with member societies and other scientific bodies.

To get an efficient process started, it was proposed to nominate a small group of coordinators, representing major geographic regions, emerging countries and IATP. Dr Joan Lauro de Camargo, president of the LASTP will lead this initiative. Identified members from ESTP are Beatrice Gauthier, Marie France Perron, Flavia Pasello, Kevin Isaacs and Rudy Muller.

ISFTP will also support the organisation of the South Latin Tox Path meeting in Brazil (Gopinath, Harleman, Isaacs, Ettlin) which will take place in Feb 2010 and 2 travel awards for students will be given.

IATP activity report

- IATP sponsors a ½ day of education at the current ESTP meeting in The Hague on System Pathology
- IATP accreditation committee has improved the accreditation process to become a fellow of IATP – There is a web-based application
- Charles Capen Student Travel Award has been established to support travel for students to attend an international toxicologic pathology annual meeting.
- IATP has 39 active members. 6 – 7 colleagues are in the accreditation process.

14. Report on next year's ESTP congress in Budapest, Hungary

Zuhai Dincer, chair of the scientific organising committee of the 8th ESTP congress, reported on the preparations of the 2010 congress on behalf of Dányi Dezső (Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee), who was unable to come. It will be held in Budapest, Hungary, from 29th September to 1st October 2010.

Topics: **Respiratory System Toxicopathology & Biopharmaceuticals.**

The scientific committee is working on the program, speakers will be invited in November 2009.

A new aspect will be a poster award, introduced the last day of the meeting. This initiative was supported by the French Society of Toxicologic Pathology (SFPT), in order to avoid empty poster boards as at present.

15. Financial Report

The financial report was presented and summarized by treasurer Matthias Rinke. His slide presentation is attached as Appendix 1.

The presentation was followed by an active discussion during which M. Rinke, assisted by Annette Romeike, explained the reason for fairly low membership fees and an open credit for membership fees 2005-2009 of 53.620 €. Many members had not paid their fees, a demand note is usually sent, according to the constitution they could be excluded only after 3 years. Also it is extremely difficult to contact those members when addresses are unknown. In this case there are also costs for returned journals. Some fees are paid by companies, but are difficult to trace. Some fees were transferred to the account of the congress and mistaken as donation to the congress. To trace those members is extremely time-consuming and it is discussed to change the process (stop sending journal 6 months after non-payment). However, it had to be recognized that the society increased quickly in size and that it was difficult to streamline processes based on voluntary work only.

The question was asked why bank charges have to be paid as online banking is used. Matthias Rinke answered, that bank charges are due for the bank account. Another question referred to savings of money. M. Rinke answered that the deposit of money is in discussion.

Concerning the previous conferences, Matthias Rinke stated that there was a plus from 2006 in La Grande Motte and a plus from 2007 in Basel. The balance of the Edinburgh congress is still open. Kay Groothoff from Solution office explained that the delay was due to problems with the British tax system. Negotiations with the tax office were still going on. A result was expected in about six weeks. A "cut even" is expected for Edinburgh. The question for the expected balance of The Hague was answered by Kay Groothoff with "a strong 0".

One member questioned the costs of the journal and whether it would save money to send the journal electronically only. Also it was proposed not to send the journal to non-paying members. Annette Romeike explained that the journals are produced according to the number of members each year. The future of the journal is currently under discussion.

16. Report of the Auditors

Jean-Claude Schaffner presented the cash control report and explained that everything was documented precisely and correctly. He and Agnes Schulte had checked all balance sheets

and confirmed with their signature the adequacy of the presentation, which is a true view of the treasury. They recommended acceptance of the accounts and relieve of the treasurer. He expressed warm thanks to Matthias Rinke. The assembly accepted by show of hands the accounts with no disagreement and no abstentions and approved the activities of the Board. The Board has been herewith exonerated.

17. News about RITA/CEPA/INHAN D initiative

A report of the RITA/CEPA/INHAND activities provided by Susanne Rittinghausen had been circulated to the membership prior to the meeting. She mentioned the most important events:

RITA

Five panel meetings were scheduled for 2009.

Panel meetings scheduled for 2010 are as follows:

January 24 – 26

March 14 – 16

June 06 – 08

September 05 – 07

November 21 – 23

The microscope panel meetings are open to guests from regulatory agencies, non-RITA companies, contract laboratories, and universities. The number of guests is limited to three due to organizational reasons. Guests must contact the organizer 4 weeks in advance of a meeting (Rupert Kellner, Tel.: +49 511 5350 106; e-mail: rita.panel@item.fraunhofer.de).

The current status of RITA was stated like that:

The database contains 148 rat studies with more than 23,000 primary tumors and 25,000 preneoplastic lesions. The 66 mouse studies in the database include about 5,500 primary tumors and 3,000 preneoplastic lesions.

For more information see

<http://reni.item.fraunhofer.de/reni/public/rita/index.html>

CEPA

- 2 meetings for pathologists in 2009
 - Next meeting date: November 24-25, 2009
- 1 meeting for technicians in autumn 2008
- Group is working on CEPA paper “Best practice in morphometrical analysis of cell proliferation using electronic images”
- Knowledge about cell proliferation markers and image analysis was exchanged.

INHAND Nomenclature

- The **nomenclature** for proliferative lesions in rats and mice is under revision within the **RITA** group
- This nomenclature is/will be used as draft for the **INHAND International Organ Working Groups**
- INHAND has finalized the „Respiratory System“
 - An overview about the INHAND activities was given on Tuesday afternoon after the ESTP/IATP Satellite Symposium.

Susanne finished her report with inviting everyone to participate. There were no further questions.

18. New Members

Annette Romeike presented the list of 16 new applicants:

1. Brad Bolon – 19 Nov 08
2. Anita Marguerite Shaha - 19 Nov 08
3. Jasmin Wasieri – 21 January 09
4. Vinod Kumar Goyal – 18 February 09
5. Ulrika Hallin - 18 February 09
6. Johan Forsell – 18 February 09
7. G. Arun Prasath – 22 April 09
8. Nicodemus M. Useh – 22 April 09
9. Catherine Botteron - 22 April 09
10. Francesco Marchesi – 22 April 09
11. Ian Taylor – 17 June 09
12. Catherine Sutcliffe – 17 June 09
13. Annika Herrmann – 17 June 09
14. Franck Jacques Antoine Chanut - 15 July 09
15. Marie France Perron – 15 July 09
16. Gundi Müller – 15 September 09

Their applications had been discussed by the executive committee. They were accepted into the Society without objection by show of hands.

The applications were approved by the membership and the new members were warmly welcomed.

19. Proposal/Nomination of representatives for sister societies/other bodies

Ingrid reported that the Italian Society of Toxicologic Pathology had suggested Dr. Francesco Marchesi as representative in the board. The assembly voted by show of hands and accepted Dr. Marchesi with majority. Dr Marchesi was warmly welcomed to the board.

20. Classical Examples of Toxicologic Pathology

Eberhard Karbe announced that the 3rd edition of Classic Examples in Toxicologic Pathology was released during the conference and was for sale in The Hague for the special price of 99 € instead of 109 € for non-members and 44 € instead of 49 € for members. Of course there was a free CD for authors. After the congress it could be ordered on the ESTP website. Eberhard expressed his warm thanks to his colleagues for the excellent word.

Then he presented the program of the upcoming Seminar of “Classic Examples”:

It will be held at the Department of Pathology, Buenteweg 17, 30559 Hannover, Germany.

Friday, February 26, 2010 (13:15 – 18:00) and

Saturday, February 27, 2010 (8:15 – 13:00)

Examples of toxicologic pathology will be presented by the following speakers and discussed by the participants, viewing slides with the induced lesions under individual microscopes:

Topics:	Speakers:
Unspecific PI3 kinase inhibitors	Florian Colbatzky
Vinylpyrrolidone dimer	Sabine Halm
Compounds causing rheumatoid arthritis	Anke Heuser
Phenobarbital	Huw Jones
Compounds causing liver cell hypertrophy + necrosis	Thomas Nolte
S1P1 agonist	Aude Roulois
Azoles	Christine Rühl-Fehlert, Eberhard Karbe
HPPDase inhibitors	Frédéric Schorsch

One further topic will be announced. The full program will be published in the journal.

The registration fee is 60 € for members and 80 € for non-members, which should be paid upon registration to the account of the ESTP in Germany (Commerzbank Loerrach, account number: 2809 705; routing number: 683 400 58, BIC code: COBADEFF 683, IBAN code: DE66 6834 0058 0280 9705 00). No registration fee is required of TiHo colleagues.

It was asked to register as soon as possible, at the latest by January 31, 2010 to Dr. Frauke Seehusen, Department of Pathology, University of Veterinary Medicine, Buenteweg 17, 30559 Hannover, Germany (E-mail: Frauke.Seehusen@tiho-hannover.de).

Ingrid expressed her warm thanks to the organising group (Wolfgang Baumgaertner, Wolfgang Drommer, Eberhard Karbe, Ulrich Deschl) for the fantastic work.

21. Any Other Business

For this item of the agenda several questions were asked and discussed:

- Paul Germann questioned the procedure of sending the presentation's CD and the controlling of payment, as Mrs. Blankenfeld, who had done this for many years, was due to retire. Matthias Rinke answered that the complete task would probably be overtaken by Solution office. The date still had to be specified.
- The treasurer was asked when it would be possible to pay everything online or by credit card. He answered that the member list was to be cleared and updated first. The possibility of online payment would be available hopefully next year.
- Paul Germann suggested that it would make sense to inline the congress with large societies, such as Eurotox e.g., in order to reduce costs and possibly bring other scientists into the ESTP. Noel Downes suggested that ESTP should discuss joint meeting activities with other STPs as well. Ingrid thanked for the suggestions and said that the board will look into this.
- Another comment referred to the prices of accommodation. There was the impression that prices of hotel rooms were more expensive through the congress page than on the respective webpages of the hotels. The negotiation of good prices was necessary. The board will look into this together with Solution office for future congresses.
- It was asked whether it would be useful to plan additional ESTP meetings, maybe smaller groups. In this context Eberhard Karbe reminded the assembly of the February meeting in Hannover, so there were actually two annual meetings. Regarding the costs of the meeting there had always been a good plus as the University and the companies supplied a great deal of equipment. The topic would be further discussed in the board.

Ingrid Sjögren thanked everyone for attending the annual assembly and finished the meeting at 6:15 pm.

Annette Romeike
Secretary, ESTP

Ingrid Sjögren
Chairman, ESTP