

## Minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> EURAPAG Board Meeting

14 January 2017, Frankfurt, Germany.

The meeting convened at 11.15 hours, with a break from 14.25 hours, resuming at 15.55 hours and finishing at 17.50 hours.

### Present:

Milko Sirakov, President (MS)

Gabriele Tridenti, Vice President (GT)

Paul Wood, President-Elect (PW)

Zana Bumbuliene, Secretary General (ZB)

Zuzanna Nižňanská, Treasurer (ZN)

Sarah Mourik, Trainees' Representative (SM)

Ivonne Bedei (IB)

Marios Liassides (MK)

Zoran Stankovic (ZS)

### In attendance:

Mikael Horstmann, Webmaster (MH)

Apologies were received from Efthimios Deligeoroglou

Tributes were paid to the late Jan Horejsi and his recognition to PAG was remembered with gratitude. It was agreed that there would not be a replacement Honorary President.

Thanks were given to Ivonne and Mika for facilitating and organising the Board Meeting and for their excellent schedule

### Minutes of the last meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held in Florence on 28 June 2016 were approved

## 1 New website – Update

MH introduced the EB to the new Website now on line, and it was agreed that this should be highlighted and presented at the European Congress. Details of the updated RCOG/BritSPAG Advanced Training Skills Module were to be uploaded and circulated to the EB. The JPAG offer to FIGIJ members was also to be promoted as per the Board's wishes. The Facebook link needed to develop and expand so there was need of a list of Trainees and Fellows. The EURAPAG Registrar pages produced by SM were commenced. It was agreed that ZS would work alongside MH as Web Editor. The registration of the website was confirmed by MS as continuing in Bulgaria.

## 2 European Congress in Vilnius - Update

ZB provided an update on the main issues and preparations to the 2017 EURAPAG Congress in Vilnius including a slide presentation.

### (i) Sponsorship.

Pharmaceutical companies have not agreed to support and sponsor from their central European offices. Funds are therefore available only from local budgets. There is difficulty in obtaining sponsorship for PAG and delegates from Europe. Supporting companies are Mylan, Gedeon Richter, Bayer, MSD and Bionorica. Some of the pharmaceutical companies (LadeePharma, Bayer) are considering covering registration fees for Lithuanian speakers. The Lithuanian Obst/Gyn Society (LAGD) decided that local and some of the invited speakers must pay full registration fee. As a result of this unfortunate decision some speakers declined to participate. Also LAGD decided to delete the registration fee for students.

It was suggested to offer students the opportunity to participate in the Congress at a reduced price.

- (ii) The main part of budget consists of registration fees. We need 200 delegates in order to make the Congress viable. To this date there are 18 confirmed registrations. The deadline for early registration is 1<sup>st</sup> February. Therefore, right now the most important task is to spread information and advertise the Congress as broadly as possible. This is where ZN asked for help asking those present to spread the information or else provide e-mail addresses and/or mailing lists of those who might be interested. The repetitive emails few days prior to deadline will be send as a reminder.

Actions:

1. Executive Board members to distribute information during their local conferences, during ENTOG meetings, and advertisements should be provided.
  2. To announce the prize for the best presentation of trainee – free participation in the next EURAPAG congress.
  3. To invite Russian speakers to arrange a Russian session – they can prepare presentations in English language, or speak in Russian.
  4. Use Facebook to share the information.
  5. In order to attract Lithuanian participants suggest –
    - a) “one day pass” the entrance for 1 day conference,
    - b) prepare Lithuanian/English presentations,
    - c) consider a Lithuanian-only session,
    - d) translation to Lithuanian for key speakers.
- (iii) ZB explained how the organisers had additionally asked for support from the Lithuanian Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, and one of member of European Parliament Rolandas Paksas. No official replies had yet been received.
- (iv) An IFA session was planned and ZB had invited Dvora Bauman to coordinate this. GT was proposed as the EB link for such a session.
- (v) IFEPAG examination. A reply from Symphorosa Chan was awaited.
- (vi) Invited speakers (25 persons) and EB members (8 persons) do not pay registration fee and the Congress will cover 2 nights at a hotel. Extension of free registration to all invited speakers was advised as a result of which it was even more important to recruit delegates above 200.
- (vii) The opening ceremony will be held in the University Church.
- (viii) Gala dinner – A Gala dinner was proposed in the Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania. Due to costs we are unable to invite speakers. From 18 delegates only 1 person has so far registered for the gala dinner. ZB asked for the EB’s view and wondered if 100 Euros was too expensive. The EB suggested a more informal social evening such as a barbeque with music. It was also suggested that the budget for the social programme be kept separate from the Congress budget.
- (ix) Abstract book – It was decided that there would be a programme and that

abstracts were to be placed on the website

- (x) There had been one application to host EURAPAG 2020 from NEDPAG and an expression of interest from a Congress Organisation in Spain (not PAG-linked). The latter were to be contacted and asked to liaise with their local society as EURAPAG has no contact with PAG specialists in Spain
- (xi) It was suggested that Early Bird registration may be postponed to 1 March 2017.

### 3 Congresses and Meetings

- (i) EBCOG had requested three Master Classes at their forthcoming meeting in Turkey between 17-21 May 2017. Three sessions were agreed as follows:-

Amenorrhoea	-	ZB
Ovarian cysts	-	ZS
Adolescent Pregnancy	-	ZN

Post-meeting note – Since the EB meeting EBCOG have advised that funding is no longer available as the programme had already been finalized by the time of EURAPAG's communication. It has been agreed that there would not be EURAPAG representation at the EBCOG Congress in 2017 but that we would strive for a presence in 2018.

- (ii) PW had attended the EBCOG curriculum SCTA meeting in Brussels in November 2016 and shared details of the draft and elective aspects of the PAG curriculum. The next meeting was scheduled for 25 March 2017.
- (iii) COGI was discussed and it was agreed that GT would approach COGI with a view to an invitation to both the COGI and CoPedia meeting so that there would also be EURAPAG exposure at European Paediatric Meetings.
- (iv) The Trainees session of 6-7 speakers would concentrate on research and possibly include case reports. The winner of the best presentation would receive free participation at the next Congress.

### 4 Promotion of EURAPAG

Other than for the Website and Congresses it was proposed to invite National Societies to join EURAPAG Special Interest Groups.

A European programme for PAG internships for trainees was discussed. Exposure of PAG to students and trainees was discussed, with

acknowledgement of the language barriers in clinical practice and difficulties with clinical schedules. A Spanish medical student had recently attended a PAG placement in the UK and SM would contact her to request a report for the website detailing her experiences. An overview of opportunities could be constructed.

The need to establish IFEPAG Training Centres was also discussed along with the criteria required. GT had a list of Training Centres. PW was to ask Symphorosa Chan as to the requirements and whether it would be possible for registrants to be endorsed by their National Societies as training was often obtained from different centres. There was also the potential for national accreditation such as the ATSM in the UK.

IB was congratulated on her appointment to develop in PAG at Mannheim University. The potential for multinational collaborative working was to be explored. There was a potential to publish studies on the website and include a research page.

SM was to be introduced to ENTOG and would contact Angelique Goverde from EBCOG.

## 5 Statute Changes

Article 12 – It was agreed that the timescale for changes would be proposed at 6 months, down from 10 months. There was discussion over the validity of using percentages when the denominator figure could be difficult to establish or be disputed. It was agreed there would be a proposal that changes could be triggered at the request of a minimum of three societies.

The need for legal registration in the Municipal Court of Prague in the wake of Jan Horejsi's passing was discussed. The statutes belong to the Association and the need for registration was to be explored as there is currently no direct link with the Czech Republic or indeed the previous lawyers in Prague. De-registration may have an impact on taxation and the EB was aware that there are different rules for different countries. EBCOG was to be approached to explore their legal seat.

It was agreed to defer any changes to the registration of the Statutes until the Congress in Vilnius when Statute changes are to be voted upon. ZN will do some detective work regarding making contact with the lawyers in Prague and PW would contact EBCOG. ZN agreed to share the contact details of the lawyers and bank with the Board.

## 6 Minisymposia for EJOG

Agreed topics were:

Current provision – Zana, Ivonne, Milko  
Standards - Zuzana, Sarah, (Makis)  
Future - Zoran, Gabriele, Marios

The deadline for drafts was the end of February

## 7 Treasurer's Report

ZN advised that the Association had 17,400 euros in the bank. The bank account is in the Czech Republic in a National and not International Bank with no internet banking facilities for ZN in Slovakia. Moreover the account is not in the Eurozone. ZN to make contact and explore options for internet banking. At present ZN is the only signatory and the two responsible persons would be the Treasurer and the President. With the current situation and in case of emergency an Officer or a Member of the Board would need to attend the Bank Office. The contact details of the Bank were to be circulated to the Board by ZN. One suggestion was to plan a joint meeting with the Czech PAG Society and hold a Board meeting in Prague in 2018, the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of EURAPAG.

## 8 Any other Business

It was agreed to reimburse SM's expenses for her attendance at Board meetings.

MS and ZN advised of an e mail scam that had failed to obtain money from the Association.

The meeting closed at 17.50 hours and was followed by a walking tour of Frankfurt and an excellent dinner nearby.