**Final report**

**27th GENERAL ASSEMBLY ESPMH**

**Basel, Switzerland, Friday 16 August, 2013**

**16.30-17.30 hrs**

Venue:

University of basel, kollegienhaus

Petersplatz 1, 4003 basel

Room: aula 033

**Attendants (45):**

Rolf Ahlzen (Sweden), Roberto Andorno (Switzerland), Gardar Arnason (Germany), David Badcott (UK), Attila Banfalvi (Hungary), Michael Barilan (Israel), Jeffrey Barker (USA), Alessandra Bernardi (Italy), Lazare Benaroyo (Switzerland), Ana Borovechi (Croatia), Tom Buller (USA), Sylvester C Chima (South Afrika), Vilius Dranseika (Lithuania), Bert Gordijn (Ireland), Darryl Gunson (UK), Soeren Holm (UK), Peter Kakuk (Hungary), Gerrit Kimsma (Netherlands), Eszter Kollar (Germany), Sofia Morberg Jämterud (Sweden), Sabine Mueller (Germany), Ivars Neiders (Latvia), Gerald Neitzke (Germany), Kyoichi Ozaki (Japan), Georgios Papagounos (Greece), Renzo Pegoraro (Italy), Jan Piasecki (Poland), Veerle Provoost (Netherlands), Christoph Rehmann-Sutter (Switzerland), Joanna Rozynska (Poland), Stephan Sahm (Germany), Christina Schuees, (Germany), Wayne X Shandera (USA), Frida Simonstein (Israel), Juan Carlos Siurana (Spain), Hans Magnus Solli (Norway), William Stempsey (USA), Tuija Takala (Finland), Fabrizio Turoldo (Italy), Stephen Tyreman (UK), Bert Vanderhaegen (Belgium), Marcin Waligora (Poland), Yelim Isil Ulman (Turkey), Zbigniew Zalevski (Poland)

1. **Draft report of the 26th General Assembly of the ESPMH in Nazareth, Israel,**

**Thursday 23 August 2012 (16.30-17.30)**

The report is approved without any correction.

1. **Report of the ESPMH Board over 2012**
2. **The secretary: membership, activities**

During the last year the ESPMH membership has increased with 8 members from 286 to 294. Most of the time of the secretariat was spent on preparing this year’s conference in Basel. Several mailings were sent to the members. Moreover, together with Peter Kakuk, first preparations have been made for the 2014 conference in Debrecen (Hungary). The Debrecen call for abstracts has been finalized. There have also been preparatory talks with Ignaas Devisch about the 2015 conference in Ghent (Belgium). Both the Debrecen as well as the Ghent proposal had already been accepted by the General Assembly in Nazareth. In addition, there is a proposal from Yesim Ulman to host the 2016 ESPMH conference in Istanbul. This last proposal will be voted on later in this General Assembly.

1. **The treasurer: final account for 2012**

The ESPMH board has decided to continue with the strict cancelling policy with regard to the membership. Members who - after a reminder email - do not pay their membership fee will be cancelled, meaning that they will not receive the society’s journal any more.

**Year Account ESPMH 2012**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Overview**  | **accounts 2012** |  |  |  |  |
| **INCOME** |  |  | **EXPENSES** |  |  |
| Membership  | fees |  | Bank costs |  |  |
| General acc  |  | 4,773.70 | Gen acc  | 141.01 |  |
| Conf acc |  |  | Conf acc | 85.34 |  |
| Postal Giro |  | 240.00 | Post Giro | 41.33 |  |
|  |  |  |  | 267.68 | 267.68 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Conference | fees |  | Ogone |  | 478.40 |
| General acc  |  | 21,353.00 | Cardcie |  | 733.17 |
| Conf acc |  | 12,025.00 | Ch of commerce |  | 24.08 |
|  |  |  | Secretariat |  | 6,423.98 |
| Post acc |  |  | Treasury |  | 2,000.00 |
|  |  |  | Nazareth |  | 13,670.00 |
| Interest |  | 580.33 | Board costs |  | 2,595.80 |
| **Total** |  | 38,972.03 | Refunds |  | 547.50 |
|  |  |  | ESPMH homepage |  | 2,149.44 |
|  |  |  | Journal |  | 17,788.92 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Neg Saldo** |  | **7,706.94** |  |  |  |
| **Totals** |  | **46,678.97** |  |  | **46,678.97** |

1. **Report of the Financial Review Committee over 2012**

David Badcott and Bjørn Hofmann have assessed the ESPMH accounts over the year 2012. David Badcott reports in the General Assembly. Everything is in order. The GA approves the Financial Account over 2012.

1. **Election of Financial Review Committee over 2013**

Both David Badcott and Bjørn Hofmann have declared to be willing to continue as members of the Financial Review Committee. They are re-elected as members.

1. **Membership fee**

The Board proposes that the annual membership fee remains €60,- for individuals and €250,- for Institutions. This is approved by the GA.

1. **Preliminary budget 2014**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Budget 2014** |  |  |  |  |
| **INCOME** |  |  | **EXPENSES** |  |
| Membership fees (200 x 60) | 12,000 |  | Bank costs | 800 |
| Conference fees (100 x 400) | 40,000 |  | Card comp | 1,000 |
| Interest | 500 |  | Ch of comm. | 30 |
| Total | 52,500 |  | Printing | 2,500 |
|  |  |  | Secretariat | 8,000 |
|  |  |  | Prices | 1,500 |
|  |  |  | Conference | 18,000 |
|  |  |  | Journal | 14,000 |
|  |  |  | Treasury | 3,000 |
|  |  |  | Board costs | 2,500 |
|  |  |  | ESPMH homepage | 1,200 |
| **Neg saldo** | **30** |  |  |  |
| **Totals** | **52,530**  |  |  | **52,530** |

The budget proposal is approved by the General Assembly.

1. **Election Members of the ESPMH Board**

The three-year term of office of five Board members will finish by the end of 2013 (Tuija Takala, Roberto Andorno, Renzo Pegoraro, Margaret Battin and Niall Scott). According to the By-Laws, Roberto Andorno (now president-elect) will follow up Tuija Takala as president of the ESPMH. This means that four board positions, the position of president-elect and three positions of regular board member, are up for election during the General Assembly.

In an email from 11 December 2012 the ESPMH secretary has invited ESPMH members to nominate candidates for positions in the Board of the ESPMH. Subsequent to the invitation to propose candidates for these four positions, we received a nomination for the position of President-Elect: Christoph Rehmann-Sutter. In addition, we received seven nominations for the position of regular board member. Subsequently, however, two candidates have withdrawn, leaving us with the following five candidates: Ana Borovecki, Lazare Benaroyo, Bernice Elger, Frida Simonstein, and Yesim Ulman.

Thus, the Board’s election proposal is as follows:

**President-Elect of the ESPMH**: Christoph Rehmann-Sutter

According to the by-laws concerning the election procedure, a candidate can be elected without ballots if there is only one candidate for a position and the General Assembly unanimously agrees.

The GA does indeed agree unanimously to elect Christoph Rehmann-Sutter without ballots.

For the three positions of Regular Board member there are three ballots with the names of all five candidates on each of these.

**Board member 1**: Ana Borovecki, Lazare Benaroyo, Bernice Elger, Frida Simonstein, & Yesim Ulman

**Board member 2**: Ana Borovecki, Lazare Benaroyo, Bernice Elger, Frida Simonstein, & Yesim Ulman

**Board member 3**: Ana Borovecki, Lazare Benaroyo, Bernice Elger, Frida Simonstein, & Yesim Ulman

If the winner of the election for position 1 also receives most votes in the election for the post of position 2, this position will then go to the candidate with the second most votes. If one of the winners (or both winners) of the elections for the first two positions has most votes for position 3, this position will go to the person with the second (or third most) votes. The secretary has received two postal ballots.

The president asks for candidates to serve on the Election Committee in order to deal with the ballots and count the votes. Søren Holm and Stephen Tyreman are appointed by the GA to serve on the Election Committee.

The result of the elections of the normal board members is as follows:

**Board member 1**: Bernice Elger

**Board member 2**: Ana Borovecki

**Board member 3**: Lazare Benaroyo

1. **Number of board members with respect to the next elections**

According to the Statutes, the number of positions in the Board has to be settled by the GA. There is no proposal to change the current number of seats. That means that the society continues to have 9 board positions. The GA approves that the ESPMH continues to have 9 board members.

1. **Future conferences**
* Peter Kakuk gives a talk about next year’s conference in Debrecen, Hungary (already approved by the GA).
* Instead of Ignaas Devisch, who is not able to attend the current conference, Veerle Provost gives a presentation focused on the upcoming conference in Ghent, Belgium (already approved by the GA).
* Yesim Ulman presents a proposal to host the 2016 ESPMH conference in Istanbul, Turkey. Her proposal is accepted by the GA.
* Further plans: A host for the 2017 meeting has yet to be found. The secretary invites interesting proposals.
1. **Journal *Medicine, Health Care and Philosophy (MHEP)***

Floor Oosting, the new publishing editor from Springer, presents a brief report about the society’s journal. MHEP is doing very well. The manuscript flow is very good. The majority of submissionscome from the US, the UK, Scandinavia and The Netherlands. There are submissions from Eastern Europe and Mediterranean countries. The journal had developed a large backlog of papers in the online first section; papers are usually published online first after acceptance in 15-20 days but until recently it could take up to 235 days to be published in an issue. We want to avoid that in the future. In order to deal with this Springer have published a couple of very chunky issues in 2013. The rejection rate is currently 49%. There is room to follow a stricter editorial policy now, given the considerable manuscript flow. Also the page budget has recently been increased, from 400 pages, officially in 2013, to 600 pages, officially in 2014.

The journal’s impact factor is somewhat down, from 0.906 in 2011 to 0.756 in 2012. However, the usage of the journal is good compared to other bioethics journals of about the same size (54,636 full article downloads in 2012). Its usage factor (the number of downloads in 2011 and 2012 divided by the number of articles published in 2011 and 2012) is up from 179.0 in 2011 to 197.1 in 2012.

Additionally, the H5 index (the largest number *h* of articles that have all been cited at least *h* times) is 17, which is rather good compared with similar journals: (*Journal of Bioethical Inquiry*: 9; *Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics*: 11).

The number of subscriptions has been going down a bit but MHEP is included in 428 deals representing together 8246 institutions. Currently, MHEP has 872 TOC alert subscribers. (Everyone can go to the journal’s homepage

(<http://www.springer.com/medicine/journal/11019> and subscribe easily by typing in his/her e-mail address)

1. **A.O.B.**

There are no further remarks from the GA.