

EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR PHILOSOPHY OF MEDICINE AND HEALTH CARE

Final report

24th General Assembly ESPMH

Zagreb, Croatia, 20 August 2010, 16.30-17.30 hrs

Attendants (45):

Aiko Sawada (Japan), Ana Borovechi (Croatia), Anders Jeppsson (Sweden), Augusto J. Henriques (Portugal), Bert Gordijn (Ireland), Bert Vanderhaegen (Belgium), Boleslav Lichterman (Russia), Christoph Rehmann-Sutter (Germany), David Badcott (UK), Dieter Birnbacher (Germany), Eleni Kalokairinou (Cyprus), Fredrik Svenaeus (Sweden), Frida Simonstein (Israel), Fuat Oduncu (Germany), Gardar Arnason (Finland), Hans-Jörg Ehni (Germany), Jan Payne (Czech Republic), Jeffrey Barker (USA), Jens Clausen (Germany), Jiri Simek (Czech Republic), João Calinas-Correia (UK), John Lizza (USA), Juan Carlos Siurana (Spain), Kris Dierickx (Belgium), Kyoichi Ozaki (Japan), Laszlo Kovacs (Germany/Hungary), Margherita Brusa (Italy), Martien Pijnenburg (Netherlands), Matti Häyry (Finland), Michael Barilan (Israel), Nathan Emmerich (UK), Niall Scott (UK), Oliver Rauprich (Germany), Pier Jaarsma (Netherlands), Renzo Pegoraro (Italy), Roberto Andorno (Switzerland), Sabine Müller (Germany), Søren Holm (UK), Stellan Welin (Sweden), Stephan Sahn (Germany), Stephen Tyreman (UK), Tom Buller (UK), Tuija Takala (Finland), Vilhjalmur Arnason (Iceland), William Stempsey (USA)

1. Draft report of the 23rd General Assembly of the ESPMH

Tubingen, Germany, Friday, 21 August 2009

The report is approved with one correction: Both Niall Scott (UK) and Oliver Rauprich (Germany) are added on the attendants list.

2. Report of the ESPMH Board over 2009

a. The secretary: membership; activities

During the last year the ESPMH membership has increased with 9 new members from 473 to 482. Most of the time of the secretariat was spent in preparing this year's conference in Zagreb. Several mailings were sent to the members. Moreover, together with Nikola Biller-Andorno first preparations have been made for the 2011 conference in Zurich (Germany). The call for abstracts was launched earlier this year. There have also been talks with Frida Simonstein to organise the 2012 conference in Nazareth (Israel); this proposal is on the current agenda. Where we shall have the ESPMH 2013 conference is still undecided. Thus ESPMH members are invited to submit proposals to host the 2012 conference.

Following the decision last year to create a new ESPMH website with up to date functionalities the Secretary and the Treasurer have done a lot of work together with a professional, Marcel Erheus (Omaha, Nebraska) who has also designed the IDEALS (International Dental Ethics and Law Society) website. In the next few months the website should be ready. The members will receive an email with their login data. They will be asked to login and update their personal contact data. The Secretary intends to use the website for the upcoming 2011 ESPMH conference in Zurich.

b. The treasurer: final account for 2009 (distributed by the Secretary on behalf of the Treasurer)

The secretary distributes the final account for 2009.

Year Account ESPMH 2009

Overview		accounts 2009			
INCOME				EXPENSES	
Membership				Bank costs	
Conf acc	640			Conf acc	77.68
Postal acc	280			Gen acc	111.4
General acc	5686.5			Post acc	20
	<u>6606.5</u>	6606.5			<u>209.08</u>
					209.08
Conference				Ogone	496.31
Conf acc	16788.39			Credit comp	818.96
Post acc	560			Ch of comm	26.14
General acc	23840			Secret Dublin	8469
	<u>41188.39</u>	41188.39		Board costs	765
				Springer	14437.2
Interest		1130.74		Tubingen: inst	16800
				Tubingen gifts	600
Refund				Treasury	
Nijmegen		3176.46		Secret	
				Nijmegen	3176.46
				Refunds	330
					<u>46128.15</u>
				Pos saldo	5973.94
Totals		52102.09			52102.09

Since the treasurer, Gerrit Kimsma, was unable to attend the General Assembly has sent an explanatory note about the budget: "With respect to the finances of the ESPMH, there is a continuance of good messages. The auditing committee has agreed to the books. There is a positive saldo this past year as in most of the years before. We have not seen the positive effect of raising the fee from 40 to 60 yet. The coming year, we shall have the introduction of a website with more digital procedures, easier for both membership and conferences. Both the treasury and the membership will have to get used to these easier procedures, with more clarity at the end of each year." (Gerrit Kimsma's explanatory note). The budget proposal is approved by the General Assembly.

3. Report of the Financial Review Committee over 2009

Alfred Simon and Martien Pijnenburg have sent a letter to the secretariat stating that they find the account 2009 in order. The letter is read before the GA. The Financial Account over 2009 is approved by the GA.

4. Election of Financial Review Committee over 2010

Both Alfred and Martien would like to finish their term as members of the Financial Review Committee. David Badcott and Bjørn Hofmann are elected as new members.

5. Society's fee

Last year it has been decided that the membership fee should go up from 40 to 60. This year it is decided that the membership fee should remain the same. Bert Vanderhaegen proposes to

determine the membership fee according to the salary as is the case in the IAB. The board is not unwilling to discuss this proposal although there seem to be quite some disadvantages attached to the idea. Also the income disparities amongst ESPMH members are not as big as those amongst IAB members.

6. Preliminary budget 2011

Budget 2011			
INCOME		EXPENSES	
Membership fees 400X60	24000	Bank costs	400
		Card comp	1500
Conference fees 100X300	30000	Ch of comm	30
		Printing	2500
Interest	1000	Secretariate	8000
		Prices	1500
		Conference	18000
		Journal	14000
		Treasury	2000
			47930
		Pos saldo	7070
Totals	55000		55000

The budget proposal has been approved by the board. The budget proposal is also approved by the General Assembly.

7. Election Members of the ESPMH Board

In an earlier letter (dated 11 December 2009) the Secretary invited the ESPMH members to nominate candidates for four positions in the Board of the ESPMH. The Zagreb conference is the last conference with Søren Holm as President of the ESPMH. The current President-Elect, Tuija Takala, will automatically become the new President of the ESPMH. Hence, we have to elect a new President-Elect in Zagreb. Furthermore, the three-year term of office of three board members will end by the end of 2010 (Renzo Pegoraro, Margaret Battin & Vilhjalmur Arnason), which means that these three positions are also open for election.

Subsequent to the invitation to propose candidates for these four positions, the Secretariat has received a nomination for the position of President-Elect: Roberto Andorno. In addition, we have received two nominations for the position of regular board member: Kris Dierickx and Niall Scott. Finally, Margaret Battin and Renzo Pegoraro have indicated that they are willing to serve another term. Thus, the Board's election proposal is as follows:

President-Elect of the ESPMH: Roberto Andorno

For the three positions of member in the board there will be three ballots with the names of all four candidates on each of them.

Regular member 1: Margaret Battin, Kris Dierickx, Niall Scott & Renzo Pegoraro

Regular member 2: Margaret Battin, Kris Dierickx, Niall Scott & Renzo Pegoraro

Regular member 3: Margaret Battin, Kris Dierickx, Niall Scott & Renzo Pegoraro

If the winner of the election for member 1 also receives most votes in the election for the post of member 2, position 2 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.

Results: Roberto Andorno is elected unanimously (without a vote) as President-Elect of the ESPMH. For the election of the members of the board, Michael Barilan and Gardar Arnason form the election committee. The results are as follows:

Election of MEMBER 1 2 votes were disqualified		Election of MEMBER 2 1 vote was disqualified		Election of MEMBER 3 1 vote was disqualified	
Margaret Battin	9	Margaret Battin	14	Margaret Battin	24
Kris Dierickx	10	Kris Dierickx	14	Kris Dierickx	20
Niall Scott	10	Niall Scott	15	Niall Scott	-
Renzo Pegoraro	13	Renzo Pegoraro	-	Renzo Pegoraro	-

As a result of these votes Renzo Pegoraro, Niall Scott and Margaret Battin are elected as members of the ESPMH board.

8. 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 we continue to have 9 board positions. The GA has approved that we continue to have 9 board members.

9. Future conferences

- 2011 ESPMH conference in Zurich. Roberto Andorno gives a brief presentation about next year's conference.
- 2012 ESPMH conference in Nazareth: Frida Simonstein presents a proposal to host the 2012 conference in Nazareth. There is some discussion about the appropriateness of holding an ESPMH conference in Israel against the backdrop of the current policies of the Israeli government. Some ESPMH members seem not willing to attend a conference in Nazareth, because they do disagree with certain aspects of Israeli governmental course of action. In response, the ESPMH board explains that holding a conference in Nazareth does not imply that it endorses any Israeli policy. It only means that the board thinks it is important to facilitate the further development of bioethical reflection in Israel as indeed it is in many other countries. As nobody seems to argue that the ESPMH should not hold a conference in Nazareth as a matter of principle, the proposal is accepted.
- Further plans: A host for the 2013 meeting has still to be found. The secretary invites interesting proposals.

10. Journal *Medicine, Health Care and Philosophy*

“Medicine, Health Care and Philosophy” is doing fine. There were two big changes in the past year Wim Dekkers has stopped as Co Editor-in-Chief and Henk ten Have has rejoined the journal as Co-editor-in Chief instead. In addition, the journal has been accepted by the ISI, a highly respected abstracting and indexing service of Thompson Reuters. Journals are selected based upon the following criteria: quality and quantity of citation, timeliness of the publication and editorial content. Citations of published papers are nowadays a significant measure for the success and importance of a journal. Services like the ISI present us with this feedback. The acceptance by the ISI seems to have given the journal a boost. As a result the

manuscript flow is very good. We have also recruited a new Associate Editor, Stefano Simplici. In addition, Editors-in-Chief would like to recruit a fourth Associate Editor, preferably from the Eastern European region. Suggestions for candidates are welcome.

11. ESPMH prize for young scholars

Last year, the Secretary invited all ESPMH members attending the GA to motivate one person in their network to submit a paper for next year's contest. The idea was that we should then have more than enough submissions. Unfortunately, only a few papers were submitted, one of which was excellent (Nathan Emmerich's paper) and thus deserving the prize. However, there is an evident lack of interest in the ESPMH essay contest. Therefore, the Board proposes to stop with the ESPMH essay contest. The proposal is accepted by the GA.

12. A.O.B.

No remarks.