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## Letter to the members of the *espmh*

17 December 2023

Dear colleagues,

At our 35<sup>th</sup> Annual *espmh* conference in Riga in August of this year we enjoyed many interesting presentations as well as the hospitality of our Latvian colleagues. Once again, I would like to thank Ivars Neiders and Signe Mežinska as well as their team for organizing this wonderful conference.

We are now looking forward to our next conference in Frankfurt/Offenbach, Germany, 21 - 24 August 2024. You find a [call for abstracts](#) for this conference on the [society's homepage](#). The deadline for submission of abstracts is **1 March 2024**. Please send your abstract (in **Word** format) by email to the secretary of the *espmh*. After selection of abstracts, we will draw up a (draft) programme and post it on the society's homepage by the end of March 2024.

To register for the conference in Frankfurt Offenbach please go to the society's homepage and [register online](#).

At the conference in Frankfurt Offenbach, there will be an election for positions in the Board of the *espmh*. As a result of the last election in Riga the composition of the Board as of 1 January 2024 will be as follows:

|                               |                 |                    |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Péter Kakuk (Hungary)         | President       | until - 31/12/2024 |
| Ana Borovecki (Croatia)       | President-Elect | until - 31/12/2024 |
| Gerrit Kimsma (Netherlands)   | Treasurer       | until - 31/12/2025 |
| Bert Gordijn (Ireland)        | Secretary       | until - 31/12/2026 |
| Cristina Richie (UK)          | Member          | until - 31/12/2026 |
| Eugenijus Gefenas (Lithuania) | Member          | until - 31/12/2025 |
| Joanna Rozynska (Poland)      | Member          | until - 31/12/2025 |
| Shlomit Zuckerman (Israel)    | Member          | until - 31/12/2025 |
| Luciana Caenazzo (Italy)      | Member          | until - 31/12/2024 |
| Ignaas Devisch (Belgium)      | Member          | until - 31/12/2024 |
| Frida Simonstein (Israel)     | Member          | until - 31/12/2024 |

Thus, the three-year term of office of five Board members will finish by the end of 2024 (Péter Kakuk, Ana Borovecki, Luciana Caenazzo, Ignaas Devisch, and Frida Simonstein). According to the By-Laws, Ana Borovecki (now president-elect) will follow up Péter Kakuk as president of the ESPMH. This

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means that four board positions will be up for election during the General Assembly in Frankfurt Offenbach: there are vacancies for the position of President-elect as well as for three positions of regular board member. We will follow the [By-Laws concerning the election procedure of the Board](#):

1. We invite nominations from the membership.
2. The Board will establish an election proposal based on the nominations received.
3. This proposal will be circulated prior to the General Assembly.

If members do not agree with the proposal of the Board, they are invited to prepare an alternative proposal (backed by 10% of the membership). This proposal must be sent to the Secretary or given to the Board prior to the beginning of the meeting at the latest. The proposal of the Board, as well as such proposals of the membership, will be open for voting during the General Assembly. At the same time, members who are not able to attend the General Assembly can request postal ballot sheets from the Secretariat.

With this first step, we would like to invite you to send in nominations for the four above-mentioned upcoming vacancies in the Board (the position of president-elect as well as three Regular Members of the Board).

For a valid nomination please follow these rules:

1. Specify the name of the person nominated as well as the position (President-elect of the *espmh* or regular member of the Board). Only members of the *espmh* can be nominated.
2. We need the written consent of the person nominated (in an email or letter to the secretariat).
3. We need 2 signatures of members who will be making this nomination (names and signatures of these members through email).
4. The nominations must be received by the secretariat **before 1 April 2024**.

In preparing its election proposal, the Board will consider the following criteria: geographical diversity, professional diversity, gender diversity and European residency. If you were to consider making nominations, it would be helpful if you could take these criteria into account as well.

Very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping, fluid strokes that form a stylized, somewhat abstract shape.

Bert Gordijn,  
Secretary of the *espmh*