

Minutes of the Individual Members' Committee of the EANS

Tuesday 6th September 2016, Athens

Those present: Andreas Demetriades (Chairman), Hans Clusmann, Nicolas Foroglou, Marcel Ivanov, Ekkehard Kasper, Cumhur Kilincer, Aki Laakso, Juan Lourido, Luciano Mastronardi, David Netuka, David (Dudi) Schul, Saurabh Sinha, Dirk Van Roost, Daniel Walsh

Lucinda Foster and Susie Hide

Apologies: Moncef Berhouma, Mohamed Abdelatif Boukebir, Steven De Vleeschouwer, Bernhard Meyer, Ricky Rasschaert, Florian Ringel, Thomas Santarius

1 Andreas Demetriades welcomed everyone to the meeting, and thanked them for coming.

2 LF notified the meeting of the apologies for absence detailed above.

3 The minutes of the last meeting in Madrid 2015 were unanimously accepted.

4 EANS News

SH reported as follows:

- Initial feedback suggests that EANS2016 will to be one of our most successful events ever, both in terms of the scientific programme and of participant numbers. This is particularly satisfying given the recent move to an annual congress rhythm.
- Our finances remain stable. Over the past few years we have continued to increase turnover year on year whilst maintaining a consistent level of cash in the bank.
- Individual membership numbers continue to grow: we have recently reached 1500 members, reflecting a 10% increase in the past year. This meant that the individual membership would be allotted 40 votes instead of the current 20 at the next AGM (see later discussion under point 8). Significantly reduced subscription rates have recently been introduced for those in developing countries and conflict zones. LF had provided comprehensive statistic in advance to IM delegates in advance of this meeting.
- It has been agreed that a third cycle of the European Training Course will commence in Spring 2017, thus enabling significantly more residents to participate in this ever-popular event.
- We are encouraging our specialist sections to engage more actively with their members. (see later discussion of this issue under point 7) The establishment of a new Pediatric Section was ratified by the AGM earlier in the week.
- It has been agreed that a new EANS Research Foundation should be established. Plans for a fundraising initiative are underway and we hope to launch this in 2017.

- We have received an increasing number of requests to act as congress partner to other international neurosurgical organisations, which will continue to be considered by the Board on an individual basis. We welcome these, and the increasing international influence of European neurosurgery that they reflect.
- We are considering how we can lobby most effectively for our specialty within Europe and are assessing the value for money that our membership of the European Brain Council (EBC) provides.

Further discussion of the following points then ensued:

Research Foundation

Ekkehard Kasper (EK) wondered if the EANS might consider funding perhaps two fellowships a year, as the tumor section of the AANS does at present.

SH referred the plans to establish a research foundation, which would be used to fund one or more 12 month fellowships, to be launched in 2018. A consultant had been engaged to consider the viability of such a project and had concluded that potential support was sufficiently strong to proceed. Over the next few months potential funding sources would be identified and considered, and a detailed implementation plan with regard to the foundation's legal format and trustees put in place.

A potential increase of €25 in the annual full/full online membership fee which would be earmarked for the research foundation had been mooted informally, and some discussion of this suggestion ensued. SH advised that she would prepare a report on progress with regard to the foundation prior to the next Board meeting in December and it was agreed that the Committee would wait for this report before considering the matter in more detail. SH and EK agreed to discuss this further in San Diego, time permitting.

Action: SH to circulate status report to IM delegates in December.

EANS membership of European Brain Council

SH said that the EANS had suspended payment of the annual EBC subscription of €20,000 as it was felt that this money could be spent better elsewhere. Initial analysis of EBC report/accounts suggested that only c 21% of turnover was being used towards the EBC's core mission. SH advised that the EANS had historically been poorly represented at EBC meetings, with Manfred Westphal being the only regular EANS delegate. Dirk Van Roost (DVR) advised that he was President of the Belgian National Brain Council and it was suggested that he might consider becoming the second EANS delegate. It was decided that SH and DVR should discuss this further and that SH should report back to the IM Committee following her meeting with the EBC in Brussels in a fortnight's time.

Action: SH and DVR

5. Membership update including new membership categories/rewards scheme

LF summarised the figures and trends that had been provided to delegates prior to the meeting. AD remarked upon the reduction in the relative proportion of junior members, a potentially worrying trend given that these were our core future constituency. It was agreed that a year's complimentary membership of the EANS should be offered to those graduating from the Training Courses once it was possible to pay by direct debit (see point 6 below); this initiative had been tried unsuccessfully in the past, but it was hoped that offering automatic renewal by direct debit with an option to unsubscribe would prove more effective.

Action: EANS Office

LF confirmed that the planned new, discounted membership categories for members from developing countries had

been introduced and appeared to have been well received to date. The new loyalty scheme rewarding those who had been individual members for 5, 10 or 15 consecutive years had recently been implemented; pins/certificates are now ready for collection for the EANS booth or will be posted out to those not present in Athens.

The possibility of negotiating affinity marketing deals on behalf of our membership was discussed. SH advised that the only such benefit at present was a 10% discount available to all members on direct Accor hotel bookings with no cancellation option, which had not been much used to date. Nonetheless, she offered to look into the possibility of making other such arrangements.

Action: SH

6 Update on new bank account, credit card options and direct debits

SH confirmed that following Brexit there were no plans to open a bank account in the UK. It has been discovered, however, that whilst it is currently impossible to accept direct debit payments to our existing Belgian accounts, it will be possible to do so if we open one or more 'First Party' accounts (accounts held in our own name rather than by our notary on our behalf). This will require the simultaneous presence of two Board members in Gent; it is hoped that this will be sorted this Autumn and that the EANS will therefore be able to offer renewal by direct debit from 2017 onwards.

A new card reader, offering immediate onsite payment by credit card, had been acquired and was being used successfully for the first time here in Athens.

7: Value for money offered by Section membership

AD reminded those present that last year the IM Committee had asked the Board if one section could be included free for each individual member. At that time, the Board declined to do this, but had promised to review the decision having monitored sections' activity during the course of the year. It was felt by those present that little progress had been made during this year.

SH said that each section chair had now been provided with a clear description of the tasks and objectives with some items being essential with others being desirable, a copy of which is attached

It was agreed that the EANS team and AD should put together suggestions for a survey monkey questionnaire to be sent to all IM Committee members with a view of it being circulated to all individual members within the next few weeks in order to gauge satisfaction of IMs with section involvement/activity. It was suggested that a member of the IM Committee could perhaps be seconded to each section board in order to assist with their engagement with the individual members. It was agreed that the EANS Office would ask the Section Chairs whether they would welcome this initiative.

Action: AD/EANS Office

8 Election of 20 additional IM delegates

As explained by SH when delivering the EANS News report, the constitution provides that the number of IM delegate votes can be increased to 40 (from the current 20) now that the number of individual members is over 1500. The additional 20 delegates will be recruited by democratic electronic vote of the individual members as in the past; it was decided to start this process in January as the constitution states 40 named IM delegates need to be registered in Gent before 40 votes can be cast at the next AGM. All 40 delegates need not attend in person, however, as the constitution allows for proxy voting, meaning that 20 delegates can if necessary have two votes each.

It was unanimously agreed that it is not necessary to have 40 IM Committee members but that all delegates should be invited to the IM Committee meetings.

There was a lengthy discussion as to how and whether either (a) the opinion of the membership as a whole or (b) the opinion of the IM delegates should be canvassed in advance in respect of specific topics on the AGM agenda, and the IM delegates' votes on the topic cast proportionately. It was, however, decided to continue with the status quo, whereby all delegates are encouraged to attend the AGM in person.

Action: SH and LF

Topics for AGM agenda

SH reminded those present that the IM Committee can set topics for the AGM agenda and so in future the EANS team will email all IM Committee members two months prior to the AGM to ask for any suggested topics.

Action: LF

Any Other Business

Another Case of the Month platform

DW suggested that authors of the cases of the month may wish to try out the following app in conjunction with the current system: <https://en.medshr.net>

This provides an easy means of uploading cases and recording consent electronically. Patients can sign electronically on iPhone or iPad. The platform itself is free and DW finds it very easy to use and a useful means of encouraging interactive commentary on cases. The originators of the app offered an EANS case of the month promotion. The cases can be disseminated immediately via social media e.g. a tweet from the EANS twitter account

DW suggested that whosoever is responsible for the case on a given month could upload the case and then interact with commentators for, say a month, until the next case is published.

Dudi Schul (DS) kindly agreed to give it a try with his September case of the month and will report back to the IM Committee with his thoughts afterwards.

EK suggested that ACTA should have a link on their website to the case of the month and agreed to discuss this with Tiit Mathiesen, Editor in Chief of Acta.

Co-operation with other national society annual meetings

AD wanted to encourage people to continue to try and include an EANS session within their national society annual meetings. Members from Germany and Turkey have been successful in doing this and it is hoped that the SBNS will hold an EANS session in Spring 2017.

Posters at the EANS Annual Congress

Daniel Walsh (DW) expressed concern that many of those who had posters accepted might ultimately choose not to attend the annual congress, given the cost of registration and the fact that e-posters meant that authors' work was not continuously on display. He suggested some kind of inducement, possibly a small reduction in the registration fee, for residents who had posters accepted. NF, one of the local organising committee here in Athens, advised that 795 authors of the 1075 e-posters accepted for EANS2016 had registered for the congress.

EK suggested 'rapid fire presentations', such as those offered by the AANS/CNS Tumor Section, in order to enhance the visibility of work which would otherwise have been displayed as posters. Similar initiatives had been introduced at previous EANS meetings.

It was ultimately agreed that it was not the role of the IM committee to intervene with regard to the scientific content of annual congresses and that this should be left to the discretion of the Organising/Scientific Committee.

Date of Next Meeting: Venice EANS 2017 – before the AGM

Exact location and date and time TBC.