

Minutes of the Individual Members' Committee of the EANS

Tuesday 3 October 2017

Those present: Andreas Demetriades (Chairman), Moncef Berhouma, Anna-Margaret Bohrer, Hans Clusmann, Giulia Del Moro, Christian Dimitriu, Nicolas Foroglou, Thomas Freiman, Radek Fric, Nikolay Gabrovsky, Daniel Haenggi, Jennifer Hodurek-Diez, Marcel Ivanov, Ekkehard Kasper, William Lo, Luciano Mastronardi, David Netuka, Ricky Rasschaert, Sami Ridwan, Florian Ringel, Nicolas Sampron, David (Dudi) Schul, Francesco Signorelli, Saurabh Sinha, Cesare Zoia

Lucinda Foster (Membership Secretary) and Liz Derow (Associate Executive Director)

Apologies: Mohamed Abdelatif Boukebir, Steven De Vleeschouwer, Sandro Krieg, Bernhard Meyer, Thomas Santarius, Cumhur Kilincer, Juan Lourido, Dimitrios Paraskevopoulos, Gerrit Alexander Schubert, Philippe Schucht, Ottavio Tomasi, Rikin Trivedi, Dirk Van Roost, Miroslav Vukic, Daniel Walsh

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

2 Lucinda notified the committee of the apologies for absence detailed above.

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

4 **Chairman's report** (this report be found in the dropbox with the other reports mentioned in item 9 below)

5 **Membership update**

Everyone had already received updated membership figures. Nicolas Foroglou asked what percentage of members were currently from outside Europe – Lucinda replied about 20% having checked the latest membership report.

6 **Matters outstanding from IM Committee meeting**

- a. **Update on new bank account, credit card options, direct debits** – The card reader had been used at all EANS events for the last 12 months and had proved to be a great success. First party bank accounts have been opened earlier this year but it is necessary to get the proposed new IT system up and running before a possible direct debit can be considered further. However, Lucinda and Liz did point out that it would be unlikely that this would be possible for those outside Europe. Whilst direct debits would clearly be helpful to many Lucinda did point out that the increasing problem with online payments from some international countries which do not have Paypal was actually much more of a current issue.

(Since the meeting Liz has kindly contacted the administrative director at Eurospine who said No, not possible to have direct debits or standing orders beyond national borders. We also have checked this repeatedly. We do have regular online cc payments, and have just installed a new data base management in the background to help automatizing lot of procedures.)

Andreas Demetriades also raised the question of whether it would be more efficient to have all renewals on 1 January each year and people would then expect/know the time for their renewal each year. Lucinda will ask the EANS office team who are looking into suggested new IT systems to bear this suggestion in mind when looking at the various IT options.

Acta – Hans Clusmann and Andreas Demetriades both said they had problems accessing Acta on line. It was agreed that easy access to the journal is crucial and so Lucinda will look in to this.

Action: EANS Office team

b. Research Foundation Update

Peter Hutchinson and the Board have put forward this initiative for the EANS to provide funding for neurosurgical research in Europe.

Phase 1: Up to 6 x €10k seed grants for neurosurgical research projects, distributed equitably among the subspecialties – addressing brain injury, vascular neurosurgery, oncology, spine surgery and functional neurosurgery

Phase 2: Funding for one or more year-long research fellowships

Further information can be found at: <http://www.eans.org/pages/education/eans-research-fund>

c. European Brain Council

Dirk Van Roost provided the Membership Secretary with the following update before the meeting:

“Since the Athens Congress the EANS has the status of observer and of not full member of the EBC, at a markedly reduced fee. Prof. Manfred Westphal and I have attended most EBC meetings in Brussels, where we thus had the opportunity to bring in valuable comments concerning neurosurgery, that will complete advices to be forwarded to the policy makers in the EU.

Manfred Westphal and I have planned for the EANS 2018 Congress (in co-organization of which I am involved) to schedule a session that should highlight the importance of the EBC for the EANS, and vice versa.”

7 IM delegate role

Hans Clusmann said he felt it was not currently clear what the exact role of the IM delegates was.

Andreas Demetriades asked those present to describe what they understood as their role. It was agreed that the IM Committee are representatives chosen by the individual members and their main official role is to vote on their behalf at the AGMs.

Cesare Zoia thought his role was to discuss the various nominations with IM friends/colleagues and then he should ultimately decide how best to use his vote at the meetings.

On that theme the pre-congress on line survey/poll was discussed. Those present felt it was helpful to have the members survey to gauge the views of the individual members but only 101 out of 1700 people took part so the results could only be taken as a rough guideline as it only represented 6% of the membership. Andreas Demetriades went through the survey results and pointed out that currently the survey monkey system did not provide the EANS office with any feedback on whose emails 'bounced back' and the EANS office are looking into this for future surveys. Sami Ridwan suggested that emails to individual members with important surveys should be marked as 'high priority'. Marcel Ivanov also suggested that at least one reminder to individual members before the close of the survey would be helpful to try and encourage more members to vote.

Andreas Demetriades said he felt it is important that the IM delegates have the freedom to vote at will. He also explained that it was meant to be a two-way information system – the IM Committee is a forum to come and ask/make suggestions and if we don't know the answer we will find it out and report back.

Hans Clusmann said that it was crucial for all IM delegates to come to the IM Committee meetings in order for everyone to be informed to the same level by the committee chairman, who attends the Board meetings on their behalf (eg Andreas Demetriades up until now and Hans Clusmann also from now on).

Hans Clusmann thought that it would be good to focus on the interaction with the section members as the sections function differently. Lucinda is currently working on helping the sections communicate more actively by helping them set up section newsletters, journal clubs, Facebook pages and virtual meetings.

Action: EANS Office team

8. Discuss the AGM program and candidates for elections, in order to screen the "IM"-position

EANS2020 bids

- Details for each of the four bids had been circulated; Belgrade, Hamburg, Jerusalem, Rotterdam. It was noted that Belgrade were running for the third time and they had been a very close second previously.

IM Delegate proxy votes

- Andreas Demetriades wanted to ensure that there was a 100% transparent system for transferring the proxy votes from those IM delegates who were absent to those present. The Board had suggested that the names of those voting should close 24 hours before the AGM. Andreas Demetriades and Lucinda therefore met before the deadline and submitted named proposals for IM delegates present to have a second vote. The people involved

confirmed they were happy to take the second vote as announced publicly by Andreas Demetriades at the meeting.

9. Reports from the sections, academy, case of the month, journal club

Andreas Demetriades asked that all reports from the EANS Council meeting should be made available in dropbox for all IM delegates - <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/gtc0zjog8qfuu8t/AAD38-2I5kE5HDY4XX4QhncHa?dl=0>

Previously the IM Committee had provided all the cases of the month but now most of the cases are provided by non IM delegates. Marcel Ivanov suggested that an 'expert' was asked to comment on each case and this has been passed on to Liz who arranges the Case of the Month rota.

10. AOCB

(A) UEMS representative on IM Committee

- Nicolas Foroglou asked if it would be helpful to have an UEMS representative attend the IM Committee meetings to increase their visibility. Lucinda to contact Johannes Van Loon about this suggestion.

Action: Lucinda

(B) Proposal by email from Cumhur Kilincer

- *Turkish Neurosurgical Society has a very large and active Spine and peripheral Nerve Surgery Group (more than 300 members). Website: <http://www.spinetr.com/>*

This group organizes a large spine symposium in Turkey every year. It is held every October. I suggest to have a dedicated EANS Session in 2018 Symposium, to increase visibility. For that session, EANS may send a speaker, or just can use EANS members to represent itself (eg Cumhur Kilincer).

It was agreed that this was a very good suggestion and Lucinda will be in touch with Cumhur Kilincer to discuss it further.

Action: Lucinda

(C) Proposal by email from Steven De Vleeschouwer on Possibilities of increasing numbers of junior members -

- *"Regarding the concern about the few numbers of new junior members rolling in, I would suggest to actively propagate the IM option during the EANS training courses e.g. especially for those taking the exam (as they will be at the end of their 4-year cycle). That particular momentum seems to be perfect for recruiting young neurosurgeons as they all are in a 'EANS favourable' mindset at that time. Just a track to consider..."*

It was discussed that this idea had been tried previously. Hans Clusmann, Andreas

Demetriades and Lucinda will look into the possibility of perhaps having a one off fee for a 5 year IM period for those starting the training courses and/or having a larger difference between the registration fee for members and non members (currently there is only €25 difference). Also, is there a possibility of membership renewal for a period longer than one year, with maybe a discount?

Action: Hans and Lucinda

(D) Proposal by Marcel Ivanov on medical student congress fees

- Marcel Ivanov said that he felt the exposure is very limited to medical students to learn about what neurosurgery is all about and that they should be encouraged to come to our congresses with no registration fee as any form of fee is prohibitive for them to attend if they have no income or debts from university. It was noted that medical students can now take advantage of a new medical student type membership of €25. Giulia Del Moro suggested that the first touch with neurosurgery could be at the national society meetings leaving the more committed students to attend our congresses. Marcel pointed out that the national societies have scrapped registration fees so it would be good if we could do the same for really committed EANS individual members. Liz also pointed out that we did have an allocation of 20 medical student places for €100 each. It was proposed that we should have a reference written by their department as part of the application. Liz explained that the delegate rate per capita is more than €100, ie actual costs to the EANS per attendee. Giulia Del Moro agreed it is important to 'catch' people at an early stage and whilst the financial aspects are important it may be worth extending the medical student allocation to 30. Andreas Demetriades pointed out that it would be easier for them to attend if they had a presentation. It was agreed that this proposal would be put forward to the general assembly of the AGM the same evening.

Action: EANS Office team/Andreas/Hans

(E) Feedback from the EANS2017 Congress

Issues raised about the scientific program:

- Saurabh Sinha felt there were too many parallel sessions especially on the same topic.
- Ekkehard Kasper felt the Section Chairs tended to invite the same lecturers each year on the same topics (cf the CNS congresses don't repeat the topics for the next 2 or 3 years)

- would be good to include more new younger speakers

Andreas Demetriades said it was most important that everyone completed their feedback forms before leaving the congress even if they didn't need the CME points.

Andreas Demetriades thanked everyone present for their support over his term as Chair of the IM Committee and he handed over the task to Hans Clusmann.

Date of Next Meeting: Brussels EANS 2018

Exact location and date and time TBC. Meeting to be arranged at least 24 hours before the AGM