

News from the Business Meeting held during the ESC Congress in Barcelona August 30, 2009

The Association has got a new President-Elect

- There were two official candidates, Professor Ornella Milanesi from Padua, Italy and Doctor Shak Qureshi from London, United Kingdom, for the Office of President-Elect. Therefore a ballot was organized.

There were a total of 353 eligible votes. Shak Qureshi received 258 and Ornella Milanesi 95 of the votes. The Business Meeting nominated Shak Qureshi as the new President-Elect. Shak Qureshi accepted the nomination.

The Council thanks the candidates for their candidacy and their interest in the work of the Association. We congratulate Shak Qureshi for his new position as the President-Elect. We all wish him the best of luck in the demanding task during these challenging times.

Active voting is a strong demonstration of democracy in our Association. In fact, AEPC is the largest global democratic Association in the field of congenital heart diseases.

Changes in the Council

- Klaus Schmidt from Duesseldorf, Germany, stepped down as AEPC Treasurer. He has served the Association as a Treasurer for 6 years. The Secretary General, the President and the members thank him for his excellent work.

- Joerg Stein from Innsbruck, Austria was elected as the new Treasurer for 2009-2014
- Konrad Brockmeier from Cologne, Germany, was elected as a Councillor for 2009-2012
- Junior fellow Tara Bharucha from London, United Kingdom, stepped down as the Junior Councillor. The Junior members have elected Georgia Sarquella Brugada from Barcelona, Spain, as the new Junior Councillor. She will serve 2009 through 2014. The Council thanks Tara for her work in organizing teaching courses for Junior members together with the working groups.

Future Annual Meetings will be organized as follows:

2010 Innsbruck

2011 Granada

2012 Istanbul

2013 London

2014 Helsinki

Report from the Treasurer:

The balance of the Association has been positive during the last six years. It was slightly negative in 2008 due to the fact that the surplus of both the 2006 and 2007 Annual meetings were paid in 2007. Therefore, in 2007, the positive balance of the Association was almost twice as high as during the previous years. The assets obtained during the previous years are an important financial backbone for the Association during the next economically challenging years.

The number of unpaid membership fees is increasing!

The Treasurer and the Council are really worried about the development in the number of unpaid members. 90-95% of the members paid their membership fee in 2006 and 2007. Only 70% of the members paid their annual subscription in 2008 and the number of unpaid members is around 40% in August 2009. The Annual fees are the basis of our activity. Without the fees the Association is not able to arrange teaching courses and provide the members with the journal Cardiology in the Young. Thus, the Council urges those members who have not yet paid their membership fee to pay it **immediately**. You can easily pay the annual subscription on-line via AEPC web page www.aepc.org

The Treasurer and the Secretary-General will also remind the members that have not paid their annual subscription in two years that according to the Constitution

- 'Any member whose subscription is more than two years in arrears, and who has received two requests for payment, shall be considered to have resigned and his/her name shall be removed from the membership list.'

Thus, please pay your annual subscription now. (Only Junior and Ordinary members and those Senior members who want to get the Journal shall pay the annual fee. Senior members who do not want to get the Journal do not pay any annual subscription).

Issues taken up by the members:

- Emanuela Valsangiacomo Büchel asked how the Association will financially support the activity of the working groups in the future. Treasurer Klaus Schmidt informed that the Association has made a one-time donation of 5000,- to all the working groups a couple of years ago. The Association will also in the future allocate money to the working groups if the economical situation of the Association is feasible. Secretary-General Eero Jokinen added that the activity of different working groups varies a lot. Therefore it would be sensible to support those working groups that are active and use their money e.g. to organize teaching courses. The Educational Committee will clarify different ways of financial support to the working groups.

- Secretary-General Eero Jokinen asked the audience's opinion about opening the membership to the nurses like ESC has done. All but one of the attendees supported the nurse membership. Secretary-General informed that the Council will evaluate the

Constitution and then possibly propose an amendment(s) in the Constitution for the next Business Meeting.

The complete Minutes of the Business Meeting will be sent to the members later. The next Newsletter will be sent via e-mail and published in the journal Cardiology in the Young in December 2009.

I wish you all an active but relaxing fall. Let's enjoy the whistling of the wind in the corners, refreshing rain then and now and the velvet dark autumn nights.

Eero Jokinen

AEPC Secretary-General