

Minutes of the AEPC Business Meeting 2006 in Basel

Thursday, 25th of May, 17 to 19 p.m. Auditorium Phoenix

Participants: 150 members

1) Welcome address of the President:

The president Prof. András Szatmári welcomed the participants and thanked Prof. Joel Guenthard, local chairman, and the Swiss Society for Pediatric Cardiology for an extremely well prepared and organized meeting. He congratulated both Shakeel Qureshi and the Swiss committee for an excellent scientific program. He also thanked AKM for their excellent organization of the meeting.

2) Obituary:

Prof. Robert Anderson commemorated Prof. Fogus McCartney and Prof. William F. Friedman. Both colleagues have passed away in autumn 2005. Both have contributed very much to the development of Pediatric Cardiology in Europe and the U.S.A and both have been excellent researchers, teachers, mentors and very reliable colleagues and friends. They were leaders in the field of Pediatric Cardiology. Prof. McCartney had organized the first Paediatric World Congress together with Prof. Jane Somerville.

Prof. Robert Anderson then spoke about Dr. Peter Oberhaensli, husband of the Secretary-General for AEPC, who died after a prolonged illness suddenly on the 8th of April. He honored his smooth helping character and his contributions to AEPC in developing a working English database.

3) Report of the President, Prof. András Szatmári:

The president provided a detailed overview of his activities and negotiations at ESC and provided a detailed outlook for changes to come. He mentioned the Euro-Accreditation in General Cardiology and the Euro Examination in Echocardiography, which will become specifically extended in December 2006 in Prague for Cardiologists handling patients with Congenital Cardiac Malformations. The test will and should be taken also by Paediatric Cardiologists. He urged colleagues to be prepared for a Euro-Examination in General Paediatric Cardiology to assure quality protecting Paediatric Cardiologists' activities from unqualified colleagues to practice this specialty. He mentioned his very good relationship with the European Society for Cardiology, acknowledging the support from ESC, which had contributed that AEPC became very well represented in the Union of European Medical Specialists (UEMS), in the European Board of Accreditation for Cardiology (EBAC) and also in the different Cardiac Societies overseas. He mentioned that Pediatrics within CESP is trying to get Paediatric Cardiology back into CESP. However the visit of the Secretary-General and the Secretary-General –elect at CESP was more than disappointing. The Council thus decided to stay as an observer in CESP but not to join them. AEPC is much more respected and supported by the Cardiology Section of UEMS and by ESC. Pr. Szatmári gave them a short report about the latest developments in the UEMS, which had its annual meeting in Brussels prior to this meeting. A more detailed report will get published by UEMS by the end of August and can be read by AEPC members on ESC and UEMS website. The European Parliament has accepted to recognize a specialty as "Mono"-specialty if it is recognized as such in more than 40% of European countries. Specialties, which are recognized in more than 30% of EU countries as specialty will also be represented directly in UEMS as Specialty. UEMS respects the rules of countries for all professional aspects. This attitude might, however, change with time.

(Secretary-General's note:

At present the European Parliament will recognize a specialty.

- if more than 40% of EU countries recognize this specialty;
- if less than 40%, but more than 30% of EU countries recognize a specialty, then this specialty should be represented in UEMS;
- if less than 30%, but more than 2 EU countries recognize a specialty, then this specialty should remain as specialty, but it should be registered in the medical directive of the country where it is accredited.

National Delegates in all EU countries in which Pediatric Cardiology is acknowledged as a specialty should thus verify whether the specialty is registered in the countries' medical directive! It will, however, be important to continue to lobby in each EU country for official recognition of the "Specialty of Pediatric Cardiology" as Specialty or even better as Mono-Specialty through the respective government.

The European Parliament had refused to recognize and respect a European Examination and Certificate for Specialties so far, allowing free migration in Europe and professional appointments in all EU countries. ESC, however, has decided to continue with an EU Examination in Cardiology and is willing to take on board also a European Pediatric Cardiology Examination. It was announced in ESC that Imaging with NMR and CT; Rhythmology etc will also develop Euro-Examinations. The proposal to include Paediatric Cardiology in the process of European examinations may have the advantage for AEPC to profit of the established ESC logistics, thus making the procedure less expensive. It would also favor professional harmonization in the EU. Therefore, ESC and UEMS address European Cardiologists to opt for a European examination in Cardiology and a European Certificate. Both ESC and UEMS are convinced that such a certificate will become recognized in the near future by the European Parliament and then also by all countries belonging to the European Union. Such an EU recognition will have professional consequences. AEPC should therefore take all efforts to organize a professional Euro-Examination in Pediatric Cardiology.)

The president insisted also once again on the "Harmonization" of training, trainer and training institutional requirements which will become of greatest importance in the future for all specialties and in particular for medical professional affairs. AEPC has revised their recommendations concerning teaching, teacher and training institutional requirements and evaluate teaching institutions in Europe last year. Several medical specialties have started to visit institutions in different countries and to review their departments, training programs, and continuous training proposals since last year.

4) Welcome of new members:

The Secretary-General welcomed the new "ordinary" and "junior" members. A listing had been sent previously to all members. The listing can still be appreciated on a poster at the entrance hall of the venue.

For the very first time 120 applications were received and accepted; four applicants from outside of Europe and one technician had failed to provide the Council with the necessary information and a short but convincing curriculum, they were not accepted for membership so far.

The change to the on-line system created important difficulties and additional workload for the secretary-general. Important information was missing for new members, the documents were not seen by National Delegates and most of the applicants did not provide supporting letters from colleagues. The problems with on-line application have now been settled.

The role of National Delegates should be to check the membership application for its content and to verify the statements of training etc.

For practical reasons, AEPC should have a time limit for acceptance of new applications that will get accepted during the Business Meeting, this was fixed to the 15th of March.

Applicants for membership from not European countries should have nevertheless two proposer who are AEPC members. National Delegates do not exist in countries where these colleagues come from.

The Secretary-General invited the assembly to continue to stimulate also in the future colleagues working in the field of Pediatric Cardiology to join the Association. The more members AEPC accounts, the more it will become influential and respected, the more it will be able to realize a harmonized concept of Pediatric Cardiology and Quality Control in the field of Pediatric Cardiology in Europe.

The Secretary –General gave tribute to Mr. Nagy for his help in setting up the on-line application system.

5) Replacement of Councilors:

The president thanked Pr. Alpay Celiker for his contributions in the Council and wished him further success in his professional career. Then he welcomed PD. Dr. Gerald Tulzer from Austria as new Council member.

The president invited Pr. H. Kaemmerer and Prof. H. Baumgartner to become more active in the GUCH committee in AEPC and to nominate a treasurer for the GUCH-committee. He invited the assembly to provide nominations for the replacement of Prof. F. Piccio in the GUCH-committee in 2007.

He invited also nominations for the replacement of the Scientific Secretary and of Council Members who will leave the board in 2007.

6) Replacement of the president in 2007:

Prof. André Bozio from Lyon, France, has accepted to replace Prof. András Szatmári as President of the Association in 2007. The assembly welcomes the president-elect. The new president-elect addressed some words to the assembly and promise to continue the work of the acting president and to see for his best in the interest of the Society.

He also welcomed suggestions for further improvement of the administration of the society and encourages all members to invite their friends and colleagues in Paediatric Cardiology and connected medical fields to join AEPC. He expressed also the hope that his colleagues from France will support him and join the society as active members.

7) Report of the Treasurer

The treasurer provided a detailed overview about the financial situation of the association. For details a special written report is provided.

He claimed again that discipline was very discouraging concerning the payment of annual membership fees although progress has been made this year. He showed that at least 1/3 of the members had still not paid their annual contribution, some of them for more than 2 and 3 years and this although letters had been sent to the members by the treasurer and the treasurer's secretary.

He thanked Prof. Beat Friedli, Switzerland and Prof. Fernando Maymon-Martins, Portugal, for the revision of the accounts. He transmitted also the suggestion from Prof. Friedli and Prof. Maymon-Martins to appoint a professional person for future revisions of the accounts of the Society.

8) Report of the Scientific Secretary:

Dr. Shakeel Qureshi reported about the very good collaboration with AKM and the local organising team for this year's annual meeting in Basel. He particularly mentioned the perfect and easy abstract handling program and the tremendous help that Dr. Klaus Moldenhauer had provided.

Poster prices for Euro 1'500.- are again sponsored by Gore. The awarding of 3 prizes will take place on Friday during the Gala-dinner.

It was suggested to create a "young investigator price" for future meetings.

Several chairmen and speakers had to be replaced at the last minute, because they were not enough sponsored or unable to join for the program due to other more important duties. This has again caused problems which should in the future no more occur, invitations and the time of the annual meeting have been well announced in advance.

All WGs have received in 2005 a certain amount of money in order to cover for the expenses in symposia.

In 2006 working groups will get again about Euro 3000.- for their needs. The organisation of the Annual Meeting will not sponsor further WG-speakers but will waive the registration for up to 3 speakers for each WG who will organise a symposium in 2007.

There are two obligations, for the local organiser (PCO and Chairman):

a) The official "**Teaching Course**" is organised and financed together with the annual meeting. The special registration fee of Euro 90.- should contribute to cover the expenses. The speakers of the Teaching Course (not more than 9!!!) get for their expenses –Euro 500.- each from the organiser.

The organiser should cover also for the preparation of a CD or manuscript providing the content of the course. AEPC officer (president, secretary-general, scientific secretary and treasurer) and Junior Members of AEPC do not pay for the teaching course. Juniors who are not members have to pay the registration fee for the course.

b) For the **demonstration of specimens** one member of the WG for Morphology will get his/her travel- and hotel- expenses covered by the organiser; this person does not pay a registration fee. Material and other costs for this pathologic-anatomical demonstration are also covered by the local organiser of the meeting.

The teaching course in WARSAW 2007 will be provided by the TASK Force GUCH (Prof. H. Kämmerer, Prof. H. Baumgartner and Prof. F. Piccio).

Future Annual Meetings: 2008 will be held in Padua/Venice and organised by Prof. G. Stellin and Prof. O. Milanese. The preparation is in progress.

The World Congress in Australia will take place in June 2009. AEPC should participate thus the Annual Meeting in 2009 should get organised perhaps- as in former years -within the ESC meeting if ESC accepts. The president was asked to discuss this issue with the ESC officials rather urgently.

ESC Meeting in Barcelona 2006: AEPC should secure the participation of AEPC members, should push the importance of congenital cardiac malformations in the growing adult patient group and should support the sessions for congenital cardiac malformations in Barcelona.

10.) News from the Working Groups

Arrhythmia: J. Janousek reported that the follow-up study is still open for additional patients. He told that the Arrhythmia WG is preparing recommendations for training in Electrophysiology and general Arrhythmia. All full council of the Working Group will get replaced. The new chairman will be Urs Bauersfeld.

Oberhänsli-Weiss advised that it would be better not to replace the whole council at the same time but one and two par one and two. This advise should also get attention by other WG; for example by Imaging, Genetics and Basic Sciences etc.

Fetal: G. Tulzer reported that the councilors will not be changed this year. The Fetal WG has created a database for fetal intra cardiac procedures.

Genetics & Basic Sciences: J. Parsons reported that this WG has difficulties in replacing their Council Members. He announced that the WG Genetics & Basic Sciences will share the scientific program with electrophysiology during Annual Meeting in Warsaw in 2007.

Imaging: W. Helbing told that the WG Imaging is also in need of new people to join the Council.

The WG has rather tight co-operation with EAE and ESC. WG Imaging is actively involved in the "Accreditation" process in Congenital Echocardiography. The first European examination will take place in December in Prague. This WG will also be organizing a teaching course in echocardiography for Juniors in autumn 2006 and 2007 at reasonable charges.

Intensive Care: E. da Cruz reported that WG Intensive Care is organizing a Session about paediatric intensive care during the World Meeting of Intensive Care in Geneva in 2007. WG Intensive Care is also developing recommendations for the training in Paediatric Cardiac Intensive Care and a programme for European countries in transition. Recommendations for training in Paediatric Cardiac Intensive Care are in progress.

Intervention: M. Carminati reported that WG for Interventions will have a dedicated session during World Cardiology Congress. A very successful teaching course in Intervention and Hemodynamics was held in Budapest in April 2006. WG for Imaging is designing of recommendations for training in Interventional Cardiology. WG Imaging held a session about complications and it was well attended. One of the councilors will be replaced in 2007.

Morphology: Prof. A. Angelini reported that the WG got restructured; the election of a new Council with a new Secretary and Treasurer is under its ways. WG for Morphology will – as requested- continue with specimen demonstrations during Annual Meetings. The Council of AEPC has agreed that in the future the organizer of an Annual Meeting will sponsor one person each year. (Registration fee for the meeting will get waved and compensations for accommodation and travel costs will be provided.)

Surgery: G. Stellin reported that the Surgical WG will be restructured and the WG Surgery will get strongly involved in the Meeting in Padua in 2008.

Psycho-Social: U. Salzer-Muhar reported from a very interesting meeting in Ireland. Many psycho-social aspect have been discussed.

GUCH Committee: F. Picchio stated that since years the GUCH Committee takes care of relations with WG 22 in ESC. These relations have been improved year after year and there is now a rather friendly atmosphere. The GUCH Committee will organize the teaching courses in Warsaw in 2007.

11) Report of the Advisory Board (PAC)

Prof. S. Kaku provided a short report on the latest developments in EBAC. Only very few paediatric cardiologists organising meetings in the past have applied for CME credits. One reason for this is the rather high price for the evaluation of a meeting through EBAC. He insisted, however, on the necessity to use EBAC evaluation also for paediatric cardiology meetings if AEPC should continue to be well represented and acknowledged in UEMS and in EBAC.

He mentions that a new committee in AEPC has been formed which is supposed to prepare a Euro-Examination in Paediatric Cardiology for 2007 hopefully. He invited all Colleagues to take this examination and to demonstrate their will for harmonization of training-requirements and quality-control in Paediatric Cardiology.

12) Report of the Coding Committee

Rodny Franklin reported on the ongoing work of the Coding Committee. The committee is still very busy in completing the part of "treatments" with surgical and catheterization interventions and its intra-operative, intra-procedural and post-operative and post-procedural complications. The latest published short list of the EPCC will need again some corrections soon. He asked that any errors or desired changes should be specified and sent to the members of the committee. He also announced important international activities of some of the members of the committee, the intense effort to comfort surgical societies more and more overseas which had not been willing to accept the EPCC System. (It needs to be stated that the EPCC system has been an enormous European effort to harmonise the description of lesions; to speak the same language and to allow unified reporting in Paediatric Cardiology and in Paediatric Cardiovascular Surgery). Rodney Franklin is hoping to publish the international coding system by the end of this year and to up-grade then the short list used in general by many institutions.

13) The Journal Cardiology in the Young

The distribution of CTY to all paying members has been appreciated. The editors and publishers are looking forward with confidence and encourage AEPC members to become more active in providing and reviewing new articles.

Problems were encountered with the addresses of members which had changed during the year. Members have not always up-graded their data in time and have not informed the Secretary-General either. CTY editors have been late in correcting the address lists, which were sent to them by Peter Oberhänsli regularly.

Up-grading of addresses is very essential as mailing costs are high. Therefore all efforts should be taken that the journal is sent to the correct address. It is the responsibility of AEPC members to inform the Secretary-General and to up-grade on-line his/her address on the AEPC Website.

14) Report of the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General reported on important efforts which were taken to accommodate members' expectations, however, only about 50% of members answer questionnaires, mostly with important delays. She very vigorously called on the members for a better collaboration and recognition of the efforts taken by the council members who work in their free time, during nights and on weekends, for the sake of this Association and who have not had any financial compensation for their efforts. In the future registration fees for Annual Meetings will get waved for Council members.

She asked the assembly to provide suggestions for the future development of this association, for improvement of collaboration. She asked members to support this Association through promotion of new members, submission of proposals for the replacement of councilors and officials.

She challenged the arrangements with ESC, UEMS, CESP and EBAC, but thought that participation in these organizations was necessary for recognition of Paediatric Cardiology world wide.

The Secretary-General finally thanked all her colleagues in the Council and the members for their confidence and their collaboration during the past 6 years.

The work for AEPC had been most challenging but also satisfying. Without the help of her husband, who has passed a way suddenly only some weeks ago, she would not have been able to run the business of the Secretary-General. Her husband had always supported her

engagement with and for AEPC and she owes him a lot of respect and thank for his important help, encouragement and his patients.
She welcomed once again the new Secretary-General, Prof. Eero Jokinen and wished him strength and success. She asked the assembly to support and help the new Secretary-General in his difficult tasks.

15) Future Annual Meetings and World Congresses

Annual Meetings:

Warsaw presented shortly their invitation to the Annual Meeting in 2007 and gave an outline of scientific and social activities. The Padua Meeting in 2008 was fixed to be held on Lido Island. For 2009, the President was asked to see whether the Meeting can be organized in connection with ESC Meeting. This because of World Congress in Paediatric Cardiology will be held in Australia in June 2009.

16) Other Business

There was no request to discuss other business. The business meeting was closed at 9:55.

Prof. András Szatmari

President of AEPC

Ingrid Oberhänsli-Weiss, MD, PD
& Eero Jokinen, M.D., P.D.
Secretary-General for AEPC

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