

Meeting of the General Assembly of ERS: Istanbul, June 23, 2004

K Ingels, Nijmegen, the Netherlands
Secretary ERS

Present: 56 members, of which 6 have a power of attorney for another 12 members; in total 56+12= 68 voters.

Opening by the President

Agenda
accepted

1. Approval of the minutes General Assembly, Ulm, 2002.

No objection.

2. New Statutes and By-laws

New statutes were necessary in order to establish a modern Society as a non profit organisation, without personal (financial) risks for the members of the Executive Committee (EC). We needed an official status to be recognized by European Institutions, and to make a solid basis for the future. Therefore the EC installed a Stat(utes) Com(mittee) in Ulm, 2002. This StatCom (EH Huizing, M Holmström, K Ingels, R Jankowski, G Rettinger) came together in 2002 and set the principles and goals for the future, based on the "Old" statutes of 1986. These were translated in a "Draft Statutes" by a Dutch lawyer. This Draft was sent to all members of the EC, who were able to react and amend. All members of ERS were informed 6 months prior to the General Assembly (GA) (according to the Old Statutes), about the final Draft Statutes with a letter included in Rhinology, referring to the text of both Old and New Statutes on the website: www.europeanrhinologicsociety.org.

The most important changes in the new statutes are:

- The office of Secretary becomes more important as an initiator of projects, developing new ideas and concepts, and responsible for the strategy on a longer run. As a leader of ERS his function is called Secretary General, and he stays for 6 years. He also cares for daily business, and is responsible for execution of the decisions of the GA, Advisory Board (AB), and EC.
- The congress Presidents (Past, Present, Next, and Elect) can concentrate more upon their ERS Congress, for which they are responsible.
- Besides regular members, the Society also has junior and senior members who will pay a reduced fee.
- The AB has an official status with defined competences. It includes not only official delegates (country > 10 mem-

bers), but also regional representatives (RR) (country < 10 members).

- The statutes are necessary for our legal recognition and describe in summary the basic laws. How the statutes are to be executed is arranged in the By-laws, where details for daily business are included.

There is a suggestion by A van Olphen (Netherlands) to increase the age for junior membership from 32 years to 35 years. The EC will consider this proposal.

The General Assembly decides unanimously and without objection for the change in Statutes dating 1986, and description in a notarial act of the changed statutes of the European Rhinologic Society, as a formal Society under the Dutch Law, according to the Draft Statutes of the European Rhinologic Society, dating 18 november 2003, with appointment of G Rettinger as Secretary General, M Önerci as President, M Rautiainen as Next President, G Rettinger as Past President, and S Lacroix as Treasurer of ERS.

The General Assembly authorizes K Ingels, former secretary, and G Rettinger, Secretary General, to execute this decision of the GA, by act of mr. FJGG Prick, notary in Nijmegen (the Netherlands), and registration of the European Rhinologic Society and her statutes in the Chamber of Commerce.

3. Courses

The Society has 4 official courses for which she awards fellowships for colleagues from Eastern Europe:

- International Course in Functional Corrective Nasal Surgery, Utrecht, the Netherlands
- An Endoscopic Approach to Rhinosinusitis, London, United Kingdom
- International Course on FESS (Basic and Advanced Techniques), Graz, Austria
- International Course in Functional-Aesthetic Nasal Surgery, Ulm, Germany

Two additional courses are added for the near future (and to be renewed)

- Third Biennial International Milano Masterclass. Sinonasal and Skull Base Endoscopic Microsurgery, Advanced Rhinoplasty and Pearls of Facial Plastic Surgery, Milano, March 4-8, 2005

- VIth International Course on Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery of the Nose and Face. "Around the Nose", May 12 - 14, 2005, Nijmegen, The Netherlands

4. Courses under auspices of ERS

In the past 2 years the following courses have been organised under the auspices of the Society (besides the official ERS-courses):

- Progress in Rhinology. July 2003. Warsaw, Poland. A Krzeski
- 3rd International Seminar on neoplasms of the nose and paranasal sinuses and nasopharynx. January 25-26, 2003. Athens, Greece. A Papavasiliou and E Moschovakis
- 4th Seminar of the Hellenic Rhinologic Society in cooperation with the Northern Greece ORL Society, 19-21 March 2004, Macedonia Palace-Thessalonica. On allergic and inflammatory diseases of the nose and paranasal sinuses. AG Papavassilou and J Danielidis
- 2nd Biennial International Milano Masterclass. March 2003. Milano, Italy. P Palma and P Castelnuovo
- 4th International Course on Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery of the Nose and Face. May 14-16, 2003. Nijmegen, The Netherlands. K Ingels and EAM Mylanus
- Essentials of Septo-Rhinoplasty. July, 2003. Berlin, Germany. H Behrbohm
- 5th International Course on Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery of the Nose and Face. May 12-14, 2004. Nijmegen, The Netherlands. K Ingels and EAM Mylanus

It is decided that in the future it will be a condition for the organizers of courses under auspices to give ERS members a 10% reduction of the registration fee.

5. Fellowships in the past 2 years

	Country	Year	Course
Belocerkovsky I.	Belarus	2003	Milano
Cuneyt O.K.	Turkey	2003	Utrecht
Pazardzhikliev D.	Bulgaria	2003	Graz
Sicak M.	Slovakia	2003	Nijmegen
Cvorovic L.	Yugoslavia	2004	London
Budu V.	Romania	2004	Graz
Fraczek M.	Poland	2004	Utrecht

6. Prizes

The following prizes have been awarded during the Opening Ceremony:

- ERS prize for basic research: Peter W Hellings et al. (Louvain, Belgium)
 - Down-regulation of allergic airway inflammation in mice by agonistic anti-CD40 mAB
- ERS prize for clinical research: Isam Alobid et al. (Barcelona, Spain)

- Nasal polyposis and its impact on quality of life. Comparison between the effects of medical and surgical treatments

7. Members

The membership number is gradually decreasing:

1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
503	611	499	657	610	594	515	538	464

It is one of the primary objectives of the EC to increase the number of members. In fact with the New Statutes and By-laws, we already started a campaign to make the membership more attractive. In that project also fitted a new logo. A design office was asked to develop a new logo and advertisement style. Key-words were: basic science, airways, aesthetics, and European. After some drafts, which were commented by the EC, the new logo was decided. In that same style, folders, posters, letter paper was made, and a new website was constructed: www.europeanrhinologicsociety.org.

9. New Congress Location and President ERS 2010

Geneva (Switzerland) is proposed by the AB as the new Congress location 2010. The future president will be S Lacroix. There is no objection.

10. New Secretary General and Treasurer

The AB proposes G Rettinger as Secretary General for another period of 2 years. In the mean time a Finding Committee (EH Huizing, V Lund, M Rautiainen) will look for a new Secretary General. They will also take care of a Job description. S Lacroix is proposed as the new treasurer. Both are accepted unanimously by the GA.

11. New delegates

Because of the end of their office (after 10 years) the following delegates have to be replaced.

Name	Country	Since
H Stamberger	Austria	1990
B Bertrand	Belgium	1990
H Malmberg	Finland	1994
R Jankowski	France	1994
W Pirsig	Germany	1994
AG Papavassiliou	Greece	1994
G Motta	Italy	1992
JM Fabra Llopis	Spain	1990
C Gammert	Switzerland	1992
R Mladina	Croatia	1994

The AB proposes for nomination to the GA

Country	Candidate
Austria	G Wolf
Belgium	M Jorissen
Croatia	R Mladina (+2 years)
Finland	M Rautiainen
France	E Serrano
Germany	W Hosemann
Greece	S Davris
Italy	PL Bellusi
Spain	JR Montserrat
Switzerland	S Lacroix

The proposed delegates are accepted without objection.

12. Report of the editor of Rhinology

There is a yearly submission of approximately 120 papers to the journal. Somewhat more than half is generally accepted by the editorial board. The journal has a strong financial position mainly due to the split runs (Netherlands, Sweden, UK, Japan, and Eastern Europe (Storz; 120 issues). Therefore Rhinology offers 3 Congress fellowships (to attend the ERS congress) of 1.500 Euro, which is advertised in the Journal. V Lund will be the new editor, and W Fokkens becomes the associate editor. The technical staff, which also takes care of the ERS membership fee stays in Utrecht. EH Huizing just finished a historical overview of the Journal and the Society. The booklet will be spread among the members. He announces the termination of his function and is thanked by applause.

13. Miscellaneous

- A suggestion is made to include e-mail addresses on our new letter format.
- R Mladina asks whether Rhinology is mentioned in Current Contents. The answer is affirmative.

8. Report of the Treasurer

Income

Period	2002-2004	2000-2002	1998-2000	1996-1998
Interest Rate	2.789,84	1.679,06	405,6	551,71
Contribution ERS-congress	20.000,00	10.005,00	10.919,13	0,00
Rhinology-ERS membership	9.972,00	8.896,20	8.248,63	8.668,63
total income	<u>32.761,84</u>	<u>20.580,26</u>	<u>19.573,36</u>	<u>9.220,34</u>
<i>Expenditure</i>				
total expenditure	<u>39.299,67</u>	<u>10.677,08</u>	<u>6.056,11</u>	<u>10.498,04</u>

In the past year single costs were made to the lawyer (17.999 Euro) and design office (10.044 Euro)

Total bank reconciliation

Bank reconciliation	<u>42.645,22</u>	<u>49.670,64</u>	<u>39.737,54</u>	<u>26.220,33</u>
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The accounts of the treasurer are audited by S Lacroix and M Rautiainen.