

Minutes of the meeting of the General Assembly of ERS June 18, 2008 in Hersonnisos, Greece



Present: 30 society-members are present. According to the statutes, the General Assembly has a quorum even if less than 5 per cent of the members are present and if these members accept the decisions under these circumstances (statutes 12.2). There were no objections to this procedure.

The invitation to this General Assembly together with the agenda was published in the March 2007 issue of the Journal Rhinology. The agenda is accepted.

1.) Opening remarks (M. Rautiainen)

The ERS-President thanks the Congress-President for the organization of this excellent congress and for inviting ERS to Crete. He will hand over the presidential medal during the congress dinner.

2.) Minutes of the General Assembly 2006 (G. Rettinger)

The minutes of the ERS-General-Assembly in Tampere, June 2006, were published in the September 2006 issue of the Journal Rhinology. The minutes were accepted unanimously.

3.) Report of the Congress President and next ERS-President (A. Papavassiliou)

The Congress-President thanks all participants of this congress for coming to Crete and in particular those ERS-members who are present at this General Assembly. He reports on more than 900 participants from 62 countries.

At the opening ceremony, three prizes for basic and clinical research were awarded:

Prize for basic research: G. Hens et al: "Selective nasal allergen provocation induces bronchial cytokine release by basophils and substance P-mediated bronchial hyperresponsiveness"

Clinical research: F.A. Ebbens et al: "The effect of topical amphotericin B on inflammatory markers in patients with chronic rhinosinusitis: a multicenter randomized controlled study"

Special research prize: S. Janjanin et al: "Mold-shaped, nanofiber scaffold-based cartilage engineering using human mesenchymal stem cells and bioreactor"

P. van Cauwenberge (Belgium) and W. Draf (Germany) became honorary members of ERS.

In addition two prizes for the best oral papers and two prizes for the best posters were awarded during the General Assembly.

4.) Report of the General Secretary (G. Rettinger)

During an *Extraordinary Meeting of the Executive Committee* in Frankfurt in June 2007, the following decisions were made:

- *ERS-Prizes:* Prizes for basic and clinical research are awarded: The age limit for applicants is 40 years and is not limited to European countries. For prize-winners the ERS-membership and the Journal Rhinology is free for one year. ERS-membership is not obligatory but an entry is expected.
- *ERS-Fellowships:* At the moment there are 5 courses, where fellowships are offered. For expenses a support of 1200 EUR is given, however only once per person. The age limit is 40 years and at the moment applicants should come from emerging European countries.
- *Junior Members:* The age limit for junior members rises from 32 to 35 years. Junior members have the same rights as regular members but do not have to pay membership-fee and will get access to the online-journal of Rhinology for free.

In view of the healthy financial situation of ERS the support for research and education of young colleagues will be further stimulated with future additional projects.

Cooperation with other societies:

- *IRS:* The International Rhinologic Society holds congresses every 4 years. The congress in 2009 will be in Philadelphia (USA). The congress location for 2013 is not yet decided.

- *ISLAN*: The International Symposium on Infection and Allergy of the Nose is actively involved in the program of the biannual congresses of the European Rhinologic Society. ERS will offer close cooperation also in the future.
- *EA-ORL-HNS*: The European Academy of Otorhinolaryngology, Head- and Neck-Surgery is the umbrella-society of the sub-specialty-societies like ERS, while the national ENT-societies are members of EUFOS (European Federation of Otorhinolaryngologic Societies). The main activity of the academy is teaching and the first congress will be held in Mannheim (Germany) in June 2009. ERS is actively involved in the program.
- *GARD*: The Global Alliance against Respiratory Diseases is affiliated to the WHO and deals with research and treatment of these diseases in third world countries. ERS will be a member of GARD in the future in close cooperation with IRS.
- *Membership*: The total number of regular ERS-members is increasing:

Regular members:

1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
657	610	594	569	538	508	625	622	622	619	689

The General Secretary is especially happy with the significant increase in the number of junior members as this demonstrates the interest in the future development of rhinology:

Junior members:

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
3	36	63	71	125

- *Appointments*:

As the General Secretary (G. Rettinger) retires from his position during this congress and the treasurer S. Lacroix will be the next ERS-President and congress president for 2010 these two positions have to be occupied. The members of the Executive Committee nominate V. Lund (GB) for the position as General Secretary and R. Jankowski (F) for the position as Treasurer. The nomination is accepted by the General Assembly unanimously. V. Lund and R. Jankowski accept the vote.

5.) Report of the Treasurer (S. Lacroix)

Due to donation from former ERS-congresses and the increase in memberships the bank-reconciliation increased during the last 8 years and is in 2008 67.956,21 EUR.

After the reports of the President, the General Secretary and the Treasurer the General Assembly accepts these reports.

6.) Report of the Editor in Chief of Rhinology (V. Lund)

In the last two years 108 articles were published besides review articles and one supplement. There was a significant increase of the impact factor from 0.792 to actual 1.25. There is also an increase of papers submitted from 120 in 2006 to 184 in 2007. The number of accepted papers decreased from 40 per cent to 20 per cent.

7.) Courses under ERS-auspices, prizes and fellowships (W. Fokkens)

Numerous congresses and courses were held under ERS-auspices in 2007 and 2008. There were 5 fellowships for the ERS-courses in 2007 as well as in 2008. Three research prizes were awarded at the opening ceremony of this congress. Applications for fellowships, prizes and also the website are organized by the committee of member services (CoMeSe).

8.) Future meetings (G. Rettinger)

The following dates for the ERS-congresses are already decided:

- June 20-24, 2010 in Geneva (CH) by S. Lacroix
- June 17-21, 2012 in Toulouse (F) by E. Serrano
- June 14-18, 2014 in Amsterdam (NL) by W. Fokkens: This congress will be held 50 years after the foundation of ERS and will at the same time be the 25th ERS-congress.

9.) Any other business

There were no additional points of discussion.

10.) Closing remarks

M. Rautiainen closes the meeting thanking all for coming and asking all ERS-members for continuous-support of the society.

Ulm (Germany), July, 2008

G. Rettinger
General Secretary

Enclosure minutes AB ERS 2006 - 2008: report of the Treasurer

	Income (Euro)			
	2006-2008	2004-2006	2002-2004	2000-2002
Interest rate	1.328,50	1.383,74	2.789,84	1.679,06
Contribution ERS-congress	20.000.-	24.980.-	20.000.-	10.005.-
Rhinology-ERS membership	10.506.-	12.739.-	9.972.-	8.896,20
Total income	31.834,50	39.102,74	32.761,84	20.580,26
	Expenditure			
IERS-prize(s)	3.600.-	3.600.-	1.500.-	2003,37
ERS-fellowships	8.420.-	16.383,61	6.182,13	5.935,35
Reg. Dutch Cham. Comm.		31,96		
Bank kosten	584,99	456,03	201,99	166,31
Secretarial articles		423,50	568,68	
ERS-website / LOGO	1.340,94	264,07	10.044,08	
Secretary assistance		600.-	600.-	
Advocate and Notari		1.172,15		
ERS subscription to IRS	336,03	1.518,07	923,77	2.092.-
ERS-Statutes			17.999,02	
ERS-Rhinology sub. East Eur.			1.280.-	480,05
ERS contrib. Eur. Acad. ORL	500.-			
Frankfurt meeting	414,60			
Vienna meeting	720.-			
Secretary assistance	465,12			
Total expenditure	16.381,68	24.449,39	39.299,67	10.677,08
Bank reconciliation	67.956,21	52.346,76	42.645,22	49.670,64