

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF SIOP EUROPE,
HELD AT ECCO 11, ON OCTOBER 23, 2001 IN SALA 2 OF THE FIL MEETING
CENTRE, LISBON, PORTUGAL**

1. Opening
Prof. M. Stevens opens the meeting and welcomes all SIOP members present.
2. Minutes of the SIOP Annual General Assembly, October 5, 2000, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Prof. J. Mann notes that on page 3 of the minutes the information is not completely correct. On the 5th and 6th line from the end of the page it should read: “Both boards need to approve the training plan which will also have to gain the approval of the European Board of Paediatrics, of CESP, which meet already on Dec 16, 2000, and then of the Union of the European Medical Societies (UEMS).
3. Report from the President.
Prof. M. Stevens reports on the following issues:
 - **Relationship SIOP Europe-FECS**
Initially the relationship between SIOP Europe and FECS was not too good. FECS was concerned about the status of SIOP Europe as there was no legally based constitution. SIOP Europe was not a distinct organisation from SIOP International and therefore actually ineligible for membership of FECS. Also the contributions of SIOP Europe to the work of FECS and the ECCO conferences was found to be inadequate.
Over the past year SIOP Europe has done a lot to repair these bad diplomatic relations. A formal ratified constitution is being made and will be circulated among the SIOP Europe membership after ECCO for approval. The contribution to activities in ECCO and FECS has increased substantially. There is a good paediatric contribution for ECCO11 and the developments for the paediatric programme of ECCO12 are in progress.
 - **Statutes SIOP Europe: Change proposal**
See above mentioned item
 - **Nurses**
It was suggested that a nurse should be on the Board of SIOP Europe to further develop the Nurses group and increase their involvement in SIOP Europe. Although the Board realises that nurses are very important colleagues, also in the view of multidisciplinarity, it was decided that there will not be a nurse on the Board. However, the Board would like to have a closer co-operation with the nurses.
 - **Parents/Survivors**
SIOP Europe and ICCCP are having discussions on joint projects. These include production of a paper to define Standards of Care for children with cancer; twinning projects between well resourced and less well resourced children’s cancer centres in Europe and the designation of an International Child Cancer Day on January 1 each

year.

- **Government**

With respect to directing the European governments regarding paediatric oncology it is being explored where SIOP Europe stands and if they can/wish to play a role with FECS to do this.

- Education and Training

Prof. J. Mann will present a detailed report under item 8. Prof. Stevens thanks Drs. Jan de Kraker and Joern Treuner for their paediatric input in ECCO 11.

- **Clinical Trials**

With regard to clinical trials there is an increasing expectation that SIOP Europe should take responsibility for clinical trials in Europe. The role of SIOP Europe in clinical trials should therefore be determined. The Board has agreed to a Working Party that can define what the agenda is on clinical trials in Europe. Prof. Stevens also proposes to have a summit meeting on clinical trials with the leaders of all current major collaborative studies, the Presidents of the European National Groups and with the President of SIOP Int. and the Chair of its Scientific Committee to explore ideas, attitudes and expectations on how and if SIOP Europe should take responsibility for clinical trials in Europe.

- **Standards of care**

SIOP Europe would like to help other Eastern European countries/colleagues to bring up the standard of care to a level as in Western Europe. The ways on how to do this are to be explored. One of the ways is twinning projects. This is being discussed with the ICCPO.

- **Relationship with SIOP International**

There is a need to review and clarify the relationship between SIOP Europe and SIOP International. Although the SIOP Europe Board does not want to damage the unique flavour of SIOP International as a society, it would encourage a clearer definition of the relationship between SIOP Int. and its continental branches. SIOP Europe realises that their agenda is different than the ones of the other branches.

Prof. Stevens therefore proposes to have a meeting about the role of SIOP Europe. However, first the objectives of the clinical trials summit meeting would have to be defined.

4. Report from the Treasurer (G. Henze)

Prof. Henze presents the financial report of the past financial year:

Income as per January 1, 2001:

DM 164.771,46 money market funds

DM 91.103,47 ECCO10

DM 603,19 interest

DM 7.025,19 increments and interest money market funds

Expenses:

Board meeting expenses

SIOP Secretariat

Education and Training Committee meetings

For the coming year Prof. Henze presents a budget in Euro:

Income:		Expenses:	
ECCO:	22.500	Board meetings:	10.000
<u>Interests:</u>	<u>2.500</u>	E&T Comm. Meetings	4.500
		<u>Bank charges</u>	<u>150</u>
			14.650
		Secretariat	15.000
		<u>Scholarships</u>	<u>7.500</u>
Total inc.	25.000	Total expenses	37.150

It is clear that the income is not sufficient to cover all expenses. Prof. Henze proposes as possible solutions to cut down the costs:

- Cheaper Travel of Board
- Is further support of the E&T Committee Meetings necessary?
- Shortening of the secretariat time
- Scholarships for ECCO attendance
- Reduce number of Board members

Another solution would be to increase the income by:

- Increase SIOP-Europe attendance at ECCO
- Get support from pharmaceutical industry
- Ask membership fees

These possibilities will be discussed by the Board in their next meeting. Also the result of ECCO11 will have to be awaited.

Dr. H. Caron notes that there are some SIOP members at ECCO who have not mentioned on their registration form that they are SIOP members. In order to make sure all SIOP members are counted, he suggests that SIOP Europe provides FECS with the SIOP Europe membership list so that FECS can check which participants are members of SIOP Europe. Dr. J.L. Habrand inquires on the regulations by FECS that when ECCO takes place there is to be no SIOP meeting in Europe. Prof. A.W. Craft inquires on what FECS would feel about having a SIOP meeting incorporated in ECCO, and not to have a separate SIOP meeting anywhere else during the times of the ECCO Meetings. Prof. Stevens notes that, although FECS would welcome more participants, this suggestion would probably not be welcomed at all as FECS wishes to keep ECCO a multidisciplinary meeting, and does not want to have separate society meetings during this congress. Dr. Plaschkes confirms this and notes that it would be very unrealistic to expect this for the future. Prof. Stevens notes that on the other hand, promotion of ECCO as being a good alternative for the SIOP meeting should have a good chance. Dr. G. Perilongo notes in this respect that a sort of European ASVO meeting will become more attractive. A solution to attract more people to ECCO is not to have the SIOP meeting in the years of the ECCO meeting. However, this was not accepted by the SIOP membership.

Dr. Caron states that the SIOP meeting is too important to have only every other year, but if ECCO would be more representative for paediatric oncologists, it would be a nice alternative.

Prof. G. Henze mentions that for this ECCO meeting FECS has offered some rooms to have educational meetings. Dr. J. de Kraker notes that there were quite some difficulties with FECS in order to have some separate paediatric sessions. As for ECCO11 this was finally agreed, there is good hope that it will be possible again for ECCO12 in 2003, but the final vote lies with the Scientific Committee of FECS.

Dr. P. Brock wants to assure that the non-European SIOP members are welcome too. Prof. Stevens notes that all members are just as welcome. Dr. Brock also mentions that the time for paediatric oncologists to spend on congresses is limited. Two hours a day of paediatric oncology at ECCO is not very cost effective. Dr. De Kraker replies that the programme of ECCO11 spends much more time to paediatric oncology than only two hours a day.

A brief discussion is held on good quality abstracts: Does ECCO get good quality abstracts by paediatric oncologists? This is of course vital for the quality of the meeting. The Board notes that some very good quality papers had been received and a good quality programme is what the Board aims for when establishing the paediatric sessions.

Prof. Stevens notes that at ECCO12 there will be, apart from a good quality paediatric session, also some joint sessions with EONS and EACR. These should be interesting and attract a more broader audience.

5. Report from the Secretary-General (J. Plaschkes)

Dr. Plaschkes notes that thanks to the secretariat SIOP Europe has a new lease of life. Dr. J. Plaschkes reports on the Board meetings held in the past year: January 26, 2001 in Amsterdam the Netherlands and a telephone conference on May 14, 2001.

At both meetings the past and future activities of SIOP Europe were discussed:

- New Constitution in line with the new activities of SIOP Europe and in line with the requirements by FECS.
- The SIOP Europe Committees: Training and Education – J. Mann; Clinical Trials – J. de Kraker; ECCO programme – J. Treuner and J. de Kraker
- Strengthening ties with FECS: The President and the Board members are now represented in the FECS Board, Council and other Committees.
- Increased input of paediatrics in ECCO meetings: Separate paediatric sessions at ECCO11 and ECCO12 and two SIOP Europe members on the ECCO Scientific Committee.
- Participation in the FECS Leonardo Da Vinci Project
- Participation in the European Cancer Leagues Meeting.
- Separate SIOP Europe logo: This was decided upon at the Board meeting. It is similar to the SIOP Int. logo, but has the European stars in the globe.

Prof. Craft inquires why a separate logo is needed. Prof. Stevens explains that this is done to show FECS that SIOP Europe is a true separate society.

Dr. Brock asks if all SIOP's Continental Branches could not use the same logo with a different letter to indicate their continent.

6. ECCO 11, Lisbon, Portugal, October 21-25, 2001

7. ECCO 12, Copenhagen, Denmark, September 21-25, 2003

These two items are not further discussed.

8. Education and Training; Training Courses; Accreditation (J. Mann)

Prof. J. Mann reports on the activities of the Education and Training Committee:

Training programme: haematology-oncology

The training programme has been approved by CESP and the EBP.

It will now have to be approved by the UEMS. If this is approved, then the programme will be published in the European journals.

Prof. Mann recently attended a meeting on primary and secondary care paediatrics. As for training for this type of care also no European approval exists, the Education and Training Committee have received the green light to continue their work in this field.

Accreditation of centres:

The Training Committee of FECS is examining a methodology of assessing trainees. At present there is a pilot study going on in the U.K. and The Netherlands. However, the trainees did not agree to the assessment and the study will first be rediscussed.

Dr. H. Caron notes that the Dutch trainees might not oppose to the assessment if this would have no repercussions for them.

CME/Leonardo Da Vinci Project:

SIOP Europe is involved with FECS in the Leonardo Da Vinci Project. This is a collaborative project organised by FECS and funded by the European Commission which is part of an initiative to improve cancer care in Europe by enhancing CME in particular and professional education.

At present a database is being set up to collect data on CME events already taking place in Europe. This database will serve as a tool for identifying the needs for new educational events and for evaluation of these existing events. The pilot countries for this are Portugal and Germany.

Also a system of accreditation in Europe is being set up: ACOE, and new educational means instead of meetings will be looked at and examined, such as distance learning, videos etc.

Information for the project is obtained by writing to the National Societies.

Prof. Stevens thanks Prof. Mann and her Committee Colleagues as they have done a tremendous job in only a rather short time.

Dr. Caron asks if Prof. Mann can give an estimate of the number of centres that can live up to the training programme. Prof. Mann explains that it is difficult to draw up a training programme that covers the needs of all specialists. Therefore they have established a modular type of training. As not every centre can provide all types of training, trainees could then switch centre for some time to another centre that does provide the necessary training. Apart from the fixed modules, a considerable period of time can be used flexibly (15 months) so the trainee can train his/her preferred speciality.

9. Trials (J. de Kraker)

Dr. J. de Kraker notes that this item will not be discussed in detail as it will be discussed first in detail by the Board. As mentioned already under item 3, the place of SIOP Europe with regard to clinical trials is still to be determined. Prof. Stevens asks the membership for suggestions on this item in writing.

10. Any other important business

Prof. Stevens notes that at SIOP 2002, Drs. Treuner, Plaschkes and Prof. Zucker will step down. The positions of Secretary-General, President-elect and Board member need

thus be filled. A Call for Nominations for these positions will be announced in the newsletter. Ballots can then be held in April 2002.

Prof. Stevens then closes the meeting by thanking everybody for attending ECCO and the SIOP Europe General Assembly.

**An attendance list was circulated during the Annual General Assembly.
The following members signed the list:**

P. Brock
H. Caron
A.W. Craft
A. Gentil-Martins
J.L. Habrand
F.G.A.J. Hakvoort-Cammel
G. Henze
J. de Kraker
J.R. Mann
G. Miculschi
A. Navajas
M. Nikitovic
O. Oberlin
G. Perilongo
J. Plaschkes
C. Rechnitzer
J. Sanchez de Toledo
M. Serban
M.C.G. Stevens
J. Treuner
C. van den Bos
M.M. van den Heuvel
I. van der Vaart
J.M. Zucker