

Mus Fe

M i n u t e s

of the General Assembly on 8 August 1985 at the Panum Institute in Copenhagen.

TOP 1, Welcome by the president

W. Spielmann opens the General Assembly and welcomes the participants. He extends the thanks of the executive committee to K. Henningsen, the Congress president, for the excellent preparation of the conference. His thanks go also to all other persons who have contributed to the Congress which has already turned out to be a success.

TOP 2, To commemorate the dead

The death of the following members has been brought to the attention of the executive committee since the last Congress:

Prof. Dr. Peter Dahr, Bergisch Gladbach
Dr. Robert Race, London
Dr. Helmut Seidenstücker, Lüneburg
Dr. Bernard Wuilleret, Lausanne

The president requests the participants to stand to commemorate the members who have died.

TOP 3, Adoption of the minutes of the General Assembly in Munich on 12 October 1983

The executive committee has not received any comments regarding these minutes.

Since nobody asks for discussion, the minutes of the General Assembly in Munich on 12 October 1983 are adopted.

TOP 4, Report of the executive committee and the auditors of the account

4.1. Report of the president

W. Spielmann reports that the executive committee has held five sessions in the past two years which were mainly devoted to the preparations for the Congress in Copenhagen. K. Henningsen has participated as guest in all of these meetings. His work and merits as Congress president are again acknowledged.

The president then mentions that four scientific papers were submitted to the executive committee for the scientific prize of the Society. The papers were interesting and well presented but they did not contain sufficient new results to justify the awarding of the prize. This is regretted by the executive committee.

W. Spielmann then reports that the total number of members has not increased very much but there are significant changes in the composition of the members which will be explained in more detail by the secretary. He points out that there is no longer a majority of members from the Federal Republic of Germany. A number of members having not paid their membership fees during a long period have been disqualified; these members are not included in the new list of members which was distributed recently, however they will be readmitted by an informal procedure whenever they will pay their fees.

The president then mentions an exchange of letters between the executive committee of the Society and the board of the "Arbeitsgruppe der gerichtlichen Blutgruppensachverständigen der Bundesrepublik Deutschland": the "Arbeitsgemeinschaft" is still feeling that the interests of the German speaking members are not adequately looked after. According to the president's personal opinion it does not make much sense for an international society to have working parties representing exclusively language groups of members. It would probably be preferable to form real regional groups whereby

the regions should be defined unequivocally. Therefore it appears necessary to reconsider and to redefine the task and the activities of the working parties which are inappropriately described on our statutes.

4.2. Report of the secretary

R. Bütler reports that the total number of members is presently 513 coming from 33 nations as compared with 500 members coming from 32 nations in October 1983. A fairly large number of admissions of new members was almost entirely compensated by withdrawals, disqualifications and deaths.

The secretary then shows the composition of the members according to the nationality by means of a table. He points out that among the larger group of members the Federal Republic of Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Great Britain and Yugoslavia have remained stationary whereas the members from Japan, from the USA and France show significant increases. Apparently more publicity is required which could be for example obtained by a more official presentation of the proceedings of the international congresses and by a larger distribution of these volumes

R. Bütler then mentions the activity of the so-called collaborating laboratories. A list of members who had agreed to offer their services for the investigation of problem cases in certain haemogenetic systems was sent out in May of this year. This activity should be further fostered and additional members encouraged to cooperate since these collaborating laboratories can do useful work for our members.

4.3. Report of the treasurer

B. Brinkmann reports that the income of the Society since 30 September 1983 equals DM 78'000.--, due to DM 39'500.-- from membership fees, DM 11'000.-- from Bank interests and sales of proceedings and DM 27'500.-- as profit from the International Congress 1983 in Munich; the executive committee and the Society are much indebted to F. Schwarzfischer, presi-

dent, and G. Gathof, vicepresident of the Munich Congress, for this commendable financial success. The expenditures during the period indicated is of the same order, namely DM 78'500.--. The assets of the Society, representing a total of approximately DM 153'000.--, remains therefore practically unchanged. This amount already includes the sum of DM 5'000.-- for the scientific prize, which has been transferred to a special account. Based upon this situation, the executive committee has decided not to raise the membership fee for the next two years.

The treasurer then remarks that one of the main reasons for the healthy bank account is due to the fact that board members are able to make use of facilities in their institutes which are available free of charge. On the other hand it has become increasingly more difficult during the last years to obtain donations from commercial firms which have sustained the Society in the past.

4.4. Report of the auditors of the account

J. Henke states that he has checked the account together with A. Poschmann (acting as substitute for R. Pflugshaupt who was unable to attend the Congress). The account was found in order and handled in a perfect way.

On a motion proposed by J. Henke and carried unanimously, the treasurer is relieved of his duties.

4.5. Report of the representative of the working groups

P. Lincoln informs the meeting that the Italian working group met in Tuscany in October 1984; 80 delegates were present. The English speaking working group held a one day symposium called "In pursuit of Excellence" in Oxford/England in September 1984 and this successful meeting was attended by over 60 people. P. Lincoln mentions that the proposal for a German speaking working group will be discussed under Topic 6 of the agenda.

4.6. Relief of the executive committee

Under this topic an animated and at times heavy debate regarding the official language of the Society takes place. Reproaches are addressed to the executive committee for having systematically suppressed the German language, especially concerning the present Congress. The executive committee repels these reproaches: participants were allowed to present also German papers but they were asked to deliver their abstracts in English. H. H. Hoppe then proposes that the General Assembly should adopt a resolution stating that the Society for Forensic Haemogenetics considers itself as a bilingual Society with English and German as official business as well as Congress languages. Several members among which W. Maresch and W. Schwerd feel that this would be an acceptable solution. The president puts Hoppe's proposal to vote: the big majority votes in favour, a minority of 7 members against this proposal; there are also two abstentions. After this, the executive committee is relieved of its duties by the General Assembly on a motion proposed by J. Henke.

TOP 5, Alterations of the statutes of the Society

5.2. Vote by letter (this topic is dealt with before Top 5.1)

G. Schewe criticizes the text submitted by the executive committee. According to the German law (the Society is registered in Germany) such a paragraph can only be accepted provided the exact procedure is laid down in all details; he offers his help as consultant for the preparation of a new text to be submitted to the next General Assembly in 1987. The business is postponed accordingly. However, it appears from the discussion that a majority of the members would agree with such a new paragraph in the statutes.

5.1. Name of the Society

There is some objection against this proposal of the executive committee. Mrs. Oepen feels that the term "Forensic Haemogenetics" would not comprise stain analyses. Mrs. Arndt-Hanser states that the proposal is formally not acceptable since the word "Inc." (incorporated) is lacking.

The board decides not to insist in adopting the proposal at the present time. However, the president puts the proposal to an informal vote in order to find out the opinion of the General Assembly. It turns out that a big majority of the assembly is in favour of the name "International Society for Forensic Haemogenetics, Inc." (ISFH). The business is then also postponed to the next General Assembly in 1987.

TOP 6, Formation of a German speaking working group

W. Martin reports that the preparations made by the "Proponentenkomitee" founded in 1983 in Munich have progressed. Draft statutes have been worked out and sent to the German speaking members of our Society. A provisional board has been formed, consisting of the Board members of the "Arbeitsgemeinschaft der gerichtlichen Blutgruppensachverständigen der Bundesrepublik Deutschland" and W. Mayr (representing Austria) and R. Bütler (representing Switzerland). The first General Assembly (founding assembly) of the German speaking working group shall take place on the occasion of the scientific symposium of the "Arbeitsgemeinschaft" to be held in autumn 1986.

Since there is no objection this proposed procedure is adopted.

TOP 7, Honorary membership

The president first delivers documents to the two new honorary members, Barbara Dodd and Erna van Loghem who have been elected at the last General Assembly in Munich. He then proposes, on behalf of the executive committee, that Miss Margaret Pereira and F. Schwarzfischer be elected as honorary members.

Miss Margaret Pereira and F. Schwarzfischer are elected honorary members with acclamation.

TOP 8, Election of members of the executive committee

This business is performed by an election committee consisting of H. H. Hoppe (chairman), A. Poschmann and G. Schewe.

8.1. Election of the president

W. Spielmann wishes to resign due to health reasons and does not wish to stand as president for a second period. The executive committee proposes R. Bütler (the present secretary) as president. F. Schwarzfischer is put forward as alternative candidate by the General Assembly.

Result: Bütler	55 votes
Schwarzfischer	35 votes
void	<u>1 vote</u>
total ballot papers distributed	91

R. Bütler is elected new president.

8.2. Election of the secretary

The Board proposes W. Mayr as new secretary.

G. Gathof is put forward by the General Assembly as an alternative candidate.

Result: Mayr	61 votes
Gathof	28 votes
void	<u>1 vote</u>
total ballot papers distributed	90

W. Mayr is elected new secretary.

8.3. Election of the representative of the working groups

The executive committee proposes the re-election of P. Lincoln as representative of the working groups.

W. Martin is put forward as an alternative candidate by the General Assembly.

Result: Lincoln	47 votes
Martin	<u>38 votes</u>
total ballot papers distributed	85

P. Lincoln is re-elected representative of the working groups.

8.4. Election of the auditors of the account

P. Kühnl and S. Weidinger are elected new auditors of the account, M. P. Baur and W. Bär are elected as substitutes with acclamation.

TOP 9, Place and president of the next International Congress (1987)

The executive committee has received offers for arranging the next International Congress from three members: H. Polesky (Minneapolis),

W. Mayr (Vienna) and H. Matsumoto (Osaka/Japan) for a congress in Kyoto. All three members give a brief statement regarding their invitations.

The open ballot turns out as follows:

Vienna	50 votes
Kyoto	9 votes
Minneapolis	3 votes

The next International Congress (1987) will take place in Vienna; W. Mayr will act as Congress president.

TOP 10, Miscellaneous

Nobody asks for discussion under this topic.

The president thanks all participants and closes the session.

For the minutes:

sig. Prof. Dr. R. Bütler, secretary