



**INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR FORENSIC GENETICS**

Internationale Gesellschaft für Forensische Genetik e.V.

<http://www.isfg.org>

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**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR FORENSIC GENETICS (ISFG) ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2003 AT 12.00 IN THE PALAIS DES CONGRES, ARCACHON / FRANCE**

**TOP 1 – Welcome by the President**

A. Carracedo, President of the ISFG, opened the General Assembly at 12.15 and welcomed the participants.

**TOP 2 – To Commemorate the Dead**

The death of the following members since the last General Assembly was brought to the attention of the Executive Committee: H. Adamek, B.W. Grunbaum and K. Henningsen (Honorary Member of the ISFG).

The President asked the Assembly to stand in commemoration of the dead.

**TOP 3 – Adoption of the Protocol of the General Assembly in Muenster, August 30, 2001**

The Executive Committee had not received any comments regarding the minutes of the last General Assembly. Since nobody asked for discussion, the above-mentioned protocol was adopted.

**TOP 4 – Report of the Executive Committee and the Auditors of the Account**

*4.1. Report of the President*

A. Carracedo reported that the Executive Committee had handled its business since the last Congress in only 4 sessions. He thanked again all individuals involved in the organisation of the 20th International Congress in Arcachon, especially Christian Doutremépuich and Marianne Pujol, for their excellent work.

The DNA Commission will prepare an update of the recommendations on the Y-chromosome as well as recommendations on the interpretation of complex profiles.

A new commission (Paternity Testing Commission) has been launched which elaborated recommendations on paternity testing; these recommendations have already been published. Further recommendations will discuss the statistical analysis of data.

With regard to the Biennial Scientific Prize, A. Carracedo mentioned that 3 applications have been communicated to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee selected John Butler (National Institute of Standards of the USA) for his work on standardization and SNP typing with new technologies.

He thanked S. Rand and C. Phillips for their work with regard to the Proceedings of the Conference in Muenster; he also apologized for the delay in the publication which was not

under the control of the Executive Committee. Furthermore, A. Carracedo reported that the proceedings of the ISFG conferences in 2003, 2005 and 2007 will be published by Elsevier (Amsterdam) in the “International Congress Series”. Elsevier will try to include the proceedings in the Index Medicus. Thanks to the activities of N. Morling, the ISFG could get a good contract with Elsevier which keeps the costs for the proceedings at an acceptable level. In order to publish the book within a short time (around March 2004), the deadline for the submission of the articles is Sept. 30, 2003; furthermore, the page limit will be controlled strictly (to minimize the costs). All these points and the publication will be supervised by N. Morling.

#### *4.2. Report of the Secretary*

W.R. Mayr reported that the ISFG is a true international society – the members come from 59 countries; the total number of members of the ISFG in July 2003 was 864 (in comparison, the number of members in August 2001 was 842). In spite of this increase, some publicity is needed in order to recruit more members; all members of the ISFG were asked to be active in this respect.

#### *4.3. Report of the Treasurer*

N. Morling reported that the total balance is €80.730,--; the financial situation of the ISFG can be considered as stabilised.

#### *4.4. Report of the Representative of the Working Parties*

P. Schneider gave a short review on the increasing activities of the Working Parties, (English-speaking, Spanish-Portuguese, German, Italian, Japanese, French, as well as EDNAP). Quality assurance and quality management have become the major issues. The formation of new working parties in Eastern Europe, South East Asia and China is encouraged by the Executive Committee.

He reported furthermore that the homepage of the ISFG in the internet (<http://www.isfg.org>) has been further improved and that many informations can be found there. A “member-only” password-protected area containing documents which are relevant for the ISFG members has been installed.

On a trial basis, the Forum which is not used intensively by the members will be moved to the public area. The contents of the homepage will be expanded and the Executive Committee hopes that the ISFG website will serve in due future as communication tool between the members of the ISFG.

#### *4.5. Report of the Auditors of the Account*

B. Dupuy stated that she checked the accounts together with B. Hoste. The accounts were found to be in order and handled in a perfect way. Therefore, the Treasurer is relieved of his duties by the General Assembly.

#### *4.6. Relief of the Executive Committee*

On a motion by S. Rand, the Executive Committee was relieved of its duties by the General Assembly.

### **TOP 5 – Membership Fee**

The amount of the membership fee will remain €40.-- / year.

## **TOP 6 – Honorary Membership**

A. Carracedo proposed on behalf of the Executive Committee that B. Brinkmann and C. Rittner should be elected as Honorary Members after their retirement; these outstanding personalities in the field of forensic genetics were elected with acclamation.

## **TOP 7 – Elections of Members of the Executive Committee**

This business was performed by an Election Committee headed by S. Rand. 79 members were present (at the beginning).

### *7.1. Election of the President*

The Executive Committee proposed Peter M. Schneider; no alternative candidate was put forward by the General Assembly.

P. Schneider was elected with 76 yes, 1 no and 2 abstentions

### *7.2. Election of the Treasurer*

The Executive Committee proposed Niels Morling; no alternative candidate was put forward by the General Assembly.

N. Morling was elected with 73 yes, 1 no and 5 abstentions

### *7.3. Election of the Representative for all Working Parties*

The Executive Committee proposed Mechthild Prinz; no alternative candidate was put forward by the General Assembly.

M. Prinz was elected with 75 yes and 1 no.

### *7.4. Election of two Auditors of the Account*

V. Pascali and B. Dupuy, as well as A. Alonso and B. Hoste (substitutes) were elected by acclamation.

The newly elected members of the Executive Committee accepted their election and declared that they will fulfil their duties in the best possible way.

## **TOP 8 – Place and President of the next International Congress in 2005**

The offer by the Portuguese team A. Amorim (IPATIMUP, Porto) and F. Corte Real (Institute of Legal Medicine, Coimbra) to organise the 21st International Congress of the ISFG in the year 2005 was gratefully accepted by the General Assembly. Possibly, the Meeting will take place in the Azores.

## **TOP 9 – Miscellaneous**

The General Assembly thanked C. Doutremepuich and his collaborators for the large amount of work done in order to organise the very successful meeting in Arcachon.

Thereafter, A. Carracedo thanked all participants and closed the General Assembly at 13.20.