

Minutes of the Meeting of the European Society for Microcirculation General Assembly

European Society for Microcirculation Online Meeting 2021

Time:

Thursday 27th May 2021 9.00 am (CEST)/8.00 am (BST)

Participants: 122 ESM members (Online)

Welcome:

Secretary General, Henning Morawietz

Henning Morawietz thanked all for attending and welcomed the guests to the meeting.

Agenda:

1. Matters Arising and Approval of the Minutes Maastricht 2019	All
2. Committee and Meeting Reports	
Secretary General (Executive, Strategy Committee, Non-Prof Rep, Social Media etc.)	Henning Morawietz
ESM 2023	Christian Aalkjær
WCM Beijing 2022	Jing-Yan Han/ Henning Morawietz
Other meetings – Summer School, Göttingen etc.	Henning Morawietz
3. ESM On-line Meeting 2021	Christian Aalkjær
Meeting update, Awards	
4. ESM Finance and Membership	Nicola J. Brown
5. Journal of Vascular Research	Henning Morawietz
6. AOB	

1. Matters Arising and Approval of the Minutes Maastricht 2019 **All**

All members of the Executive Committee agreed on the agenda and approved the Minutes of the ESM General Assembly held at the ESM-EVBO 2019 Congress in Maastricht, NL. The Executive Committee expressed their thanks and gratitude to Boy Houben, Judith Sluimer and the whole organization team for the excellent and very successful ESM-EVBO 2019 Congress in Maastricht.

2. Committee and Meeting Reports

**Secretary General (Executive, Strategy Committee,
Non-Prof Rep, Social Media etc.)**

Secretary General, Henning Morawietz

Henning Morawietz gave a brief summary of the work of the Executive Committee over the last months. As initiated in the ESM membership assembly 2019 we sent a call via email to all ESM members for applications/nominations to allow election of new members to the Executive/Strategy Committee. Six applications/nominations were received. After individual review by the members of the Executive Committee, all applications were approved in July 2019 and the individuals appointed as new members of the Executive/Strategy Committee: Elena Osto (Zürich, Switzerland, Non-Professorial Representative), Ana Stupin (Osijek, Croatia, Strategy Committee), Erik N.T.P. Bakker (Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Strategy Committee), Eszter Farkas (Szeged, Hungary, Strategy Committee), Anja Meissner (Lund, Sweden, Strategy Committee) and Pranitha Kamat (Zürich, Switzerland, Strategy Committee). All new members were introduced to the General Assembly and look forward to the future collaboration. Following the recommendations of the General Assembly in 2019 we are delighted to appoint five female scientists, resulting in a good gender balance of the Executive/Strategy Committee of the ESM. The General Assembly approved all new members.

The COVID-19 pandemic was also a great challenge for the work of the ESM Executive Committee in the last year. Henning Morawietz is grateful to all members of the Executive Committee and especially Christian Aalkjær and Nicola Brown for the excellent teamwork. Several meetings of the Executive Committee were held online in the last year discussing the next ESM Congress, the 12th World Congress

of Microcirculation, the collaboration with J. Vasc. Res./Karger, our new cooperation with the Microcirculatory Society (MCS) and the next Vascular Biology Summer School. We established an ESM Newsletter in 2019, publishing recently the new issue and Elena Osto, Anja Meissner and Pranitha Kamat three new members of our Executive Committee were appointed as new editors of the ESM Newsletter. The Newsletter will be updated regularly (ideally 4 issues per year) and will be slightly shorter. Additional components may include the presentation of new colleagues in the team, featured labs, featured articles etc. In our last ESM Newsletter we asked our members for support to establish a presence of the ESM on selected social media platforms and we suggest Twitter and LinkedIn as the preferred platforms. Pranitha Kamat has recently established accounts on Twitter and LinkedIn. Elena Osto invited the members to send the information about their Twitter or LinkedIn accounts to her or Henning Morawietz to start our ESM network.

We then sent a call via email to our members for "young/young at heart" Social Media Ambassadors who wish to post news from our society on a regular basis. In response to our call we received an application from a PhD student Cynthia To from the University of Exeter as Social Media Ambassador. Her application was approved by the Executive Committee and we are looking forward to our collaboration.

Action: Send Twitter and LinkedIn details to Elena Osto elena.osto@uzh.ch/Henning Morawietz Henning.Morawietz@uniklinikum-dresden.de> **All**

ESM 2023

President, Christian Aalkjær

Christian Aalkjær presented a brief summary of the plans for the ESM Congress 2023. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the very well-planned 4 day ESM Congress in April 2021 in Aarhus, Denmark, had to be postponed to 2023. Therefore the ESM Executive Committee and the Organisation Committee of the ESM2021 Congress decided to organize a one-day online meeting on May 27, 2021, to maintain the visibility of the society and to encourage interactions with our European colleagues. The ESM Congress 2023 is planned for April 24-27. The Music Hall, Aarhus is the main Congress venue. This will provide excellent meeting facilities, lecture halls, meeting rooms and poster areas. The majority of members of the ESM2021 organizing committee Christian Aalkjær (Aarhus), Cor de Wit (Lübeck), Ulf Simonsen (Aarhus) and Ylva Hellsten (Copenhagen) will also organize the new 2023 program. Christian Aalkjær is looking forward to an inspiring and excellent meeting and invites all ESM members to the ESM 2023 Congress in Aarhus.

WCM Beijing 2022

**President of the 12th World Congress of Microcirculation, Jing-Yan Han/
Congress Core Scientific Committee Member, Henning Morawietz**

On behalf of the president of the 12th World Congress of Microcirculation (WCM) Jing-Yan Han, Henning Morawietz presented the current status and future plans for the WCM 2022 in Beijing. The congress will take place in the Peking University Health Science Center and the CNCC in Beijing from September 21-15, 2022. After recommendation and approval by the Congress Core Scientific Committee members six excellent Key Note Speakers have been invited (Anne Eichmann, Yale; Sarah Yuan, University of South Florida; Stefanie Dimmeler, Frankfurt; Britta Engelhardt, Bern; Michael Hickey, Monash University; Kesheng Dai, Jiangsu Institute of Hematology). All members of the ESM and our international colleagues in the field of microcirculation were invited to submit symposium proposals in 2020. After review by the Core Scientific Committee 41 symposium proposals were approved (17 from North America, 9 from Europe, 3 from Japan, 3 from Australia/New Zealand, 8 from China and 1 joint symposium from China/Japan). After review of the proposals from Europe, the ESM Executive Committee selected the symposium: *Atherosclerosis, sex and microcirculation: the influence of hemodynamics*, Chair: Elena Osto, for ESM travel grant support. In addition, we agreed to organize and support a joint symposium for early career scientists from the ESM, the US Microcirculatory Society (MCS) and the Australian and New Zealand Microcirculation Society (ANZMS) at the WCM 2022 in Beijing. This will be supported by the ESM with 2000€. A recent call for Satellite and Young Symposia and speakers has now been received. The ESM will circulate the call for these symposium proposal submissions to our members via email in June. The proposals will be reviewed and selected by the Congress Core Scientific Committee. The 12th WCM conference website will be opened in August 2021.

The early registration and the abstract deadline will be March 2022. Everybody is invited to submit abstracts, which are planned to be published as a supplement of *Microcirculation* or *J. Vasc. Res.*, and to participate in the 12th WCM in Beijing next year.

Action: Circulate call for early career and satellite symposia to ESM members

NJB

Other meetings – Summer School, Göttingen etc. Secretary General, Henning Morawietz

The 2nd EVBO/ESM Summer School to be held in Kraków in July 2020 was in the advanced stage of planning. Due to the global coronavirus pandemic, this onsite Summer School had to be postponed and will be organized by Agnieszka Jazwa and her colleagues in Kraków in Summer 2022. In order to support our early career scientists, an EVBO/ESM Online Summer School has been organized by Mauro Siragusa (Frankfurt), Paola Campognola (Surrey), Fiona Wilkinson (Manchester), Graeme Birdsey (London), Jaap van Buul (Amsterdam) and Henning Morawietz (Dresden). The topic is cutting-edge 'know-how' and networking for a successful PhD and beyond. The aim is to provide postgraduate students an opportunity to learn about the key questions and cutting-edge methodologies in vascular biology, to discuss these important areas with peers and experts in the field and to train in the presentation and discussion of their results. The organization progresses very well and we are looking forward to welcoming many early career scientists to our online EVBO/ESM Vascular Biology Summer School from 13-15 July 2021. More information can be found at www.evbo.org.

The Joint Vascular Biology Meeting of the German Society for Microcirculation and Vascular Biology and the Netherlands Vascular Biology Organisation will be organized by Rabea Hinkel (Göttingen), Ferdinand le Noble (Karlsruhe), Jaap van Buul (Amsterdam) and Ed Eringa (Amsterdam, Maastricht) from November 3-5, 2021, in Göttingen. Depending on the (currently improving) COVID-19 situation, the meeting is planned as regular onsite meeting but online and hybrid formats may be implemented as required. More than 30 excellent international speakers have been confirmed. Further information can be found at www.gfmvb.org. Due to the global pandemic, the ESM had some extra funds available this year. Therefore, the Executive Committee agreed to support two travel awards (400€ each) for early career ESM members to attend the meeting and to present their research. In addition, the ESM will support three poster awards (100€ each). All ESM members and international colleagues are invited to attend the meeting.

Action: Contact organisers of the joint German/Dutch meeting regarding ESM awards

NJB

3. ESM On-line Meeting 2021

President, Christian Aalkjær

Meeting update, Awards

The ESM Meeting 2021 will be held as an online meeting on 27th May 2021, as previously announced (www.esmicro.eu). It is scheduled from 9.00am-5.00pm CEST / 8.00am-4.00pm BST. The registration is free. This one-day online meeting replaces the ESM2021 Aarhus, Denmark 4 day meeting (postponed until April 2023) due to the global coronavirus pandemic. The ESM Executive Committee and the Aarhus meeting organizing team acknowledged the importance of maintaining the visibility of the society and encouraging continued interactions with our European colleagues, resulting in the organization of this virtual event. The ESM 2021 online meeting is organized by Christian Aalkjær (Aarhus), Cor de Wit (Lübeck), Henning Morawietz (Dresden), Jo De Mey (Maastricht), Nicola Brown (Sheffield), Ulf Simonsen (Aarhus) and Ylva Hellsten (Copenhagen) and we greatly acknowledge the excellent help and support in the organization of the online meeting by Dean Kavanagh (Birmingham). The meeting will have two plenary speakers (Joanna Kalucka, Aarhus; Markus Sperandio, Munich) and three parallel sessions both in the morning and in the afternoon including 50 short oral presentations from the submitted abstracts, with a focus on presentations from our early career researchers. We have also included time for breakout discussion sessions both with a thematic focus and for social interaction. This will give us an opportunity to meet friends and colleagues to discuss all matters of vascular biology and life in general.

We have more than 300 delegates registered from about 17 European countries and in addition presentations from the USA and Canada. This is a great success. The Executive Committee agreed to support six awards (100€ each) for the best oral presentation from an early career researcher in each

session to be selected by the two chairpersons. We will conclude the day by setting up a number of breakout rooms where we invite the delegates to enjoy some social interactions.

Akos Koller and Cor de Wit suggested publishing the abstracts of the ESM meeting 2021 as a supplement in J. Vasc. Res. (JVR). The Membership Assembly agreed that we contact JVR about the conditions to publish the abstracts in the journal. As recommended by Cor de Wit, Christian Aalkjær will contact the abstract presenters to determine whether they agree to publish their abstract in JVR.

Action: Send Awards payment to oral presenters **NJB**
Contact all presenters regarding publication of abstracts in JVR (if this is possible) **CA**
Contact JVR regarding publication of abstracts (if required) **AK**

4. ESM Finance and Membership

Treasurer, Nicola J. Brown

Nicola Brown presented the Treasurers report including financial details and a membership update for 2019-2021. The accounts for the Society for the period 1st June 2019 – 31st March 2021 were presented in the meeting. It should be noted that there will be a small adjustment prior to the financial year-end on 31st May 2021. The accounts have been audited by PKF Francis Clark, Exeter, UK.

During this period, total receipts were £17,237 and total payments £18,309, hence a deficit of £1,072, with current expenditure exceeding income. Our total current assets are £52,324 a decrease from the previous period 2017-2019 (£53,395). In reality our expenditure is greater than during the previous period as we have not paid the Karger subscription in 2021 (which was 6000€ in previous years) or had any expenditure associated with the Malpighi Award (medals etc.). Additional expenditure has been to support our early career researchers as agreed at the 2019 General Assembly.

Membership subscriptions largely contribute to the income receipts. However, the Society extends our gratitude to Boy Houben and his team all their hard work in hosting the excellent ESM-EVBO meeting in Maastricht 2019, which generated a surplus for the Society of £1794.

During this period, the ESM general expenditure included administration, website, committee and accountancy charges. We also contributed towards the Second Summer School website. The ESM has continued our philosophy of supporting our early career investigators by funding travel awards to attend European and International microcirculation meetings and donating poster prizes for ESM Maastricht 2019 (£3547). There was no request to support symposia at any meeting during this period. For the next accounting period we have committed to support a joint ESM-MCS initiative 2020-2022 (delayed for one year by the pandemic) whereby two ESM Early Career Investigators will present at MCS meetings and two MCS Early Career Investigators will present at ESM/WCM meetings (2000-4000€/pa). We will also support two travel awards (400€ each) at FCVB 2022 and provide some support for the joint German-Dutch Vascular Biology Meeting in Göttingen 2021. We will also support the on-line Vascular Biology Summer School July 2021 and the Vascular Biology Summer School to be held in Kraków in July 2022 and support the joint ESM-MCS-ANZMS Early Career Investigator Symposium and travel awards for WCM2022 to be held in Beijing, China.

The Society has continued to operate dual membership during this period. The British, German, Swiss and Hungarian Microcirculation Societies have paid subscriptions through 30th September 2019. Contact has been made with the Italian Society and we are awaiting their subscriptions.

Total membership of the society currently stands at 540 including dual and individual members. We also have approaching 30 honorary, emeritus and retired members.

The General Assembly of the ESM approved the accounts, the Treasurers report and the re-appointments of the auditors PKF Francis Clark. The General Assembly would like to thank Nicola Brown for the excellent work for our society. In addition, we are grateful to József Tolnai for the excellent support and maintenance of our ESM website.

5. Journal of Vascular Research

Secretary General, Henning Morawietz

The ESM would like to thank Ulrich Pohl (Munich) for his excellent work as Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Vascular Research (J. Vasc. Res., JVR) as official journal of the ESM. Brant E. Isakson (Charlottesville, VA) was appointed as new Editor-in-Chief of JVR in 2020.

After discussions in the Executive Committee we started successful negotiations with Karger with our representatives (Nicola J. Brown, Christian Aalkjær, Henning Morawietz), regarding the continued

collaboration between ESM and JVR, in December 2020. Following the meeting we received two versions of the new draft contract from Karger. Both represented a good deal for the ESM, with the option to i) discontinue or ii) continue the members on-line subscription to JVR, with a substantial reduction in the cost from the previous agreement (6000€/annum). 12 of 13 members of the Executive Committee of the ESM voted for option 1: i) publication of abstracts from the biannual meeting and one free article for publication in JVR as corresponding author/annum for any member of ESM – there was no charge for this option of the agreement. With this clear vote, we contacted Karger and signed the appropriate version of the new contract.

6. AOB

The Membership Assembly thanked Christian Aalkjær for the excellent work for our society and agreed that he will continue as President of our society for the next 2 years to organize the meeting in Aarhus in 2023. If colleagues are interested in hosting the ESM meeting 2025 they are very welcome to contact the Executive Committee.

Action: Send a call to all ESM members via email for EOI to host ESM 2025

NJB

With best wishes

Henning Morawietz
ESM Secretary General

Christian Aalkjær
ESM President

Nicola J. Brown
ESM Treasurer