



Attendees:

ESACT Executive Committee Members: M. Fussenegger (Chairman), H. Hauser (Vice-Chairman), S. Grammatikos (Treasurer), P. Alves (Secretary), F. Godia, N Borth, Alan Dickson, Hitto Kaufmann, Yves Jacques Schneider (23th ESACT Lille Chairman), ESACT office: António Roldão and more than 50 members of ESACT

Topics:

1. Welcome & Chairman's report

M. Fussenegger

The chairman highlighted ESACT mission, the role of ESACT in training and identifying next-generation talents and relevant topics in Animal Cell Technology (ACT). ESACT celebrates 35 years in 2013. The ESACT Executive Committee was actively working on actions to influence European Institutions and sensitize politicians and decision makers on EU programs about the importance of ACT. An ACTIP (Animal Cell Technology Industrial Platform) and ESACT joint paper to the EU and preparing IMI initiative is on-going. Details on the Chairman report are in the attached file (ESACT eV 2nd GA_June 2013.pdf)

2. ESACT Finances: Treasurer's Report

S Grammatikos

ESACT e.V. officially registered as legal entity on 12 October 2011; finances of the society are under German tax authority jurisdiction, legal and tax consultation is provided by SCHWANTAG & KRAUSHAAR GmbH (SK, Frankfurt am Main); Yearly financial reports are issued by S&K (2011 available/2012 in progress). Approximately 566 k€ are available as financial reserve in the bank. ESACT funds are consolidated with the *DEUTSCHE BANK* in Germany; More details on the Treasurer report are in the attached file (ESACT eV 2nd GA_June 2013.pdf).

3. Secretary's Report and web site information

P Alves/A Roldão

Overview on ESACT membership in June 2013: 743 members in the data base from which 280 are regular members (483 have lapsed in membership fee payment). The Executive Committee will take actions to remind again these members to pay their memberships; In addition there are 12 honorary members of ESACT. A new ESACT web page was created and available to the members since December 2012. Further details and demographics of ESACT members and other actions from secretary and office are presented in the attached file (ESACT eV 2nd GA_June 2013.pdf)

4. 22nd ESACT Meeting Vienna 2011 (overview)

N Borth

Evaluation Reports for the 22th Meeting in Vienna were presented. Overall the meeting was rated Very Good or Excellent. The surplus from the meeting was approx. 300 k€(details are given in the attached presentation).

5. 23rd ESACT Meeting Lille 2013 - Report

Y-J Schneider

The 23th Meeting in Lille is on its way to becoming a great success as reflected in the record attendance (approx 1000); the workshops were very well attended, the number of exhibiting

companies and sponsoring was very good and the overall quality of presentations had been excellent. Total abstract submissions: 388, Oral presentation: 30 and Posters: 336. Details can be found in the attached presentation (ESACT eV 2nd GA_June 2013.pdf).

6. Information on the 2015 ESACT Meeting

F Godia

The 2015 ESACT Meeting will take place from May 31 to June 3rd in Barcelona, Spain. F Godia will present formally the next meeting at the closure of the ESACT 2013 Lille meeting.

7. XC Elections 2013

P Alves

An Electronic Voting Process (only available to members with paid membership through the members area of new ESACT web site - more details in attached presentation. Short CVs and motivation statements for candidates were compiled in a Newsletter that was distributed to all the members by email and uploaded at the ESACT web page.

Announcement of Election Results (electronic votes)

Participation: 74 members voted out of 279 eligible members (26.5%).

RESULTS from elections:

Ordinary Members (elected by the members):

Alan Dickson (alan.dickson@manchester.ac.uk)

Faculty of Life Sciences
The Michael Smith Building
The University of Manchester
Oxford Road
Manchester M13 9PT, UK
Tel: (0)161-275-5077

Amine Kamen (Amine.Kamen@cnrc-nrc.gc.ca)

École Polytechnique de Montréal, C.P. 6079, succ. Centre-ville,
Montréal, Québec H3C 3A7, Canada
Tel: +1 514 496 2264

Dethardt Müller (dethardt.mueller@rentschler.de)

Rentschler Biotechnologie GmbH, Erwin-Rentschler-Str. 21, D-88471
Laupheim, Germany
Tel.: +49 7392 701-862

Yvonne Genzel (genzel@mpi-magdeburg.mpg.de)

Max Planck Institute for Complex Technical Systems
Bioprocess Engineering
Sandtorstr. 1, 39106 Magdeburg, Germany
Tel: +49-391-6110257

Officers (nominated by the previous Executive Committee):

Hansjoerg Hauser (Chairman)

Paula Alves (Vice-Chairman)

Hitto Kaufmann (Secretary)

Nicole Borth (Treasurer)

Francesc Godia (ESACT Meeting Chairman 2015)

P Alves thanked: (i) all the candidates for coming forward and showing interest in contributing to ESACT matters, (ii) the previous Executive Committee and in particular to Martin Fussenegger and Stefanos Grammatikos, who decided to step down, for their contributions to ESACT matters and interests via Meeting organisations and Executive Committee memberships and (iii) Yves Jacques

Schneider for organizing and executing 23rd ESACT meeting in Lille. For more details please see attached presentation.

8. MEMBERS' COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS & CONCLUSION

H Hauser

All comments and wishes of participating ESACT members as expressed during a lively discussion are summarized according to category below:

Acknowledgments:

M Carrondo (ESACT honorary member) acknowledged the work and commitment of the ESACT Executive Committee and all the efforts towards making ESACT a “legal entity”. Special acknowledgments to Martin Fussenegger, Stefanos Grammatikos and Hansjorg Hauser for their long term contribution and W. Noe for starting the exhibition at ESACT meetings and E Fraune to help since then to organize it (a very important part of the ESACT meetings nowadays).

ESACT funds and investments:

Two members highlighted the need and importance on organizing courses on “cells for screening” and the need to invest in knowledge and scientific projects to drive the development of in vitro models for potency tests. They both mentioned also that the US lacks young people who get education in cell culture engineering and asked to strengthen educational efforts by ESACT also towards US. A member also highlighted the need of actions invest funds to fulfil the industry member’s needs

ESACT membership

The members highlighted the need to spread the word of ESACT in the US and other countries outside Europe. It is critical to have attendance from all over the world. Actions should be taken to present ESACT to the US, Canada, Latin America and Asia communities working in ACT. Activities should involve explaining the aims of ESACT and recruiting more scientists from academia and industry to become ESACT members.

Lille, 27 June 2013
ESACT secretary
Paula M Alves



Annex:

Email sent to ESACT members April 28 (ESACT constitution 2005 and ESACT constitution 2011 pdf files were attached to this email)

ESACT: European Society for Animal Cell Technology

Announcement: ESACT Constitution and Legal Entity Status

As all Members and most of its' Conference Delegates will be aware "ESACT" was established in 1976 by a handful of experts in the field who felt representation, discussion and communication of their skills were necessary to progress their scientific expertise more effectively. The "Society" has greatly evolved since then from this "handful" to more than a thousand of you, the experts in the field. Since then, although in terms of scientific endeavor a relatively short time, the field has positively developed beyond all expectations and forms the basis of incredible advances in human knowledge and modern health care. The political, legislative and economic environment has also developed in an equally dynamic fashion although perhaps not so positive in many of its aspects. The world is a very different place than in 1976 and restrictions and legislation have become exceedingly complex in the control of finance and operations on a national and international level. These developments have been a concern and a serious consideration and debate for the Executive Committee for some years now. Therefore, the decision was taken to re-establish ESACT in a more appropriate form to address its needs and infrastructure in indisputable compliance with current and potential future legislation, socio-economic and political developments.

In short, with the help of many experts, the Executive Committee is proud to announce that **ESACT e.V.**, your society, is now established in Germany as an unequivocal Legal Entity. The ESACT Constitution (see attached), that as governed ESACT from its beginning, had to be adapted in order to meet the legal demands required to establish a Society in Germany. Please find attached the "new" version of the Constitution as drafted by lawyers from a German legal firm, who are experts in this type of brief (Lothar Boelsen Wirtschaftsprüfer, Prof Dr. K Schwantag, Dr Kraushaar GmbH).

The task has been a daunting one since there were very many scenarios, options, pros and cons to consider and the decision for Germany as the "country headquarters" was taken after much and intensive deliberations indeed, also in consultation with one of the original founding members and many of those who have supported ESACT from its beginning. Germany provides a comprehensive and a central position within Europe to deal best with the requirements of the Society now and in our far-reaching future. We would now like to introduce you to your old but "newly" established **European Society for Animal Cell Technology e.V.**. The Executive Committee look forward to your help and full support in ratifying our decisions at the forthcoming **22nd ESACT Meeting** from 15th to 18th May in Vienna.

In your service,

Yours sincerely,

The Executive ESACT Committee

28 April 2011