



c/o SK Frankfurt - Zeilweg 42 - 60430 Frankfurt am Main - Germany

Minutes of the **ESACT** General Assembly, June 26th, 2024

10:00-11:30,
Main lecture hall, Edinburgh Conference Center, UK

Welcome & Chairperson's Report	N Borth	10:00-10:05
ESACT Finances: Treasurer's Report	F Godia	10:05-10:15
Secretary's Report (Membership; homepage; administration)		
	A Tolstrup	10:15-10:25
ESACT courses	F Godia	10:25-10:30
Lisbon 2022 Report	P Alves	10:30-10:35
Update 2024 Meeting	A Dickson	10:35-10:40
Intro 2026 ESACT Meeting	N Borth	10:40-10:45
ESACT Frontiers	Frontiers	10:45-11:00
Announcement XC Elections 2019	A Tolstrup	11:00-11:05
Amendment of the Statutes	N Borth	11:05-11:10
Members' Comments/Suggestions, AOB & Conclusion	N Borth	11:10-11:15



MINUTES

91 ESACT members attended the GA.

The ESACT chair, Prof. Nicole Borth, presented the topics discussed by the Executive Committee during 2022-24

- Sustainability of meetings and our industry in general
- Adapting course spectrum to up-to-date needs
- Update of Website content and structure
- Transitioning into professional administration – the ESACT Back office
- Changes to our statutes

Paula Alves was recognized for her long-lasting and highly valuable contributions to the ESACT community as recipient of the ESACT medal. So was JAACT, the Japanese sister organization to ESACT with whom we have a long-standing collaboration and mutual exchanges during the respective conferences. The Innovation Award 2024 was the CHO genome consortium represented by Mike Betenbaugh who gave a presentation on behalf of the group during ESACT2024. The ESACT members were encouraged to bring up proposals for the next Award which will be given at ESACT2026.

The Treasurer, Prof. Francesc Godia reported on ESACT's financial situation which is solid. He showed a balance of €831 820 which is seen as a good amount to secure potential losses during future conferences should unforeseen issues happen.

The ESACT courses in September 2023 had a total of 115 participants, meaning that almost all seats were occupied. Evaluation and feedback from the students was very positive. The four ESACT courses in September 2024 are almost fully subscribed, deadline is July 01. All members are encouraged to keep spreading information about the courses.



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This year in September, a new hands-on practical course will be launched in Nice, by Emma Petiot. A new pre-conference crash course, named ACT in a Nutshell, was held as a preconference course during ESACT2024, with +40 participants. Evaluation forms will be reviewed by the XC once returned.

The Secretary Dr Anne B. Tolstrup reported that ESACT has a stable number of active members, currently 365. A professional back-office has been hired and found to provide very good and necessary administrative and IT support to our organization. A re-launch of the ESACT.org website is planned for end of 2024 as the old site is based on old and hardly functional software. A content update is being prepared by the XC in parallel.

The final report from the very successful ESACT2022 was presented by Dr. Paula Alves, meeting chair. The balance for the conference was €248 942 which were transferred to ESACT. A preliminary report from the ongoing ESACT2024 was presented by Prof Alan Dickson, meeting chair. Also this conference is predicted to be very successful based on the scientific program quality, the high and consistent number of app 1000 participants, and the number of exhibitors and sponsors. The next ESACT conference, ESACT2026, will be organised by Nicole Borth and take place in Salzburg on 7-10 June 2026.

The ESACT Frontiers presented their mission and activities since ESACT2022 including networking activities for young scientists at ESACT2024 and poster committee work. The Frontiers committee has renewed half of its group as per their constitution. Nusa Pristovsek, Claire Pearce and Bernhard Sissolak are stepping back and were warmly thanked for their hard work. New in the group are James Budge, Nicolas Marx and Laetitia Aurand all of whom were welcomed. The 5th ESACT Frontiers retreat is currently being planned, dates and venue to be announced soon.

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Registered under VR 14782 Amtsgericht Frankfurt am Main
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The results from the Executive Committee election were announced. New XC members are Prof Alan Dickson and Dr Till Wenger, while Prof Niall Barron, Dr Antonio Roldao and Prof Emma Petiot were re-elected. The functionaries will remain the same during the 2024-2026 period (chair and ESACT2026 organizer Nicole Borth, Vice-Chair Stefanos Grammatikos, Treasurer Francesc (Quico) Godia and Secretary Anne B. Tolstrup). Dr. Paulo Fernandes was warmly thanked for all his hard work as a member of the XC 2022-24 committee.

It was announced that Dr Alain R. Bernard was elected as Honorary member of ESACT by the members, for his long and extensive contributions to the ESACT Society.

A new version of the constitution of ESACT had been shared before the meeting, mainly addressing out of date procedures and the protocol for voting at GA. Nicole Borth proposed to the GA to accept this new version as the one valid as ESACT statutes from now on. This proposal was unanimously approved by the GA (raise of hands). There were no counter-votes.