



Minutes of the 15th GA of the SSB

15th General Assembly of the Swiss Society for Biomaterials
Friday, September 11, 2009, Lausanne, 12.15 – 13.10

Present (26): M. Bichbein, M. Bohner, Y. Bruderer, E. Burguera, A.-K. Born, N. Döbelin, D. Eglin, L. Eschbach, L. Galea, B. Gasser, A. Gisep, J. Lemaître, R. Luginbühl, K. Maniura, D. Mohn, A. Poulsson, G. Richards, W. Rieger, E. Rochford, G. Rizzoli, M. Rottman, A. Salito, O. Schneider, A. Stegante, P.-H. Vallotton, C. Wandrey,

The SSB President, Geoff Richards (GR), welcomes the members and opens the meeting.

1. Agenda

1. Approval of the agenda
2. Protocol of the 14th General Assembly
3. Report of the president
4. Report of the treasurer
5. Report of the auditors
6. Budgets 2009/2010
7. Election of the President (1 year term)
8. Election of the Auditors
9. Sponsoring
10. SSB 2010
11. Varia

The agenda is unanimously approved.

2. Minutes of the 14th General Assembly

The minutes are unanimously approved.

3. Report of the President

First, Geoff Richards announces his resignation as President of the SSB, one year earlier than originally planned. Geoff's decision follows his appointment as Research and Development Director at AO, and the extra amount of work linked to his new position.

Looking back at his 10 years of service in the Executive Committee of the SSB, Geoff wants to underline the very friendly atmosphere within the group. The mix of academic

and industry people (including competitors on the market!) has worked very well and made the Society progress constantly over these years. Today the SSB is one of the largest and the most active biomaterials society in Europe, and is able to organize successfully international congresses such as ESB 2009. Members of the SSB can be proud of their Society's achievements.

As one of the 3 organizers of ESB 2009 (with C. Wandrey and M. Bohner) and at a few hours from the end of the congress, Geoff is happy to announce that it is already a big success, with an attendance close to 1200 participants, the largest in ESB history. This may be due in part to the introduction of new features such as for instance the Topic of the Day and the possibility for clinicians to receive CME credits for attending the congress.

4. Report of the Treasurer

A. Salito presents the accounting for 2008. The result is more positive than budgeted, with an income of CHF 4'721.90 which reflects a positive balance from the Annual Meeting in Basel (10 kCHF sponsoring from Straumann!), as well as less than expected sponsorship to students. On December 31, 2008, the fortune of SSB amounted CHF 45'369.65.

Sponsoring fees remain an important source of revenues at CHF 4500.-, stable compared to last year.

Payment of the annual fee remains an issue. According to A. Salito, only ~30% of the members have paid their 2009 fee to date.

5. Report of the auditors

Beat Gasser reports in the names of A. Gisep and himself. Accounting 2008 of the SSB was verified by the 2 auditors and found well kept. All the numbers presented were correct. Therefore B. Gasser proposes to accept accounting for 2008.

The proposal is unanimously accepted.

6. Budgets 2009/2010

The budget for 2009 is presented by A. Salito. Revenues from ESB 2009 are still unknown to date. However there is a good probability that ESB 2009 will generate revenues. The uncertainty of the budget makes it impossible for the Assembly to vote on it at this time. G. Richards proposes to have an updated budget sent by email as soon as reasonable expenses/revenues estimates are available for ESB 2009. The Society's electronic voting procedure will be activated on this occasion.

R. Luginbühl questions the opportunity to present this year's budget in September. W. Rieger points out that normally the GA is held in May during the Annual Meeting. 2009 is an exception, since no Annual Meeting could be organized this year due to ESB 2009. Exceptionally, it was decided to hold the GA during ESB 2009 in order to secure a sufficient number of attendees among SSB members. W. Rieger proposes that the budget is presented to the members before the beginning of the budgeted year. However this would require an electronic vote, as for obvious practical reasons the

General Assembly will continue to be held during the SSB Annual Meeting in Spring (usually beginning of May).

7. Election of the President (1 year term)

With the resignation of Geoff Richards, a new president has to be elected. Following the unwritten rule existing in the EC, G. Richards proposes to appoint Marc Bohner, currently Vice President, as new President of the SSB.

Marc Bohner is elected SSB President by acclamation. His first words are to thank Geoff Richards for the excellent work accomplished during his presidency and in the other positions he held in the SSB Executive Committee.

Changes in the EC

Dr. Armando Salito is resigning from the EC after the 2009 General Assembly. Armando was elected to the EC on May 17, 1995, during the first General Assembly of the SSB in Bern. Since then, he has been actively participating to the EC. From 1998 until now, he has held the position of Treasurer of the SSB. In recognition of Armando's continuous efforts to support and promote the activities of the SSB, the Executive Committee has elected him to be a life-long Honorary Member of the Society.

With the resignations of G. Richards (from the presidency) and A. Salito, the EC has decided the following re-organization of its functions:

M. Bohner (President)
P.-H. Vallotton (Vice President and Secretary)
G. Rizzoli (Treasurer)
T. Brunner (Web Editor and young scientists' Representative)
J. Lemaître
K. Maniura
G. Richards
K. Ruffieux
C. Wandrey

As new Vice President, P.-H. Vallotton accepts to keep his secretary function until the next GA in May 2010, until which a new Secretary will be identified. G. Richards announces that he will step down from the EC in May 2010. Therefore a call for 2 new EC members will be issued in early 2010, to replace A. Salito and G. Richards.

M. Bohner points out that according to the Society's bylaws, the Executive Committee is elected by the General Assembly for a 2 year term (next election will be in 2010), but that functions within the EC are distributed by the EC members themselves.

8. Election of the Auditors

Armando Gisep is resigning from his function, whereas Beat Gasser accepts a new term. David Eglin (AO Foundation) proposes himself and is elected by acclamation.

The EC would like to thank warmly Armando Gisep for his continuous commitment as SSB Auditor since 2000.

9. Sponsoring

The number of sponsors is stable. M. Bohner expresses his gratitude to all the sponsors in the name of the SSB:

- AO Foundation Davos, CH
- Alhenia, AG, Baden-Dättwil, CH
- Biotronik AG, Bülach, CH
- Degradable Solutions AG, Schlieren, CH
- Geistlich Biomaterials, Wohlsusen, CH
- Krahn Chemie GmbH Ceramics, Hamburg, D
- Mathys AG Bettlach, Bettlach, CH
- Medicoat AG, Mägenwill, CH
- Metoxit AG, Thayngen, CH
- Peyer AG, Waltenschwil, CH
- RMS Stiftung, Bettlach, CH
- Smith & Nephew, Aarau, CH
- Straumann AG, Basel, CH
- SuSoS (Surface Solutions) AG, Dübendorf, CH
- Symbios Orthopédie SA, Yverdon, CH
- Synthes Inc, Solothurn, CH

10. SSB 2010 at Empa Dübendorf

The 2010 SSB Annual Meeting and General Assembly will take place at the Empa Academy in Dübendorf on **May 5, 2010**. The topic of the meeting will be “Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering”. Clemens van Blitterswijk has accepted to deliver an invited lecture during the meeting.

11. Varia

ECM Journal: G. Richards informs the audience that the ECM Journal has reached a high impact factor at 4.289. The success of the journal requires now the implementation of an electronic platform for the management of submitted papers. G. Richards will ask the SSB to increase substantially its sponsorship to ECM in order to cover the new costs.

At 13.10 Marc Bohner closes the General Assembly by thanking the GA attendees for their participation.

P.-H. Vallotton, SSB Secretary, 12.09.2009