

Minutes of the 21st General Assembly of the SSB+RM

Present: 63 members according to the five lists of participants
Place: EPF Lausanne, CO 3
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2014
Time: 12:15-13:15

The SSB+RM President P.-H. Vallotton (PV) opens the GA.

1. Approval of the agenda (PV)

The agenda was distributed via webpage with link incorporated into the last newsletter well in advance. PV indicates that it is his last GA as President of the Society and asks to change the foreseen items 7 and 8, so that the new elected president could lead the election of the next-year EC members. All members approve the modified agenda.

2. Protocol of the 20th General Assembly (PV)

The minutes were also distributed via webpage of the Society. The minutes are approved without any objection. PV thanks B. Müller (BM) for his work.

3. Report of the President (PV)

PV starts his presentation with a view back to the evolution of the Society and summarises some of the highlights, i.e. the successful organisation of the ESB 2009 meeting in Lausanne and the change of the name to elucidate the inclusion of regenerative medicine activities in 2013.

PV acknowledges the seminal work of past EC members. The participants applaud the two honorary members (H. Gruner and J.-M. Meyer) present at the GA, who were founders of the SSB and served in the first EC in 1995.

PV highlights the one-and-a-half day Annual Meeting last year in Basel and the YSF activities including the grant of Travel Awards, which were organised by L. Galea (Young Scientist representative in the EC). The EC implemented the new membership rules and successfully reduced the financial assets as planned after ESB 2009. The Society should continue with the efforts in increasing its visibility, i.e. by approaching relevant Swiss institutions including CTI and Swiss Medic.

PV reminds the members that European Cells and Materials is the official journal of the Society.

4. Report of the Treasurer including budget 2015 (GRI)

The SSB+RM Treasurer G. Rizzoli (GRI) provides his report, i.e. accounting by the end of December 2014. The members take notice without discussion.

GRI presents the budget numbers for the year 2015. He elucidates the new sponsorship regulations and the changes in the Annual Meeting budget, which precluded the coverage of the dinner cost by the Society in order to get back to balanced finances for the year 2015.

5. Report of the Auditors (PV)

GRI shows the Auditors report document signed by the two Auditors. S. Hieber, present at the GA, approves the correctness. Therefore, PV proposes to the members to accept accounting for 2014. The members unanimously vote for this proposal.

6. Actions to integrate RM into SSB+RM (DE)

D. Eglin (DE) gives a detailed description on the numerous activities, which are already summarized on the Society's webpage and include the TERMIS 2014. He also describes the plans for the next year and asks the members to participate and contribute. Links have been build to other initiatives such as the Swiss Stem Cell Network. The former President M. Bohner asks to avoid using the terms "tissue engineering" and "regenerative medicine" as synonyms.

7. Election of the President for one-year term (PV)

PV explains that the current EC-members propose K. Maniura (KM) to become President of the Society. He highlights the achievements of KM and her work for the Society. PV asks KM to leave the room. Without discussion the members vote for KM to become President of the Society. Applause!

8. Election of the Executive Committee members for one-year term (KM)

KM thanks C. Wandrey (CW) and PV for their active service to the Society within the EC. KM announces the decision of the EC to acknowledge their vital contributions to the Society by electing them to Honorary Members of the Society. KM hands over the certificates to CW and PV.

KM presents the proposal for the new composition of the EC. First, she introduces the four new candidates selected after an open call (J. Conde, M. Ehrbar, B. Olbricht, A. Zumbühl). Following the tradition they were invited to the EC-meeting last Monday. She shows a slide with the names of all candidates (including the intended functions of the team members): P.-E. Bourban, J. Conde, M. Ehrbar, D. Eglin (Secretary), L. Galea (Young Scientist Representative), B. Müller (Vice-President), B. Olbricht, A. Papadimitropoulos, G. Rizzoli (Treasurer), M. Zenobi-Wong, and A. Zumbühl. The SSB+RM members approve this proposition with a clear majority.

9. Election of the Auditors for two-year term (KM)

KM informs that the two Auditors, S. Hieber and A. Bruinink, have offered to continue and the EC-members recommend their election. The SSB+RM members approve this proposition with a clear majority.

10. Sponsoring (KM)


KM shows a slide with the logos of the sponsors. She asks A. Papadimitropoulos to explain the changes in the sponsoring system of SSB+RM, which have been organized by him. It is also planned for the future to have booths from industry at the annual meetings in order to improve the interactions of the participants with industrial partners from the field.

11. 2016 Annual Meeting (KM)

KM and M. Zenobi-Wong (MZW) inform the members that the 2015 Annual Meeting of the Society will take place at the Schulthess Klinik in Zurich on June 9 and 10, 2015. MWZ is the head of the organizing committee. It is intended to have a one and a half day meeting starting in the afternoon of June 9 with the YSF.

12. Varia (KM)

KM reports that the number of applications for the doctoral theses awards has been rather limited: three application for the best PhD-thesis and one application for the best MD/DDS-thesis. Therefore, the best MD/DDS-thesis was not awarded for this year. The members of SSB+RM are asked to spread the information about the research awards to increase the numbers of potent applications. The EC-members will take further measures to obtain a larger number of applications for the next-year awards.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Bert Müller'.

Prof. Dr. Bert Müller, SSB+RM Secretary

(17.06.2015, draft)