

EFRR GENERAL ASSEMBLY – Marina Conference Centre, Helsinki, 8th May 2015

Chairperson: Gulseren Akyuz

Secretary (responsible for the minutes, attendance register, voting issue): Nigel Harris

Examiner of the minutes: Helena Burger, Sven-Uno Marnetoft

Auditors of accounts: Stephan Heiskanen, Susanne Weinbrenner

1. President's report of the activity of EFRR in the period of 2013-2015 – Gulseren Akyuz

Professor Akyuz reported that there were now 356 EFRR members. The membership fee will be 10 Euro/year, this fee is included in the registration costs for the Congress.

We are waiting for your calls to announce national or international events which will be held in your countries in our website www.efrr.org. Thanks to Gabor Fazekas and his team for maintaining this.

The minutes of GA in Istanbul are available on our website.

The Riga Summer School for Rehabilitation Medicine took place between August 3th and 16th in Riga, Latvia. We are grateful to Aivars Vetra for organising this. This project is funded for three years, they did not organize a new School this year because of our Congress here in Helsinki.

The next congress in 2017 will be held in Glasgow. There is an open call for candidates willing to host the Congress in 2019. We had already received an expression of interest from Germany.

2. Report of the treasurer – Stephan Heiskanen

Bank account at the beginning of the year	6 832,58
expences :	
bank fee	-57,60
travel expences	-2 134,47
meeting expences	-276,80
web site	-60,00
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	-2 528,87
 bank account at the end of the year	 4 303,71

3. Update of the bylaws – Nigel Harris

Professor Harris explained that we have had a number of requestes from health professionals outside Europe. We would like to allow them to participate and are proposing an Associate Member status. The amendment to the Bye law would be as follows.

Active Member: All professionals from the fields of rehabilitation medicine, vocational and educational rehabilitation, social and psychosocial rehabilitation or any other field of rehabilitation who live in European countries, can be a candidate for being an active member. After Council

approval and the payment of membership fee, they become an active member. The active members have the right to vote in the General Assembly and can be elected as a Council Member.

Associate Member: Associate members have all rights and obligations as active members, except that they will not have the right to vote in the Assembly and they are not able to stand as candidates for Council Member. They will have to pay a membership fee.

Members were asked to vote on the update to the bylaw. There were 24 votes in favour, with no abstentions or votes against. The amendment was approved.

4. Election of the new Council for the period of 2015-2017 – Nigel Harris

Professor Harris gave a list of the candidates for Council. He indicated that he would be standing down and that Frederike van Wijck from Glasgow, UK, would like to stand. The candidates were therefore:

Aarne Ylinen - Finland
Helena Burger – Slovenia
Gabor Fazekas – Hungary
Gulseren Akyuz – Turkey (President)
Sven-Uno Marnetoft- Sweden
Susanne Weinbrenner – Germany
Fredrike van Wick – United Kingdom
Matilde Leonardi – Italy
Aivars Vetra – Latvia

Prof Harris stated that unfortunately on this occasion, Matilde Leonardi from Italy and Aivars Vetra from Latvia, had been unable to attend. They were both active members of Council and he asked members that as an exception to Bylaw2, they be allowed to stand, even though they were not able to be present at the meeting. The members were asked to vote on this. There were 30 votes in favour, with no abstentions and none against.

Members were then asked to vote to elect the Council. Since the number of applicants was less than the number of places available, this would be a block vote for, or against. There were 24 votes in favour, 6 abstentions (the existing Council members), with no votes against. The Council were therefore elected.

5. Election of the new President

Professor Akyuz advised the meeting that Council were recommending that Professor Aarne Ylinen be appointed as President of the EFRR. There were no other nominations and therefore Professor Ylinen was duly appointed.

6. Report of the preparation of the Congress in 2017 in Glasgow – Frederike van Wijck

Professor van Wijck gave a presentation outlining proposals for the 2017 conference, to be held at Glasgow Callendonian University in the UK, hosted by the Society for Research in Rehabilitation and the British Society for Rehabilitation Medicine.

7. Any other business

Professor Akyuz reported that we had received an email from Fiona Stephenson at the Spinal Injuries Rehabilitation Unit in Nepal, asking for volunteers to provide teaching and support to families, patients and staff. Members were asked to contact Professor Akyuz if they could assist with this.

8. Closing

Professor Harris asked members if there were any issues or questions that they would like to raise.

The meeting was then closed.

Members in attendance - 35

Aarne Ylinen
Uwe Enger
Rolf Buschmann-Steinhage
Allen Heinmann
Rainer Kaluscha
Sven Uno Marentoft
Natasa Bizoviear
Nika Goljar
Rikka Kilpinen
Marjatta Musikka-Siirtola
Stefanie Martin
Betje Schwarz
Daniela Sewoester
Katja Spanier
Marco Streibelt
Alasair Weir
Rudiger Zwerenz
Mehmet Beyazova
Helena Burger
Nigel Harris
Gabor Fazekas
Nika Goljar
Katarzyna Hojan
Tunc Alp Kalyon
Dilsad Sindel
Frederike van Wijck
Matjaz Zadavec
Marion Ticklen
Simona Szasz
Gulseren Akyuz
Susanne Weinbrenner
Zoltan Denes
Tuomas Leinonen
Ibolya Tavaszi
Erzsebet Boros