

# General Assembly of the European Association of Thermology (EAT), held on September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006 in Zakopane

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The General Assembly was scheduled for September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006, 14:30, at the Hotel Wersal in Zakopane, Poland. The president Prof Anna Jung opened the General Assembly in time at 14:30. Delegates from 5 of the 8 Member Societies were present,

As more than half of all members with voting rights have been present, the General Assembly was entitled to make decisions without delay. The Agenda included report of the president, report of the treasurer, statement of the auditors, election of a new board, any other business

## Presidents Report EAT 2003-2006

The ninth European Congress of Thermology was held in Krakow Poland, and was successful in bringing together colleagues from many countries in a full programme of lectures. Since then we are pleased to record the formation of a new Society in Romania. Two meetings have already been held. Across Europe, annual meetings have continued in Poland, the United Kingdom, Austria and Germany. A major meeting in Italy took place in Rome in September 2005, organised at the University, with both medical and industrial applications of thermography.

An SPIE European meeting on infrared sensor technology was held in Jena Germany during 2005, and the industrial meetings QIRT, quantitative infrared thermography have continued their regular series. Prof. B. Wiecek having hosted one of these conferences in Lodz, Poland, is a member of the organising committee. The next of these conferences is scheduled for Krakow in Poland.

Prof. Benko and colleagues in Budapest have continued the long running series of meetings titles Thermogrammetry. These conferences are under the auspices of Thermal Engineering and Thermogrammetry organisation in Hungary, and include a technical exhibition. The next (15<sup>th</sup>) meeting for late June 2007 has been announced.

We have also been encouraged by the increasing interest in Norway, largely due to the activities of Prof. James Mercer at Tromsø University. It is good to welcome delegates from Norway over the last 2-3 years, for the first time since the formation of the EAT some 40 years ago.

Internationally, European members have attended meetings of the American Academy of Thermology, the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, medical and biological section in the USA, and their major international meeting held in Shanghai, China.

Our journal, produced regularly, Thermology international continues to publish papers from around the world, with a main contribution from Europe. Our thanks are due to Prof. Kurt Ammer for keeping this journal in print, which is a major resource for researchers in the field of thermal imaging.

The annual training course on the theory and practice of thermal imaging in medicine has continued at the University of Glamorgan. Normally held in the first week of July, this has drawn both new and experienced thermographers to the UK from a number of countries in Europe and North America. The emphasis of this course is on thermal physiology and issues relating to protocols for reliable thermal measurements from thermal imaging. These subjects are rarely included in any other forms of training at the present time.

A new world-wide interest in the use of thermal imaging as a screening tool in airports during fever threats has emerged. During the SARS epidemic in the Far East, thermography was used, especially in Singapore and China. Currently, a special committee of the International Standards organisation is meeting to draw up a standard for the correct use of this technology as a fever screening tool. The threat of Bird influenza from the H5N1 virus has prompted this initiative. Two of our committee members serve on this working group (Prof Mercer & Ring)

Throughout the history of our Association, the numbers of active participants in different countries has fluctuated. At one time, there were 600 members in France, the biggest group in Europe, although today, there are probably only a few isolated doctors working there with thermal imaging at the present time. The attendance at meetings has shown an encouraging increase in the UK recently. It is hoped that as the equipment continues to improve, and the costs reduce, that this trend will be seen in more countries across Europe.

It is important that those who are working in this unusual and exciting field should meet together. Experienced and newer workers with thermal imaging need to be able to exchange ideas and practical information with each other. We are pleased that this 10<sup>th</sup> European conference was hosted as was the 9<sup>th</sup> in here in Poland. The organising committee led by Prof. Jung expressed their wish that all delegates from Europe, Russia, Australia and the USA have had a pleasant and successful visit to Zakopane. The conference programme reflected the technological advances and increased efforts in standardisation of techniques as special issues at the present time.

Preliminary plans for both International and the 11<sup>th</sup> European congress over the next three years are in hand, the next being held at Auburn University USA next June. Announcements will be given to all these conferences in Thermology international, and on the Glamorgan group website

### Treasurers Report

The treasurer Prof Ammer reported that the main expenses of the EAT are the costs for production of the journal Thermology international. Until 2005, the journal was financed half by the Ludwig Boltzmann Research Institute for Physical Diagnostics and the EAT in cooperation with the Austrian Society of Thermology (ÖGT) This year the full financial burden has to be taken by the EAT and the ÖGT. At the date of the General Assembly, all member societies had not paid yet their annual subscription, resulting in negative cash balance which was corrected meanwhile from the treasurers own money.

In order to increase the financial means of the society, the treasurer suggested to increase the annual membership fee for member societies from 3 Euro/per member in the member society to 4 Euro. The General Assembly accepted this proposal unanimously.

### Statement of the Auditors

Dr Plassmann reported on behalf of both auditors, that both auditors had checked the accountancy of the EAT, and they did not find any irregularities. Dr Plassmann finally asked the General Assembly to accept the finance report and to relieve the board members from their responsibilities. The General Assembly agreed unanimously.

### Election of a new board,

After that, the board members resigned and Prof Ammer conducted the elections for the new board. The following nominations have arrived in time at the EAT:

President: Prof Dr Anna Jung, Poland

Vice-President; Prof Dr Francis Ring, United Kingdom

General Secretary/Treasurer: Prof Dr Kurt Ammer, Austria.

The General Assembly the nominations with great majority. President, vice-president and general secretary/treasurer were elected with all votes and one single abstention. They newly elected Board accepted their duties and promised to support the EAT in the future with full engagement.

### Any other business

The venue of the next, the 11<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Thermology was discussed. Three locations were proposed: Tromsø in Norway, Bath in England and the Island Kos in Greece. A conference in Tromsø would be organised by Prof Mercer, but has the disadvantage that Norway is an expensive country and travelling to Tromsø may be difficult and time consuming.

Prof Ring offered his help in organising the conference in Bath together with Dr Nigel Harris, who followed Prof Ring as the head of the Department for Clinical Measurement at the Royal Hospital of Rheumatic Diseases in Bath. High costs for hotel rooms and for hiring facilities are the main arguments against Bath.

Prof Jung proposed the Greek island Kos, where the conference could be organised in September at similar costs as in Zakopane. In the end of summer, flights to Kos are available from most of the capital cities in Europe.

It was agreed, that the venue for the next European congress will be discussed further in the coming meeting of the EAT Board.

Finally, Prof Jung closed the General Assembly by 15:23.