

General Assembly of the European Association of Thermology (EAT) held on September 17th, 2009 in Mannheim

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European Association of Thermology, Vienna, Austria

The General Assembly took place on September 17th, 2009, commencing at 18:30 hrs, at the Hotel Wartburg in Mannheim, Germany. The President Prof. Anna Jung opened the General Assembly. Delegates from 6 of the 8 Member Societies and 2 individual members were present.

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

President's Report EAT 2006-2009

Prof. Anna Jung reported the main events of the EAT in the period from 2006 to 2009. The tenth European Congress of Thermology was held in Zakopane Poland, and was successful in bringing together colleagues from Europe, Russia, Australia and the USA with a full programme of lectures. Across Europe, annual meetings have continued in Poland, the United Kingdom, Austria and Germany.

Prof. Benko and colleagues in Budapest have continued the long running series of meetings entitled "Thermogrammetry". These conferences are held under the auspices of the Thermal Engineering and Thermogrammetry organisation in Hungary, and included a technical exhibition. The 15th THERMO conferences was organised in June 2007, the 16th conference took place this year in July, and the next meeting has been announced for 2011.

Prof. B. Wiecek, delegate of the Polish Association of Thermology in the EAT Council, was responsible for organising the 9th QIRT 2008 conference in Krakow. This well attended conference had a number of papers on bio-medical applications. Almost all of these papers were pre-sented by members of the EAT.

The activity of the training course on the theory and practice of thermal imaging in medicine has continued at the University of Glamorgan., although a full Glamorgan course was only held once, in 2007. Compressed 1 day versions of the course were held at the International Thermology Conference in Auburn, Alabama in 2007 and at the QIRT 2008 Congress in Krakow. The short course in Auburn was attended by 25 people, while about 40 people registered for the course in Krakow. Last year a full time course was organised by the Romanian Society of Thermology in co-operation with the EAT, the University of Glamorgan and University of Medicine "Carol Davila" and partly funded by a grant from the Romanian Ministry of

Education and Research. The course was held in Bucarest, Romania, and attracted more than 60 participants.

Prof. James Mercer from the University of Tromsø in Norway, continued with his activities to promote the technique of infrared thermal imaging. This year he launched a web site for the EAT at www.europeanthermology.com. It is hoped that this site will become a major platform of communication between thermologist in Europe and around the World.

Prof Mercer and Prof Ring have been members of a special committee of the International Standards Organisation that has drawn up a standard for the correct use of infrared cameras as a fever screening tool. The final standard was just recently released. For the first time in a long time, the EAT published a position paper on the evolving application of infrared thermal imaging for fever screening. The statement can be found on the EAT web site and also in our journal, Thermology international. EAT members have also acted as referees or invited editors for journal submissions related to the topic of fever screening with infrared imagers and as referees for grant applications related to research in thermology.

The journal Thermology International now serves as an official publication organ for 6 national and 1 international Thermology Association. The Brazilian Society of Thermology joined the journal in October 2007. Prof. M. Brioschi, President of the Brazilian Society of Thermology, Prof. H. Usuki, President of the Japanese Society of Thermology, and Prof J.B. Mercer became members of the editorial board.

Finally President Prof Jung expressed her thanks to the members of the EAT board and the EAT Council of National Delegates, and especially to Prof James Mercer, whose effort to design, launch and maintain the EAT website was highly appreciated.

Report of the general secretary and treasurer

Currently the EAT has 7 affiliated National Societies and 4 individual members. The two German Societies are still in the process of merging, the continuing German Society of Thermography & Regulation Medicine has 108 members, the Italian Society has 8 members and 10 thermographers are organised in the Medical Group of the UK Thermography Association (UKTA). There are 18 members in the national society in Romania. The Austrian Society comprises 25, the Polish Association 30 and the Hungarian Thermology International Society 40 members. In total,

253 Europeans hold either individual or associated membership (through an affiliated society) in the EAT.

Most of the membership fees were paid prior to the General Assembly 2009, the remaining unpaid fees were received during the 11th European Congress of Thermology. The balance of the EAT account as per September 17th. 2009, had a surplus of 2456.50-Euro.

The treasurer Prof. Kurt Ammer reported that the main expenses of the EAT are production costs for the journal Thermology International. A balance in the EAT account was only achieved as a result of a private donation of approximately 1100.-Euro from the treasurer.

In order to increase the financial means of the society, the treasurer suggested the following

- to increase the annual membership fee for member societies from 40.-Euro/per member in the member society to 50.-Euro.
- to increase the annual subscription fee for the journal to 50.-Euro for members, and to 60.-Euro plus 18.-Euro for mailing outside Austria for non EAT- members.
- to increase the number of subscriptions to the journals from the national societies
- to increase the membership numbers in the EAT

Statement of the Auditors

Dr Plassmann reported on behalf of both auditors, that both auditors had checked the accountancy of the EAT, without finding 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 asked Dr Plassmann to conduct the elections for the new board. Prior to the General Assembly the following nominations had arrived within the time limit set by the EAT:

- President: Prof. James B. Mercer, Ph.D. Norway
- Vice-President; Prof. Dr. med Anna Jung, Poland
- General Secretary/Treasurer:
Prof. Dr. med Kurt Ammer, PhD Austria.

The majority of the General Assembly agreed with the nominations. President, Vice-President and General Secretary/Treasurer were unanimously elected with one abstention.

They newly elected Board of the EAT graciously accepted their positions on the Board and promised to fulfil their duties to the best of their abilities.

The following nominations for membership in the Council of National Delegates were received. Nominees, who were unable to attend the General Assembly, had sent a written statement expressing their willingness to be nominated.

- Prof Dr. R.Berz, Germany
- Dr. H.Sauer, Germany
- Prof Dr B.Wiecek, Poland
- Prof. Dr. E.F.J.Ring; UK
- Mr. Kevin Howell, UK
- Prof. Dr. I.Benkö, Hungary
- Prof.Dr.A.Nica, Romania
- Prof Dr.J.Demmink, Norway
- Dr. G.Dalla Volta, Italy

There were no objections to these nominations and the General Assembly unanimously agreed with their election as members of the Council of National Delegates.

Finally, the newly elected president Prof J Mercer conducted the General Assembly.

Any other business

Prof Mercer discussed future directions of the EAT and possibilities to improve the finances of EAT. Ways of less expensive production of the journal were discussed, particularly the possibility of producing the journal as an internet journal only. It was agreed that the journal should continue as a printed publication, but an additional web publication was suggested. Dr Plassmann offered to investigate the printing costs for the journal at the printing facility of the University of Glamorgan.

Decision on membership fees and other financial matters will be made at the next board meeting of the EAT.

Prof. Mercer closed the General Assembly at 19:40.