

EAFP General Assembly, Wednesday September 14th, Radisson SAS Hotel, Split, Croatia

The general assembly (=GA) started out 16.00 with the President welcoming everyone (approximately 70 members including the council).

GA AGENDA

1. President report
2. Meeting secretary report
3. Publications officer
4. Treasurer report
5. General secretary report
6. Vice president report
7. Comments from the members

President report:

The President Steve Feist stressed the importance of ideas and suggestions from members to help the EAFP continuing being an association for the members. One of the members Brit Bang Jensen presented her idea of letting the EAFP go on FACEBOOK. Brit volunteered to take the lead regarding this and asked for other members to join her.

Meeting secretary report:

The Meeting secretary Jose Garcia presented Split conference figures regarding participants, oral presentations, posters. The venue for the 2013 conference was revealed as being Tampere in Finland.

Publications officer report:

The Publications officer Roy Palmer presented figures regarding the EAFP Bulletin, among them submission rates. The positive reactions on the new format of the Bulletin were described. Subject-editors, David Smith at CEFAS Weymouth as well as Albion Press were thanked for their efforts when it comes to the Bulletin.

Paul Midtlyng queried whether the current formats of Bulletin manuscripts were within the objectives of the Bulletin. The Publications Officer indicated that the formats were in keeping with those agreed in the General Assemblies of 2005 and 2007.

Treasurer report:

The Treasurer Sven Bergmann informed the GA on the status of the accounts for the years 2010 and the first part of 2011. In numbers for 2010 the expenditure were: 71 % for the bulletin, 10.3 % for administration measurements, 18 % for council reasons and 0.7 % of bank charges. In 2011 the balance is: 72 % for the bulletin, 16.3 % for administration measurements, 10.6 % for council reasons and 1.1 % of bank charges

General secretary report:

The General secretary Lone Madsen reported on the membership balances in the latest years:

2007	+50	-118	1011
2008	+59	-132	968
2009	+95	-105	958
2010	+45	-127	882
2011	+105	-95	892

Different estimations were presented, as well as membership by branch etc.

The student membership has risen and is now at the same level as in 2007 (around 90; 10 % of the EAFP members are students). The General Secretary urged members to inform their students about the possibility of joining the EAFP and the advantages of an EAFP membership (lower rates when attending the EAFP conferences, the possibilities of getting a student grant for an EAFP conference, as well as the EAFP bulletin). In general members are asked to "spread the news" regarding the benefits of EAFP membership for potential new members. An EAFP leaflet is available at the EAFP website.

The hard work done by branch officers in the different EAFP member countries is invaluable for an association like the EAFP and is highly appreciated.

Vice president report:

The Vice president David Bruno informed about the EAFP website as well as his work regarding investigating the possibility of online payment of fees for members. David was attending his last EAFP General assembly as a council member, wherefore the online payment question will be handed over to the next Vice president (Patrick Smith). The President thanked David for his hard work as council member (over many ears) and informed the members on that David will stay as webmaster for the EAFP website for the time being. David's final task was to hand over to the new Vice president Patrick Smith who addressed the GA outlining his ambition with the council to help develop the EAFP for its members.

David Bruno was awarded honorary membership of the EAFP at the EAFP Conference Dinner Thursday night.

Comments from members:

The German branch officer Dick Kleingeld informed about the success of local branch meetings (for German speaking members) every second year and suggested such local meetings in other branches.

Brit Hjeltnes said that more benefits can only be done with more money, therefore she suggested online distribution of the bulletin, which could save money. Brit Bang Jensen asked if a poll could determine member's opinions on this. The President indicated that online distribution was last addressed in Prague at the General assembly in 2009. There, the majority of the members answered that they wanted a hard copy of the bulletin.

Annelies Declercq, Belgium, suggested more pathology and histopathology posters at conferences, which was supported by Patricia Noguera. The Meetings secretary and the President answered that the amount of presentations/posters within a given field is depending on what attendees send in but supported the suggestion. This will be addressed for the next conference.

Brit Bang Jensen suggested that a participants list for the conference should be provided.

Diane Elliott suggested EAFP Webinars on certain subjects. Christian Michel, Switzerland, suggested a platform like an online discussion forum.

The President ended the GA at 17.15 by thanking everyone for attending the GA as well as the council members for their hard work in the council and said that he would urge everyone to attend the next conference in Tampere in two years time.

October 2011
General secretary