

EAFP council meeting
Porto, April 28th 2017

MINUTES

The meeting was attended by all council members: Jose Garcia (president), Patrick Smith (vice president), Ivona Mladineo (meeting secretary), Sean Monaghan (publications officer), Klaus Knopf (treasurer), Snježana Zrnčić (general secretary).

1) Status of action points from minutes of Cambridge council meeting, November 2016

Previous action points were covered satisfactorily apart the following two:

1. Additional efforts have been undertaken regarding cooperation with FAO but due to operational procedures within the FAO organization this needs to continue; 2. A new call for the Small grants scheme has not yet been prepared for publication in the newsletter, on the web site and FB profile.

2) President

a) Report

The communication with FAO will continue with requests to organise a Workshop on antimicrobial resistance during the Porto conference in 2019. The president has contacted Isabelle Arzul (project coordinator of Vivaldi) to organise WS during the EAFP conference but it has not been agreed until now. Sustaining members are very important as their contributions back all initiatives and therefore it is of utmost importance to attract possible industrial partners to join the EAFP.

The Necropsy manual has still not been completed and some additional efforts are needed. The newly designed web page was launched and it is more visible and better organised than previously. The webmaster Bartolomeo Gorgoglione has done a great job.

Two newsletters were delivered as was planned together with an additional one dedicated to the election of the EAFP president. The next issue is foreseen for the end of September, after the EAFP conference in Belfast.

Action points: The President will continue in attempts to establish cooperation with FAO and will approach Spanish pharmaceutical industry as potential sustaining member.

b) Changes to the statutes

During recent years, the internet has become an essential means of communication in all aspects of the EAFP's activities; announcing all events, news and also informing about the bulletin. Therefore a post of webmaster should be included into the statutes to serve in the management of the organisation as a non-council member for a non-fixed duration. This post should be specified in the EAFP statutes together with point 18 of the Statutes which should be harmonised with electronic means of communication and presented to EAFP members for voting during the General Assembly in Belfast within the EAFP conference.

Action points: The President and Publications officer will prepare the draft of new statutes to be presented during the General Assembly.

c) Small grants scheme

It is very important not to abandon the idea of the Small grants scheme (SGS). It has to be announced every two years and according to bad experiences with the first call when when not all beneficiaries had submitted reports on the granted projects, strict rules when setting up the obligations for beneficiaries should be very precisely indicated. The names, projects and reports of SGS granted beneficiaries will be published on the EAFP web page. The next call will be announced in the Bulletin 37(3), with the deadline due on the 15th July 2017. Granted applicants will be chosen during the Council Board meeting in Belfast.

Action points: President will prepare the text of the call for the next issue of the Bulletin

3) Vice president

a) Report

The Vice president reported that unfortunately Marine Harvest resigned as an EAFP sustaining member. The vice president will try to encourage their return and renewed sustaining membership and also to approach key industry players in the aquaculture sector that might be interested to become

sustaining members. He will prepare a strategy of how to attract industrial sustaining members.

Action points: Vice president and general secretary will prepare an announcement letter for branch officers with invitation to attend General Assembly

4) General secretary

a) Report

By mid April, the EAFP had 823 members compared to 805 members in 2016. But the number of members is still an approximation because there are several countries that have not submitted updates yet, some submitted a partial update because half of the members had not paid but they are planning to and one branch officer informed only about new members and those who resigned membership in 2017.

There has been a decrease in student and library members. There is only a slight increase of a single sustaining member. Unfortunately, it seems that we have lost two branches in Asia, India and PR of China. Despite several attempts to contact branch officers and all members individually, there were no replies. There were some changes of branch officers; Oliver Hochwartner replaced former Austrian BO Elisabeth Licek, Dina Zilberg replaced Israeli BO Ariel Diamant and Sarah L. Poynton replaced USA BO Diane Elliott. In Austria and Israel there were no elections while in the USA an on-line election was organised via the internet by the general secretary. The cooperation with branch officers is invaluable and it should be strengthened therefore, following on from an idea of Sarah Poynton, a meeting of the council board with branch officers will be organised during the Belfast meeting.

In December, the general secretary had a meeting with people in charge of the EAFP administration, David Smith and Celia Campos. A progress in cooperation and communication was achieved. An internet sharing point was established to enable access to all files and updates for both GS and administration.

Action point: GS to prepare agenda for the meeting with branch officers and to send them a request for sending comments for changing of statutes and to

participate in the general assembly; first note should be sent in the first half of July and then a reminder in the second half of August

- b) The council positions for president, treasurer and meeting secretary were open for election and announced in Bulletin 37(1), on the EAFP web page, in the newsletter and on the facebook profile. Members were invited to candidate nominees for the aforementioned positions. So far, as there were no other nominees for treasurer and one, which did not comply with rules determined by Statutes, for the post of meeting secretary, Klaus Knopf and Ivona Mladineo will continue in their roles as Treasurer and Meeting secretary, respectively, for a further 4 year term. There are two candidates for the post of the president of the EAFP, the current President José García, and Sven Bergmann. The ballot will be organised via the EAFP web page and it will start on 2nd May and last until 16th June.

5) Treasurer

a) Report

01/09/2016: 166.279,27 €

11/04/2017: 170.014,87 €

Compared to EAFP assets on 01/09/2016, the sum on the account seems to increase but still there are some pending expenses like printing of the bulletin and expenses for the council board meeting in Porto as well as several countries have not sent collected fees. Estimation of the expected expenses and income leads to a balanced balance for the current year. Collected membership fees are 1.9% less than expected due to bank charges, variable exchange rates and ATF (Akademie für tierärztliche Fortbildung) fees in Germany.

6) Meetings secretary

a) Belfast 2017 conference updates

- Early registration will end on 5th May and until now 95 delegates have registered. Till mid April 466 abstracts were submitted; 180 have been accepted for oral (216 in Las Palmas), 236 for Poster (220 in Las Palmas), 25 abstracts are still under review and 2 have been withdrawn. For the moment, 6 workshops have been announced. Biomar, Skretting and MSD who will

provide USB abstract pen drives together with 5m Publishing as a Media Partner are listed as conference sponsors. Bags will be sponsored by Elanco, Zoetis, Benchmark Animal Health, Skretting and EWOS. The website is providing all the information regarding the conference, workshops and study tour and all additional information is being uploaded to the website continuously. Keynote speakers were approached to include their profile and aspects of their presentation on the website. The conference is regularly marketed on social media like Twitter and LinkedIn with information on WS and study visits registration. Besides these media streams, e-zines are issued to attract further delegates and exhibitors (separately), for any and all program updates.

b) Small grant scheme poster

Beneficiaries of SGS were invited to present the poster on the supported research during the Belfast conference; Mar Marcos Lopez, Anna Papadopoulou and Marina Batueva will present posters while Felix Acosta Arbelo and Mark Freeman have not yet responded.

7) Publications officer

a) Report

The number of submitted manuscripts in 2016 was around average compared to previous years, but this is including two Special edition bulletins – therefore was actually pretty low.

Comparing the number of manuscripts submitted in the first third – i.e. up to and including April of this year, these were also relatively low compared with previous years. There were more accepted manuscripts over rejected manuscripts more recently, despite less submission, but this could be due to the special edition issues. However, the fact that there is a lower percent of rejected manuscripts while the number of submissions is reduced could be a positive indication – i.e. higher quality manuscripts being submitted.

The main subject areas submitted have been parasitology, histopathology and bacteriology. The Virology conference Special addition and EAFP special edition articles have increased the number of accepted virology papers. Turkey and Malaysia submitted the most EAFP bulletin articles in 2016. The Acceptance rate of manuscripts in 2016 is 50.00% compared to 45.76% for

the last 4 years (2013-2016). The average time of accepted manuscripts from submission to print in 2016 was 5.8 months. This is partly due to the lag time associated with publication of Special edition manuscripts. Besides submitted articles, Branch meeting reports have been published (UK and Ireland branch and Austrian-German-Swiss branches, French branch) and will continue to be published (Finnish branch). Short reviews of conference keynotes will be requested (e.g. 18th EAFP Conference and 10th International symposium on viruses of lower vertebrates) and will continue to be published in the instance where conference organisers and keynote speakers are positive about involvement.

b) Recent and proposed changes to bulletin publications and access

Currently there is a delay of 2-3 months for publication of accepted articles and dissemination is being improved through publication of the Bulletin issue front cover on the webpage immediately following typesetting. The process of informing of accepted manuscripts may also be expedited through the EAFP web page. Changes were made in "Instruction to authors". Peer review management software will be tested in the following period, which works in a similar way to how Elsevier's or other journals operate.

Collaboration with 5M is going forward and they suggest using EAFP logo in new published books with aquatic animal diseases and members will get discount for those books. They would like to include leaflet in the Conference bag and publish book advertisement on the EAFP web site.

c) EAFP best picture competition will be included in new bulletin with changed rules with an aim to increase exposure of the bulletin and web page. The web page members only area is operational now but little is available there; Bart suggested that it could be useful for recent published bulletins (form of open access), full version of abstract books, proceeding from EAFP council meetings and general assembly and grant reports.

8) Any other business

Several ideas were discussed for improvement of the bulletin like approaching specialists in topical areas of fish and shellfish disease research and requesting the preparation of short reviews of interesting topics, more advertisement for the publication of case studies, and asking EU reference laboratories to publish

validation of methods, or works that may otherwise not be published, to be published in the bulletin.

The next newsletter is foreseen to be published after the EAFP conference in September.

9) Next council meeting

Will be held in Belfast, on Sunday, 3rd September before the EAFP conference.

20th May 2017

General Secretary