

EAFP General Assembly
Las Palmas, September 9th 2015

MINUTES

The General Assembly was attended by 50 members including the EAFP council.

President

The President started out with welcoming everyone at the GA, stating that the GA was for everyone, both members and non-members, but in case voting was going to take place, then only members could vote.

The President thanked the former administrator of the EAFP Facebook site Britt Bang Jensen for being one of the initiators of this site. In later years the EAFP facebook site as well as the EAFP website has been handled solely by Bartolomeo Gorgoglione. He is now also the formal administrator of the EAFP facebook site. The President thanked Bartolomeo Gorgoglione for his hard work, both with the EAFP website and the EAFP facebook site, work that is highly appreciated by the EAFP council.

A new EAFP website has been created. It was shown by the President during the GA, and it was launched by the end of the conference.

The President introduced the EAFP newsletter as a fast communication method in the association – currently is issued 2-3 times a year.

FAO has been contacted for potential sponsorship of researchers from third countries attending the EAFP conference.

The Necropsy Manual sponsored by MSD Animal Health and featured at the EAFP website in a near future was presented by Patricia Noguera for the GA attendees. After the presentation there was a debate between members, and issues like providing contributions to the manual, pictures belonging to individuals, universities were raised. The President expressed the gratitude from the EAFP regarding the Necropsy Manual and all the work done with this.

Vice president

The Vice president suggested more workshops for members, e.g. academic writing courses, business planning and gave an update on the recruitment

drive regarding new sustaining members. He also reported on the Small Grants Scheme – next call being in 2016.

The legal status of the EAFP is under debate and the Vice president asked for information regarding the Legal Status of other societies that our EAFP members may be involved in.

General secretary

The General secretary gave an update regarding membership, which for 2015 is 840 members, the same as in 2014. For the last two years approximately 70 new members have joined each year. Currently the membership can be divided in 704 regular members, 75 student members, 8 honorary members, 37 library members and 14 sustaining members. The General secretary stressed that the most efficient way of getting new members is by spreading the word – all members have an important task when it comes to that.

The General secretary reported on the EAFP council elections in 2015. The elections had been announced via the EAFP bulletin, the website as well as the newsletter. The Election was done electronically via the Electionbuddy website. In total 160 members voted. For the Vice president position Patrick Smith got 81 votes, whereas Sven Bergmann got 70 votes. Nine members abstained from voting. For the General secretary position Anne Ramstad got 34 votes, Roy Palmer 41 votes, Sven Bergmann 37 votes and Snjezana Zrncic 43 votes. Here 5 members abstained from voting. For the Publications officer only one candidate had stepped forward, wherefore Sean Monaghan, UK, will take up this position in the period 2015-2019 together with Patrick Smith as the Vice president (his second period) and Snjezana Zrncic as the General secretary.

The General secretary ended with thanking the EAFP branch officers for their invaluable work. She wanted to state that it had been a pleasure working with them, the EAFP council (past and present members) as well as all other EAFP members.

Treasurer

The Treasurer provided information on the account balance and income and expenses for the period 01.09.2013 – 24.08.2015.

An external auditor (Norbert Krämer, Berlin) confirmed proper documentation of the bank movements from 01 January 2014 to 31 July 2015.

The Treasurer ended with thanking the EAFP branch officers for their excellent work and the plea that for all bank transfers the sender and reason must be specified

Account balance 01.09.2013	173 073.09 €
Account balance 31.08.2014	176 169.57 €
Account balance 24.08.2015	177 004.89 €
Pending: Necroscopy CD	- 6 153.00 €
Small grant scheme	-1 000.00 €
Decrease	- 3 221,20 €

Income *

	9/13 – 8/14	9/14 – 8/15
Membership fees	38 912.36 €	45 665.69 €
Library subscriptions	3 863.98 €	2 772.21 €
CDs sold	475.00 €	655.00 €
Interest	8.98 €	
	43 260.32 €	49 092.90 €

Expenses *

	9/13 – 8/14	9/14 – 8/15
Bulletin printing, 6 (5) issues	25 728.32 €	21 274.09 €
Histopath. CD production	2 981.14 €	
Administration	10 266.16 €	11 536.30 €
Council expenses	7 008.97 €	10 752.47 €
Homepage		1 378.63 €
Small grant scheme		3 015.00 €
Incidental bank charges	332.25 €	301.09 €
	46 316.84 €	48 257.58 €

* funding and expenses for the necropsy manual are not included

Publications officer

The report presented by the Publications officer is attached to the minutes and includes data regarding the EAFP Bulletin, e.g. number of submissions of manuscripts, published articles by topic, data on mean time for submission to print. The Publications officer ended with acknowledging all the subject editors, the EAFP administration at Cefas, referees, authors, webmasters for their invaluable work and welcomed the new Publications officer/ EAFP Bulletin Editor, Sean Monaghan.

Meetings secretary

The Meetings secretary reported on the current EAFP conference in Las Palmas having 514 participants from 43 countries.

In total, 438 presentations had been accepted, of which 217 oral and 221 poster presentations. Four keynote presentations covered the topics bacteriology, virology, bivalve diseases and aquatic animal welfare. Thirty-five oral sessions were organized and 9 workshops. The highest number of presentations was submitted for the session on Fish and shellfish immunology (71), Viruses and viral diseases (58) and Bacterial diseases (49). Low interest was shown for sessions on Diseases of public concern (8) and Diseases of tuna (4). The 9 workshops were: a preconference WS organized by Ian Gardner giving an overview on diagnostic tests validation; WS Introduction to Mendeley organized by Bart Gorgoglione which gave basis for reference management; WS Novel viral infections of cyprinid fish organized by Olga Haenen, Keith Way and Thomas Waltzek that introduced the latest viral research; WS EDQM organized by Oystein Evensen and Celine Lorteau described European pharmacopoeia requirements for fish vaccines; WS Fish health in Mediterranean Aquaculture, past mistakes and future challenges organized by Niccolo Vendramin, Dražen Oraić, Snježana Zrnčić and Frances Padros rated the most important diseases in aquaculture based on working groups' opinion; WS Scientific publishing workshop: Publish or perish – everything you wanted to know about scientific publishing but were afraid to ask organized by Barbara Nowak and Sarah Poynton targeted young scientists; WS Amoebic Gill Diseases organized by Barbara Nowak and Hamish Rodger reviewed the updates on this issue in aquaculture; and the

post conference WS Histopathology organized by Barbara Nowak, Diane Elliott, Patricia Noguera, Stephen Feist and David Bruno focused on gill pathology. Additionally, 4 WSs brought the latest results of FP7 grants: WS Arraina - Nutrition and implications on aquatic animal health organized by Daniel Montero Vitores; WS MOLTRAQ - Molecular tracing of viral diseases in aquaculture organized by Niels Jorgen Olesen, WS TargetFish organized by Geert Wiegertjes and Patrick Smith; and CephsinAction COST meeting organized by Giovanna Ponte.

Awarded students held their presentations in different sessions: Max J. Beckmann, Reka Borzak, Ivana Bušelić, Catarina Norte Dos Santos, Toni Erkinharju, Sarah Harris, Nawroz Kareem, Mar Marcos Lopez, Patricia Pereiro, Jose Gustavo Ramirez Paredes and Željka Trumbić.

For the successful organization of the 17th conference council board members, reviewers, chairpersons and all EAFP members and participants were acknowledged, especially the local organization committee represented by Fernando Real (chair) and members Félix Acosta, Daniel Padilla, Begõna Acosta, Soraya Déniz, Jimena Bravo, Belinda Vega, Lorena Román, Judit Vega and Valentina Grasso, as well as Barcelo Congressos, the agency that managed different technical aspects of the conference.

The next conference was revealed to be held in Belfast in 2017, 5-9 September (dates to be confirmed).

There were no comments or questions from the audience.

The General Assembly was adjourned after two hours with the President thanking the participants for their attendance.

October 9th, 2015
General secretary