

EAFP council meeting
Split, October 26th 2018

MINUTES

The EAFP Council Board meeting attended Jose Garcia (president), Ivona Mladineo (meeting secretary), Sean Monaghan (publications officer), Klaus Knopf (treasurer) and Snjezana Zrcic (general secretary). Patrick Smith (vice president) withdrew his membership in the council board due to long-term sickness.

1) Status of action points from minutes of Belfast council meeting September 2017

All actions points from last council board meeting are done.

2) President

a) Report

The President discussed the dynamics of the collection of the consents and preference for the bulletin format among members. It was concluded that despite several reminders, some members have neither signed the consent nor expressed their preference for the bulletin format. We have to share their personal data with the printing company when sending labels for bulletin delivery and this situation should be overcome. The possibility to finish this duty was evaluated and it was concluded that it should be done in a simpler way through the 'members only' area on the EAFP web page. The platform for members to sign should be prepared.

Action point: GS will discuss with the web master and the IT service how to prepare a simple platform for signing the consent on-line.

b) Changes to the statutes

The council board commented on the draft of the new statutes prepared by the president. He will collate the comments and prepare the draft which will be distributed among members of committee for preparation of the new statutes delegated during the General Assembly in Belfast, September 2017.

Action point:

The final version of the new statutes should be prepared before the EAFP conference in Porto, September 2019 and delivered to members prior to voting during the General Assembly

c) Student committee establishment

The student members committee should be established as an intention of the organisation to ensure the continuation of the EAFP as well as improve, update and advance the EAFP through new ideas coming from young members. The role of the future student organisation was outlined:

1. Students will elect their representative who will have a free registration at the EAFP conference and admission to the council board meeting during the conference
2. The students will participate in poster evaluation

3. They will have opportunities to co-chair the conference sessions
4. They will have the opportunity to develop their own EAFP social media

Action point: The general secretary will extract students from the members list and inform them about the initiative and ask if they are willing and interested to be a part of the student organisation. The general secretary will provide support and help students members to elect their representative.

d) Lack of the VP

The vice president has withdrawn from his post in the EAFP due to a very serious illness. As his mandate is about to finish in the next year, it was decided that until the election of the new vice president, his duties will be shared among other council board members.

3) General Secretary

a) Report

The membership for 2018 is 810 members. This is a decrease compared to 835 in 2017, but we should take into consideration that historically a percentage of members join the EAFP during conference years and do not renew their membership in the year without the conference. Fifty-eight new members have joined the EAFP this year. Currently the membership can be divided into 661 regular members, 90 student members, 8 honorary members, 31 library members and 20 sustaining members. The fact that we are growing in student and sustaining members is promising.

b) GPDR consent and preference of the bulletin format

With a call for membership renewal this year, a consent claim and request for a decision of the bulletin format was delivered to branch officers. Although a new General Data Protection Regulation was put in force on 25th May 2018, until now we are still missing signed consents forms and preference for the bulletin format from a certain percentage of members. Additional workload was asked of branch officers and it should be highlighted that the contribution of branch officers to the smooth functioning of the EAFP has been and is invaluable. Despite several reminders we still do not have signed consents from 186 members and decisions on the bulletin format from 273 members. However, it has been noted that 305 members have decided to receive only the electronic form of the bulletin.

Action point: A new request for the bulletin format will be resent to the branch officers and the members who do not answer in due time will be considered to have chosen an electronic form of the bulletin.

c) Organisation of the elections for the members of the council board:

The council positions: vice president, general secretary and publications-officer are open for election in 2019. It was decided to announce initial information on the election in December, which will be published in the newsletter and on the website, while the call will be set up in the first issue of the Bulletin next year (Bulletin 39(1), 2019), on the EAFP website and in the EAFP newsletter at the same time.

Action point: General secretary to prepare announcement of the council board members election

4) Treasurer

a) Report

Balance 31/08/2017: 165 037.03 €

Balance 31/08/2018: 166 559.74€

As in previous years, the balance sheet is balanced. Last year we had a small surplus of 1522Euro. Council expenses are continuously decreasing. 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.

b) A message sent from the assembly of the German branch, held during the meeting of the German, Austrian and Swiss branches of the EAFP:

The members of the German branch discussed during their meeting a few issues that they wanted to be noted during the council board meeting. They want to have the Belfast abstract book on the homepage published, suggested prolongation of the deadline for abstracts for 2-3 months and to shorten the reviewing time. They suggested the possibility of selecting fewer reviewers that would allow a better comparability of the assessments. They requested the distribution of a draft of changed statutes. Also they suggest that the next electronic voting should not disclose the real-time intermediate result. In the future, professorial assistance by a lawyer should be sought for preparing critical texts such as the GDPR consent.

5) Meetings secretary

a) Porto 2019 update

The key dates for abstract submission and registration have been determined. Registration, abstract and reviewers forms will be prepared by mid November. The second announcement will be published in December. A conference page is active. However, the situation with sponsorships is not very promising; until recently only two sponsors accepted the sponsorship. For this reason, a local organising agency suggested an increase of the registration fees what would not be very welcomed by members. The registration fee should be discussed and evaluated. The keynote presenters have been negotiated and some of them have confirmed. Until now there are few workshops announced but their numbers should be reasonable. A histopathology workshop is planned and there are two possibilities for its venue.

Action point: The reminder for sponsorship recruitment should be resent.

b) Bids for 2023 conference venue

Three bids were submitted for the 2023 conference; by Institute for Experimental Pathology for Reykjavík, Iceland; Norwegian Veterinary Institute for Bergen, Norway and for St Petersburg, Russia with incomplete documentation. The decision on the 2023 conference venue will be made in spring at the latest.

c) Small Grants Scheme 2018 overview

The SGS winners are:

Bart Gorgoglione who will work on IHNV & *Flavobacterium* co-infection in the period 26th Nov to 14th Dec, 2018 in Virginia Institute of Marine Science

Lisa Jordan is working on *In vitro* replication of Koi herpes virus from 1st Aug to 31st Dec, 2018, in FAU, Erlangen-Nurnberg

Kerrie Ni Dhufaigh worked on AGD virulence factors from 30th June to 30th July 2018, in the Proteomics Core of UC Dublin

Khalid Shahin worked on Immunity post *Vibrio* vaccination from 16th July to 10th Sept, 2018 at Harper Adams University

Anamarija Vrbatović worked on LCs testing in *Sparicotyle* from 18th July to 30th Aug 2018 in CSIC, Torre de Sal

All SGS beneficiaries are obliged to present the work supported by grants on the EAFP web page and during the EAFP conference.

6) Publications-officer

a) Report

The total number of submitted articles this year is at a healthy rate and based on mean submissions during the 4th quarter in previous years would be expected to increase further to around 55 total submissions which would be an increase over the last 4 year period. Still there are more accepted than rejected articles. The main subject areas 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 Iran have submitted the most EAFP bulletin articles. However, the number of submissions for histopathology and parasitology have decreased while the number of histopathology papers continues to increase. One promising point to note is that the increase in histopathology submission correlates with the reduced number of papers unassignable to a subject category which is likely due to the introduction of histopathology as a subject area a few years ago. Other similar journals that are well established have also suffered from limited submissions – probably from the surge in competitive journals. As an international journal, however, we attract a greater diversity of international collaborative work. The number of cited documents is also very similar. Despite this the Bulletin has consistently had a lower impact factor than its most similar rivals (Fish Pathology or Journal of Aquatic Animal Health). Nonetheless the IF is the highest its been since 2014.

b) Manuscript submission initiative

The special editions initiative will continue and in the future case reports, diagnostic procedure etc will be invited for submission. The special edition “Diseases of Cleaner fish” has just been published. Special edition manuscripts are of good quality, but there are a few challenges encountered with them; 3 out of 5 papers were recently from the same research group, the issue should have been published alongside conventional bulletin issue and there is a lack of manuscripts for conventional bulletin. The Special edition Bulletins have

certainly been of interest to respective authors and this will likely be an effective way to increase the profile of the Bulletin. However, how do we now go about this? The Diseases of Cleaner fish Special edition worked well by contacting authors from the EAFP conference session, but it may be better to advertise this – i.e. via the webpage.

c) Bulletin on-line availability and DOI

The bulletin will move forward with online manuscript submission via the webpage and by press release for accepted manuscript if approved by authors. The electronic copies of the recently published articles will be available only to members via the members' area. Unfortunately, research gate and other networks are breaking the embargo. The accepted manuscript should be provided with DOI. Registration agency (RA) offered the service; they collect metadata, assign DOI names and offer other services such as reference linking. Bulletin should remain a benefit for members; non-member authors will receive the pdf of their Ms, library members will have access to 2-year embargo papers and sustaining members will be able to provide certain articles to employees. The Scholastica submission platform has not been launched yet but it will be put in test soon. The cooperation with 5M Book series is progressing; there are several proposals approved and another in review. The 5M could offer EAFP Members 20% discount on 5M books in return for advertisement

7) Any other business

New copies of the EAFP badges will be ordered by Croatian company.

8) Next council meeting

Next EAFP council board meeting will be in Aberdeen in May 2019.

November 27th 2018

General secretary