

## 19th Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 14 May 2024, 13:15 –14:15 CEST

Held at the ECE (European Congress of Endocrinology) 2024 Congress Centre, Stockholm, Sweden and available online.

## MINUTES

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**NB: Some items in the meeting were covered in a different order from the agenda. However, for the purpose of the minutes the items follow the order of the agenda.**

### 1. Welcome and approval of agenda items

Jérôme Bertherat welcomed those in the room and those online to the 2024 AGM. No additional agenda items were received from the attendees and the agenda was approved.

### 2. Minutes of the 18th Annual General Meeting, 16 May 2023

Jérôme Bertherat asked for approval of the minutes of the 18th Annual General Meeting, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the meeting papers. Comments were invited, none were made, and the minutes were approved.

### 3. President's report including

#### a. Farewell and welcome to the new Executive Committee Members

Jérôme Bertherat congratulated and welcomed the new Executive Committee Members: Gregory Kaltsas (Greece) - Education Committee Chair and Elena Valassi (Spain) - Rare Disease Committee Chair. The new Ex-officio members were also welcomed: Walter Vena (Italy) - EYES (ESE Young Endocrinologists & Scientists) Committee Co-Chair, Kirsten Davidse (Netherlands) - Nurse Committee Chair, and Charlotte Höybye (Sweden) who would become the ECAS representative from November 2024.

It was also noted that Sebastian Neggers (Netherlands) would become ESE Treasurer moving from his position as Rare Disease Committee Chair.

Jérôme Bertherat thanked the retiring Executive Committee members: Djuro Macut (Serbia) for his term as Treasurer, Mirjam Christ-Crain (Switzerland) as Education Committee Chair, Antoan Sojat (Serbia) as EYES Representative and Sherwin Criseno (UK) as Nurse Committee Chair. Wiebke Arlt (UK) was also thanked as retiring Editor in Chief of the European Journal of Endocrinology (EJE).

Jérôme Bertherat also commented that there had been a great response to the Open Call for Committee membership earlier in the year. The Open Call was an opportunity for members to apply themselves, or to be nominated, for vacant positions on the individual ESE Committees. He reminded the meeting that the Open Call was opened each year and encouraged those who had not been previously successful to try again in the future.

Jérôme Bertherat reminded the AGM attendees of ESE's strategy (2022-2026) – "Shaping the future of endocrinology by uniting, supporting, and representing our community" which was categorised under the pillars of:

- To UNITE and REPRESENT the European endocrine community and be acknowledged as the reference point for endocrine health and science
- To further ADVANCE the science and clinical care of endocrinology
- To SUPPORT our members in education, clinical practice, and research
- To reinforce ESE as a leading society which is SUSTAINABLE, TRUSTED and VALUED

Jérôme Bertherat also summarised the key projects currently in progress which fell under each of the pillars. He also reported on some of the achievements and progress made during the past year, which included:

- European Hormone Day April 2024, which had an extremely high level of engagement this year that extended beyond Europe
- Relaunch of the European Endocrine Board Exam
- Review of the ESE Curriculum
- Strengthening ESE's engagement in and impact on the EDC (Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals) related legislation
- Digital Transformation Project, which included the implementation of a new Customer Relationship (CRM) system, Learning Management System (LMS) and the upgrade of the ESE website

Details of the active projects for 2024 in the Focus Areas were outlined and thanks was given to the current Focus Area leads.

The growing international profile of the society was noted, Jérôme Bertherat highlighted collaborations between ESE and other international endocrine Societies and organisations, including webinars, awards, joint session, and programmes.

Jérôme Bertherat also noted that ESE's support for the Ukraine Diabetology Association and the Association of Endocrinologists of the Ukraine (National Partner Society members), continued through monthly task force meetings, complimentary membership and events attendance and Emergency cards covering five conditions.

Two new journals, Obesity and Endocrinology and Environmental Endocrinology, would be launched by the end of 2024 and recruitment was currently underway for the Editor in Chiefs for both journals.

Jérôme Bertherat reminded the attendees that ESE and the European Society for Paediatric Endocrinology (ESPE) would be hosting their first ever joint Congress in 2025. He added that this would be a truly joint landmark event 'Connecting Endocrinology Across the Life Course' which would bring together paediatric and adult endocrine specialists from across Europe and the rest of the world. The joint congress would be held 10-13 May 2025 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

He added, that in order to support this joint collaboration, a joint company – JointEndo - had been set up between the two societies. He also added, that following a joint tender process, Interplan had been appointed as the conference organiser for the 2025 meeting.

Jérôme Bertherat informed the meeting that ECE 2024 would be the last ECE congress to be managed by Bioscientifica. He added that Bioscientifica had been involved with ESE activities for many years and as the congress organiser since 2010. On behalf of the Executive Committee and ESE Team he thanked Bioscientifica and their staff for all their hard work, dedication and contribution to the Society.

There were no questions raised from the attendees.

#### **4. Treasurer's report including**

##### **a. Update on the report of the trustees (Executive Committee) and the audited accounts for the year ended December 2023**

Djuro Macut presented a summary of the 2023 Financial statements. It was noted that the detailed Trustees Report and Financial Statements were included in Appendix 2 of the meeting papers, together with a summary document.

Djuro Macut reported that there was an operating deficit of €586,431 on activities in 2023; there had been a positive impact on investments with an unrealized gain of €163,851 and therefore the final movement in the funds showed a decrease of €422,580 from the previous year.

There had been a decrease in the expected surplus generated by the congress in 2023, this was due to the timing of the congress in Turkey coinciding with the national election and a reduction in revenue generated from sponsorships, and educational grants. However, there had been an increase in revenue from publishing in 2023, due to a new publishing agreement with Oxford University Press (OUP) for EJE. It was also noted that the investments had performed better in 2023 (compared to 2022). Djuro Macut explained that the Office and Staff costs had increased in 2023 and that this was a result of the planned moving of services such as membership, finance and marketing in house (rather than being outsourced).

Djuro Macut reported that the EJE reserve fund had been calculated as €1 682 000 and the ESE general reserve had been calculated at €2 025 000, the total of the reserves being €3 707 000.

The ESE general reserve policy was calculated to allow ESE to run most of its activities for two years and considered the major risks such as withdrawal of funding from major supporters and the reduction in the size of ECE.

After deducting the restricted funds brought forward from the previous year the total held above the reserve requirement was €1 170 000. Djuro Macut noted that investments were planned to utilise a proportion of these funds, however the financial situation would be evaluated on an ongoing basis due to the current uncertainties that remain in relation to revenue and increases in costs. The focus would remain on ensuring ESE's financial stability. There were no questions raised from the attendees.

**b. Resolution to appoint the auditor until the next AGM**

Djuro Macut informed the meeting that ESE was required to ask the members for their approval and acceptance of Moore Kingston Smith as the auditors until the next AGM and to authorise the trustees (Executive Committee) to fix their remuneration. Members who were not able to attend the AGM in person in Stockholm had the opportunity to submit their vote in advance by proxy.

The vote count resulted in:

	<b>In favour</b>	<b>Not in favour</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Proxy /online count	5	0	0
Room count	99	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>

The resolution was approved for Moore Kingston Smith to act as auditors until the next AGM and for the Executive Committee to fix their remuneration.

**c. Recommendation to update the reserve policy for the European Journal of Endocrinology (EJE)**

Djuro Macut outlined the requirement to update the EJE Reserve Policy following the move to the new publisher of EJE and the different contract arrangements agreed. The proposed wording for the policy was noted as:

“The Society shall maintain a designated reserve fund for the purposes of developing and supporting the European Journal of Endocrinology. The reserve fund shall be derived from the investments and annual surpluses of the European Journal of Endocrinology agreed to be made available for this purpose provided that the Society shall have no obligation to add further funds.

The ESE Executive Committee shall use its best endeavours to ensure that the reserve fund **equals the aggregate of two years' revenue share from the publication of the journal based on the last available final statement for the journal after allowing for inflation calculated in accordance with the Retail Price Index as varied from time to time.** The assets, liabilities and activities of the European Journal of Endocrinology are held in a designated fund. At each year-end the reserve for this fund is recalculated and adjusted accordingly.”

Members were asked for their approval and acceptance of the recommendation to update the EJE Reserve Policy. Members who were not able to attend the AGM in person in Stockholm had the opportunity to submit their vote in advance by proxy.

The vote count resulted in:

	In favour	Not in favour	Abstain
Proxy /online count	5	0	0
Room count	99	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>

The resolution was approved for the new EJE Reserve Policy to be implemented.

## 5. Secretary's report

Maria Chiara Zatelli presented the Secretary's report and informed the attendees that the ESE membership currently represented around 4500 members world-wide, 48 National Partner Societies, 17 Specialist Partner societies, 7 Associate Partner Societies and 29 Patient Advocacy Group members. She gave an overview of the current membership of ESE by region, country, and membership category.

ESE's Annual Review for 2023, which summarised the many activities and achievements of the last 12 months, was available on the website and via a QR code shown on screen to the audience in the room and online and encouraged attendees to read it.

Maria Chiara Zatelli informed the meeting of the current educational courses and events available to members. In addition, she informed the meeting that the ESE and UEMS European Examination in Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism had been re--launched in 2023; ESE and UEMS had worked together to develop a true European examination with pan-European governance, which had been supported and developed by National Endocrine Societies across Europe. There were a limited number of ESE grants available to cover 50% of the cost of taking the exam.

She announced that the ESE Curriculum and Training Recommendation in Endocrinology would soon be published on the EJE and ESE website. The curriculum had been endorsed by 46 ECAS members and the Working Group of Mirjam Christ-Crain, Maeve Durkan, Anton Luger and Pedro Marques was thanked.

Maria Chiara Zatelli thanked the Corporate Members for their continued support.

## 6. Date of next Annual General Meeting



The next Annual General Meeting would be held during the joint ESPE and ESE meeting in Copenhagen, 10-13 May 2025.

## 7. Any other business

A question was raised by an AGM attendee asking whether ESE should make a statement about the war in Palestine, noting that ESE's support to Ukraine was mentioned earlier during the meeting. Jérôme Bertherat responded that the humanitarian aspect for healthcare professionals was indeed a dramatic situation, however it was not for the society to comment on the political aspect of this or

any other conflict across the world. He added that it was important to support the members, whether individuals or organisations, and there were two societies in Ukraine who were members.

Another AGM attendee agreed that they thought that it was not the role of ESE to take a position on one side or another of existing conflicts, but to be ready to continue dialogue with all parties.

Signed	 _____	Jérôme Bertherat ESE President	Date	13 May 2025 _____
Signed	 _____	Andrea Davis ESE Office	Date	13 May 2025 _____