

Minutes EVBO Council meeting – February 12th 2021

1. Opening of the meeting, excuses

Present:

Lena Claesson-Welsh (President)

Mauro Siragusa (Secretary)

Judith Sluimer (Treasurer)

Kari Alitalo

Hellmut Augustin

Graeme Birdsey

Guido De Meyer

Agnieszka Jaźwa-Kusior

Justin Mason

Gilles Pagès

Massimo Santoro

Jaap Van Buul

Fiona Wilkinson

Beata Wojciak-Stothard

Excused:

Friedemann Kiefer

Józef Dulak

Karina Yaniv

Paola Campagnolo

2. Membership status (Mauro)

31 membership payments: 14 renewals and 17 new membership from Dec 2020 till Feb 11th 2021.

Expired memberships/not yet renewed: 6

Current members: 226 (+9 compared to Nov 26th 2020)

3. Financial status (Judith)

Bank account balance: €28.885,50 (€2.471,22 incoming membership fees and €41,79 outgoing for frame Mariona Graupera and bank account fees).

4. Social media group reports (Fiona, Graeme, Paola)

Website: 755 views welcome page; 159 views seminar series; increasing number of views from the USA. Twitter: Steady views; 244 followers; 832 profile visits.

Decision: Launch a competition for new illustrations for the website at the GMM.

Action: Fiona and Jaap to discuss contribution from webmaster in Jaap's lab.

5. Publication highlight, EVBO member spotlight (Beata, Justin, Massimo, Guido, Fiona, Jaap)

The EVBO member spotlight needs to be updated more often, but not many spontaneous submissions are received. The EVBO publication highlight proceeds efficiently and at a monthly pace.

Decision: The young investigators selected for the YIS of the online EVBO seminar series will be invited by Lena with cc to Fiona to submit the form for the EVBO member spotlight to be published in the website at least as long as the seminar series is ongoing.

6. EVBO online seminar series, schedule for the spring (Lena)
The schedule and speakers are presented by Lena. The schedule and speakers are approved by the Council. The diversity and scientific quality of the speakers line-up is acknowledged as well as the successful recruitment by Lena and Judith of leaders of the large vessel community.
The ESM meeting is scheduled for the end of May, therefore a new date for the EVBO seminar planned on May 27th will have to be identified.
Decision: A spontaneous Q&A exchange between speakers and attendees beyond the official end of the seminar is encouraged by the Council. Lena will announce this to the chairs in the invitation email.
Decision: The council agrees to continue the seminar series till end of June. A potential continuation in the fall will be decided later.
7. Editors at the seminar series (Karina/Hellmut/Kari)
Presentation of the panelists and format. All panelists accepted the invitation and the event is confirmed. The event will be announced on all EVBO platforms at the end of the online seminar on Feb 25th and through all EVBO platforms.
8. GfMVB and EVBO seminar series (Mauro)
Ralf Brandes (Goethe University, DE) reached out to EVBO on behalf of the executive board of the German Society for Microcirculation and Vascular Biology (GfMVB) to ask whether EVBO would be willing to join forces with GfMVB regarding the online seminar series. An email was sent by Lena and Mauro to Thomas Korff, Cor de Wit, Henning Morawietz, Ferdinand le Noble and Ralf Brandes in response to the request. It was clarified that the EVBO seminar series is already open to the scientific community and that several GfMVB members are already EVBO members and have been already invited to present. However, a request to share their member list was made so to identify potential GfMVB members, who are not yet EVBO members and could be invited to join EVBO and present. No response has been received thus far.
9. Letter from Ferdinand le Noble requesting support (Attachment 2)
Discussion on support.
Jaap: in favor, as it is an international meeting (however, biased in the capacity of a co-organizer).
Kari: in favor, as long as EVBO is acknowledged.
Lena: in favor to support young researchers and/or the hybrid format of the meeting. Many EVBO members will attend.
Hellmut: not in favor, as it is a regional meeting, support would not be sustainable for all regional meetings. Moreover, German meetings are already heavily subsidized.
Mauro: It is in our Constitution to support young scientists wanting to attend vascular biology themed meetings. In favor of travel awards to PhD students who are EVBO members, supported by Justin, Graeme, Agnieszka, Judith, Fiona, Massimo.
Fiona: not in favor of supporting travel of speakers.
Decision: the majority of the council agrees to offer support in the form of 5 awards x €200 for EVBO members. The acknowledgement of EVBO will be discussed by Jaap directly with Ferdinand le Noble and reported back to the council.

10. EVBO constitution (Judith)

Update on the legal procedure:

- Quotes: ~1600€ excl. translator
- Discussions notary/solicitor
- Dutch legal file version 1 received
- Check and adjust
- Official translation
- Vote by general assembly
- File in Dutch chamber of commerce

Liability insurance for meetings is needed: initial quotes are ~150 € /yr for non-profit organizations with net worth <500.000€. New law from July 2022: all council members are Ultimate Beneficial Owners UBO and need to be registered in chamber of commerce (passport and proof of address).

11. General Member Meeting date and agenda (Attachment 3)

The tentative GMM date and agenda are discussed and approved. Several council members have to either retire or be re-elected after a four-year period. An increase in diversity in country representation is envisioned (e.g. Spain and Portugal). Council members are encouraged to be pro-active and suggest names for the council and president-elect.

Action: Suggestions for nominations for council members and president-elect should be submitted to Lena, Mauro and Judith. Lena will contact council members personally regarding their intention to continue as council members or retire. Information about the GMM will be shared with all EVBO members in April

12. Online summer school and budget (Mauro) (Attachment 4)

Mauro presents the general outline and concept of the summer school. The council is enthusiastic and approves support.

Massimo: very ambitious programme, which should be trimmed.

Fiona: three full days are too intense. Supports the use of interactive material and finds informal discussions very useful for the students. Comes forward as organizer.

Graeme: enthusiastic and supportive of the initiative. Comes forward as organizer.

Hellmut: Need to inspire new generations to be bold and ask what are the new frontiers in vascular biology. Suggests three days, max 5-6 hours/day.

Jaap: agrees to be an organizer.

Action: Mauro will reach out to the organizing committee and translate the ideas into a concrete schedule.

13. IVBM2022 Lena in the organizing committee, 40 speakers to be selected for an upcoming NIH application, important to include underrepresented minorities and to be geographically spread. Live attendance only, potential hybrid format is not yet decided.

14. Next council meeting

Doodle to be sent in due time.