



## EUROPEAN BOARD OF HAND SURGERY MEETING 4 NOVEMBER 2020 – ONLINE

### MINUTES

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Present: Max Haerle (EBHS President), Aurelio Portincasa (EBHS Secretary), Maurizio Calcagni (EBHS Treasurer), Martin Richter, Andrzej Zyluk, Daniel Herren, (Board members) and Krisztina Csongrádi, Nándor Matrai, Krisztina Szigedi (EBHS Secretariat)  
Apologies: Massimo Ceruso

M. Haerle opened the meeting at 16:40 and thanked for the participation of members.

1. Approval of the minutes of the last EBHS Meeting of 15th November 2019

The minutes of the last meeting have been approved without objections.

2. Report of EBHS Secretary – Aurelio Portincasa

Portincasa reported on the following points. All supporting documents have been circulated to participants prior to the meeting.

- Resignation of the Executive Committee of the Surgical Section of the UEMS
- EBHS current and future activities report to UEMS
- UEMS support to the EU4Health programme (overview)
- ESPRAS - EBHS Affiliation
- ESPRAS Congress / Porto / October 2022: formal invitation for EBHS to be present with a Scientific Session. It was agreed that A. Portincasa answers and accepts invitation on EBHS behalf.

Participants agreed that ESPRAS collaboration is very welcome and has been aimed since many years. M. Haerle thanked all efforts done by A. Portincasa to achieve this.

3. Report of EBHS Treasurer – Maurizio Calcagni

The annual budget report has been prepared by K. Szigedi and presented by M. Calcagni. Income in this year up to date is €64,429 while expenses foreseen in this year are €28,066 leaving an anticipated balance of €36,363 at the end of the year.

- The highly positive balance in 2020 is due to the pandemic where no live vivas can be held therefore no meeting room rental, AV or catering is to be paid for. As vivas will be held online on 14-15 November the cost items shown in the report are estimates only which need to be finalised in midst December before the actual closing of the financial year.
- FESSH will provide a Zoom master account as online platform for the exams. Online format requires additional online tool developments to be carried out

- by FESSH Office. Further expenses are expected for training, briefing of examiners and candidates, technical maintenance, ongoing support and surveillance in the preparation period and during the two days of the exam.
- Honorarium to examiners shall yet be decided within the Examination Committee. Each year a fixed reimbursement fee is provided for travel and lodging. Although no such expenses emerge in 2020 a compensation for the hard work requiring engagement on the whole weekend of 14-15 November might be considered.
  - There had been a huge extra work done by exploring new date options, new and Covid safe location options with negotiating flexible and penalty fee venue contracts. Not to mention checking availability of examiners and candidates from time to time.
  - Part of the remaining positive balance will be used in 2021 since 15% of the candidates for 2020 had to postpone sitting for vivas to next year.

An update of the EBHS annual budget report shall be presented to FESSH Executive Committee and FESSH Council at its forthcoming meetings on 26-27 November as well.

#### 4. EBHS European Diploma in Hand Surgery - Martin Richter

M. Richter reported that this year there were 79 candidates accepted for oral exam. Due to cancellation of the FESSH Congress in June the exam vivas had to be cancelled as well. It had been decided then to postpone vivas to November and combine it with the planned Examination Committee MCQ writing meeting in Nice, France. Due to the pandemic no venues could guarantee the facilities in Nice, thus further venue options had to be explored. With less risk for travel restrictions and with easy access Frankfurt was appointed. Several venues have been contacted in Frankfurt Airport area and a contract was signed for Crowne Plaza offering best cost-benefit option. However, due to high risk of travel bans it was cancelled within penalty free period and the online exam was decided in early October. As a result there will be 65 candidates sitting for the online exams on 14-15 November. The rest have postponed to 2021.

- Online vivas will consist of 3 oral rounds of 30 minutes each per candidate and no practical round this year. There will be 13 pairs of examiners running the exams all Saturday and most of Sunday. Online marking sheet has been developed to help evaluation. This progressive solution could be used even for future exams. Results will be announced to candidates within 48 hours following exams. Diplomas will be sent online. Best diploma awards will be announced on website.
- Sign-up for 2021 exam is open. 2021 MCQ exam will be held in March online as usual. Date and place for 2021 vivas shall be re-considered in early 2021 re-evaluating pandemic again.
- CESMA meetings in December will also be held online where M. Richter will participate.

## 5. EBHS Board renewal

M. Haerle requested to be released from the EBHS President position due to other engagements. A proposal was made for M. Calcagni current EBHS Treasurer who accepted the nomination. In order to replace him as EBHS Treasurer a proposal was made for D. Herren who accepted the nomination.

The proposals have been voted unanimously and without any objection by the Board members. As such EBHS Executive is the following:

- EBHS President: Maurizio Calcagni
- EBHS Secretary: Aurelio Portincasa
- EBHS Treasurer: Daniel Herren

K. Szigedi to inform UEMS Office about the changes.

Board members thanked M. Haerle for the support provided during his term.

## 6. Different matters

- Future UEMS/CESMA/EACCME meetings

A list of foreseen UEMS related events were circulated and EBHS Board members have been appointed to meetings. The list shall be circulated with the minutes of this meeting.

- EBHS website

The current website needs updating. K. Szigedi to send the link to all members and ask for remarks and proposals. M. Calcagni and EBHS Secretariat to schedule a meeting to discuss related tasks.

## 7. Next EBHS meeting

The next EBHS meeting shall be held in Rotterdam during FESSH Congress on 16-19 June 2021. Should the pandemic situation not allow live meetings another option or format will be considered. Save-the-date emails will be sent by EBHS Secretariat in due time and further details with exact schedule and agenda draft are due in April 2021.

The meeting ended at 17:25