

## Minutes of the 28th General Assembly of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes

**Held in Hall A of the Palace of Culture, Prague, Czechoslovakia, on Thursday, 10 September 1992 from 16.00–17.40 hours.**

Present: Dr. P. Lefèbvre (President, in the Chair)  
 Dr. C. Hellerström (Editor-in-Chief, *Diabetologia*)  
 Dr. R. Landgraf (Honorary Secretary)  
 Dr. J. Ward (Honorary Treasurer)  
 and 192 members

The President welcomed all members present and expressed the Association's thanks to Dr. J. Skrha and the members of the Local Organizing Committee for the perfect arrangements for this year's Annual Meeting for which the attendance rate had been the highest of any previous EASD meeting.

With deep regret Dr. Lefèbvre reported the death of Professor J. Mirouze from Montpellier, France, who had been a prominent physician and teacher. He had performed some remarkable research for implantable pumps, had been honoured with the Claude Bernard Prize from the EASD and had served as Vice President of the EASD. The General Assembly stood in silence in his memory.

### 1. Minutes, 27th General Assembly, 1991

Dr. H. M. J. Krans remarked that the names mentioned under point 6. 'Any other business' of the printed minutes of the 27th General Assembly should be corrected. The retiring members were not Drs. Erkelens, Keller, Segal and Tomkin but the names should have been Drs. De Leiva, Froland, Hahn and Tiengo. Dr. Lefèbvre apologized and noted this in the copy which was then signed by himself.

### 2. Reports

*a) President:* On behalf of the Association, the President thanked Dr. G. Tomkin and Ms. E. Herron for the successful meeting in 1991. Dr. Lefèbvre reported that the new membership conditions which came into effect on 1 January 1992 had been accepted by the members of the EASD. The newly created Solidarity Fund was enabling more than 300 members to receive free membership as well as a subscription to *Diabetologia*. The President announced that Eli Lilly would support the fund with US\$ 35,000 for the years 1994 and 1995, enabling the EASD to continue this Fund. Dr. Lefèbvre informed the membership that the size of the official journal of the Association (*Diabetologia*) had increased and that the EASD now has a News Section in the journal which provides information on future meetings, study group reports etc. Dr. Hellerström's term as Editor-in-Chief would end in December 1993; the Executive Committee

had therefore unanimously and enthusiastically appointed Dr. E. Ferrannini from Pisa, Italy as his successor.

The President continued his report by saying that the Secretariat office in Düsseldorf was running very efficiently and smoothly and he was happy to announce that the EASD was in a healthy financial state.

In relation to this year's prizes and fellowships Dr. Lefèbvre thanked the family of the late Maria Carla Castelli Pedrolì for sponsoring the Camillo Golgi Lecture, which this year had been delivered by Dr. E. Kohner. He also expressed gratitude to Hoechst AG for sponsoring the Minkowski Prize which had been increased from DM 15,000 to DM 20,000 in 1992. The Minkowski Lecture had been delivered by Dr. E. van Schaftingen. As in previous years the Laboratoires Paul Neumann sponsored the Claude Bernard Lecture, which would be given by Dr. P. Bennett on the last day of the meeting. The President informed the General Assembly that the Claude Bernard Sub-Committee had met in July 1992 in order to discuss applications for the 25th Claude-Bernard Lecture. Their nomination had been forwarded to the Council who decided to award the 1993 Claude Bernard Lecture to Dr. D. Andreani from Rome. The first award of the Eli Lilly/EASD Research Fellowship had been given to Dr. P. Sbraccia.

Ending his report Dr. Lefèbvre expressed the Association's thanks to Novo Nordisk who had supported the EASD Travel Grant Fund and this year's abstract volume. He also thanked all the Supporting and Associate members for their continued support. As this was Dr. Lefèbvre's last report as President his special thanks were given to the Honorary Secretary, Dr. R. Landgraf who had agreed to extend his term of office by another year in 1991. He also thanked him for the excellent organisation of the scientific programmes over the past 4 years. He thanked Dr. Ward for the perfect handling of the Association's finances, Dr. Jörgens for the smooth running of the EASD office in Düsseldorf and both Vice Presidents, Dr. Mogensen and Dr. Wollheim for their support and help in the Association's affairs. He expressed his deep gratitude to Dr. C. Hellerström who had also extended his term of office by 1 year due to the mandatory subscription and the new contract with Springer-Verlag, and finally he thanked Drs. J. P. Assal and M. Berger who had successfully chaired the Post-Graduate Education Sub-Committee (PGESC) during his term as President. At the end of the General Assembly the affairs of the Association would be passed to Dr. K. G. M. M. Alberti. He wished him and all the members of the Council and Executive good luck for the future.

*b) Honorary Treasurer:* Dr. J. Ward began his report by stating that the Association's finances are very healthy. He informed the General Assembly that the accounts had been most efficiently handled by Dr. V. Jörgens as the German tax law requires very detailed information. In his opinion the position of the Honorary Treasurer was very enjoyable and he would be leaving with regret.

Referring to the 1991 accounts Dr. Ward explained that the amount received for membership had increased due to the combina-

tion of membership fees and journal subscription. Donations had also risen and had mainly been received from Novo Nordisk, Hoechst and Synthelabo. Money received for the journal had decreased as *Diabetologia* was now combined with the membership. Interest on the accounts had dropped as money was only fixed on a less speculative 1-month term instead of longer agreements. The surplus of annual meetings (Table 1) represents incomes from the Copenhagen and Dublin Meetings. The Honorary Treasurer explained that the drop in expenditure was due to less money being spent for office equipment/material, postage and travel Grants. However, salaries and rent had increased in 1991. The total cash amount at banks had remained steady over the past 5 years.

The Honorary Treasurer informed the membership that it had been agreed by the Executive Committee to donate 47,000 pounds sterling to a Diabetes Research Fund in Ireland. Dr. Ward pointed out that the income mainly depends on the Annual Meetings and it should be considered that in 1997 there will be no EASD Meeting due to the International Diabetes Federation holding their meeting in Europe (Table 2).

Dr. Ward ended his report by thanking the Executive and Council members for their co-operation. After the General Assembly he would hand over responsibility for the Association's finances to Dr. J. Nunes-Correa.

The President thanked Dr. Ward for his report. To the question of whether the membership fee should be increased Dr. Ward answered that he could not see a reason for such a step as the contract with Springer-Verlag was valid until the end of 1994.

*c) Honorary Auditors:* The Honorary Auditors were asked if the presented accounts reflected the true and accurate situation and approval was received by Dr. Muggeo; Dr. Attali was not present but had provided his written approval.

Dr. Home raised the question of providing income and expenditure accounts of the annual meetings to the EASD members. In case an annual meeting could not take place e. g. for political reasons, this could result in a loss of approximately 200,000 pounds sterling of which the membership would not be aware. It was explained that in such a case the EASD guarantees to cover 50,000 pounds sterling. A loss exceeding this amount would be the risk of the local organizer. Dr. Tomkin explained that the main profit of the Annual Meeting in Ireland had resulted from the hotel bookings. If the Gulf war had interfered with the meeting, it may not have taken place. Considering these fast political changes he supported a more generous financial backing.

An East European member then thanked the Council for holding the Annual Meeting in Prague and furthermore for the support provided by the EASD Solidarity Fund. As the financial situation of the EASD was so healthy he raised the question of more support considering the difficult situation in East European countries in general. The President assured him that the Executive was well aware of these problems and would keep them in mind. He also referred to the Travel and Stayment Grants and repeated that the EASD was also in the position to continue support through the Solidarity Fund.

*d) Honorary Secretary:* Beginning his report. Dr. R. Landgraf informed the General Assembly that this year the number of paid-up members was 3,869, the largest membership since the founding of the EASD (Tables 3 and 4). Of these 327 were supported by the Solidarity Fund and applications to this fund were welcomed by members unable to afford the annual fees due to the economical situation in their home country.

The Honorary Secretary reported that this year 201 travel grant applications had been received of which 138 (69%) had been accepted, amounting to 33,700 pounds sterling. In addition, 16 applications for stayment grants had been accepted which amounted to SFr 11,570. The money spent on travel grants to support young researchers attending the Annual Meeting was the largest sum the EASD had ever spent on this support. He thanked Novo Nordisk for their continued financial assistance and encouraged other pharmaceutical industries to donate to these funds.

Dr. Landgraf then reported that for this year's Annual Meeting 1,481 abstracts had been received, which was the largest number ever recorded and meant an increase of 24% compared to last year. The key words had once again been divided into three main categories: Pathogenesis and Metabolism; Complications; Clinical Science and Care. The Abstract Selection and Programme Committee Members had been listed in the final programme. He apologized that one name was missing; Dr. M. Taskinen. The abstracts had been scored anonymously, using scores between 1 and 5. This year 842 abstracts had been accepted, 35% as oral presentations and 65% as posters. Dr. Landgraf once again stressed that poster presentations rank equally with oral presentations.

Providing some statistics the Honorary Secretary stated that during the first 10 years of the EASD a total number of 1,364 abstracts had been received of which 524 had been accepted. These figures illustrate the Association's activities and the immense work-load involved in the preparation of the annual meetings. At this point he thanked all the members of the Abstract Selection Committee, particularly those who had also been members of the Programme Committee: Drs. G. Bolli, A. De Leiva, E. A. M. Gale, I. Klimes, and J. Sehlin.

The Abstract Volume had improved again but there were still papers unsuitable for the camera-ready printing procedure. Therefore, new regulations for abstract preparation would be implemented next year.

Continuing, the Honorary Secretary reported that the State of the Art Symposia had been sponsored this year by Hoechst AG and Novo Nordisk whom he thanked for their support.

In relation to EASD Prizes and Fellowships, Dr. Landgraf informed the General Assembly that seven nominations had been received for the new Eli-Lilly-Fellowship. This first award had been given to Dr. P. Sbraccia from Rome for his research project: "Study of inhibitors of insulin receptor tyrosine kinase in tissues from patients with insulin resistance and non-insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus". It had been the decision of the Executive to have two Albert-Renold-Fellowship awards this year. Out of three nominations received, one had been given to Dr. L. Bentham from Groningen and one to Dr. J. Rasschaert from Brussels. Five applications had been received for the Minkowski award and the sub-committee had decided to nominate Dr. E. van Schaftingen from Brussels. This year's Castelli Pedrolì Prize had been awarded to Dr. E. Kohner from London. Two applications had been received for the Møllegaard-Fellowship and due to accumulated funds Dr. Bravenboer from Utrecht and Dr. Vogt from Karlsburg had both been awarded 500 pounds sterling.

The Honorary Secretary reported on the News Section which had been introduced at the same time as the mandatory subscription to the journal *Diabetologia*. Beside introductions and reports of EASD Study Groups, meetings were announced and all the prize winners were requested to introduce themselves with a brief curriculum vitae and to report on their clinical and scientific achievements and on the project for which they have received the award. The Honorary Secretary invited all the EASD members to contribute to the News Section.

This being Dr. Landgraf's last report he thanked all those who had supported him during his term of office. His special thanks were given to Dr. Å. Lernmark the previous Honorary Secretary, to Drs. P. Freychet, P. Lefèbvre, J. Ward, C. Hellerström, V. Jörgens and the two secretaries Ms R. Hecht and Ms K. Page. By wishing Dr. A. De Leiva good luck as the incoming Honorary Secretary, Dr. Landgraf ended his report.

The President thanked Dr. Landgraf for his report and asked the audience for comments. A member complained that some oral presentations would have been better presented as posters and vice versa. Dr. Lefèbvre pointed out that posters rank equally to oral presentations and that the Programme Committee had done a perfect job.

*e) Editor-in-Chief:* Dr. Hellerström began his report by commenting that work at the Editorial Office in Uppsala had proceeded smoothly throughout the year and no major problems had arisen. Due to the in-

crease in both the inflow of manuscripts and the number of printed pages in the journal the editorial secretariat work required two full-time positions, which were filled by Ms S. Hills (100%), Ms G. Eriksson (75%) and Ms S. Ford (25%). As in previous years the financial support for the running of the office has been administered by Uppsala University for a 5% management fee.

Dr. Hellerström reported the following changes in the Editorial Board: Retiring Associate Editors J. Fagius, J. Fuller and G. Tamas have been replaced by H. Beck-Nielsen, G. J. Bruining, D. J. Ewing and J. Tuomilehto; E. M. Kohner replaces G. F. Bottazzo and T. Deckert on the Advisory Board.

Due to the combination of EASD membership and subscription to *Diabetologia* the total number of subscribers increased to 5,600 as of July 1992 which includes 1,700 full-price subscriptions from libraries.

Dr. Hellerström informed the General Assembly that as of 1 January 1993 the Editorial Office would accept manuscripts stored on computer diskettes. Instructions for the preparation of the diskettes would be printed in forthcoming issues of the journal.

In addition to the Abstract Volume the proceedings from two scientific meetings were planned to be published as supplementary issues to *Diabetologia*. The first would be based on the Third Juvenile Diabetes Foundation World Conference on Diabetes Research, arranged by the JDF International which took place in Monaco on 8–10 March 1992. The second would be based on the meeting "Diabetic Renal Disease in NIDDM Patients: A major universal health problem", which had been held in Prague on 7 September 1992. Each of the supplements would be edited by a local editorial committee in close collaboration with the Editorial Office in Uppsala.

Dr. Hellerström reported that according to the new contract financial support for the running of the Editorial Office had been raised to DM 210,000 per annum for 1992–1993. As for 1991 funds amounted to only DM 190,000 and the EASD generously agreed to a financial compensation of 12,000 pounds sterling.

The introduction of the EASD "News Section" had proceeded well and as from February 1992 the journal had been scheduled to appear in print on the 20th day of the month preceding that printed on the front cover page.

The transition from publication of only approximately 12 papers per issue up to about 16 papers had led to an increase in the acceptance rate for manuscripts from 24% in 1990 to 32% in 1991 and had further increased to 38% for the first 6 months of 1992. It was aimed to keep the acceptance rate at not more than 40% in order to maintain the high quality of the journal.

Summarising the statistics, Dr. Hellerström reported that the inflow of manuscripts had increased during 1991 and reached a record high of 507. The number of printed pages increased to 900 (previous year 740) and would reach 1,200 in the 1992 volume of the journal. The processing time for manuscripts had decreased by almost 3 weeks to 213 days, being the lowest figure during the last 5-year period. A backlog of manuscripts sufficient to cover the content of four forthcoming issues was maintained in order to guarantee that the journal appeared on schedule.

The geographical origin of manuscripts during 1991 was similar to that of previous years. Altogether papers were submitted from 40 countries from all over the world. Most submissions had been made from the UK (73), USA (73), Japan (54), Germany (35), Sweden (34), Denmark (31), Italy (26), France (23), Canada (19) and The Netherlands (17).

Dr. Hellerström concluded his report by expressing his deep gratitude to all those involved in the production of *Diabetologia*, especially to Ms Hills, Ms Eriksson and Ms Ford. He also thanked the Deputy Editors, Associate Editors, members of the Advisory Board and the Referees. Furthermore, he acknowledged the newly-established collaboration with the EASD office in Düsseldorf and pleasant collaboration with colleagues at Springer-Verlag.

The President thanked the Editor-in-Chief for his report and said that it had been most pleasant to work with him. The director of the JDF expressed the Foundation's deep gratitude to the *Diabetologia* office for publishing the supplement issue of their meeting.

### 3. Elections

a) Vice President, 1993–1996: Dr. K. F. Hanssen (N) was elected to succeed Dr. C-E. Mogensen. The General Assembly unanimously approved this election.

b) Editor-in-Chief, 1994–1997: The General Assembly unanimously ratified the appointment of Dr. E. Ferrannini (I) as successor to Dr. C. Hellerström.

c) Honorary Auditors, 1993–1995: Drs. H. M. J. Krans (NL) and G. Scherthaner (A) were elected to succeed Drs. M. Muggeo and J-R. Attali. The General Assembly unanimously accepted.

d) Council Members, 1993–1996: Drs. M. M. Antsiferov (Russia), C. Berne (S), P. Passa (F), G. Pozza (I) and F. Sodoyez-Goffaux (B) were elected to succeed Drs. I. De Leeuw, P-J. Guillausseau, C. Ionescu-Tirgoviste and G. Papadopoulos, retiring by rotation.

### 4. Postgraduate Education Sub-Committee

Dr. M. Berger began his report by informing the General Assembly that a 3-day model postgraduate course in line with the St Vincent Declaration had been developed in co-operation with clinical diabetologists and specialists in education and pedagogy in collaboration with the EASD Diabetes Education Study Group. Six to eight experts would be invited to speak. 40% of the course would be filled with formal lectures and 60% would be spent on workshops and exercises. So far three courses had been held; the first one in Mettmann, FRG in January 1992. This course had been attended by 125 German-speaking diabetologists. The second PGESC course of this series had been held in Bucharest, Romania in March 1992 and had been attended by 120 representatives. The third course had taken place in Moscow, Russia in June 1992, 160 invited participants from Russia and neighbouring states had attended.

Dr. Berger reported on another PGESC course in Clinical Diabetology which would be held on 12 September 1992 in Prague, CSFR. This was planned as a 1-day activity for Czechoslovakian physicians. The immense interest was reflected by 850 registrations. This course included a plenary session with simultaneous translation and a series of simultaneous workshops in the afternoon.

Dr. Berger ended his report by expressing his thanks for the support he received from the EASD.

The President thanked Dr. Berger for his report and wished the PGESC continued success with their work.

### 5. Study Groups

The President informed the General Assembly that the reports of the Study Groups were now printed in the EASD News Section and would therefore not be published in the Abstract Volume.

### 6. Any other Business

Before closing the Meeting the President asked for any questions or comments from the General Assembly but no comments were received.

Dr. Lefebvre expressed his thanks to the retiring members of the Council – Drs. Erkelens, Keller, Segal, and Tomkin and thanked all those who attended the 28th Annual Meeting of the EASD. He then welcomed Dr. K. G. M. M. Alberti and handed over the Association's affairs.

Addressing the General Assembly, Dr. Alberti said that he had been pleased and honoured to join the Association as President. He expressed his sincere thanks to Dr. Lefebvre for all the very successful work he had done for the EASD. He invited the General Assembly to inform him about any proposals or comments. Dr. Alberti then closed the meeting.

**Table 1.** Consolidated accounts for year ended 31 December 1991

Income and expenditure account	1991 £	1990 £
<b>Income</b>		
Membership fees	115 203.06	78 888.22
Donations	32 172.38	9 668.23
Annual meeting surplus	265 144.18	29 688.18
Diabetologia subscriptions	16 200.20	39 451.15
Bank interest	32 536.16	46 988.12
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>461 255.98</b>	<b>204 683.90</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Salaries	49 945.25	46 499.62
Rent (incl. heating etc.)	4 817.54	3 183.67
Post, phone, printing, fax	17 890.76	19 785.31
Travel expenses (incl. Ex-Com-Meet)	13 844.15	17 007.96
Office costs, incl. bank charges (1990 includes new computer)	9 472.18	17 582.09
Extra office help	1 086.81	2 002.42
Legal costs and accounting	3 924.62	3 952.55
Annual Meeting expenses	19 071.61	20 252.62
Travel & Stayment grants	24 085.42	33 359.03
Albert Renold Fellowship, Minkowski Prize, Møllegaard	21 184.25	25 197.50
Donation to the Portuguese Diabetes Association		27 399.96
Diabetologia Subscriptions paid	30 512.11	27 888.42
Diabetologia Editorial Office	12 000.00	13 389.12
Other items	17 216.95	4 082.34
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>225 051.65</b>	<b>261 582.61</b>
<b>Cash at banks:</b>	<b>31.12. 1991</b>	<b>31.12. 1990</b>
	£	£
<b>London Westminster Bank</b>		
Current account	620.00	1 648.00
Business reserve account	29 964.17	12 911.12
Money marked account	401 748.97	200 000.00
<b>Dresdner Bank Düsseldorf</b>		
Current account	14 705.89	14 314.76
Money market account	27 341.08	10 395.01
<b>Nat. West. Bank Düsseldorf</b>		
Current account	closed	231.06
<b>Swiss Bank Corporation Geneva</b>		
	86 978.25	88 824.94
<b>Total:</b>	<b>561 358.36</b>	<b>328 324.89</b>
Accounts in non-convertible currencies are not included in these accounts.		
Account in Budapest	31.12. 90: 31.12. 91:	Forints 5.000.00 Forints 93.015.00
Account in East Berlin	31.12. 90:	Rubles 4.716.33
the account was closed in 1990, 6897,63 DM were transferred in DM to the German account (entered as Meeting surplus Leipzig Meeting).		
Exchange rates:		
1990: £ – DM 2.886	SFr – DM 117.35	
1991: £ – DM 2.926	SFr – DM 115.74	

**Table 2.** Future EASD Annual Meetings

1993	6-9 September	Istanbul	Turkey
1994	28 September-1 October	Düsseldorf	Germany
1995	12-16 September	Stockholm	Sweden
1996	September	Vienna	Austria
1997	International Diabetes Federation Helsinki Finland		

**Table 4.** Figures for membership at the end of 1991 compared to previous years

As of 31 December:							
1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984
3847	3645	3317	2918	2317	2181	1839	1901

**Table 3.** Breakdown of membership by country compared to previous years

	31. 12. 1991	31. 12. 1990	31. 12. 1989	31. 12. 1988
Albania	1	1	0	0
Algeria	0	1	1	0
Argentina	6	6	8	8
Australia	54	52	48	42
Austria	37	34	39	34
Bahrain	2	1	1	1
Bangladesh	1	1	1	1
Belgium	140	138	140	111
Brazil	9	9	9	4
Bulgaria	32	24	19	16
Byelorussia (C. I. S.)	1	-	-	-
Canada	33	33	35	26
Ceylon	1	0	0	0
Chile	4	4	4	3
China, P.R.	2	2	2	1
Colombia	0	1	1	1
Costa Rica	1	1	1	0
Cuba	0	0	1	1
Croatia	25	-	-	-
Cyprus	8	10	6	5
Czechoslovakia	70	68	52	46
Denmark	256	267	206	212
Dominican Rep.	0	1	1	1
Egypt	12	13	9	8
Estonia	5	-	-	-
Ethiopia	1	1	0	0
Finland	95	97	87	68
France	222	252	254	237
Georgia	1	-	-	-
Germany	315	319	262	220
Greece	131	118	122	82
Hungary	48	42	41	34
Iceland	2	2	2	2
India	6	7	8	6
Indonesia	1	0	2	0
Ireland	38	22	14	13
Israel	40	45	45	36
Italy	427	390	317	284
Jamaica	1	1	1	0
Japan	52	49	40	32
Kazakhstan (C. I. S.)	1	-	-	-
Kenya	0	0	1	0
Korea (South)	3	11	4	4
Kuwait	4	5	4	3
Lebanon	1	1	1	1
Libya	0	0	1	0
Lithuania	9	-	-	-
Luxembourg	2	2	1	1
Malaysia	3	6	3	2
Mexico	3	2	2	1
Moldavia (C. I. S.)	1	-	-	-
Morocco	3	3	3	1
Netherlands	151	150	141	123
New Zealand	11	7	5	5
Norway	68	72	62	56
Oman	1	1	1	0
Pakistan	2	2	1	0
Paraguay	1	1	1	1
Peru	1	2	2	0
Philippines	2	3	0	0
Poland	56	42	31	21
Portugal	57	54	53	40
Qatar	0	1	1	1
Romania	59	49	47	41
Russia (C. I. S.)	30	-	-	-
Saudi Arabia	9	8	9	10
Singapore	4	4	0	0
Slovenia	7	-	-	-
South Africa	27	29	10	8
Spain	131	122	109	96
Sudan	1	1	1	0
Sweden	270	253	265	219
Switzerland	104	110	110	101
Taiwan	7	6	4	3
Tanzania	0	1	1	1
Thailand	3	3	3	2
Tunisia	1	0	0	1
Turkey	13	11	11	9
Ukraine (C. I. S.)	10	-	-	-
United Arab Emirates	2	2	1	1
United Kingdom	495	420	404	404
USA	199	169	165	164
USSR	-	36	22	13
Yugoslavia	18	37	30	9
Zaire	0	1	0	0
Zimbabwe	1	1	1	1