

Minutes of the 27th General Assembly of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes

Held in Hall 1 of the Royal Dublin Society, Dublin, Ireland, on Friday 13th September 1991 from 16.30–17.45 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 169 members

The President welcomed all those present and expressed the Association's thanks to Dr. G. Tomkin, all the members of the Organising Committee and to the Irish Diabetes Association for the arrangements which had been made for the meeting in Dublin.

With much regret, the President reported the death of Dr. W. Gepts of Belgium, a former President and Dr. K. Schöffling of Germany, a former Honorary Treasurer and Editor-in-Chief of *Diabetologia*. The General Assembly stood in silence in their memory.

1. Minutes, 26th General Assembly, 1990

The Minutes of the 26th General Assembly held in Copenhagen on the 12th September 1990, having been printed in *Diabetologia*, Vol. 34 Supplement Issue 2 1991 and in the Volume of Abstracts, were confirmed as being a correct record and signed by the President.

2. Reports

a) President: The President began his report by expressing the thanks of the Association to Dr. J.S. Christiansen, Dr. A. Froland and to the Danish Diabetes Association for making the 1991 meeting in Copenhagen such a success, both scientifically and financially.

Dr. P. Lefèbvre informed the General Assembly that a Journal Committee consisting of Drs. C. Hellerström, J. Ward, R. Landgraf and himself had been founded after the General Assembly had approved mandatory subscription in Copenhagen. This Committee negotiated with four publishers and finally signed a contract with Springer Verlag, meeting the requirements the General Assembly had set: (1) the annual membership fee, including subscription to the journal *Diabetologia*, was below DM 200,-. The fee would be DM 195,- for members who are 35 years old and above, (2) junior members, who are below 35 years of age would only have to pay DM 130,- for their membership fee and for the postage of the journal, (3) a solidarity fund had been created and Springer Verlag would provide the EASD with 500 issues for DM 100,- which would enable members from countries with not easily convertible currency to receive the journal for free, (4) the number of pages would be increased to 1,200 and (5) an EASD "News Section" would provide all members with information on Study Groups, forthcoming meetings etc.

This new system would start in January 1992, and all members would be informed in detail by a mailing in October 1991. The President continued by reporting that since 1991 it had also been possible to pay membership fees with credit cards.

Dr. Lefèbvre thanked Dr. V. Jörgens, Ms K. Page and Ms R. Hecht for running the Secretariat office in Düsseldorf so efficiently and smoothly.

Dr. Lefèbvre expressed the Association's gratitude to the family of the late Maria Carla Castelli Pedrolì for the continued sponsorship of the Camillo Golgi Lecture, which this year had been delivered by Dr. R. Osterby. He also expressed gratitude to Hoechst AG for sponsoring the Minkowski Prize, the lecture had been delivered by Dr. C. Boitard; and to the Laboratoires Paul Neumann for sponsoring the Claude Bernard Lecture, which would be delivered by Dr. E. Shafir on the last day of the meeting. The President informed the Assembly that the Council members had approved the nomination of Dr. P. Benet (USA) to be the 24th Claude Bernard Lecturer. Dr. Lefèbvre continued by expressing the Association's thanks to Novo Industri who supported the EASD with their subvention for Travel Grants which enables young colleagues to participate in the meetings. The President concluded his report by thanking all Supporting and Associate members for their support and for the commercial exhibition.

b) Honorary Treasurer: Dr. J. Ward began his report by complimenting the staff in the Düsseldorf office for producing within a 2-year period a highly efficient computerised system of accounting. Referring to the 1990 draft accounts and analysis thereof, Dr. Ward commented that when comparing the 1989 and 1990 accounts it should be noted that the surplus of the Copenhagen meeting would appear in the 1991 accounts due to the fact that the first transfer had been received in January 1991, explaining the difference in the annual meeting surplus figures for 1989 and 1990.

Dr. Ward pointed out that the bulk of the Association's assets were being held in interest-bearing pound sterling accounts and even though the 1990 figures for Income and Expenditure were lower than at the end of 1989 it should be remembered that as explained, the Annual Meeting had been paid for but the surplus had not been received in 1990. He continued by informing the Assembly that the finances of the Association continue to be very healthy, due in large measure to the increase in membership. Expenditure rose by £81,000 pounds sterling; office expenditure rose by £10,000, this figure includes the purchase of a new computer; postage, telephone and printing costs rose by £9,000 which includes a new fax machine; and travel expenses rose by £9,000. The Honorary Treasurer commented that allocations for funds and prizes had also increased by £9,000 and the Association had donated £27,000 to the Portuguese Diabetes Association.

The Honorary Treasurer concluded his report by commenting that the Association should not increase the amount allocated to the Travel Grant fund. Dr. Ward stated that the Association should remember that in 1997, due to the IDF meeting in Europe the Association would not have its Annual Meeting and it was uncertain if the 28th EASD Annual Meeting, which would be held in Prague, would produce a large surplus. If a future meeting was unsuccessful for whatever reason, the EASD would have to draw on its financial reserves.

Table 1. Consolidated accounts for year ended 31 December 1990

Income and expenditure account	1990 £	1989 £
Income		
Membership fees	78 888.22	65 069.45
Donations	9 668.23	14 700.05
Annual meeting surplus	29 688.18	134 362.03
Diabetologia subscriptions	39 451.15	32 102.58
Bank interest	46 988.12	23 020.14
Total Income	204 683.90	269 254.25
Expenditure		
Salaries	46 499.62	41 545.67
Rent (incl. heating etc.) (1989 includes London office)	3 183.67	10 260.10
Post, phone, printing, fax	19 785.31	10 428.94
Travel expenses (incl. Ex-Com-Meet)	17 007.96	7 618.34
Office costs, incl. bank charges (1990 includes new computer)	17 047.96	6 101.37
Extra office help	2 002.42	528.84
Repair (office equipment)	534.13	531.52
Legal costs and accounting	3 952.55	3 819.22
Annual Meeting expenses	20 252.62	9 966.40
Travel & Stayment grants	33 359.03	17 480.00
Albert Renold Fellowship, Minkowski Prize, Møllegaard Travel Fellowship	25 197.50	15 512.67
Donation to the Portuguese Diabetes Association	27 399.96	
Diabetologia Subscriptions paid	27 888.42	55 894.35
Diabetologia Editorial Office	13 389.12	
Other items	4 082.34	732.14
Total Expenditure	261 582.61	180 419.56
Cash at banks:	31.12.1990	31.12.1989
	£	£
London Westminster Bank		
Current account	1 648.00	1 134.00
Business reserve account	12 911.12	54 714.63
Money market account	200 000.00	200 000.00
Dresdner Bank Düsseldorf		
Current account	14 314.76	not yet opened
Money market account	10 395.01	not yet opened
Nat. West. Bank Düsseldorf		
Current account	231.06	9 153.34
Money market account	closed	18 375.59
Swiss Bank Corporation Geneva		
	88 824.94	103 741.69
Total:	£ 328 324.89	387 119.25
Accounts in non-convertible currencies are not included in these accounts.		
Account in Budapest	31.12.90:	Florints 5,000.–
Account in East Berlin	31.12.90:	Rubles 4,716.33
Exchange rates:		
1989: £ – DM 2.721	SFr – DM 109.63	
1990: £ – DM 2.886	SFr – DM 117.35	

This presentation of the accounts is based upon the mean exchange rates between Pound Sterling, Swiss Francs and Deutsch Mark in the respective year. The detailed accounts 1989 were approved to be in accordance with the non-profit status of the Association by the Inland Revenue. The 1990 accounts have been submitted to the Inland Revenue.

The President thanked the Honorary Treasurer for his report and concurred with Dr. Ward's statement concerning the accounts and the future of the Association.

c) Honorary Auditors: The President reported that he had received written confirmation from Dr. J. Attali stating the accounts were in good order. Dr. M. Muggeo was not present but had also been re-

quested to approved the accounts in writing. After asking for questions or remarks, the President received the approval of the General Assembly on the accounts for 1990.

d) Honorary Secretary: In his opening remarks, Dr. R. Landgraf reported that the number of paid-up members of the Association was 3,700, the largest membership since the founding of the EASD. This figure includes 360 non-paying members. He pointed out that the expectation that with the political changes in East European countries the membership would dramatically increase had not taken place.

Dr. Landgraf continued that bearing in mind the new situation in the Soviet Union the Association should be prepared for a large increase in non-paying members. Therefore the EASD had created a "Solidarity Fund" enabling physicians and scientists who are active

Table 2. Breakdown of membership by country compared to previous years

	31.12.1990	31.12.1989	31.12.1988
Albania	1	0	0
Algeria	1	1	0
Argentina	6	8	8
Australia	52	48	42
Austria	34	39	34
Bahrain	1	1	1
Bangladesh	1	1	1
Belgium	138	140	111
Brazil	9	9	4
Bulgaria	24	19	16
Canada	33	35	26
Chile	4	4	3
China, P.R.	2	2	1
Colombia	1	1	1
Costa Rica	1	1	0
Cuba	0	1	1
Cyprus	10	6	5
Czechoslovakia	68	52	46
Denmark	267	206	212
Dominican Rep.	1	1	1
Egypt	13	9	8
Ethiopia	1	0	0
Finland	97	87	68
France	252	254	237
Germany	319	262	220
Greece	118	122	82
Hungary	42	41	34
Iceland	2	2	2
India	7	8	6
Indonesia	0	2	0
Ireland	22	14	13
Israel	45	45	36
Italy	390	317	284
Jamaica	1	1	0
Japan	49	40	32
Kenya	0	1	0
Korea (South)	11	4	4
Kuwait	5	4	3
Lebanon	1	1	1
Libya	0	1	0
Luxembourg	2	1	1
Malaysia	6	3	2
Mexico	2	2	1
Morocco	3	3	1
Netherlands	150	141	123
New Zealand	7	5	5
Norway	72	62	56
Oman	1	1	0
Pakistan	2	1	0
Paraguay	1	1	1
Peru	2	2	0
Philippines	3	0	0
Poland	42	31	21
Portugal	54	53	40
Qatar	1	1	1
Romania	49	47	41
Saudi Arabia	8	9	10
Singapore	4	0	0
South Africa	29	10	8
Spain	122	109	96
Sudan	1	1	0
Sweden	253	265	219
Switzerland	110	110	101
Taiwan	6	4	3
Tanzania	1	1	1
Thailand	3	3	2
Tunisia	0	0	1
Turkey	11	11	9
United Arab Emirates	2	1	1
United Kingdom	420	404	404
USA	169	165	164
USSR	36	22	13
Yugoslavia	37	30	9
Zaire	1	0	0
Zimbabwe	1	1	1

Table 3. Figures for membership at the end of 1990 compared to previous years

As of 31 December							
1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983
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3645	3317	2918	2317	2181	1839	1901	1677

Table 4. EASD Annual Meetings

1992 8–11 September	Prague	Czechoslovakia
1993 6–10 September	Istanbul	Turkey
1994 26 Sept – 1 Oct	Düsseldorf	Germany
1995 September	Stockholm	Sweden
1996 September	Vienna	Austria

in the field of diabetes to join the EASD and to receive *Diabetologia* without having to pay the membership fee.

The Honorary Secretary further commented that since the financial resources are limited all potential members have to submit an application containing personal and professional information about his/her professional activities. The Honorary Secretary of the EASD will accept or reject the application and in difficult cases applications shall be forwarded to the Council.

An accepted application would be valid for a period of two years after which the member must re-apply. Dr. Landgraf informed the Assembly that the costs for these members would be approximately DM 30.000,- annually. This fund would be supported by donations; DM 52.000,- had already been received from Synthelabo Abbott Scientific Laboratories. Further support would also be received from Springer-Verlag who would provide the Association with 500 issues of *Diabetologia* at a special price of DM 100.- each.

The Honorary Secretary reported that regarding the stayment and travel grants for this years meeting 162 colleagues had applied for a travel grant and 130 applications had been accepted according to the regulations published annually in the "official announcement" booklet. The total amount awarded was £26,500 pounds, in addition seven stayment grants had been awarded amounting to £2,500 pounds. Dr. Landgraf continued that the amount spent for both funds was within the limit set by the Honorary Treasurer. He thanked Novo Nordisk for their continued support of this funding.

Continuing, the Honorary Secretary reported that 1,134 abstracts had been received for the 27th Annual Meeting, this figure was somewhat lower than the previous year. According to the regulations the abstracts had been arranged into three major topics; Complications, Clinical Science and Care, and Pathogenesis and Metabolism.

The abstracts from each major topic were scored anonymously by six colleagues except for the section "Complications" in which due to last minute problems of one of the members a new member could not be recruited. The Programme Committee consisted of Drs H.Yki-Jarvinen and A.Andersson for Basic Science, Drs. B.Feldt-Rasmussen and R.Landgraf for Complications and Drs. G.Tomkin and M.Massi-Benedetti for Clinical Science and Care. Dr. Landgraf reported that 301 abstracts (36%) had been accepted for Oral presentation and 501 abstracts (64%) as Poster presentations. In comparison to last year the acceptance rate had risen by 4%.

The Honorary Secretary thanked the members of the Abstract Selection and Programme Committee for their hard work and expertise.

Dr. Landgraf acknowledged the considerable improvements made to the Volume of Abstracts. This year the camera-ready abstracts were of a better quality compared to last years and the index of topics combined with the author and co-author index was extremely practical since the number of each abstract was identical in the Volume of Abstracts, preliminary booklet and final programme.

This year financial support for the State of the Art Lecture and the State of the Art Symposium on Clotting, Platelets and Endothelium had been provided by Novo Nordisk.

The Honorary Secretary reported that at the meetings of the Minkowski and Castelli Pedrolu Prize committees, the 1991 Minkowski Prize, from a group of four nominees, had been awarded to Dr. Christian Boitard; and the 6th Castelli Pedrolu Prize, from a group of three nominees, to Dr. Ruth Osterby. The 1991 Albert Renold Fellowship in the amount of £10,000 pounds was awarded to Dr. H-J Aanstoot for supporting his work on new islet antigens in the laboratory of Dr. S.Baekkeskov in San Francisco. Once again there had been no application made for the Mollegaard BB Rat Travel Fellowship.

Dr. Landgraf reported that from the beginning of next year a new award would be available to EASD members; "The Eli Lilly/EASD Research Fellowship in Diabetes and Metabolism" which would support the stay of a young research fellow in a laboratory for the period of one year. Details for application would be sent out to all paid-up members in October 1991.

The Honorary Secretary reported that regarding mandatory subscription and the introduction of a 64-page "News Section" which would appear in *Diabetologia*, the EASD would have for the first time an effective communication tool for reaching the entire membership. The material for this section would be handled by the Düsseldorf Secretariat, the Honorary Secretary and the Editorial Office in Uppsala.

Continuing, the Assembly was informed that the Postgraduate Education Sub-Committee had organized a postgraduate course together with Dr G.Tomkin, which took place prior to the Annual Meeting. The three Study Groups, Pregnancy, Neuropathy and DOIT also held symposia before the meeting.

The Honorary Secretary concluded his report by thanking the Executive Committee, the members of the Council and the Secretariat in Düsseldorf for all the support he had received.

The President thanked the Honorary Secretary for his report and all the work and effort which Dr. Landgraf had given the Association.

e) Editor-in-Chief: Dr. C.Hellerström began his report by commenting that work at the Editorial Office in Uppsala had proceeded very smoothly throughout the year. As of January 1991, the position of editorial secretary had been increased from part-time to full-time. As of October 1991 this position would be filled by Ms Gina Eriksson (75%) and Ms Sharon Ford (25%).

Dr. Hellerström continued that the financial arrangement with Uppsala University, whereby the money supplied by the publisher for running the office was administered by the University for a management fee of 5%, had continued to work smoothly.

The Editor-in-Chief reported the following changes on the Editorial Board: Retiring Associate Editors D.H.Williamson and J.P.Riou had been replaced by M.Sugden, London, and P.Vague, Marseille. U.Smith, Gothenburg, remains for a second term. The only member of the Advisory Board to retire was Dr. K.G.M.M.Alberti who was replaced by Dr. C.B.Wollheim, Geneva.

Dr. Hellerström reported that there had been no changes in the editorial process or policies during the year. At the last editorial meeting lively and productive discussions centred on the various means of promoting the circulation of the journal. The board members unanimously supported the proposal to introduce mandatory subscription to *Diabetologia* for the EASD members and to expand the present volume of the journal by approximately 30%.

The Editor-in-Chief continued that a supplementary issue to *Diabetologia* had been published as the proceedings of a meeting in Spitzingsee in January 1991, on late diabetic complications after successful pancreatic grafting. The supplement had been edited by a local editorial committee in collaboration with the Editorial Office and manuscripts had been sent as camera-ready copies to the publisher. Although this procedure made the printing process less expensive the editorial work was made much greater due to the more complicated lay-out of the manuscripts and the more difficult marking-up process.

The Editor-in-Chief stated that negotiations regarding the 1991 editorial budget had been conducted with Mrs H. Hensler-Fritton in Copenhagen. It had been agreed that the support for 1991 should be increased to DM 190.000,- (previous year DM 170.000,-) and that this should be increased to DM 210.000,- for 1992. The increase would cover inflation, the increased administrative cost to Uppsala University and the increased cost of salaries. It was, however, still insufficient to cover the total cost of the Editorial Office administration and therefore the EASD had allowed for an annual financial compensation to be made, in the amount of £12,000 pounds sterling.

Dr. Hellerström continued that following the cancellation of the present contract with Springer-Verlag in December 1989, intense negotiations were initiated both with Springer-Verlag and four other European publishers. The new contract had now been signed with Springer-Verlag. It had been agreed with Springer Verlag that as from January 1992, the journal would include 64 EASD "News Section" pages per year at no additional cost. EASD would be responsible for the production of this section.

The Editor-in-Chief had considered it necessary to complain most strongly to Springer-Verlag on two occasions during the year. The first related to the fact that the whole volume of *Diabetologia* for 1990 comprised only 758 pages instead of the 960 pages stipulated in the contract. The second complaint was caused by the publication of a pamphlet designated as an "Editorial" but being in reality a commercial advertisement. Both these potentially serious problems were solved in negotiations between the Editor-in-Chief and Springer-Verlag.

Summarising the statistics, the Editor-in-Chief reported that the inflow of manuscripts had remained high during 1990 with a rate of 479. The acceptance rate for 1990 fell to a record low of 24% but was expected to increase considerably in 1991 and 1992 due to the increased space for publication.

The Editor-in-Chief pointed out that publication time remains around 8 months, which is still considerably shorter than any comparable journal in diabetology. A drop in authors' revision time over the past two years had unfortunately been counteracted by an increased time for Springer to publish.

Dr. Hellerström continued that the back-log had been created in order to ensure that the journal at least appeared in the month printed on the cover. Although this seems to have been true for continental Europe the journal had been received considerably later in more distant countries. This situation would hopefully improve due to an agreement with Springer to publish on the 20th day of the month preceding that printed on the cover.

Dr. Hellerström concluded his report by expressing his gratitude to all those involved in the production of *Diabetologia*, the authors and the reviewers, the Associate Editors, members of the Advisory Board, and the hard working and always supportive Deputy Editors, Elisabeth Trimble and Geremia Bolli.

The Editor-in-Chief finished his report by expressing his thanks to the Assistant Editors and Editorial Assistants in Uppsala, without whom the production of the journal would be impossible and his pleasure and satisfaction over the agreement with Springer-Verlag, which would ensure a continuous collaboration with a common goal of developing *Diabetologia* to become the leading journal in its field.

The President thanked the Editor-in-Chief for his report and reported that Dr. Hellerström had kindly agreed to extend his term of office for an additional year to accommodate the change to mandatory subscription.

3. Elections

a) President, 1992-1995: Dr. K.G.M.M.Alberti (UK) was elected to succeed Dr. P.Lefèbvre as President of the Association after the General Assembly in Prague, 1992.

b) Vice President, 1991-1994: Dr. C.Wollheim (CH) was elected to succeed Dr. M.R.Taskinen. The General Assembly unanimously approved.

c) Honorary Treasurer, 1992–1995: Dr. J.Nunes-Correa (P) was elected to succeed Dr. J.D.Ward after the General Assembly in Prague, 1992.

d) Honorary Secretary, 1992–1994: Dr. A.De Leiva (E) was elected as Adjunct Honorary Secretary from 1991–1992 and to succeed Dr. R.Landgraf after the General Assembly in Prague, 1992.

e) Council Members, 1992–1995: Drs. J.Pav (CSFR), G.Michel (L), G.J.Bruining (NL) and S.L.Howell (UK) were elected to succeed Drs. E.Erkelens, U.Keller, P.Segal, G.Tomkin, retiring by rotation.

4. Postgraduate Education Sub-Committee

Dr. P.Assal began his report by stating that this was his 5th and last report. By rotation he would be retiring as Chairman of the PGESC and would be replaced by Dr. M.Berger, Germany. By rotation Dr. P.Home would also be retiring and would be replaced by Dr. J.Fövényi, Hungary. Dr. Assal thanked Dr. Home for his continuous support and activity over the last five years of his mandate and welcomed Dr. Berger who had played a fundamental role in the intensive collaboration with colleagues in the former eastern bloc countries.

Dr. Assal continued that the members of the Postgraduate Education Sub-Committee had played a very active role, ending in a new policy for the EASD Postgraduate Education Programmes. A Postgraduate course should be organized at the time of the EASD Annual Meeting by the local organisers and the following points should be followed; a) experts nominated by the EASD to prepare the topics of the programme; b) the faculty should consist mainly of teachers recruited from among the local experts in diabetology; and c) a preliminary workshop to be held with the local faculty in order to improve interactive educational strategies between lecturers and participants. Dr. Assal further reported that nurses, dieticians and other health care providers should also participate in these postgraduate courses in order to strengthen a sector which deserves much greater attention, i.e. health care delivery and follow-up of patients.

Dr. Assal reported that the PGESC had received outstanding assistance from the Local Organisers in Dublin. He thanked Dr. J.McKenna for the superb organization of the 12th Postgraduate Course which was held on the 9th and 10th September, 1991. He also extended his thanks to Dr. G.Tomkin for his overall administration of the EASD Annual Meeting. This postgraduate course was dedicated to the late Dr. Ivo Drury to whom so much is owed.

Dr. Assal continued by reporting on another activity; the postgraduate course in Tirana, Albania, which will follow the format of the EASD meetings and which would be held in the spring of 1992. A monograph dealing with diabetes therapy and health care delivery is under publication in the Albanian language. It is intended to distribute this monograph to all general practitioners in that country.

Regarding the collaboration of the PGESC with the WHO/IDF European Action Programme, it was thought that the PGESC should participate the various objectives of this Action Programme and should try to orient its programmes accordingly. This had resulted in the PGESC participating in a training session with eighteen Italian diabetes centres, coming from fifteen different Italian cities, working on a model for prevention of amputations of lower extremities in diabetic patients.

Dr. Assal concluded his comments by thanking Drs. P.Lefèbvre, J.Ward, R.Landgraf and P.Home for their support and help which he had received as Chairman of the PGESC.

The President thanked Dr. Assal for his report and congratulated the PGESC on the success of their work in Albania he added that the EASD was grateful for all the hard work over the past five years of Drs. P.Assal and P.Home.

5. Study Groups

The President reported that the reports of the Study Groups had already been printed in the Volume of Abstracts and in Diabetologia. Dr Lefèbvre stated that certain procedures should be re-evaluated as concerns have been voiced. The Neuropathy and Nephropathy Study Groups had held successful meetings, the reports of which have already been published. It was commented that in future the Study Groups should work closer with the EASD.

A positive issue was that the reports of all the Study Groups can now be published in the EASD "News Section" in Diabetologia. The Honorary Secretary had been as requested to write to the Study Groups and to inform them of this new procedure. There were no questions on the Study Group reports.

6. Any other business

Before closing the Meeting the President asked for any questions or comments from the Assembly; It was asked if members, who did not wish to receive Diabetologia could donate their issues of the journal to the Solidarity Fund. The President replied that this could be possible but the Secretariat in Düsseldorf must be informed. Regarding the election and nomination procedure of Council and Executive members, it was asked if EASD members could vote/nominate members via a ballot box which could be erected in the Annual Meeting. The President stated that this suggestion would be considered in accordance with the Constitution of the Association.

Dr Lefèbvre expressed the Association's thanks to all retiring members of the Council – Drs. Erkelens, Keller, Segal, Tomkin and Dr. Taskinen, for her tenure as Vice President.

The President then closed the meeting.