

# Minutes of 17th General Assembly of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes

Held in the RAI Congress Center, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, on Thursday, 17 September 1981, at 11.00 a. m.

## Present:

Dr. W. Gepts (President)  
Dr. J. Canivet (Honorary Treasurer)  
Dr. K. D. Hepp (Honorary Secretary)  
Dr. A. G. Cudworth (Editor-in-Chief, *Diabetologia*)  
and 156 members

1. The President opened the meeting by welcoming all participants. Before turning to the agenda, Dr. Gepts said that he wished to express his most grateful thanks and appreciation to Professor P. Bouman, Professor H. M. J. Krans and the members of the local Organising Committee for the excellent arrangements which had been made for the current meeting. His remarks were greeted with warm applause.

## 2. Minutes: 16th General Assembly, 1980

The Minutes of the 16th General Assembly held in Athens, Greece, having been printed in *Diabetologia* 20 4 (1981) were taken as read and confirmed as a correct record. The President and Honorary Secretary signed the file copy.

## 3. Reports

*President:* In his opening remarks, the President expressed the sincere thanks of the Association to Dr. J. G. Alivisatos, Dr. P. D. Christopoulos and their colleagues for the excellent organisation of the 17th Annual Meeting in Athens in 1980. The number of participants had been very high, and this had placed a considerable strain on the Organising Committee, which had nevertheless dealt with all aspects of the meeting most effectively. Dr. Gepts' comments were warmly applauded.

Continuing, the President reminded the members that the 1980 meeting had been the first to extend over a 3½-day period, and had also attracted a considerably higher number of abstracts. Without wishing to anticipate the report of the Honorary Treasurer, Dr. Gepts was happy to report that as a result of that meeting, the Association had received a surplus of over £ 5,000, the third highest surplus ever received. Despite this, inflation and rising costs in all areas were presenting continuing problems and for that reason the Honorary Treasurer would be proposing an increase in the annual subscriptions later in the meeting.

The Council had been concerned to learn of the removal of a poster displayed in Athens by someone other than the author, and greatly deplored this unauthorised activity. Similarly, the Council was concerned at the increasing tendency to photograph slides during lectures, which was a habit which the Council wished to strongly discourage.

The President drew attention to the programme for the current Annual Meeting, which included three "State of the Art" lectures, on subjects selected by the Programme Committee, and urged members to make their views on this innovation known to the Honorary Secretary.

Continuing, the President reiterated the Association's thanks to the pharmaceutical industry for their support, and singled out Novo Industri A/S for their subventions for travel grants and towards the printing of the Volume of Abstracts; Hoechst AG for their sponsorship of the valued Minkowski Prize, awarded to Dr. Pierre de Meyts; and to the Paul Neumann Laboratories for their sponsorship of the Claude Bernard Lecture, to be delivered by Professor G. R. E. Meyer-Schwickerath. Dr. Gepts was happy to announce that the 1982 Claude Bernard Lecture would be given by Professor J. Mirouze, of Montpellier.

The President then reported that thanks to the intercession of Dr. P. J. Lefebvre additional funds for travel grants had been received this

year from Pfizer-Europe, for which the Association was most grateful. Bearing all these valuable contributions in mind, the President urged the membership to show their appreciation of the practical support given to the Association by the pharmaceutical industry by visiting the stands of the trade exhibition.

In conclusion, the President wished to thank the Officers of the Association for their continued support, and the Executive Director and his secretary for their valued help during the past year.

*Honorary Treasurer:* Dr. J. Canivet introduced the annual accounts for the year ended 31 December 1980.

## European Association for the Study of Diabetes. Income and expenditure account, 1980

1979	1979	1980	1980
£	£	£	£
		<i>Income</i>	
		Subscriptions:	
	7,691	active members	10,991.29
		supporting and associate members	4,268.14
12,011	<u>4,320</u>		15,259.43
	234	Donations	196.86
	<u>1,823</u>	Other	<u>2,912.07</u>
	14,068		18,368.36
		<i>EASD travel fund</i>	
	3,000	Novo Industri A/S grant	2,674.20
	-	Pfizer-Europe grant	2,087.77
	-	Balance from 1977 annual meeting	2,256.53
	<u>523</u>	Donations and other	<u>581.93</u>
3,523			7,600.43
		<i>EASD annual meetings fund</i>	
	-	Surplus: 1980 annual meeting	5,111.11
	<u>368</u>	Other	<u>578.32</u>
	368		5,689.43
	<u>17,959</u>		<u>31,658.22</u>
		<i>Less: Expenditure</i>	
	5,928	Salaries	6,797.18
	500	Pension contribution	500.00
	<u>1,250</u>	Rent	1,250.00
		Postage, telephone, stationery and office expenses	1,926.03
	945	Audit fee	165.00
	150	Executive committee meeting costs	520.77
	304	Bank charges	25.02
	28	<i>Diabetologia</i> : secretarial expenses	4,289.80
	<u>3,821</u>	Annual meeting: secretariat costs	<u>6,181.77</u>
	14,447	carried forward	21,655.57

14,447	brought forward		21,655.57	
	<i>EASD travel fund</i>			
4,060	Travel grants awarded		7,029.30	
	<i>EASD annual meetings fund</i>			
	Allocation for secretariat expenses		2,798.89	
<u>18,507</u>			<u>31,483.76</u>	
	<i>Deficit/surplus for year</i>			
	EASD travel fund (surplus)	( 571.13)		
537	EASD annual meetings fund (surplus)	(2,890.54)		
( 368)	EASD general funds (deficit)	3,287.21		
379				
<u>548</u>			<u>( 174.46)</u>	
	Balance sheet at 31 December 1980			
	<i>Accumulated general fund</i>			
	Balance at 1 January 1980	10,537.44		
11,419	Less: difference on conversion	2,432.84		
503		8,104.60		
<u>10,916</u>	Less: deficit for year	3,287.21		
379		4,817.39		
<u>10,537</u>	Add: transfer from annual meetings fund	3,790.16		
10,537			8,607.55	
	<i>EASD travel fund</i>			
	Balance at 1 January 1980	4,577.26		
5,114	Add (less): surplus (deficit) for year	571.13		
( 537)			5,148.39	
4,577				
	<i>EASD annual meetings fund</i>			
	Balance at 1 January 1980	4,899.62		
4,532	Add: surplus for year	2,890.54		
368		7,790.16		
<u>4,900</u>	Less: transfer to accumulated general funds	3,790.16		
4,900			4,000.00	
	<i>Subscriptions received in advance</i>			
	Active members	10,856.79		
8,630	Journal subscriptions	8,029.30		
8,343	Provision for loss on exchange	150.00		
150			19,036.09	
<u>17,123</u>			<u>£36,792.03</u>	
<u>£37,137</u>				
	<i>Represented by</i>			
	Cash at banks:			
	London	16,063.04		
22,669	Geneva	15,277.20		
13,841		31,340.24		
36,510	Add: sundry debtors	7,212.89		
2,525		38,553.13		
<u>39,035</u>	Less: sundry creditors	1,761.10		
1,898			£36,792.03	
<u>£37,137</u>				

*Report of the Auditor to the Members of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes:* I have examined the books of Account of the Association and in my view the attached accounts give a true and fair view of the state of the Association's affairs and of the Deficit for the

year ended 31 December 1980. No account has been taken of RbIs.3 146.12 (approximately £ 1,966) held on behalf of the Association in Account No.6.01.6757.00 at the Deutsche Außenhandelsbank, Berlin, German Democratic Republic, not available for transfer. A. K. Marks, Certified Accountant Auditor, 61 Wallingford Avenue, London W 10

Direct comparison of figures with the previous year were misleading, since there had been no Annual Scientific Meeting in 1979. However, the figures showed that annual income had increased by £ 13,700. Subscriptions and other income rose by £ 4,500, contributions to the Travel Fund by £ 4,200, and, as the President had already mentioned, the surplus from the Athens meeting amounted to over £ 5,000. Dr. Canivet drew special attention to the grant received from Pfizer-Europe for travel grants in 1980, which with the addition of some unexpected income resulting from the 1977 Geneva meeting had enabled the Association to considerably increase the number of awards.

However, the Honorary Treasurer regretted to have to report a similar increase in expenditure during the year. Whilst purely administrative costs had remained constant at around 40%, the principle increase related to the cost of organisation of the Annual Meetings. The London Secretariat was responsible for the production and despatch of the preliminary booklet and accompanying documents, and also for the production and posting of copies of the provisional programme, as well as other miscellaneous correspondence. Total Secretariat costs in relation to the Annual Meeting, including the expenses of the meeting of the Programme Committee, amounted to nearly 30% of the total expenditure: and the remaining 30% disappeared in Travel Grants and in secretarial expenses for *Diabetologia* Editorial staff.

Thus at the end of the year there was a deficit of almost £ 3,300 on the General Funds.

Turning to the Balance Sheet, Dr. Canivet pointed out that because of the strength of the pound sterling against the Swiss Franc at the end of 1980 there appeared a notional loss on conversion of the Swiss account into pounds sterling. However, the Honorary Treasurer emphasised that this was a notional loss, since it would only arise if it was necessary to transfer funds to London.

Deducting the deficit on the General Funds for 1980 left a balance of less than £ 5,000, which was considerably less than was needed to operate an effective Secretariat, and some of the surplus received from the Athens meeting had therefore been transferred to the General Funds to improve the position.

All the other figures related to funds which were already committed for specific purposes.

Thus at the end of 1980, the Association had total assets of £ 36,792, a reduction of £ 345 compared with 1979.

Continuing, Dr. Canivet reminded the General Assembly that he had said last year that the Association could not afford to be complacent about its financial status, and this was borne out by the figures which he had presented. To some extent, they were the penalty of success, and the Honorary Treasurer briefly reviewed the 10-year period 1971-1980, during which time the annual income of the Association had risen from £ 5,500 to over £ 18,000, excluding journal subscriptions and any surpluses received as a result of the Annual Meetings. The welcome increase in membership over the period meant that Active Member subscriptions now represented 60% of total income, compared with only 33% in 1971. Against this, income from Supporting and Associate Members had decreased to 23%, compared with 52% in 1971.

Over the same 10-year period, expenditure had trebled. Salaries and administrative expenses had remained constant at around 40%, but the cost of Annual Meetings and the distribution of Travel Grants had both risen from 3% to nearly 30%. One of the penalties of a growing and active membership related to the increase in the number of abstracts, and Dr. Canivet reminded the General Assembly that for financial reasons the Programme Committee had been obliged to reject for publication abstracts which were not accepted for oral or poster presentation in Athens. This year, thanks to successful negotiations with Springer-Verlag, it had been possible to print additional abstracts 'by title only': but this, coupled with the larger attendance at the Annual Meetings, also meant that the costs of production would again rise, despite the generous subvention of Novo Industri A/S.

The Honorary Treasurer reminded the General Assembly that all abstracts were handled by the London Secretariat, whose staffing remained exactly the same as it did in 1971, namely two half-persons. The number of abstracts received in 1971 was 200: in 1980 it was in excess of 600. The burden of handling this extra work-load had been cheerfully borne by the London Secretariat, but the Executive Com-

mittee had agreed to the engagement of additional part-time staff to assist them in their ever-increasing duties.

In conclusion, Dr. Canivet said that in handing over his duties to Dr. Andreani he was able to assure his successor that the accounts of the Association were in good order; but he wished to emphasise that their continued well-being depended on the membership of the Association, a subject to which he would be returning later in the agenda. He wished to thank the Official Auditor, Mr. A. K. Marks, for his valued advice; his colleagues on the Executive Committee for their friendship and support throughout his period of office; and especially the Executive Director, Mr. J. G. L. Jackson, for all his help in regard to the preparation of the accounts.

To warm applause, the President thanked Dr. Canivet for his valued and expert advice and guidance over the past 3 years.

*Honorary Auditors:* Dr. M. Serrano-Rios, on behalf of Dr. R. Pelkonen and himself, confirmed that the accounts were in good order and discharged the Honorary Treasurer from responsibility for the year ended 31 December 1980.

*Honorary Secretary:* Dr. K. D. Hepp opened his report by commenting on the Association membership which continued to rise. Perhaps due to the attractiveness of the venue for the 1980 meeting, 275 new members had been enrolled during 1980, the highest number in any 1 year, bringing the total membership to just under 1,400. For comparative purposes, the Honorary Secretary noted that in the 10 years 1971-1980, the Active membership had risen by 50%, as shown in Table 1.

**Table 1.** European Association for the Study of Diabetes membership: 1971-1980

Membership at 1 January 1971	927	in 36 countries
Add: enrolments 1971-1980	1,194	
	<u>2,121</u>	
Less: deaths, resignations and lapsed memberships	723	
Membership at 31 December 1980	<u>1,398</u>	in 42 countries

The breakdown of membership between countries at the end of 1980 was as shown in Table 2.

**Table 2.** European Association for the Study of Diabetes membership by country at 31 December 1980 (with comparatives for 31 December 1979)

1979		1980
1	Algeria	1
1	Argentina	3
17	Australia	27
20	Austria	18
54	Belgium	60
9	Bulgaria	13
8	Canada	10
-	Costa Rica	1
39	Czechoslovakia	39
1	Cyprus	2
68	Denmark	91
-	Dominican Republic	1
1	Egypt	1
25	Finland	32
120	France	117
31	German Democratic Republic	31
116	Federal Republic of Germany	124
12	Greece	15
24	Hungary	23
3	India	2
1	Iraq	1
20	Israel	26
111	Italy	125
8	Japan	7
-	Kuwait	1
2	Lebanon	3
2	Luxembourg	1
43	The Netherlands	52
3	New Zealand	3
10	Norway	16
16	Poland	16

1979		1980
11	Portugal	16
20	Romania	21
2	Saudi Arabia	4
1	South Africa	2
33	Spain	33
61	Sweden	75
68	Switzerland	70
11	Turkey	7
171	United Kingdom	230
48	United States	60
1	Uruguay	-
14	Yugoslavia	18
<u>1207</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>1398</u>

Continuing, Dr. Hepp reported that the membership records were due to be computerised shortly, which would enable additional information to be recorded. All members would be receiving a form asking them to indicate their special areas of interest in the field of diabetes, which would enable circularisation of meeting details in specific fields to be undertaken, as well as being helpful to the Editor-in-Chief of *Diabetologia*.

The Honorary Secretary then reported that the triennial List of Members would shortly be published, and asked that any mistakes/corrections be advised to the London Secretariat.

Turning to the current meeting, Dr. Hepp reported that 639 abstracts had been received, plus a further 12 which arrived much too late for consideration. As Chairman of the Programme Committee, Dr. Hepp wished to thank his colleagues, Drs. T. D. R. Hockaday, H. M. J. Krans, I. B. Taljedal and I. Valverde, who had coped so well with this enormous amount of paper. However, Dr. Hepp was greatly concerned that some authors left it until the very last minute before sending their abstracts, and pointed out that it was unlikely that the postal services could manage to deliver an abstract posted on 30 April in Europe to the EASD Secretariat in London within 24 h. Papers which were received so close to the deadline could not be redistributed by the Secretariat to the members of the Programme Committee; and Dr. Hepp mentioned that the British representative, Dr. Hockaday, had had to bring with him to the meeting of the Programme Committee 5 sets of 94 abstracts, each of which the Committee had to read before being able to finalise the programme.

The Honorary Secretary stated that 394 papers had been accepted for oral or poster presentation, and an additional 181 for printing 'by title only'; this represented a 200% increase over the numbers printed in 1971. He continued by reminding the General Assembly that the maximum limit of 200 words for each abstract was strictly enforced.

Dr. Hepp then reported that 45 travel grants had been awarded for the current year to young colleagues under the age of 35, and reiterated the Association's thanks to Novo Industri A/S, and to Pfizer-Europe, for their generous subventions for this purpose.

The Honorary Secretary reminded the General Assembly that one of the benefits of membership was the facility to subscribe to journals at preferential rates. However, despite the 50% discount available for *Diabetologia*, only a very small proportion of the membership subscribed to that journal, and Dr. Hepp joined with the Editor-in-Chief in urging members to consider subscribing to *Diabetologia*, the Journal of the Association. In respect of other journals, the Honorary Secretary said that the London Secretariat had asked him to apologise to those members who had subscribed to the journals of the American Diabetes Association and who last year had suffered from very considerable delays and poor service. This was not the fault of the London Secretariat, but had been due to a breakdown in communications with the American Diabetes Association, which hopefully had now been rectified.

Dr. Hepp then reported the dates of future meetings as follows:

- 1982 1- 4 September: Budapest, Hungary
- 1983 14-17 September: Oslo, Norway
- 1984 12-15 September: London, UK

The Honorary Secretary reminded the membership that nominations, or re-nominations, for the 1982 Minkowski Prize would be required by 1 February 1982, and should be sent to the London Secretariat.

In conclusion, Dr. Hepp announced that the closing date for abstracts for the Budapest meeting would be 15 March 1982, and urged the membership to make good note of this, since the deadline would be strictly enforced.

The President thanked Dr. Hepp for his report.

*Editor-in-Chief, Diabetologia:* Dr. A.G.Cudworth reported that the new Editorial Office had started to handle all new manuscripts from 1 November 1980, and had assumed full responsibility from the middle of December 1980. The Editor-in-Chief paid warm tribute to the outgoing secretary, Mrs. Margaret Clayton, and to Mrs. Sarah Spencer-Smith, the incoming secretary, for their contribution to the smooth transfer of the Editorial Office from Newcastle-upon-Tyne to London. Dr. Cudworth also expressed his thanks to the retiring Editor-in-Chief, Dr. K.G.M.M. Alberti, who had left the affairs of the Journal in such good order.

The first aim of the new Editor-in-Chief had been to maintain the high standard set by his predecessors, although he had to admit that neither he nor his colleagues had fully appreciated the responsibility and effort involved in such a task.

The total number of papers received in 1980 had reached a new high of 411, which represented a 19% increase over 1979. This was similar to the previous year, but Dr. Cudworth thought that the numbers might be levelling off because the number of papers received during the second half of 1980 and the first half of 1981 had remained constant at approximately 200 every 6 months.

Dr. Cudworth said that he had continued to try to diversify the contents of the Journal as much as possible, and to include regular review articles.

The rejection rate had risen from 55% in 1979 to 62% in 1980, but this now also seemed to be levelling off. The Editor-in-Chief said he had been particularly tough regarding the length of manuscripts, often urging substantial reductions in the 'discussion' sections without detracting from the scientific value of the papers. As had always been the policy, papers were judged purely on scientific merit, and not on the English language; however, Dr. Cudworth wished to apologise to some European colleagues who had on occasion become somewhat frustrated when asked for a third or fourth re-typing.

Continuing, the Editor-in-Chief said there was no foundation in the accusation which was sometimes made that the Journal was becoming a typical North American journal. Of papers submitted in 1980, the rejection rate for the USA had been 66%, and for the United Kingdom 60%, and the Editorial Board was truly endeavouring to keep the journal as international as possible. The number of referees had been increased, and now represented a very international breadth of opinion.

Turning to the length of time taken from initial receipt of manuscripts to publication, Dr. Cudworth said that a serious attack had been made on reducing the time scale, which during 1980 had remained unchanged at 312 days. Although he was not able to present hard data at the present time, Dr. Cudworth said there had been a definite speeding up of manuscripts through the Editorial Office which he hoped would be reflected in his next report. During a recent visit to Springer-Verlag in Heidelberg, and to the printers in Wemding, the length of time that papers were with Springer prior to publication was raised, but disappointingly no solution could be found, as Springer reiterated that it was impossible to reduce the printing time. Apart from this, the two other main causes of delay were the time taken by referees and the time taken by authors in revising their manuscripts, both of which were beyond the direct control of the Editorial Office. A warning notice had however been included in the Editor-in-Chief's letter of provisional acceptance pointing out that delay in revision of the manuscript might result in lengthy delays in publication.

The Editor-in-Chief then paid tribute to the work of the Assistant Editors in maintaining the high standards of presentation and uniformity of terminology.

Dr. Cudworth reported that the Editorial Office had been receiving an increasing number of requests to publish abstracts of National or Special Topic meetings, and also Workshop reports. Such abstracts had to be paid for by the sponsors, and did not affect the available space for original articles. Dr. Cudworth said that whilst he was in favour of including informative Workshop reports, for a trial period, he was less enthusiastic about the publication of abstracts, although the introduction of a new format for abstract submission and more specific instructions to authors had led to some improvement and had helped reduce the considerable amount of time spent in correction which was undertaken by the Editorial Office and Assistant Editors.

The Editor-in-Chief reported that there were currently 1803 subscribers to the Journal, of whom the largest number came from the United States, followed by the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan and Italy. Taking two examples at random, Dr. Cudworth commented that the figures for the United Kingdom (104) and Denmark (35) were very disappointing, and urged all members of the Association to take advantage of the 50% reduction in the subscription rate.

In summary, Dr. Cudworth said that preliminary data since the changeover of the Editorial Office indicated that the Journal was con-

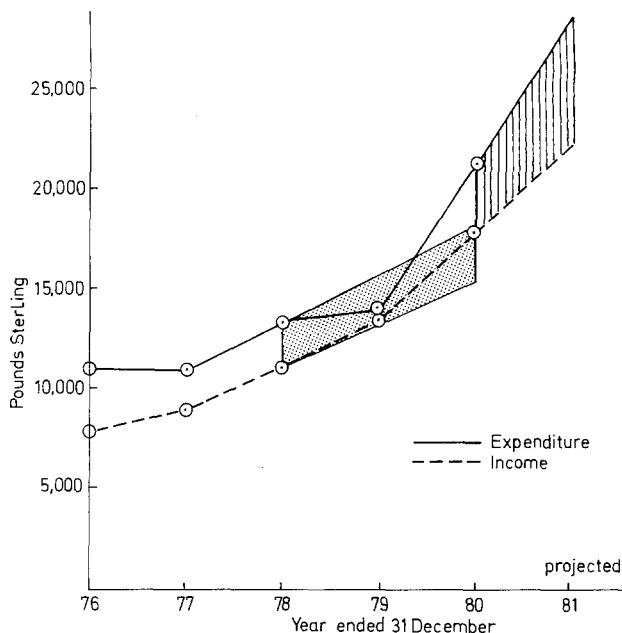


Fig. 1. European Association for the Study of Diabetes General funds: income and expenditure

tinuing along the same lines as previously, and that the flow of new papers had perhaps plateaued.

In conclusion, the Editor-in-Chief thanked all the Associate Editors for their guidance and help, and paid special tribute to the hard-working Assistant Editors. Dr. Cudworth was particularly grateful to Mrs. Sarah Spencer-Smith for her unstinting efforts, and also expressed his thanks to Herr Goebel and his staff in Heidelberg, and to the Executive Director of EASD for his support and advice.

In reply to a question from the floor, Dr. Cudworth pointed out that the rejection rate had risen due to the increase in the number of submitted manuscripts. If 2,000 subscribers were achieved, this would not necessarily result in an increase in the size of the journal, since any increase in size would automatically incur an increase in price.

To warm applause, the President thanked Dr. Cudworth for his report and for his excellent work as Editor-in-Chief of *Diabetologia* which was greatly appreciated.

#### 4. Annual Subscription Rates

The Honorary Treasurer reminded the General Assembly of a Figure which he had prepared for the 1979 General Assembly in Vienna, which he had since brought up to date (Fig. 1).

The shaded area represented the predicted gap between income and expenditure which would arise if annual subscriptions were not increased. Because the 1979 expenditure had not reached the expected proportions, the gap had indeed closed, thanks to the increased annual subscriptions from 1 January 1980. However, partly because the venue of the 1980 meeting had been on the periphery of Europe, but mainly due to inflation, expenditure had taken off at an acute angle, and the vertical lines showed the estimated deficit for 1981. Whilst it was hoped that inflation would level out, the Executive Committee had decided that it could not wait to recommend to the Council that annual subscriptions should again be raised. Dr. Canivet reminded the membership of his earlier report when he had mentioned some areas of increased expenditure which had already been authorised, as well as the depletion of the Association's General Funds.

The Honorary Treasurer also pointed out that the effectiveness of any increase would not be fully reflected in the accounts until after 3 years, since many members took advantage of the facility to pay for 3 years in advance. Members who had already paid in advance would not be required to pay an increased subscription until their current membership expired.

The recommendation that annual subscriptions be increased had been taken with great regret, and with a due realisation that younger colleagues especially were not in a position to continually increase their contributions. For this reason, the Council had agreed to recommend a two-tier subscription rate, namely:

- Active Members *under* age 40 on 1 January . . . £ 12 net
- Active Members *over* age 40 on 1 January . . . £ 15 net

Continuing, Dr. Canivet said that at present there was no way of knowing the age of all members, but it was estimated that about one half of the membership would qualify for the lower rate. Members would be asked to declare their date of birth, but for those who were shy about disclosing this information, it would be in order to state "over 40" if they so wished.

Turning to the question of Supporting and Associate Members, Dr. Canivet paid tribute to the valued support received from the pharmaceutical industry through the Trade Exhibitions and in their general support of the Annual Meetings. However, compared with 10 years ago, the contribution from Supporting Members had more than halved, and it was therefore proposed that the annual subscriptions for Supporting Members be raised to £ 400, and for Associate Members to £ 150. This would represent a 2½ times increase over the 10 year period, compared with a five-fold increase for Active members.

In conclusion, the Honorary Treasurer said that by increasing the annual subscriptions as proposed, to take effect from 1 January 1982, the Council anticipated being able to face the future with a reasonable degree of equanimity, and on their behalf, Dr. Canivet proposed that the new annual subscriptions rates be adopted.

The proposals were seconded from the floor, and on being put to the vote, were carried nemine contradicente.

### 5. Elections

*Honorary Secretary 1982-1985:* Dr. K. G. M. M. Alberti (UK) was elected as Honorary Secretary of the Association in succession to Dr. K. D. Hepp (FRG), who would retire by rotation following the General Assembly in 1982.

*Council Members 1982-1985:* Drs. G. Crepaldi (Italy), K. F. Hanssen (Norway), L. G. Heding (Denmark), I. Mincu (Romania) and S. Raptis (Greece) were elected members of the Council to take office following the General Assembly in 1982, in succession to Drs. C. Binder, K. D. Buchanan, W. J. Malaisse, Gy. Tamas Jr., and G. Tchobroutsky, retiring by rotation.

*Vice-President 1981-1984:* The President advised the General Assembly that the Council had appointed Dr. P. Freychet (France) as a Vice-President, in succession to Dr. G. Lenti (Italy), retiring by rotation.

*Honorary Auditors 1981-1982:* Dr. E. Standl (FRG) was elected, and Dr. M. Serrano-Rios (Spain) re-elected, as Honorary Auditors for the ensuing year.

*Honorary Membership:* The President reminded the General Assembly that under Article II of the Statutes the General Assembly could confer Honorary Membership on any individuals whose medical or scientific contribution to diabetes or the Association had been outstanding. The Council had unanimously nominated Dr. Alexander Marble of Boston, USA as an additional Honorary Member of the Association. Dr. Marble had been a member of the Association since its inception, and many European colleagues had experienced his friendship and counsel at first-hand and knew him to be a distinguished investigator and colleague.

To loud applause, the General Assembly wholeheartedly approved this nomination.

### 6. Study Groups and Sub-Committees

*Postgraduate Education Sub-Committee:* Before inviting Dr. J. J. Hoet to give his report, the President said that the importance of Postgraduate Education had been recognised by the General Assembly at their previous meeting, when the Chairman and Secretary of the Sub-Committee had been elected as members ex-officio of the Council.

Dr. Hoet reported that a new Constitution for the Sub-Committee had been accepted by the Council, under which the membership of the Sub-Committee would rotate on a 3-year basis. Six members would be appointed at the next meeting of the Council, and the Sub-Committee would then concentrate on formulating future policy in respect of postgraduate education. In the meantime, on the advice of the Council, the Sub-Committee did not propose to invariably arrange meetings at the time of the Annual Meetings of the Association, but would concentrate on arranging advanced courses at the European level.

*Pregnancy Study Group:* Dr. J. D. Baird reminded members that the 11th annual meeting of the Diabetes Pregnancy Study Group had

been held in Italy immediately before the 17th Annual Meeting of EASD in Athens in 1980. The 12th annual meeting of the Study Group would be held in Liege, Belgium immediately after the current Annual Meeting, at which 22 members and 42 guests would be participating. The main topics to be studied were: the value of HbA<sub>1c</sub>, home blood glucose monitoring and dietary fibre in the management of diabetic pregnancy; the regulation of foetal growth, with particular reference to the role of somatomedins; autonomic maturation in the foetus; trace elements, diet and congenital deformation; recent advances in screening for gestational diabetes; the regulation of energy metabolism in pregnancy; and problems relating to contraception in diabetic women. The Jorgen Pedersen Memorial Lecture would be given by L. Molsted-Pedersen on "Patterns of foetal growth in diabetic pregnancy."

In conclusion, Dr. Baird reported that she would be retiring from the Executive Committee at Liege, when her replacement would be elected at the business meeting. The other members of the Executive Committee were Dr. C. Hellerstrom and Dr. H. W. Sutherland.

*Epidemiology Study Group:* Dr. J. Fuller, as Secretary of the Study Group, reported that the 16th annual meeting of the Study Group had been held in Visegrad, Hungary from 14-16 May, 1981. Organised by Dr. Gy. Tamas, the meeting had included papers and discussion on the genetics of diabetes, epidemiological studies on Type 1 diabetes with particular reference to incidence rates, methods of quantifying metabolic control, and diabetes classification.

During the business meeting, the Study Group had adopted a revised Constitution as approved by the Council, and had elected new Officers.

The 17th annual meeting of the Study Group was to be held in France, in May 1982, jointly sponsored by INSERM, the National Institutes of Health and the World Health Organisation, and dedicated to the memory of the late Dr. Kelly M. West.

*Diabetes Education Study Group:* Dr. J-P. Assal reported that membership of the Study Group had risen to over 400 persons. The Study Group had registered 180 diabetes education centres in different European countries, and was compiling a list to indicate services available in each country.

A series of 3-day Workshops had taken place in Geneva during the past year, in which a total of 178 people had participated, representing all areas of interest in the field of education. It had been estimated that these 178 participants would be responsible for passing on what they had learnt to more than 150,000 people. Dr. Assal added that it was hoped that national Study Groups would be formed in each country.

Dr. Assal then referred to the involvement of the World Health Organisation and of members of the Study Group in the Malta project, and ended by stating that the 2nd International Symposium on Diabetes Education would be held in Geneva in June 1982.

*Artificial Endocrine Pancreas, Programmed Infusion and Transplantation:* The President reported that the Council had approved the setting up of a new Study Group concerned with the Artificial Pancreas and allied interests, and invited Dr. Hepp to report.

Dr. Hepp said that the initiative for the new Study Group had come from Dr. G. Tchobroutsky, and a meeting had been held during the week at which the Group had established itself as the Artificial Endocrine Pancreas, Programmed Infusion and Transplantation Study Group. A Steering Committee had been appointed consisting of Dr. E. F. Pfeiffer (Chairman), Dr. K. G. M. M. Alberti (Secretary), Dr. K. Federlin (Vice-Chairman) and Dr. G. Slama (Treasurer). The first meeting would be held in early 1982, and members were invited to contact any of the elected Officers or Dr. Hepp for further details.

### 7. Any Other Business

There being no other business raised, the President expressed the thanks of the Association to the retiring members of the Council, Drs. H. Bibergeil, C. Hellerstrom, B. Jeanrenaud, G. Lenti and H. H. Schoene, for their valuable support and guidance over the past 3 years, and reiterated the special thanks of the Council to the retiring Honorary Treasurer, Dr. J. Canivet. His remarks were greeted with applause.

In conclusion, the President welcomed as new members of Council Drs. J-P. Assal, E. Cerasi, P. Freychet, G. Katona and W. K. Waldhausl, and the new Honorary Treasurer, Dr. D. Andreani.