

Minutes of the 32nd General Assembly of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes

**Held in Mozart Hall in the Austrian Center Vienna,
4th September 1996 from 12.15–13.00 h**

Present: Drs. M Berger (President)
UJ Eriksson (Honorary Secretary)
E Ferrannini (Editor-in-Chief,
Diabetologia)
J Nunes-Correa (Honorary Treasurer)

and 286 members

In welcoming everyone to the General Assembly Prof. Berger expressed his pleasure at seeing so many more members than in previous years. This was in line with the desire of the Executive Committee to involve the members more with the decision-making processes of the Association.

1. Minutes, 31st General Assembly 1995

After having asked the membership for approval of the Minutes of the 31st General Assembly, Dr. Berger and Dr. Eriksson signed the minutes as a correct record.

2. Reports

a) President: The President gave a brief report of the last 12 months. He reiterated his thanks to Dr. Hellerström for the tremendous success of last year's Meeting which had a record of 6,100 attendants.

At this year's Meeting there had been more than 6,000 attendants. Although this suggested a success, it could also encompass some dangers. The President pointed out that the character of the Association's meetings as a forum for scientific exchange must be maintained. The focus must be kept on successfully keeping up the scientific standards. In this context Dr. Berger said he would welcome feed-back on this Annual Meeting from the members.

Dr. Berger offered his preliminary thanks to Dr. Schernthaner and his colleagues.

The Scientists Training Courses which had been started by Dr. Alberti were continuing successfully. He thanked Dr. Eizirik for the excellent organisation of the course in Uppsala in August which was jointly organised and sponsored by the JDFI. With the participation of 5 scientists from the USA,

this was felt to be a useful exchange for the young generation of researchers in the diabetic field.

The EASD/JDFI Oxford Conference in July had been another success, with the participation of 25 researchers and their fellows. The President thanked JDFI and Hoechst AG for their support to the Oxford Conference. The Industry Liaison Meeting had afforded a forum for discussing mutual interests and potential problems or conflicts. Many thanks had to go to Novo Nordisk, Germany and Novo Nordisk, Austria for their sponsorship which enabled the continuation of the Solidarity Fund. This provides members of economically or financially poor countries with the wonderful chance of being a member of the EASD and receiving the journal for free.

The Eli Lilly Fellowship would also continue, together with Glaxo and Bayer who had enabled the continuation of the travel support. Thanks must also go to the family Maria Carla Pedroli, 5 members of which had attended the Meeting, and to Hoechst for sponsoring the Minkowski award. This year the Albert Renold Fellowship of £ 10,000 was awarded without sponsorship to Dr. Bruce Verchère, the Eli Lilly/EASD Research Fellowship in Diabetes and Metabolism was given to Dr. Christine Huppertz and the Glaxo Wellcome/EASD Burden of Diabetes Research Fellowship was awarded to Dr. Andrea Natali.

There had been increasing concerns that diabetes research had not been adequately represented at the European Commission. Several attempts had been made to rectify the situation. On 19th January 1996 the EASD together with IDF Europe (Dr. P.H. Home) and Alfediam (Dr. Gerard Cathelineau) met in Brussels with Bruno Hansen, Director of the European Commission, to discuss potential ways of increasing the awareness of diabetes. The outcome of this meeting was a letter to Mme Cresson, Membre de la Commission Science, recherche et développement, and the document "**Diabetes Research in Europe**" which would be sent to all members of the EU Parliament. It was also decided to hold a meeting in Brussels in March 1997 to present to the EU delegates the importance of diabetes and the need for diabetes research. The summary will be published in *Diabetologia*.

Concerning the venues for the forthcoming Annual Meetings, Dr. Berger gave a brief overview of the cities where the EASD Meetings from the year 2000 onwards would be held:

2000 Jerusalem
2001 Birmingham
2002 Budapest
2003 Paris (IDF Meeting)

Asking for questions or comments at the end of his report, members expressed their support regarding the initiative of pointing out the importance of diabetes research to the EU, others thanked the Association for the free membership and receipt of the journal.

b) Honorary Treasurer: Dr. Nunes-Correa opened his report by thanking the officers of the EASD and the Secretariat for their help.

He reported that in 1993 the assets had been roughly £ 1 million and in 1995 £ 619,000, the reduction being due to the fact that the Association had decided to increase its spending on training and research activities. The assets, in his opinion, should be kept at a prudent, not excessive, level, with a balance between income and expenses being aimed at. Regarding 1995 there was a considerable increase in the amount received for membership fees and a substantial increase in donations. The EASD Düsseldorf surplus was received during 1995. Regarding EASD expenses, while travel and office equipment costs increased, the actual running costs remained stable. Annual meeting expenses were substantially higher, due to the costs of invited speakers. A loan of £ 50,000 had been granted to the local organisers in Vienna. The number of travel and stayment grants had increased and more prizes and fellowships had been awarded.

There was an increase in the costs of *Diabetologia* and the EASD contribution to the Editorial Office, with the Solidarity Fund representing a heavy financial commitment for the EASD. The expenses of the Scientists Training Course remained approximately the same and those of the Post Graduate Education Subcommittee diminished. By the end of 1995 the fixed assets had been redistributed which would hopefully protect the currency from upheavals.

Although there would be no Annual Meeting and therefore no surplus the following year, Dr. Nunes-Correa felt sure the financial situation of the EASD would continue to be healthy, since the membership fees had almost covered the costs of *Diabetologia* and the office running costs. Also the gradual increase in sponsorships and donations over the previous 3 years strengthened this feeling of confidence.

The President thanked Dr. Nunes-Correa and asked the assembly if there were any questions. When none arose, he asked the Honorary Auditors if the accounts were in order. After Dr. Guillesseau gave his approval, the General Assembly unanimously accepted the accounts.

c) Honorary Secretary: Dr. Eriksson began by explaining that due to a change in the format of the meeting – an increase in the length from 3½ to 4 days – there had been a record number of State of the Art Symposia (7) and the number of poster sessions had been increased from 3 to 4. State of the Art Lectures (6) and Meet-the-Expert Sessions (10) had remained the same.

The poster sessions had been changed so that the authors needed only to be present at two sessions, during the other two they had the possibility to discuss other posters. The total number of abstracts received was the highest ever, 1,681; a record was also the number of abstracts accepted, which was 1,185. Regarding Travel and Stayment Grants, Dr. Eriksson reported that this year 117 Travel Grants and 19 Stayment Grants had been granted, totalling to £ 44,200. He offered his thanks to many people for their help and support and said he would warmly welcome feedback on this year's Meeting from the members.

Dr. Lefèbvre asked if the new format, namely the change from 3½ to 4 days, was experimental. If it was kept at 4 days he could foresee problems for the Pre- or Post-Symposia. Dr. Berger answered that the length of the Meeting was a decision

for the local organisers in close cooperation with the EASD. He pointed out that the emphasis must remain on the main Meeting and as much as the pre- and post-symposia were appreciated, they were not official parts of the EASD Annual Meeting. Dr. Halban pointed out that the Meeting in effect lasted 5 days and questioned whether the ending could be on a Saturday enabling people to book cheaper air fares. Dr. Eriksson said that until then he had only heard positive comments about the longer meeting.

Then the question of a program for paramedical personnel was brought up. Dr. Berger replied that although the EASD liked to collaborate with these groups, he had to maintain that the EASD was an association of individual scientists and that research was the exclusive topic of the Annual Meeting. He said he was aware of the requests and they would be a matter for ongoing discussion.

Dr. Alberti then gave his strong approval for a 4 day meeting, this being especially good for the poster sessions which he had found brilliant. He suggested an immediate poll from the attendants. However, the President said that he was not sure if such a vote would be valid and he would prefer to discuss the pro's and con's and come to a decision later.

Dr. Krans mentioned the problem of nurses not being accepted for membership of the EASD.

Dr. Jörgens replied that no person who was working in medicine would be rejected. However, certain proof of scientific activities would be asked for.

When no further questions arose, the President asked Dr. Ferrannini for his report.

d) Editor-in-Chief, Diabetologia: Dr. Ferrannini informed the membership that the Editorial Office could now also be reached by e-mail. The staff in the Editorial Office had changed at the end of March when Ms P. Jackson left the office. Therefore, the staff had decreased to two full time positions, Ms S. Hills (Managing Editor) and Ms C. Baldocchi (Secretary), but on request extra secretarial help was available.

The Editor thanked the retired Associate Editors and announced the names of those who replaced them at the beginning of 1996: R. Bilous and A. I. Vinik while the new Advisory Board Members are E. Balasse, V. Grill, A. Naji and E. Standl.

Providing information on the editorial statistics, Dr. Ferrannini said that by the end of 1995 a total of 748 manuscripts had been received, an increase of 9%. The projected figure for 1996 is 770. Regarding submissions Japan leads with 100 manuscripts, followed by UK and the USA. Compared to 1994 more manuscripts were received from Germany, Italy and France while the number of Sweden and Denmark decreased. Reflecting the increase in manuscripts the acceptance rate dropped from 32% in 1994 to 23% in 1995; the acceptance rate for Rapid Communications was 27%. Along with 5 Review Articles and 11 For Debate articles, 2 Editorials and 53 letters were accepted for publication. The average number of days for Associate Editors' reports and for time needed to make an initial decision on acceptance/rejection had decreased to 53 and 61 days respectively. Springer needed about the same time for publication (121 days in 1995 vs 123 days in 1994). The overall time interval from receipt to publication had decreased from 9.3 to 8.7 months in 1995.

A supplement issue on vascular complications of NIDDM will be published in November 1996.

Dr. Berger expressed his thanks to Dr. Ferrannini and asked the membership for comments. Dr. Nerup offered his congratulations to Dr. Ferrannini.

The President thanked the Editor-in-Chief for his report.

3. Elections

- a) Vice President 1997–2000: The Council's election of Dr. G.H. Tomkin as successor of Dr. P. Passa was unanimously approved.
- b) Honorary Secretary: The prolongation of Dr. U.J. Eriksson's term of office by one year was unanimously approved.
- c) Council Members 1997–2000: Drs. T. Halmos (H), M. Hod (Israel), D. Koev (Bulgaria) and I. Valverde (E) were unanimously elected by the General Assembly in place of retiring Council Members Drs J.S. Christiansen, R. Gomis, I. Kalits and G. Schernthaner.

4. Postgraduate Education Sub-Committee

Since it had previously been decided not to hold a PGESC in Stockholm after the 1995 Annual Meeting, a three-day course was run in Birsh-tonas, Lithuania from 21–23 September and was attended by 130 doctors and specialist nurses. The meeting took the format of formal lectures with lively discussions and also interactive workshops with patient involvement.

The next Postgraduate Education Course was held near Graz, Austria, 21–24 March 1996 and was organised by Drs J. Skrha and T. Pieber. Again attendance and interaction of the audience were very good. Finally the PGESC supported a meeting in Marathon, Greece from 3–4 May 1996 for the Mediterranean countries. Immediately following this year's Annual Meeting a PGESC course for physicians, general practitioners and nurses was organised by Dr. J. Skrha in Prague, Czech Republic. Still being prepared were courses in Malta (1/97) and the Ukraine (4/97).

Dr. Berger offered his thanks and pointed out the importance of the PGESC.

5. Study Groups

The President announced a new EASD Study Group on Hypertension. Their first meeting was held in Padua, Italy and proceedings were printed in the August issue of *Diabetologia*.

Regarding the approach to found a Study Group on Psychosocial Aspects, Dr. Berger reported that an announcement had been included in the journal. The official approval for founding this Study Group was still outstanding, but an initial meeting which was held in Stockholm, Sweden, showed a considerable interest in this new Study Group.

6. Honorary Membership

Dr. Berger welcomed Dr. S. Rahbar and Dr. J. Pirart as new Honorary Members of the EASD. The Executive Committee had decided to honour these members for their remarkable research activities. The membership welcomed the new Honorary Members with applause.

Before ending the General Assembly, the President thanked the retiring Executive Committee Members Drs. J. Nunes Correa and K.F. Hanssen as well as those leaving the Council, Drs. M. Antsiferov, C. Berne, G. Pozza and F. Sodoyez-Goffeaux. He also welcomed the new Honorary Treasurer Dr. R.J. Heine (NL), the new Vice-President Dr. P.A. Halban (CH) and the Council Members who were starting their term of office, Drs. B. Frier (UK), H. Ilkova (TR), M. Porta (I) and AJL Scheen (B).

The General Assembly was then brought to a close.

Table 1. Consolidated accounts for the year ended 31. December 1995

Average Exchange rate DM/£	£ 2.4816	£ 2.262
Income	1994	1995
Membership fees incl. Diabetologia	274,090	367,079
Donations	100,834	181,434
Annual Meeting Surpluses		137,317
Bank interest	35,262	36,743
Scientists Training Course	1,956	2,632
Total	412,142	725,205
Expenditure	1994	1995
Salaries	92,007	105,306
Rent	7,434	7,298
Post, Phone/Fax, Printing	24,083	24,201
Travel Expenses	20,388	34,676
Office Costs, incl. Bank charges	19,828	27,357
Extra office help	1,102	1,139
Legal cost and accounting	116	698
Annual Meeting expenses	52,434	83,126
Free loans to Local Organisers		50,000
Travel and Stayment Grants	43,477	55,472
Prizes (A.R. Fellowship, Eli Lilly, Minkowski, Mollegaard)	40,487	67,110
Donation to country hosting the Annual Meeting	66,313	
Donation others	14,916	12,500
Diabetologia subscriptions	272,804	257,956
Membership Directory	16,984	
Editorial Office	20,000	64,788
Other items incl. PGESC	13,468	5,722
Scientists Training Course	30,780	34,195
Total	736,621	831,544
Cash at banks:	31.12.1994	31.12.1995
	£	£
Westminster Bank London		
Current account	500	500
Business Reserve account	23,763	28,703
Money Market account	563,000	380,000
Capital Reserve account	23,766	4,667
Dresdner Bank Düsseldorf		
Current account	52,166	12,205
Money Market account	-	76,560
Fixed (2 years)		59,896
Swiss Bank Corp. Geneva		
Current account	896	938
Money Market account	48,027	55,789
Total £:	712,118	619,258

Year end exchange rates:

1994: £ – DM 2.427 Sfr – DM 118.29

1995: £ – DM 2.2205 Sfr – DM 124.64

Table 2. Future EASD Annual Meetings

1998	8–12 September	Barcelona, Spain
1999	28 September – 2 October	Brussels, Belgium
2000		Jerusalem, Israel
2001		Birmingham, UK
2002		Budapest, Hungary

Table 3. Breakdown of membership by country compared to previous years (as of 31st December):

	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988
Algeria	2	4	4	1	–	1	1	–
Argentina	7	8	7	6	6	6	8	8
Australia	69	62	66	61	54	52	48	42
Austria	70	60	54	57	37	34	39	34
Azerbaijan (CIS)	7	7	–	–	–	–	–	–
Bangladesh	14	6	3	3	1	1	1	1
Belgium	144	133	154	161	140	138	140	111
Bolivia	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
Brazil	13	12	10	9	9	9	9	4
Bulgaria	62	67	59	36	32	24	19	16
Byelorussia (CIS)	3	4	1	–	1	–	–	–
Canada	38	37	36	32	33	33	35	26
Ceylon	1	1	1	1	1	–	–	–
Chad	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Chile	5	4	3	3	4	4	4	3
China	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	1
Columbia	2	2	1	1	–	1	1	1
Costa Rica	–	1	–	1	1	1	1	–
Croatia	33	38	25	22	25	–	–	–
Cuba	2	2	1	–	–	–	1	1
Cyprus	7	9	8	8	8	10	6	5
Czech Rep.	51	60	44	45	70	68	52	46
Denmark	275	249	273	266	256	267	206	212
Dominican Rep.	2	2	1	1	–	1	1	1
Ecuador	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
Egypt	23	20	11	12	12	13	9	8
Estonia	17	8	7	6	5	–	–	–
Finland	102	96	93	100	95	97	87	68
France	229	205	217	218	222	252	254	237
Georgia	3	2	2	1	1	–	–	–
Germany	435	416	363	350	315	319	262	220
Greece	145	138	126	125	131	118	122	82
Guatemala	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
Honduras CA	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
Hungary	62	63	58	56	48	42	41	34
India	14	9	8	9	6	7	8	6
Indonesia	1	1	1	1	1	–	2	–
Iraq	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Iran	1	1	1	1	–	–	–	–
Ireland	20	23	29	34	38	22	14	13
Israel	46	55	48	35	40	45	45	36
Italy	373	451	422	454	427	390	317	284
Japan	112	86	76	62	52	49	40	32
Kazakhstan (CIS)	–	2	3	3	1	–	–	–
Korea	6	5	6	6	3	11	4	4
Kuwait	3	3	3	3	4	5	4	3
Latvia	6	5	1	1	–	–	–	–
Lebanon	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lithuania	12	12	10	9	9	–	–	–
Luxembourg	5	5	3	3	2	2	1	1
Macao	1	1	1	1	–	–	–	–
FYRoMacedonia	12	11	7	2	–	–	–	–
Malaysia	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Malta	3	3	4	–	–	–	–	–

	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988
Mexico	4	4	3	3	3	2	2	1
Morocco	1	2	2	2	3	3	3	1
New Zealand	9	8	10	10	11	7	5	5
Norway	102	70	105	76	68	72	62	56
Oman	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	–
Pakistan	6	5	3	2	2	2	1	–
Panama	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
Paraguay	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Peru	2	2	–	1	1	2	2	–
Philippines	1	1	1	1	2	3	–	–
Poland	93	105	80	63	56	42	31	21
Portugal	97	97	105	55	57	54	53	40
Puerto Rico	–	1	1	–	–	–	–	–
Qatar	1	1	–	–	–	1	1	1
Romania	48	51	44	38	59	49	47	41
Russia	56	52	37	35	30	–	–	–
Saudi Arabia	8	14	17	19	9	8	9	10
Singapore	4	4	3	3	4	4	–	–
Slovak Republik	32	27	20	–	–	–	–	–
Slovenia	30	30	21	13	7	–	–	–
South Africa	14	26	27	35	27	29	10	8
Spain	199	172	162	152	131	122	109	96
Sudan	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	–
Sweden	353	250	310	337	270	253	265	219
Switzerland	75	79	86	85	104	110	110	101
Tahiti	1	1	1	–	–	–	–	–
Taiwan	10	10	12	8	7	6	4	3
Tanzania	2	2	2	1	–	1	1	1
Tatarstan (CIS)	1	1	1	1	–	–	–	–
Thailand	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	2
The Netherlands	232	245	213	180	151	150	141	123
Tonga	–	1	1	1	–	–	–	–
Tunisia	2	2	1	1	1	–	–	1
Turkey	38	42	32	21	13	11	11	9
Ukraine (CIS)	34	29	16	14	10	–	–	–
United A Emirates	1	2	3	1	2	2	1	1
United Kingdom	430	390	404	396	495	420	404	404
USA	264	239	232	209	199	169	165	164
Uruguay	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
Uzbekistan (CIS)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Venezuela	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
Yugoslavia	35	32	–	15	18	37	30	9
Zimbabwe	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Table 4. Figures for membership at the end of 1995 compared to previous years:

as of 31st December:													
1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982
4650	4406	4244	4000	3847	3645	3317	2918	2317	2181	1839	1901	1677	–