



European Federation of Immunological Societies

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Minutes EFIS General Assembly

2nd European Congress of Immunology (ECI 2009)

September 16th, 2009 12:30-2pm

International Congress Center Berlin, Hall 14.2

Attendants

- EFIS board: Stefan Kaufmann, Catherine Fridman, Foo Y. Liew, Hannes Stockinger, Anna Erdei
- EFIS-EU liaison officer: Arnd Hoeveler
- EFIS managing office and assistants: Astrid Hahner, Marie Beuzard, Holger Eble, Felix Kaufmann
- IUIS Secretary General: M.R. Daha
- Other participants: Vaclav Horejsi, Angela Santoni, Radek Spisek, Peter Openshaw, Lorenzo Moretta, Winfried Pickl, Barbara Bohle, Jirina Bartunkova, Gaye Erten
- 40 delegates (of 41 invited) for the 28 member societies of EFIS (see table page 2)



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EFIS Member Society (in brackets Number of invited delegates)	Society Members	Attending Delegate(s)
Austrian Society for Allergology and Immunology (2)	557	Gerhard Zlabinger ; Marcus Saemann
Belgian Immunological Society (1)	82	Oberdan Leo
British Society for Immunology (3)	1969	Judith Willets, Adrian Hayday, DJ Morgan
Bulgarian Society for Immunology (1)	40	Ralitsa Kostadinova
Croatian Immunological Society (1)	149	Sabina Rabatic
Czech Immunological Society (1)	350	Blanka Říhová
Dutch Society for Immunology (3)	1310	R.A.W. van Lier, Y. van Kooyk, C. van Kooten
Estonian Society for Immunology and Allergology (1)	67	Raivo Uiho
French Immunological Society (3)	1050	Armand Bensussan, Roland Liblau, Hans Yssel
German Society for Immunology (3)	1530	Andreas Radbruch, Stefan Meuer, Dieter Kabelitz
Hellenic Society of Immunology (1)	362	Panagiota Boura
Hungarian Society for Immunology (1)	230	Éva Rajnavölgyi
Immunological Society of Serbia (1)	60	Alisa Gruden-Movsesijan
Immunology Society of Slovenia (1)	30	Vladka Čurin Šerbec
Irish Society for Immunology (1)	70	Michelle Armstrong
Israel Immunological Society (1)	225	Ronen Alon
Italian Society for Immunology, Clinical Immunology and Allergy (2)	824	Gianpietro Semenzato, Massimo Locati
Latvian Society for Immunology (1)	22	Simona Donina
Lithuanian Society for Immunology (1)	40	[Mykolas Mauricas] did not show up
Polish Society for Fundamental and Clinical Immunology (1)	300	Janusz Marcinkiewicz
Portuguese Society for Immunology (1)	68	Margarida Carneiro
Romanian Society for Immunology (1)	185	Ana Calugaru
Russian Society for Immunology (1)	107	Valery Chereshev
Scandinavian Society for Immunology (3)	1081	Roland Jonsson, Hanna Jarva, Steffen Thiel
Slovak Immunological Society (1)	155	Milan Buc
Spanish Society for Immunology (2)	640	Dolores Jaraquemada, Ignacio Melero
Swiss Society for Allergology and Immunology (1)	181	Federica Sallusto
Turkish Society of Immunology (1)	360	Gunnur Deniz

1. Adoption of the Agenda and approval of the Minutes of the last GA held in Paris
(www.efis.org/the-federation/statutes-and-minutes)



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The agenda was adopted and the minutes of the last General Assembly were approved.

2. Matters arising

none

3. President's report (S.H.E. Kaufmann)

The outgoing President Stefan Kaufmann extended his warm welcome to the attendants of the General assembly and reminded every active participant to mind the tight schedule during their talks.

He gave a brief overview on the various achievements of EFIS in the past three years, namely the improvement of public visibility of EFIS and immunology in general. There was an increase in the number of meeting supports and fellowships that have been sponsored by EFIS and partners during his presidency. EFIS has also improved its activities by means of public relations, with initiatives like the annual Day of Immunology, the production of a short film on immunology and the publication of a book on immunology for laypeople.

4. Secretary's report (A.Erdei)

The Secretary General noted that the communication with the EFIS members is very efficient, not least due to a centralized EFIS administration. This can be documented e.g. by the appearance of 45 out of 46 eligible voters at the General Assembly 2009.

Since the last General Assembly in Paris (September 2006), the board of EFIS met 9 times:

Rome (February 2007)

Rio de Janeiro (ICI, August 2007)

Berlin (November 2007)

Barcelona (March 2008)

Berlin (June 2008)

Glasgow (September 2008)

Naples (February 2009)

St. Petersburg (June 2009)

Berlin (September 2009)



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The minutes of the meetings were sent out to all national member societies of EFIS afterwards.

The EFIS homepage www.efis.org has been restructured and relaunched in 2008. Every member is encouraged to regularly visit the website which is offering a fast and easily accessible guide through the various activities and funding possibilities of EFIS.

Furthermore, EFIS has developed a new and uniform corporate identity design including new logo (see letterhead) and color schemes.

Lastly, all members were reminded of the following basic operation procedures that EFIS expects to be taken up by all its member societies, in order to ensure effectiveness and continuity throughout our federation:

- The national society shall inform the EFIS office about personal and address changes. Please check whether or not your contact info needs an update: <http://www.efis.org/the-federation/national-societies/index.html>
- EFIS expects good interaction between the national society and its individual members in order to ensure the effective distribution of information through electronic mailings from the EFIS office
- Each member society must ensure that their individual members are aware of their EFIS membership. Individual members should be encouraged to visit the EFIS website on a regular basis, for detailed information and important updates.
- An EFIS member society should have or improve international visibility (e.g. by setting up a homepage, preferably bilingual, with English as the second language).
- Lastly, all EFIS member societies are encouraged to improve the awareness of immunology in the public, i.e. beyond the scene of scientists.

5. Treasurer's report (H. Stockinger)

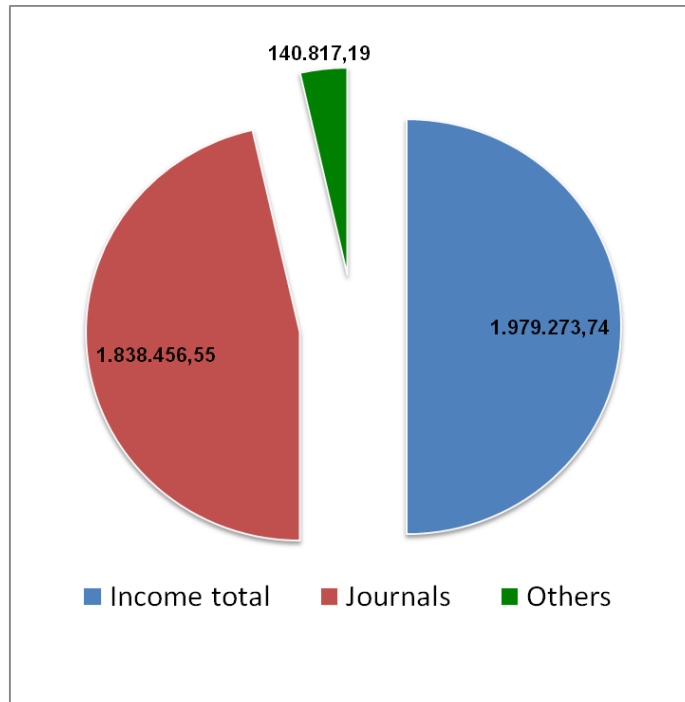
The total income of EFIS 2006-2009 was 1.979.273,74 €, mainly from royalties received from our official journals Immunology Letters and European Journal of Immunology. Spending in 2006-2009 was 1.603.345,62 €, the distribution was as follows:

36% for Prizes and Scholarships
26% for Support of Conferences
16% for Public Relations
12% for Administration of Journals
8% for EFIS Administration

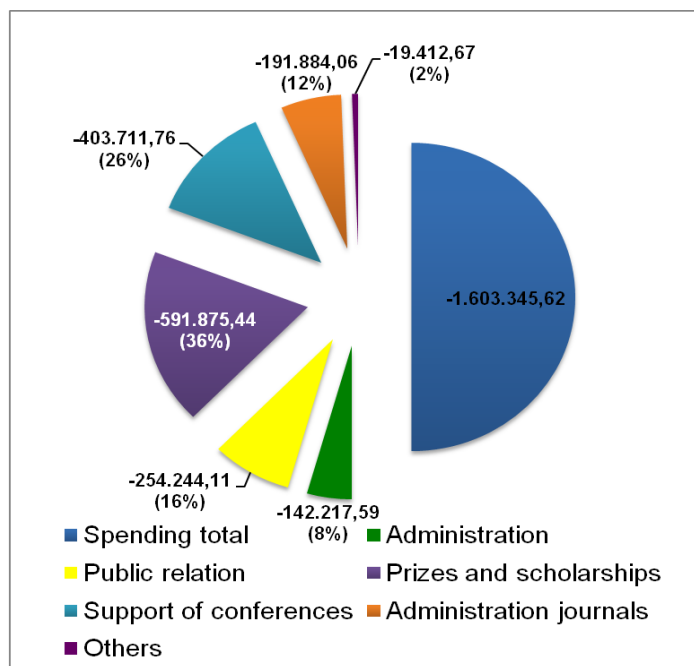


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2% other (bank fees etc.)



Income of EFIS 2006-2009



Spending 2006-2009



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6. Immunology Letters Editor-in Chief's report (V.Horejsi)

The current Editor In Chief of Immunology Letters, Vaclav Horejsi from Prague, presented his following final report (*in italics*). He will step down from his position as Editor in Chief. The President of EFIS, on behalf of the board, expressed his regret about the retirement but also his sincere gratitude for Mr Horejsi's achievements for Immunology Letters. A present was handed over as small recognition.

- *The electronic submission system (EES) works well. Communication with the publisher remains good.*
- *The manuscripts are usually reviewed in less than 3 weeks after submission (referees are asked to provide reviews in 2 weeks). Papers are available online as "uncorrected proofs" cca in 3 weeks after acceptance and are available in printed form cca 2 months after acceptance.*
- *In the previous 12 months the rejection rate was about 60%. About 30% of the manuscripts were rejected without review (only quick editorial review). Currently there is essentially no backlog of accepted papers waiting for definitive publication in printed form with all bibliographical details.*
- *At present there are 6 Executive Editors (McSorley, Minato, Moretta, Stockinger, van Lier, Horejsi). We have 33 additional Editorial Board members (some of them passive, but most of them very cooperative).*
- *The average quality of the accepted papers is improving. The impact factor for 2008 increased to 2,86, the trend in recent years was as follows:*
 - *In the last 6 years the trend was:*

• 2003	1.71	• 2006	2.35
2004	2.14	2007	2.63
2005	2.30	2008	2.86
- *This is still not high enough, but the trend is positive; it is comparable or better than some competitors (especially the trend...) - see the attachment.*
- *In most issues there was at least one (mini)reviews per issue in 2008-2009. At the moment, we have several review manuscripts promised for the next 6 months (and several others for 2010). The authors (except the Editorial Board members) are receiving their 500 EUR fees for the invited reviews. There are a number of non-invited reviews, usually of good quality. In 2008-2009 there were 2 Special Issues (Volume 116, Issue 2, 14th Signals and Signal Processing in the Immune System, an EFIS-EJI Symposium; Volume 122, Issue 2, Vaccination Immunology: Prevention and Beyond, based on Dutch Society for Immunology Course, Lunteren, 2008).*



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- *To summarize, everything goes reasonably well, so after 6 years of service V.H. hands over the journal in a good shape.*

7. Election of new Board Members (Vice President, Secretary General, Treasurer)

The candidates for Vice-Presidency, Lorenzo Moretta (nominated by the Italian Society) and Peter Openshaw (nominated by the British Society) briefly introduced themselves as regards to scientific background and their individual goals for EFIS.

Anna Erdei was nominated by the Hungarian Society of Immunology to continue her position as Secretary General. Hannes Stockinger was nominated by the Austrian Society for Allergology and Immunology to continue his position as Treasurer. The office had not received any competitive nominations.

This introduction was followed by the elections. Of 41 delegates eligible to vote, 40 were present at the general assembly. Together with the board of EFIS, 45 people were thus eligible to vote.

Result:

Vice President:

Peter Openshaw received 19 of 45 possible votes.

Lorenzo Moretta received 26 of 45 possible votes.

Lorenzo Moretta was elected the new Vice President of EFIS.

Secretary General:

Anna Erdei received 45 of 45 possible votes and will continue her position.

Treasurer:

Hannes Stockinger received 45 of 45 possible votes and will continue his position.

8. The EFIS office had received four bids to host the 4th European Congress of Immunology (ECI 2015). All candidates had been encouraged to send their bids to the EFIS member societies prior to the General Assembly.

Winfried Pickl and Barbara Bohle presented the bid by the Austrian Society for Allergology and Immunology (ÖGAI) to host the ECI 2015 in Vienna.



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Jirina Bartunkova presented the bid by the Czech Immunological Society (CIS) bid to host the ECI 2015 in Prague.

Steffen Thiel presented the bid by the Scandinavian Society for Immunology (SSI) to host the ECI 2015 in Copenhagen.

Gaye Erten presented the bid by the Turkish Society for Immunology (TSI) to host the ECI 2015 in Istanbul.

After the presentations, the delegates used the opportunity to interrogate the presenters further, regarding e.g. the scientific program, accessibility and capacity of congress site.

Result:

ÖGAI received 30 of 45 possible votes.

CSI received 1 of 45 possible votes.

SSI received 10 of 45 possible votes.

TSI received 4 of 45 possible votes.

The 4th European Congress of Immunology (ECI 2015) will be hosted by the Austrian Society of Allergology and Immunology in Vienna, Austria.

9. Election of prospective Editor-in-Chief of Immunology Letters

The office had received two nominations for the future successor of Vaclav Horejsi in his position as Editor in Chief of Immunology Letters.

Angela Santoni (nominated by the Italian Society) and Radek Spisek (nominated by the Czech Society) briefly introduced themselves as regards to scientific background and their individual goals for Immunology Letters.

Result:

Angela Santoni received 26 of 45 possible votes.

Radek Spisek received 19 of 45 possible votes.



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Angela Santoni will be suggested as new Editor in Chief of Immunology Letters to the IL publishers (Elsevier).

10. *Farewell* by the Past President, Eddy Liew

Stefan Kaufmann thanked the leaving board member Foo Y. Liew for his continuous enthusiasm and good advice and handed over a present on behalf of the board.

Foo Y. (Eddy) Liew thanked everybody for the pleasant interaction during the past 9 years of his membership in the EFIS board and wished everyone all the best for the future .

11. *Address* by the Vice President, Catherine Sautès-Fridman

Catherine Sautès-Fridman was welcomed as the new President of EFIS (2009-2012). She briefly summarized the goals she will pursue in her 3-year presidency:

In short, EFIS will continue to promote the development of immunological education and research in Europe. Furthermore, EFIS will foster the links between Clinical and Basic Immunology at the European level. Proposed measures to achieve this are a) the organization of satellite symposia for „exchange of knowledge” (i.e. symposia on clinical immunology at basic immunology meetings and vice versa), b) the coordination of an European PhD Program in Immunology that involves Clinical Immunology, c) the organization of an annual Clinical Immunology Course .The first approach has already been initiated at ECI 2006 and ECI 2009.

12. *Address (2 min)* by the elected Vice President

Address (2 min) by the prospective IL Editor-in-Chief

Issue 12 had to be skipped because time was up (there was another session in hall 14.2 after the General Assembly).

13. *Closing* by the President, Stefan Kaufmann

Issue 13 had to be skipped because time was up (there was another session in hall 14.2 after the General Assembly).