



## Minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> GA of the SSB

14th General Assembly of the Swiss Society for Biomaterials  
Thursday, May 8, 2008, Basel, 12.10 - 12.50

**Present (57):** B. Alcock, J. Althaus, H. Ardura-Garcia, M. Benoit, M. Bohner, A.-K. Born, E. Bruguera, A. Bruinink, M. Bufler, F. Cirillo, J.-F. Cl mence, A.U. Daniels, Y. Dirix, N. Doebelin, S. Durual, B. Gander, B. Gasser, D. Gourdon, H. Gruner, T. Hefti, M. Hug, M. Kraft, J. Lema tre, R. Lerf, M. Lewandowska-Szumiel, P. L scher, S. Madduri, R. Mahou, B. Malak, K. Maniura, D. Mohn, F. Moriarty, B. M ller, M. Nolff, L. Pfister, B. Pidhatika, S. Popa-Nita, A. Poulsson, G. Richards, W. Rieger, G. Rizzoli, K. Ruffieux, A. Salito, F. Schlottig, S. Schweizer, A. Seiss, E. Thomasson, V. Simon, P.-H. Vallotton, U. von Ah, E. Vuaridel, C. Wandrey, F. Weber, E. Wenk, A. Wilskott, D. Wirz, A. Zumbuehl.

The SSB President, Geoff Richards (GR), welcomes the members and opens the meeting.

### 1. Agenda

1. Approval of the agenda
2. Protocol of the 13<sup>th</sup> General Assembly
3. Report of the president
4. Report of the treasurer
5. Report of the auditors
6. Budget 2008
7. Election of the Executive Committee (2 year term)
8. Election of the President (1 year term)
9. Sponsoring
10. ESB 2009 in Lausanne
11. SSB 2010
12. Varia

The agenda is unanimously approved.

### 2. Minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

The minutes are unanimously approved.

### 3. Report of the president

GR gives first a quick look back at the 2007 SSB Annual Meeting in Neuch tel. The event gathered 80 participants under the theme of micro- and nanotechnologies in medical applications. GR thanks again PX Group for the organization of the meeting and their generous financial contribution. During the 2007 General Assembly, some

changes occurred in the Executive Committee. After Jacques Lemaître stepped down from the presidency, G. Richards was elected president, M. Bohner vice-president, P.-H. Vallotton secretary and T. Brunner web editor and student rep. Heinz Lüthy, who stepped down from the EC, was awarded a life long honorary membership for his role in the foundation of the SSB and in the EC.

In 2007 the SSB awarded several student prizes for best oral or poster presentations, both at the SSB Annual Meeting (CHF 1000) and at Biosurf (CHF 1000). The SSB sponsored also the participation of Romanian scientists to the SSB 2007 (CHF 1000). GR reminds the audience that the SSB EC had approved the expenditure for six awards of 500 CHF each year to help student members attend a scientific meeting related to biomaterials, and that the awardees can use the money for travel / accommodation help. In 2007, only 1 student travel award (CHF 500) was distributed, due to the lack of applicants.

During the last year the EC decided to implement new initiatives in order to attract more attendants to the Annual Meeting: organization of a networking "farewell" apéro at the end of the sessions, invitation letter from the SSB president to all heads of research institutes in Switzerland. GR insists on the role of SSB (and in particular of its Annual Meeting) in promoting translational research in biomaterials in Switzerland.

ESB2009: the organization of the 2009 Congress of the European Society for Biomaterials in Switzerland has progressed quite a lot due especially to the efforts of a 3 EC members, namely C. Wandrey, M. Bohner, and G. Richards. GR asks the audience to have a look at the ESB2009 website ([www.esb2009.org](http://www.esb2009.org)) for more details.

Finally GR mentions the *European Cells & Materials Journal*, the official journal of the SSB, which offers simplified procedures for publication ([www.ecmjournals.org](http://www.ecmjournals.org)).

#### **4. Report of the treasurer**

A. Salito presents the accounting for 2007. The negative result of CHF 4'506.60 was mainly due to early payments for ESB 2009, whereas income remained in accordance with the budget. On December 31, 2007, the fortune of SSB amounted CHF 30'317.25.

#### **5. Report of the auditors**

Beat Gasser reports in the names of A. Gisep and himself. Accounting 2007 of the SSB was verified by the 2 auditors and found well kept. All the numbers presented were correct. Therefore B. Gasser proposes to accept accounting for 2007.

The proposal is unanimously accepted.

#### **6. Budget 2008**

The 2008 budget should bring a negative result of CHF 8375 due to further payments related to the preparation of ESB 2009. Other expenses for 2008 include the organization of SSB2008 in Basel and student awards, whereas main revenues will be collected from SSB2008 attendance fees, membership fees, and sponsors.

The budget 2008 is unanimously accepted.

#### **7. Election of the Executive Committee**

*Past Executive Committee:*

M. Bohner (vice president)  
T. Brunner (web editor and young scientists' representative)  
H. Gruner  
J. Lemaître  
G. Richards (president)  
K. Ruffieux  
A. Salito  
P-H. Vallotton (secretary)  
C. Wandrey

Dr. Heiko Gruner is resigning from the EC after the 2008 General Assembly. Heiko is a founder of the SSB and has been actively participating to the EC since its beginning in 1995. In 2005, he organized the SSB Annual Meeting on the premises of his company, Medicoat AG, in Mägenwil. In recognition of Heiko's continuous efforts to support and promote the activities of the SSB, the Executive Committee has elected him to be a life-long Honorary Member of the Society. He is presented a certificate together with a friendship gift.

Two calls for new EC members were issued in the last 12 months. The 2 candidates who applied for an EC position (Katharina Maniura and Giancarlo Rizzoli) are presented by GR. These candidates are supported by the present Executive Committee. Therefore the following new Executive Committee is proposed:

M. Bohner (vice president)  
T. Brunner (web editor and young scientists' representative)  
J. Lemaître  
K. Maniura  
G. Richards (president)  
G. Rizzoli  
K. Ruffieux  
A. Salito  
P-H. Vallotton (secretary)  
C. Wandrey

The new Executive Committee is elected by acclamation.

## **8. Election of the President**

Geoff Richards is re-elected president by acclamation.

## **9. Sponsoring**

The number of sponsors is stable. GR expresses his gratitude to all the sponsors in the name of the SSB:

- AO Foundation Davos, CH
- Biotronik GmbH, Berlin, D
- Degradable Solutions AG, Schlieren, CH
- Geistlich Biomaterials, Wohlusen, CH
- Krahn Chemie GmbH Ceramics, Hamburg, D
- Mathys AG Bettlach, Bettlach, CH
- Medicoat AG, Mägenwil, CH
- Mediluc Sagl, Bodio, CH

- Metoxit AG, Thayngen, CH
- Peyer AG, Waltenschwil, CH
- Smith & Nephew, Rotkreuz, CH (replacing Plus Endoprothetics)
- Straumann AG, Waldenburg, CH
- Robert Mathys Stiftung, Bettlach, CH
- Sulzer Metco AG, Wohlen, CH
- Surface Solutions GmbH, Zurich, CH
- Symbios Orthopédie SA, Yverdon, CH
- Synthes Inc, Solothurn, CH

## **10. ESB 2009 in Lausanne**

ESB will take place in Lausanne (Palais de Beaulieu), from Sept 7<sup>th</sup> to Sept 11<sup>th</sup> 2009. The audience is invited to visit the official website of ESB2009 at [www.esb2009.org](http://www.esb2009.org).

The organization is presently looking at sponsors at all levels. The AO Foundation in Davos already announced it would endorse the event in the Main Sponsor category (Euro 15'000).

Advertisement fliers for ESB2009 have been prepared and are available during SSB2008. All SSB members are asked to promote ESB2009 whenever possible.

## **11. SSB 2010**

There will be no SSB Annual Meeting in 2009, due to the organization of ESB 2009 in Lausanne. However ESB2009 will host the SSB General Assembly in Lausanne.

The next SSB meeting will take place at the EMPA Academy in Zürich, and will be organized by Katharina Maniura and Arie Bruinink. The final date will be communicated soon. GR thanks the future organizers for accepting this important task.

## **12. Varia**

1. Future meetings are presented:

- ECM IX on Musculoskeletal Trauma in Davos, June 15-18, 2008
- ECM X on Stem Cells for Musculoskeletal Regeneration in Davos, June 29-July 2, 2009

2. GR speaks a few words in honor of Professor Berton Rahn, who passed away on March 26, 2008. Prof. Rahn was a mentor for many researchers (including our president) at the AO Institute. He organized the ESB 1984 and 1993 conferences in Davos, and has always been an active member and a supporter of the SSB since its foundation. He will be deeply missed.

At 12.50 Geoff Richards closes the General Assembly by thanking the organizers of SSB 2008 and inviting all the GA attendees to a well deserved lunch.

*P.-H. Vallotton, SSB Secretary, 09.05.2008*