



Swiss Society for Biomaterials
Soci t  Suisse des Biomat riaux
Schweizerische Gesellschaft f r Biomaterialien
Societ  Svizzera Biomateriali

President: Dr. Paul-Henri Vallotton, Vice President: Dr. Katharina Maniura, Treasurer: Dr. Giancarlo Rizzoli, Secretary: Prof. Dr. Bert M ller, <http://ssb.biomaterials.ch>

Minutes of the 19th general assembly of the SSB

Kongresszentrum Davos, Wednesday, June 26th, 2013, 11:00 – 12:40

Present: 65 participants according to the 3 lists of participants (enclosed)

The SSB president, P.-H. Vallotton, welcomes the members and opens the general assembly. He thanks the sponsors.

1. Agenda

1. Approval of the agenda
2. Protocol of the 18th general assembly (2012)
3. Report of the president
4. Report of the treasurer
5. Budget 2013
6. Election of the executive committee
7. Election of the president
8. Election of the auditors
9. Sponsoring
10. SSB 2014
11. Modifications of the bylaws
12. Official integration of tissue engineering in SSB purpose and activities
13. Varia

This agenda is unanimously approved.

2. Protocol of the 18th general assembly in Zurich 2012

The protocol is unanimously approved.

3. Report of the president

The president summarizes the activities from 2012 and 2013:

EC-team changes foreseen,
four EC-meetings since the past general assembly,
two newsletters prepared and distributed since the past general assembly,
modified membership and database,
SSB 2012 annual conference and awards (Y. Loosli, A. B. Faia-Torres, C. Millan),
SSB travel awards: L. Galea (RMS), D. Studer (EMPA), C. Millan (ETHZ)
objectives of the SSB
integration of tissue engineering into the scope of SSB

ESB affiliation
ECM journal.

4. Report of the treasurer

Accounting: The accounting per 31.12.2012 is presented by the treasurer. The balance is CHF 86'249.37 compared to the budget 2012 of CHF 85'803.77.

This positive result derives from lower than estimated sponsoring fees (e.g. SSB did not pay ESB sponsoring fee because ESB did not offer the award to its members). This effect yields a positive balance on the expense side, whereas the revenue side was affected by not yet accounted membership fees. This mainly due to a delayed invoicing caused by administrative issues with PayPal and a heavy workload towards the end of the year at the treasurer. The missing fees will be accounted in the financial year 2013.

Auditors report: K. Ruffieux wrote via email: "I have not found any discrepancies and everything seems to be well in order." A. Bruinink, present at the general assembly, added his personal statement that he confirms the balance mentioned above and proposes to accept the accounting.

The members present unanimously accept the report of the treasurer.

5. Budget 2013

The treasurer presents the budget with a negative result of CHF 9'540.-- and explains that the EC has decided to reduce the available means. The relatively high negative result derives from the two-days annual conference at Davos. At this position the revenues are in the same range than in previous years, whereas the expenditures are almost doubled. This is the only notable deviation compared to the previous year's budgets. There is no comment of the members present.

6. Election of the executive committee (EC)

The president presents the changes proposed by the EC. First, he thanks M. Bohner, D. Rothenfluh and A. Poulsson for their active work. In recognition for his long-term engagement in various functions within the EC, including secretary and president, M. Bohner is awarded the Honorary Life Membership of the SSB. Second, he thanks C. Wandrey, who like to stay within the EC but not continue as secretary. Third, he introduces M. Zenobi-Wong and L. Galea, who have expressed their interest to become members of the EC.

Finally, he presents to proposal of the EC:

Paul-Henri VALLOTTON (president – to be elected), Katharina MANIURA (vice-president), Bert MUELLER (secretary), Giancarlo RIZZOLI (treasurer), David EGLIN (web editor), Laëtitia GALEA (student representative), Christine WANDREY (member), Marcy ZENOBI-WONG (member), Pierre-Etienne BOURBAN (member)

Marc PETITMERMET should continue as the webmaster of the society.

The members present unanimously vote for the proposed EC.

7. Election of the president

The vice-president asks the president to leave the room and starts the discussion on the election. The members present unanimously vote for P.-H. Vallotton without any points raised for a discussion from the members.

8. Election of the auditors

The members present vote for A. Bruinink and K. Ruffieux. A. Bruinink accepts the task. In case K. Ruffieux would not accept a re-election, M. Bohner will replace him.

9. Sponsoring

The president thanks the sponsors of the society. He invites the members to search for further sponsors of the society and emphasizes that the fees remain reasonably low (CHF 300 for regular sponsors, which applies for small- to medium-sized enterprises and CHF 500 for major sponsor, which applies for large enterprises). The benefits include a link on the SSB webpage and the appearance of sponsor's logo in conference proceedings. The sponsor's money is used for inviting internationally renowned lecturers at the SSB annual conferences, the best student poster as well as oral presentation at the SSB annual conference, and awards for student members to partly cover travel costs to biomaterials conferences.

10. SSB 2014

SSB 2014, the 20th Swiss Conference on Biomaterials, will take place in Basel (MEDARTIS AG, Hochbergerstrasse 60E, 4057 Basel). It will be jointly organized by the company and the Biomaterials Science Center of the University of Basel on May 8th. The theme will be "Ion and molecule release from biomaterials - pros and cons".

11. Modifications of the bylaws

The president explains that there are three issues, which require an adaptation of the bylaws. First, the modified membership rules have to be implemented. Second, the regulations on the election of the EC and the president should be according to the voting procedure, which includes the alignment of the one-year term for both president and EC. Third, the potential resignation of SSB from ESB should be appropriately treated. The president shows the proposed modifications on the slides and asks for voting. The members present accept the proposed changes of the Articles 3, 4 and 6. The modified bylaws are attached to the minutes and will be posted on the SSB website.

12. Official integration of tissue engineering in SSB purpose and activities

The president informs on the extended discussion among the EC and honorary members during the previous months with the aim to officially integrate tissue engineering activities into the scope of the society. The reasons for such an integration are the strong connections between biomaterials and tissue engineering in current research activities, the shift in academic research from classical biomaterials to regenerative medicine, the increasing number of tissue engineering-related presentations during the annual conference, the closer relation between potential applications of tissue engineering and clinical needs, and last but not least the absence of a dedicated tissue engineering society in Switzerland.

The EC recommends the following actions:

- to create a task force of SSB members to precisely define the purpose, the goals and the organisational needs to better include the tissue engineering activities,
- to present a proposal for amendments to our current bylaws during the next general assembly in 2014,
- to change the name of the society as of today to "Swiss Society for Biomaterials and Regenerative Medicine".

The discussion among the members present shows that these actions are generally supported.

There are, however, several alternative suggestions for the change of the name, which are partly withdrawn.

The president initiates the following voting procedures:

first, the members vote on the question: Should tissue engineering activities be integrated in the scope of the society? Only one member votes against this integration.

second, should the name of the society be changed as of today? 37 members vote YES, 19 members vote NO and three members abstain.

third, should the name be "Swiss Society for Biomaterials and Regenerative Medicine" or "Swiss Society for Biomaterials and Tissue Regeneration"? 24 members vote for the first proposal and 23 members vote for the second proposal.

Therefore, the name of the society is as of today June 26th, 2013: "**Swiss Society for Biomaterials and Regenerative Medicine**".

The president concludes the discussion on this topic repeating that the EC will initiate the setup of a task force, in which the SSB members will be invited to participate. This task force will be in charge of proposing actions and organizational needs during the next general assembly to ensure an optimized incorporation of tissue engineering in the scope of society.

13. Varia

International Union of Societies for Biomaterials Science and Engineering (IUSBSE):

Following the decision of the general assembly 2012, the EC has continued to request from ESB the same rights as those given to other national societies not affiliated to ESB. On January 7th, 2013, the SSB president wrote a letter to ESB president L. Ambrosio to obtain a clear position of the ESB on the issues raised. The ESB secretary replied on January 17th, 2013 on behalf of the ESB council that our requests would be discussed during their next meeting in Madrid, March 18th, 2013. However, the SSB never received any feedback from the council discussions, despite several warnings that SSB would cancel its affiliation to ESB without any answer until the 2013 general assembly. Therefore, the president initiates the voting procedure on the following item:

Do you give the EC the mandate to immediately cancel the affiliation to ESB and to apply directly to IUSBSE for a membership? The members support this initiative with a clear majority (no opposition, 5 abstentions) and agree to adapt the article 2 of the bylaws accordingly. Therefore, the president will communicate this result to the ESB.

None other varia item is discussed.

At 12:40, the president closes the general assembly by thanking the attendees for their participation and contributions.



Bert M ller, July 3rd, 2013 (draft to be approved during 2014 general assembly)
SSB secretary

Annex: Three lists of participants, modified and accepted bylaws