



EAMS Newsletter Spring 2006

Membership numbers. EAMS now has 119 members living and working in 19 European and 7 other countries. **It is important that all members inform the Treasurer of any changes in contact details.**

Financial state.

The finances of EAMS are healthy. However a significant number of members have not kept their subscriptions up to date. It is important that these subscriptions are collected as EAMS still faces many uncertainties. There are several options for payment of subscription. Electronic transfer of money works well within the Euro zone. However there have been suggestions the one member could collect subscriptions within each country. Valentín Madrid has volunteered to do this for Spanish members in order to reduce bank transfer costs, and this initiative is very welcome. One possibility is that Council Members could take responsibility for collecting subscriptions in their own country. Members from outside the Euro Zone may wish to pay as a group in order to minimize the larger bank fees. Individual members may make cash payments to the Treasurer at our meetings, but cash payment is not suitable for groups as the Treasurer would have the responsibility and security concerns of carrying too much cash. Payment of subscriptions is a prerequisite of being a member of Council and having a vote at the General Assembly. All members are urged to check their subscription status within the next few weeks – before the Council members are chosen.

Election of members to the Council. The 2005 General Assembly of EAMS decided that, in accordance with the Bye-Laws, a Council should be formed and that it should meet on the day before the 2006 General Assembly of EAMS. The Bye-Laws state that any European country with at least 10 Active members is entitled to elect a representative to the Council, but this is unrealistic and the Board believes that all European countries with an active member should be entitled to have a Council member. It is up to the EAMS members of each country to elect their member. Within a few weeks the Secretary of EAMS will send the names and e-mail addresses of EAMS members with current subscriptions in each country to all the members of that country. If the members of any country wish, the EAMS Secretary could organise an election, but the Board would prefer if national members themselves organise a decision on their own Council member.

The Council meeting has now been scheduled to run from 17:30 h to 19:15 h on Saturday 3rd of June 2006. The meeting will be held in Magna Room in Sofitel Hotel, which is a few minutes walk from the conference centre.

Election of Board Members. The General Assembly in Vienna decided that the present members of the Board should continue in office until the meeting in Madrid. The Board proposes that the next President will be John Henderson and that the next Secretary will be Flavia Petrini, while Peter Biro will continue in the post of Treasurer for another two years. The Board proposes Pierre Diemunsch to be President Elect, and he is willing to take on this task. **All paid-up members are entitled to stand for**

any of these positions, and anyone wishing to do so should let the secretary know so that an election can be held at the Council Meeting.

General Assembly of EAMS 2007. This will be held Sunday 04/06/2006 at 17:30 – 19:00 in the meeting room where our symposia are held.

EAMS dinner. The EAMS meeting in Madrid is particularly important as it includes the first Council meeting. To mark this occasion, a dinner for EAMS members will be provided at no charge to full members. Valentín Madrid has organised the dinner, which has been subsidised by airway companies in Spain. The dinner will follow the Council meeting and will start at 19:30 in the Sofitel Hotel. **Those wishing to attend should let Valentín (valentin@intubacion.org) know so that numbers can be organised.** It is hoped that as many members as possible will come to the dinner (the dinner in Vienna, organised by Ernst Zadrobilek was greatly enjoyed by those present). The dinner will be free of charge to EAMS members who have paid their subscription, but there will be a cost of Euros 30 for partners of members. **The Treasurer will arrange to cover mineral water, 1 beer and 0.3L wine per member. Other drinks are the responsibility of the individual members and they should pay on receiving these drinks so that there are no problems with payment at the end of the meal.**

Scientific Programmes for EAMS meetings in Madrid and Munich. The programmes for the Scientific Meetings of EAMS in 2004 and 2005 were created in conjunction with Gordon Drummond of the ESA. In March 2005 John Henderson was invited to the Scientific Programme Committee meeting in Brussels. It seemed at first that the purpose of the meeting was to be an observer. It subsequently became clear that EAMS was being treated as a committee of ESA, in preparing the ESA meeting scientific programme. An important purpose of this meeting in Brussels each year seems to be to prevent duplication between the symposia proposed by the different committees of ESA. After the ESA and EAMS meetings in Vienna, there was pressure from ESA for almost immediate creation of a programme for the 2006 meeting in Vienna (they normally complete their programmes at least 18 months before the meeting). This EAMS programme was created from previous suggestions of EAMS members. The programme for the 2007 meeting in Munich was discussed by the Board of Directors in Zurich in January 2006. We worked on the basis that we would have 4 symposia on the Sunday of the Euroanaesthesia meeting, the structure of the previous three meetings. However the template provided by ESA gave us 3 symposia, plus 3 Refresher Course Lectures and a couple of “Workshops”. We requested 4 symposia in the same room on the Sunday of Euroanaesthesia, but were told that we could only have 3 symposia and there was no guarantee that they would be on the same day. This arrangement is much less satisfactory for EAMS than that achieved at the previous three meetings. There are problems with the space available in the Congress Centre in Munich. However it is important for EAMS that we revert to a meeting of 4 symposia in a single room on the Sunday of Euroanaesthesia.

Mechanisms for organising the programmes of future meetings. Members of EAMS have provided many ideas for symposia. **Could EAMS members please continue to do this and please also provide ideas, with names, for Refresher Course Lectures.**

EAMS and ESA. Much of the history of the relationship between EAMS and ESA has been presented in the section of the Scientific Programmes for Madrid and Munich. However some points do not relate to the scientific programme. There is little doubt that ESA is keen to have airway management as an important topic and that the arrival of EAMS has provided a convenient mechanism to achieve that. The arrival of EAMS was particularly welcomed by the Respiration Committee, as about half of the abstracts allocated to them are on airway management and they are delighted that we could take on the work of evaluating these abstracts. In November 2005 we were advised that we should prepare to deal with an “avalanche of abstracts” and that we should submit a list of names to Gordon Drummond. Volunteers were sought and a list of names was submitted. We were then told that three names were needed, and Gordon Drummond made some suggestions. Eventually the assessors were John Henderson, Peter Biro and Dominique Boisson-Bertrand. In January 2006 we assessed and grouped 97 abstracts. This is an example of a major contribution of EAMS to the work of ESA.

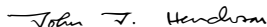
ESA assessment forms. The Vienna 2005 evaluation was the most comprehensive ever carried out by ESA, and it is probable that in the future sessions will be evaluated in part by the number of evaluation forms returned. The number of assessments returned for the EAMS sessions in Vienna were: 24, 34, 12, and 10. These clearly do not reflect the number of delegates attending our sessions, as there was standing room only, particularly in the "can't intubate, can't ventilate" and obstetric sessions. In the future we will need chairpersons to repeatedly stress that EAMS wants delegates to return assessment forms as evidence of the number of delegates who have attended our sessions.

EAMS and meetings in other countries.

One of the aims of EAMS is to raise standards of airway management. We have been approached by airway enthusiasts in a number of countries for help with meetings, and we have encouraged them to make a formal request for help to EAMS. Our aim is to help them to be able to run local and national airway meetings from their own resources in the future. Ulrich Braun and John Henderson contributed presentations and workshops on airway management to an anaesthesia meeting in Bursa, Turkey in February 2006. In March 2006 Ulrich Braun and Flavia Petrini contributed to a meeting in Tirana, Albania. EAMS has agreed to pay for the travel expenses.



Ulrich Braun,
President



John Henderson
Secretary



Peter Biro
Treasurer

Other airway meetings

The 2006 SAM (Society for Airway Management) meeting will be held in San Diego 15 – 17 September. Details are on their Web site (sam.zorebo.com).

The 2006 DAS (Difficult Airway Society) meeting will be held in Dublin. There will be a full day of workshops on 4th October, and the Scientific Programme will be on 5 – 6 October. There will be an extensive social programme. Details are on the meeting Web site (www.dasdublin2006.com).