

Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 4 May 2021 16:00-17:30 CEST
Virtual meeting - GotoWebinar

MEETING MINUTES

To access supporting documents, slides and meeting recording, please visit [MyECTS](#).

1. Welcome & President's Report – Bo Abrahamsen

The ECTS President, Bo Abrahamsen, welcomed all attendees.

He informed attendees how to communicate, ask questions during the virtual AGM link and how members can cast eballot votes in the members' area MyECTS.

Declaration of quorum

The General Assembly may deliberate validly if the quorum of 15 full members are present or represented is achieved. As the necessary quorum was present, ECTS President, Bo Abrahamsen declared the meeting duly constituted.

Attendees were informed that meeting is recorded.

Motion to approve the minutes of ECTS AGM of 16 May 2020

ECTS members were invited to vote to approve the Minutes of the ECTS AGM held in as virtual meeting on 16 May 2020. 43 members responded to the vote: 41 in favor and 2 abstain. The resolution was therefore carried as a simple majority.

Retirement of ECTS Board members and presentation of incoming Board members

ECTS President Bo Abrahamsen presented the ECTS Board composition and informed that Elena Tsourdi will retire from the Board, as ECTS Academy representative.

The ECTS Academy has appointed Ciro Menale as new Academy chair into the ECTS Board of Directors.

Bo Abrahamsen asked ECTS members to vote for Resolution 2: appoint Ciro Menale into the ECTS Board. 45 members responded to the vote: 45 in favor. The resolution was carried unanimously.

Bo Abrahamsen congratulated Ciro and thanked Elena for her continued support to the ECTS Board.

Bo Abrahamsen presented retiring ECTS Board members: Gudrun Stenbeck, Barbara Obermayer-Pietsch, Carola Zillikens and he thanked them for their continued support.

The new elected ECTS Board members were presented:

- Claudine Blin
- Willem Lems
- Salvatore Minisola

2. ECTS strategy review - Bo Abrahamsen

The 2021-2023 strategy was presented during the 2020 Annual General Meeting. ECTS President, Bo Abrahamsen reminded about ECTS strategic directions and provided with an update on activities:

- Science: *from research to practice, provide **equal opportunities and remove barriers***
 - Digitalisation of events and courses to support calcified tissue research engagement despite the pandemic
 - Bringing back an ECTS journal, new collaboration with Bone Reports
- Collaboration: *create **new research and educational opportunities** through scientific exchanges*
 - An informal interactive programme of ECTS Coffee Shops
 - Enhanced social media presence
- Leadership: *empower all our members by **providing value at all stages** of career development*
 - New Clinical Training Course
 - CME accreditation of the monthly ECTS Webinars
- Society: *strengthen the representation of our society, be more **inclusive and visibly transparent***
 - Proposed direct election of ECTS Presidents.
 - Revamp of ECTS website with integration of ECTS Academy website

ECTS President Bo Abrahamsen presented upcoming ECTS Congresses:

- ECTS 2021 Digital Congress :
6-8 May 2021 : Live Prime Time
19-20 May, 10-11 and 18 June 2021 : ECTS@Home

- ECTS 2022 :
07-10 May 2020, Helsinki, Finland.
06 May : Pre-Congress Day
- ECTS 2023:
07-08 May 2023, Liverpool, UK
05 May: Pre-Congress Day

3. Treasurer's Report-Christian Meier

The 2020 end of year accounts, 2021 and 2022 strategic budgets were presented by ECTS Treasurer, Christian Meier and are available to members in the [AGM lounge](#).

Accordingly, to the ECTS bylaws, these need to be approved by the ECTS members, together with the discharge of the directors.

Remarks concerning the 2020 Accounts:

- The financial loss of the year was of only -3,241.76€ compared to the estimated loss of -70,850 which was approved during the 2020 Annual General Meeting.
- Despite the virtual format of events, we were able to stabilize our revenues and we considerably lowered the operating expenses
- The loss will have no negative impact on the ECTS reserves as this mainly concern ICCBH funds

Christian Meier also showed the ECTS liabilities and the cash at bank of over 1,000,000€ between UK and Belgium bank accounts.

The 2020 accounts were unanimously approved by the 48 members who voted to the resolution to adopt the 2020 annual accounts.

Remarks concerning the 2021 budget

- All events, main source of revenues, have been transitioned to a virtual format. ICCBH has post-poned all 2021 events to 2022.
- A new training course for clinicians in training is introduced
- In 2020 the members approved the 2021 budget with an estimated profit of 11,250€
- After new forecasts that will reduce the income and charges, the final profit will slightly be reduced to 7,150€
- The ICCBH will have no income planned for 2021 and is expecting a loss of -23,380€.

Full details on the 2021 ECTS and ICCBH budgets are available in the members' only [AGM lounge](#).

Remarks concerning the 2022 budget

- Budget expectations are based on physical events
- Operational expenses will be kept stable allowing a year-end profit of 2,250€
- ICCBH will organize 3 events during the course of 2022 and are forecasting a profit of 96,714€

ECTS President Bo Abrahamsen asked ECTS members to vote for Resolution 4: Motion to adopt 2022 Budget (ECTS and ICCBH). 50 members responded to the vote: 49 in favor, 1 abstain.

ECTS President Bo Abrahamsen asked ECTS members to vote for Resolution 5: Motion Discharge of the Board of Directors from liability for the financial year ending 31 December 2020. 51 members responded to the vote: 49 in favor, 2 abstain.

3. Secretary's report- Gudrun Stenbeck

ECTS Secretary, Gudrun Stenbeck, thanked ECTS for the 6 years in the Board and presented report on ECTS 2021 Membership with following numbers:

2021 MEMBERSHIP

Full membership €95 – 219

Student membership €45 – 101

Corporate membership – 4 companies

AFFILIATED MEMBERSHIP

24 European national societies – 8,000 members

10 international societies – 10,500 members

International Federation of Musculoskeletal Research Societies (IFMRS) - ECTS, as a founding member, is represented by Bente Langdahl (co-chair) and Gudrun Stenbeck (board member).

Then Gudrun Stenbeck presented geographical distribution of the membership.

Gudrun Stenbeck presented and explained ECTS structure and governance as below:

- ECTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS - Elected by members
- ECTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - Finance and strategy
President, President-elect or Past-president, Treasurer, Secretary and Executive Director
- ECTS COMMITTEES & ACTION GROUPS - composed of ECTS members
16 action groups with 100 members.
- ECTS STAFF – Roberta Mugnai, Dorota Doszko, Naomi Mardaci
- ECTS CONGRESS Secretariat – 2021: Interplan supported by Roberta Mugnai.

Gudrun Stenbeck presented also new joint initiative that are:

- ECTS Central European Action Group together with Gemstone: initiative for a shared musculoskeletal cohort databank to launch in June 2021
- ECTS IFMRS-working groups representatives:

Future Global leaders: Katharina Jähn-Rickert, Elisabeth Winter

Education: Nuria Guanabens, Gudrun Stenbeck

Big Data: Jon Tobias, Carolina Medina-Gomez

Revised ECTS Bylaws

ECTS Secretary, Gudrun Stenbeck, presented the proposed revised statutes of ECTS and the purpose behind the revision:

- Allowing members to directly elect the President-Elect.
- Allowing Board members to approve resolutions by email.
- Adapting to recent changes to Belgian associations' law

The track-changed version of the statutes was circulated in advance and is available for reference to members in the [AGM lounge](#).

In a nutshell, the revised statutes will clarify:

- The role of President-Elect / President / Past-President and its term of office.
 - o The members nominate and elect the President-Elect.
 - o Term of office: President-Elect for 1 year / President for 3 years / Past-President for two years
- President Elect / President / Past President is also a Director during the duration of the mandate

ECTS President Bo Abrahamsen asked ECTS members to vote for Resolution 6: Approval of Bylaws changes. 49 members responded to the vote: 46 were in favor, 2 abstained, 1 rejected. The motion was approved by simple majority.

4. Committee Reports

Education Committee - Núria Guañabens

ECTS Education Committee Chair, Núria Guañabens presented report on the committee activities. First she presented new Action Groups composition as below:

- PhD training Action Group: Cristina Sobacchi, Thomas Andersen, Denise Van der Laarsch, Donata Iandolo (Academy)
- Clinical Training Action Group: Luigi Gennari, Morten Frost (Academy)
- E-learning Action Group: Lars Folkestad, Jessica Pepe, Maria-Bernadette Madel, Katharina Jähn-Rickert (Academy)

Then Nuria Guañabens informed about past activities, including:

- PhD training courses (ECTS-GEMSTONE): Digital Masterclass for PhD Students, Trainees and Young Investigators, 23-25 June 2020. Virtual event. Organisers: Anna Teti, Claudine Blin, Carmen Huesa, Nerea Alonso, Katherine Staines, Núria Guañabens.

- Clinical Training courses: ECTS-Mellanby Training Course Diagnostic Tests for Osteoporosis – Clinical Use of Bone Turnover Markers, 17 November 2020. Virtual event. Organiser: Richard Eastell
- E-learning: 10 webinars/year. Some webinars in collaboration with ICCBH, ANZBMS
“ECTS2020@home: the ECTS Congress Avant Première”, 19 May 2020. Organiser: Bram van der Eerden

The planned future activities are:

- PhD training courses (ECTS-GEMSTONE): Digital Masterclass for PhD Students, Trainees and Young Investigators, 24-27 August 2021. Virtual event.
Organisers: Claudine Blin, Carmen Huesa, Nerea Alonso, Thomas Levin Andersen, Katherine Staines, Yohann Wittrant, Núria Guañabens
- Clinical Training courses: ECTS-Clinical training course in metabolic bone diseases, 2-3 September 2021. Virtual event. Organisers: Richard Eastell, Núria Guañabens
A second-year training course to be held in 2022.
- eLearning: webinars/year

Research Committee - Barbara Obermayer-Pietsch

ECTS Research Committee Chair Barbara Obermayer-Pietsch thanked Board and ECTS Staff for the cooperation during her term in the ECTS Board. Then she presented Composition of the Action Groups that is as below:

Grants and Awards Action Group

- Peter Pietschmann- Co-Chair
- Jennifer Walsh
- Olivier Peyruchaud
- Andrea Burden

Academy Member Selection Action Group

- Martina Rauner- Co-Chair
- Nadia Rucci
- Julien Paccou
- Outi Mäkitie

Barbara Obermayer-Pietsch presented 2021 Awards winners:

- Iain T Boyle Award-Anjali Kusumbe
- Philippe Bordier Award-Jens Bollerslev

- Mike Horton Award- Andre G Uitterlinden
- Steven Boonen Award- Cyrus Cooper
- Excellence in research Award- Kennerth Saag

Barbara Obermayer-Pietsch congratulated awards winners and she presented ECTS Fellowship winners:

- ECTS Basic Fellowship: Biagio Palmisano
- ECTS Clinical Fellowship: Mara Papageorgiou

Clinical Science Committee - Carola Zillikens

ECTS Clinical Science Committee Chair Carola Zillikens presented report on the committee activities. First Carola presented Action Groups composition:

Clinical Practice Action group: Jean-Jacques Body (Co-chair), Christian Meier, Andrea Palermo, Eugene McCloskey (replaced by John Carey), Jessica Pepe (replaced by Athanasios Anastasilakis), Elena Tsourdi (project-based)

Rare Diseases Action group: Martine Cohen-Solal (Co-chair), Luca Sangiorgi, Daniela Merlotti, Heide Siggelkow, Corinna Grasemann

Then Carola Zillikens presented Clinical Practice action group publications:

Manuscripts Published:

- Medical Management of Patients After Atypical Femur Fractures: a Systematic Review and Recommendations From the ECTS. van de Laarschot DM, McKenna MJ, Abrahamsen B, Langdahl B, Cohen-Solal M, Guañabens N, Eastell R, Ralston SH, Zillikens MC. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2020 May 1
- Osteoporosis case ascertainment strategies in European and Asian countries: a comparative review. Burden AM, Tanaka Y, Xu L, Ha YC, McCloskey E, Cummings SR, Glüer CC. Osteoporos Int. 2020 Dec 10.
- Osteoporosis in premenopausal women: a clinical narrative review by the ECTS and the IOF. Pepe J, Body JJ, Hadji P, McCloskey E, Meier C, Obermayer-Pietsch B, Palermo A, Tsourdi E, Zillikens MC, Langdahl B, Ferrari S. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2020 May 26
- Fracture risk and management of discontinuation of denosumab therapy: a systematic review and position statement by ECTS. Tsourdi E, Langdahl B. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2020 Oct 26

Manuscripts submitted:

- Bariatric surgery and skeletal health: A narrative review and position statement for management by the ECTS (by Julien Paccou and Elena Tsourdi)

Manuscripts in progress:

- Population-based screening for fracture risk (led by Eugene McCloskey)

- Biochemical markers of bone fragility in diabetes (Chris Meier; joint venture with IOF)
- Imminent fracture risk (led by Eugene McCloskey: joint venture with FRAX group/IOF)
- Review of incidence and risk factors in real world for ONJ (cancer and non-cancer; led by Athanasios & Jean-Jacques Body)
- Tumor-induced osteomalacia by A. Bosman, A. Palermo, M. C. Zillikens and J-J Body.

Several manuscripts approved by ECTS (e.g., 2 on HRpQCT, ESE white paper) and collaborative joint statements (e.g., with ASBMR on Covid-19)

Then Carola Zillikens presented the Clinical Rare Bone diseases AG activities:

- Manuscript: Hypophosphatasia in adolescents and adults: overview of diagnosis and treatment. Bianchi ML, Bishop NJ, Guañabens N, Hofmann C, Jakob F, Roux C, Zillikens MC; Rare Bone Disease Action Group of the ECTS. Osteoporosis Int. 2020.
- Other committee activities are ECTS coffeeshops on rare bone diseases.
- Collaboration with ERN BOND: State of the art manuscripts and registries on three diseases
 1. Osteopetrosis (manuscript led by Martine Cohen-Solal)
 2. Meleorheostosis (manuscript led by Geert Mortier)
 3. Ollier/Maffucci (led by Luca Sangiorgi)

Communication Committee - Andre van Wijnen

Andre van Wijnen, committee chair presented Action Groups composition:

- Chair: Andre van Wijnen
- Co-Chair: Alex Ireland
- Web site: Marco Ponzetti
- Newsletter: Petar Milovanovic
- Social media: Alex Ireland (& Graziana Colaianni, 2021)
- E-learning platform: Lars Folkestad
- Members: Ursula Heilmeier & Natalie Butterfield
- Other Contributors: Huesa Carmen, Steen Morten Hansen, Heide Siggelkow

Then Andre van Wijnen presented Committee activities, that are:

Website: Andre explained what information can be found on the ECTS website. He mentioned that there are many additional options if you log in to the members area.

Newsletter: a monthly newsletter is sent to the ECTS community to inform about ECTS achievements and future activities, developments in the field.

Social Media: regular news are also shared via the ECTS Social media accounts. Facebook and LinkedIn are connected with ECTS Website. Current ECTS Twitter accounts are as follow:

- @ECTS_soc official business, policy, endorsement, membership, organisation (managed by staff)
- @ECTS_science scientific interaction, links, highlights and discussion (RT is not endorsement) (managed by researchers)
- @AcademyEcts: the ECTS Academy (managed by academy members)
- Andre presented also report of activity on ECTS Twitter accounts.

Future communications activities will include:

- Website development including integration with ECTS App, e-learning platform integration and social media integration
- Content creation to social media
- Social media engagement with other societies, overlapping science areas, membership and conference attendance building.

ECTS Academy Report - Annegreet Vlug

Chair of the ECTS Academy – Annegreet Vlug presented report on ECTS Academy Activity.

There are currently 37 members from all across Europe, MDs and PhDs.

Criteria to apply for the academy membership are:

- Within 10 years after first degree
- Research excellence
- Commitment to society
- Recommendation from two supporting mentors

Annegreet presented then upcoming Academy activities during the ECTS annual congress May 2021

- NI Seminar
- 6 additional presentations in a friendly interactive environment
- NI Mentoring session
- Next Generation Synergy session
- exchange programme reports
- introduction of other international societies
- Poster Forums and Poster Tours (basic & clinical)
- Charity Event (In collaboration with ECTS)
- Planking challenge to raise funds for Osteogenesis Imperfecta

There were following Academy activities throughout the year:

- Social media

ID cards, mentor stories, favorite scientific picture, best congress experience

- Webinar series

Aim: promote younger PIs and collaboration with early career groups of international partner societies

- Outreach to other Societies

Networking with young investigators around the globe (exchange programme, joint webinars and educational videos, Newsletter coverage)

- Scientific dissemination to lay public

Reproduction of scientific publications in a succinct and comprehensible manner

- Inter-Academy Collaborations

Several ongoing consortia (Fidelio, GEMSTONE)

Then Chair of the ECTS Academy – Annegreet Vlug introduced newly elected ECTS 2021 Academy members and she congratulated them:

- Gonzalo Sanchez-Duffhues
- Stella D'Oronzo
- Mustafa Unal
- Jeroen Geurts
- Adalbert Raimann

ICCBH Report - Frank Rauch

ICCBH Steering Committee Chair Frank Rauch reported on ICCBH activities.

As a reminder the International Congress on Children's Bone Health is organized by an independent body but administered by ECTS.

ICCBH organizes a bi-ennial meeting and the last one took place in 2019 in Salzburg, June 22 to 25, 2019.

Frank Rauch presented ICCBH activities from 2020:

[Organised Virtual Forum: Bone Fragility Disorders in Children](#)

Held online, 18-20 November 2020. Abstracts in JBMR Plus (open access)

Set up New Investigator Networking Group

Organisers: Adalbert Raimann (Vienna, Austria) and Marie-Eve Robinson (Ottawa, Canada)

Following events were postponed to 2022:

- ICCBH Bone School: 3-day educational course on paediatric bone health and rare bone diseases. Postponed to 29 June – 1 July 2022 (Dublin, Ireland)
- 10th International Conference on Children's Bone Health. Postponed to 2-5 July 2022 (Dublin, Ireland)
- 14th International Conference on Osteogenesis Imperfecta. Postponed to 30 August – 2 September 2022 (Sheffield, UK)

Frank informed about ICCBH partnership with ECTS on following activities:

- Partners with ECTS for webinars:
 - Osteopetrosis (Anna Villa) 3 March 2021
 - Hypophosphatasia (Carola Zillikens) 9 September 2021
- Partners with ECTS for workshops:
 - ECTS-ICCBH Rare Bone Diseases Workshop 10 June 2021, 09:00-11:30 CET
- ICCBH New Investigator Awards: For work submitted to ECTS on paediatric bone health and rare bone diseases.

Another ICCBH actions are:

- Collaboration and support: Quarterly New Investigator Networking Group meetings (info via email to iccbh-ni@googlegroups.com). Member of European Rare Bone Forum Associate member of IFMRS
- Strategic planning workshop of the ICCBH Steering Committee. To discuss future ICCBH activities, governance, structure May 2021
- Regular ICCBH eBulletins: Grant and job opportunities, recent publications relating to paediatric bone health, events calendar, ICCBH activities.
- Social media
 - Twitter: @childrensbones
 - Facebook: ICCBH

Frank Rauch thanked ECTS Board, Members and Staff for support.

ECTS Basic Science Committee Report - Geert Carmeliet

Geert Carmeliet, Basic Science Committee Chair presented the AG members and thanked leaving action group: Moustapha Kassem, Wim Van Hul, Reinold Erben and Eleni Douni for their efforts, dedication and commitment during the last years. She welcomed new members: Jan Tuckermann, Katherine Staines, Kent Soe, Sylvain Provot and Arancha Grotazar.

Then Geert Carmeliet presented current committee activities, that are:

- re-evaluating format, criteria and categories of basic science abstracts submitted.
 - for ECTS meeting
- re-evaluating review criteria of basic science abstracts submitted for ECTS meeting.
- developing incentives to attract basic scientists to ECTS meeting, especially young scientists.

Geert Carmeliet also informed about manuscripts in preparation:

- Imaging of osteocytes and osteocyte lacunae using 2D and 3D techniques: characteristics, advantages and limitations
- What can Finite Element Methods teach us on bone biology: explanation for the non-expert scientist.
- Use of metabolic techniques in skeletal cells: challenges and pitfalls.

Q&A and closing - Bo Abrahamsen

In the closing, we reminded members that if anyone is interested in joining an action group, they can send an email to the ECTS Secretary, Executive Director or to the Committee Chair. A form is also available on the website.

Bo Abrahamsen, ECTS President thanked everyone for participation in the meeting and closed meeting.