

Date / time	25 October 2023 @16:30 CEST
Location	Tour & Taxis, Brussels
# members present	30 (including 8 board members)
# Non-members present	3 (Association management team)
Chair	Juan Bueren (President) (JB)
Minute-taker	Christina Slater (Association Mgt) (CS)

JB calls the Annual General Meeting to order as per the ESGCT articles of association. CS will be taking the minutes.

JB welcomes everyone present, explains the format of the meeting. JB instructs members that they have officially signed into the AGM and will be on the attendee list but all voting is anonymous and a 50% majority is required within each vote.

1. JB presents the agenda, which was communicated to all members by email prior to the AGM; no additional agenda items were received.

AGENDA

1. Opening and welcome
 2. Confirmation of the agenda
 3. Approval of the Minutes of the AGM of 14 December 2022
 4. Future AGM's in online form and vote
 5. Annual congress 2023 – High Level stats
 6. Report of the Treasurer: 2022 accounts
 7. Discharge of the Executive Board and formal approval of the 2022 accounts
 8. Report of the President
 9. Confirm Executive board elections from 21022 virtual AGM
 10. AOB
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2. The agenda was approved by the members present
 3. The minutes were approved by the members present
 4. Legislation changed after Covid (according to § 32 Abs. 2 BGB) :
A hybrid general meeting can always be called. However, members have the right to choose between participation in person or online. AGM can decide that participation and voting is only possible via electronic communication (online general meeting). The members voted that online (virtual) general meetings (and votings) are acceptable for all future general assemblies



5. JB summarised the 2023 meeting. There are 2461 registrations with a large number of registrations from industry with academics and students also being well represented. A comparison with registrations back to 2017 was made to show the steady growth the society has seen. A thank you was also made to all the sponsors.

6. Report of the Treasurer

JB thanked AS for his contributions as Treasurer again this year

AS explained the financial report in detail and that it left an operating profit of €838K

AS also thanked Manuel Grez for auditing the accounts.

7. Discharge of the Management Board and formal approval of the 2022 accounts.

AS requested, the discharge of the Executive Board and that everyone except the Board were able to vote. Members voted and the management board is discharged, and the 2022 accounts have been formally approved.

8. Report of the President

JB provided a summary of the ESGCT membership and explained the growth of the society in recent years. In 2023 the society has 1802 current members compared to 463 back in 2013.

JB explained about the society journal HGT and the special addition for this the 30th ESGCT meeting.

JB explained about the awards ESGCT has in place:

Outstanding Achievement Award – for 2023 this has been awarded to Seppo Yla-Herttuala, University of Eastern Finland

ESGCT Exceptional Service Award (new for 2023) – this has been awarded to Hildegard Büning Hannover Medical School

Career Progression Award (new for 2023) – this has been awarded jointly to Alessio Nahmad & Samuele Ferrari

Young Investigator Award – no recipients for 2023

JB summarised the activities ESGCT provides for the student/ECR members of the society.

In 2023 the Spring school took place in Giens, France and 120 students attending and in 2024 the event will take place in Budapest.

The next academy focusing on Lentiviral Vector development will take place in Milan in January 2024.

9. Confirm executive board elections from 2022 virtual meeting

Due to the 2022 meeting taking place virtually the members were asked to reconfirm the board elections from 2022.

JB explained that for the voting of the executive board those members of the EB or those standing are unable to vote and for the voting of board members all members can vote.

The Executive Board consists of:

President: Juan Bueren

President elect: Alberto Auricchio

General Secretary: Gloria Gonzalez Aseguinolaza

New Board members election in 2022:

Els Verhoeyen



Toni Cathomen
Anne Galy

Members voted and the board members are confirmed

The board members accepted their positions

10. AOB

Members asked the following questions:

- Will ESGCT consider offering the opportunity for delegates to present virtual posters. It was explained that a platform is offered to delegates to provide a copy of their poster online to be available during and after the meeting and it is the choice if the presenter if they wish to use this.
- Would ESGCT consider offering reduced rates of registration to those members of the society who are now retired, with increasing costs and self-funding if can be difficult for them to attend. JB advised this would be reviewed for future meetings.

JB thanked everyone who attended and closed the AGM

SIGNED

Juan Bueren (JB), ESGCT President

SIGNED

Christina Slater (CS) ESGCT manager, minutes