



Minutes of the 2014 ESB General Assembly

Date:	Sept 1, 2014
Time:	13.30 – 14.30
Venue:	Plenary room, Congress center, Liverpool
Invited:	All ESB 2014 attendees
Number of attendees:	60 at the start, 120 at the end
ESB Council members:	Matteo Santin (MS), Michael Doser (MD), Marc Bohner (MB), Pedro Granja (PG), Peter Dubruel (PD), Abhay Pandit (AP), Pamela Habibovic (PH), Joëlle Amédée (JA). Excused: L. Ambrosio, L. di Silvio (LdS)

Agenda

- President's welcome address (MS)
- President's Report (MS)
- Legal address and Secal service (MD)
- Innovation initiative (MD)
- Documentation (MB)
- New ESB Website (PG)
- Membership (PD)
- Treasurer Report (PD)
- Auditors' Report
- Affiliated societies (LdS / MS)
- Future ESB meetings (AP)
- YSF (PH)

- New bursary/sponsorship for lab exchange (JA)
- Journal of Materials Science: Materials in Medicine (JA)
- A.O.B

President's welcome address (MS)

In his short welcome address, the president welcomed all attendees (roughly 60 at the start; over 120 at the end). He underlined the fact that all council members were sitting on stage because the work done in the past 12 months by the ESB council is a team work. He also mentioned that the GA is an opportunity for the ESB council to show the accomplished work.

President's Report (MS)

The council that was elected in 2013 decided to start its term by an analysis of the current ESB situation. The mean to do so was a SWOT analysis:

STRENGTHS ➤ Almost 40 Years of History/Character of the Membership ➤ Added value to R&D ➤ Networking ➤ Publishing (JMS:MM)	WEAKNESSES ➤ One-Event-A-Year Society ➤ Late Responses/Outdated IT ➤ Links with policy makers/clinicians/Industry ➤ Relatively low impact factor (increase 2008-2014=1.5 to 2.379)
OPPORTUNITIES ➤ Restructuring/Modernisation ➤ New Website ➤ New publishing strategies ➤ Regular Newsletters/Twitter ➤ ESB Member Lounge ➤ Provider of Expertise	THREATS ➤ Redundant/Superseded by Sister Societies ➤ No real influence on R&D

From this SWOT analysis, the council decided to modernize the ESB focusing on three main points:

- A flexible and professional structure
- An enabler of R&D and Education
- A base-owned environment

To realize these objectives, a few strategies were defined:

- Communication
 - Personalized contacts (via e-mail or at meeting → open ESB council office)
 - IT tools (new website, twitter account)
 - Participation of our members to activities (council open for proposals from members)
- Innovation
 - Adoption of a divergent thinking to find new routes for translation during our annual conferences and beyond
- Education

- fostering of a new generation of professionals, capable of offering their interdisciplinary profile to higher education and research organizations, to industry and to other stakeholders

Innovation initiative (MD)

In 2010, MD invited 113 companies to answer a survey on their needs and wishes regarding the ESB. Only 18 companies from various countries (CH, D, I, NL, UK, US) replied, but despite being unrepresentative, their replies can be considered to give an idea of their expectations. Here is a summary:

- Being a member is important
- ESB should have higher visibility by internet
- Important benefits: worldwide network, journal access less important: awards, reduced rates
- ESB should focus more on industrial products development
- Relevant skills: T.E., stem cells, drug delivery, nanotechnology
- Conference is contact platform
- Companies like to organize workshops and participate in exhibition
- More applied and clinical results to be discussed → Important to work on TRANSLATION
- Influence on regulatory bodies.

In 2011, Yves Bayon (Covidien) proposed to include an “industry day” into the ESB and to combine that day with the ESB translational award. This proposal was accepted and implemented in 2014.

Legal address and Secal service (MD)

MD started by explaining the history of the society. The ESB was founded on March 12, 1976 in Bologna, Italy. On July 1, 1978, the ESB address was moved from Bologna to Illkirch, a small locality close to Strasbourg in France. On May 25th, 1984, the ESB address was moved to Strasbourg (Tribunal d’Instance).

Following the bank crisis in 2008, the ESB was asked by the bank to provide a proof of authenticity, for example by showing official documents and providing an address. To answer this request, the Council decided in 2009 to look for a permanent registration in Strasbourg. In Nov 2010, the ESB became officially located at “Athéna”, a small company specialized in this business. Since then, any change of the ESB bylaws has to be announced to and registered by the court in Strasbourg. In July 18, 2014, the new bylaws that were accepted by the GA last year (2013) were officially accepted by the court in Strasbourg.

Documentation (MB)

The long-term aim of the Council is to tidy up the ESB archive, and in particular digitalize all important documents of the society, such as GA minutes or bylaws. For that purpose, paper documents will be collected from past council members, digitalized at RMS Foundation, and then sent to Athéna.

Some of the digitalized documents will be posted on the ESB website.

Sécal and Athéna will act as mailbox and archive of the ESB society.

MB also mentioned that one of his next tasks will be to organize the next council elections. The election will be done electronically.

New ESB Website (PG)

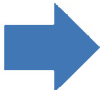
PG announced that the new website will be available for the end of 2014. PG showed the new layout and some of the new functionalities. PG mentioned that the main remaining task is to migrate the old website to the new website.

The new website should not only bring new functionalities in the member area (accessible only with an ESB membership number) such as automatic invoicing, or payment with credit cards, but also in the open pages (automatic link to Twitter).

Membership (PD)

PD reminded ESB members that the fees were reduced in 2014. For example, the fee for individual members was reduced from 144 € in 2013 to 130 € in 2014 (see below).

Membership Type	Fee €	
Individual	144	
Junior	26	
Senior	62	
Lab	253	
Corporate	333	



Membership Type	Fee €	
Individual	130	
Junior	25	
Senior	50	
Lab	230	
Corporate	300	

He briefly explained the mode of payment (via dropbox), and what to do if a too high fee was paid in 2014. He mentioned that he would send written confirmations in Sept 2014 to all members who paid.

Treasurer Report (PD)

The assets dropped from 59089 € on Dec 31, 2012 to 44534 € on Dec 31, 2013. The main reason for this drop is a payment to Springer for the hard-copy delivery of JMSMM journal in the the years 2012-2013, as well as a sponsorship fee for the years 2011-2013. The current asset (Aug 31, 2014) is 48687 €. This value is expected to increase since the invoices for 2013-2014 were sent in August.

Auditors' Report

Silvia Faré presented the auditors report (Auditors: Silvia Faré, Rachel Williams). The auditors approved the accounting.

Affiliated societies (LdS / MS)

In the absence of LdS, MS remained brief. He said that ESB had organized for the second time after last year a meeting with the presidents of affiliated (national) societies (Sept 2). The aim is to strengthen the collaboration between affiliated societies and ESB.

Future ESB meetings (AP)

AP explained that the ESB had formalized the bidding process for future ESB congresses. This included a formal invitation to ESB affiliated societies and members to propose a bid, a formal application by bidding candidates, and a short interview. AP announced that the next ESB meetings would take place in Athens (2017) and Maastricht (2018). He also opened the bid for 2019.

The next ESB meeting will take place in Krakow in 2015. In 2016, there will not be any ESB congress due to the organization of the World Biomaterials Congress in Montréal.

An important task of the ESB council is to complete the guidelines for conference hosting. This should be completed by the end of 2014.

YSF (PH)

YSF receives 3000 € yearly from the ESB council for its activities. YSF board is the following:

- Dr. Sandra van Vlierberghe (spokesperson)
- Dr. Izabela Stancu (secretary)
- Dr. Lorenzo Moroni (YSF industry liaison officer)
- Dr. Giuseppe Cama (YSF educational officer)
- Dr. Anna Finne Wistrand (National chapters liaison officer)

PH described the activities of ESB-YSF in three strategic directions:

- 1) Communication: a Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn page have been opened. There is possibility to meet YSF board members at the ESB lounge. The board aims at keeping or even improving the current communication
- 2) Education: A mentor/mentee and a lab exchange program have been started. There is also the possibility to enter a reviewer program at JMSMM
- 3) Innovation: the YSF would like to intensify contact with industry and also with YSF organizations outside Europe, such as in the US.

PH mentioned the AMBA 2014 meeting that will take place on Nov 17-18, 2014 in Ghent

New bursary/sponsorship for lab exchange (JA)

JA introduced the new lab exchange program called “Racquel Z. LeGeros Award”. The aim of this award is to “allow graduate students to pursue their research in International or European academic laboratories or companies dedicated to biomaterials and regenerative medicine with the aim to increase their knowledge in a specific topic and /or a technology”. 2 x 1500 € are devoted each year for this 3 month exchange program (2 awards per year).

Candidates (must be an ESB member) should provide:

- A Curriculum Vitae
- The Application Form (one page: objectives of the mobility, added value of the lab exchange)
- A supervisor letter from the home laboratory (member of ESB)
- A letter from the host laboratory (member of ESB)
- The applicant should be a presenting author of an abstract during the next ESB conference

The applications should be sent to JA or MB until Nov 15.

Journal of Materials Science: Materials in Medicine (JA)

There was a change in JMSMM organization: MS replaced Josep Planell as “Editor”.

The number of submission dropped last year (from 976 in 2012 to 894 in 2013), contrary to the IF which climbed from 2.14 (2012) to 2.38 (2013).

New features in 2014:

- Rapid Communications
- Clinically Focused Translational Research Section
- Young Investigator-Mentor Program to Foster Development of Scientific Review Skills

Two awards were given:

- 1) Best paper to Yan et al (2013), pp 2371-9.
- 2) Best micrograph to Bernhardt et al (2013), pp 1755-66.

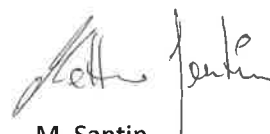
A.O.B

MS thanked J. Hunt and the local organizing committee for their efforts in organizing ESB 2014.



M. Bohner

ESB Secretary



M. Santin

ESB president