

Minutes of the 18th General Assembly of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes

Held in the Union Congress Building, Budapest, Hungary, on Friday, 3 September 1982, at 11.15 a. m.

Present:

Dr. W. Gepts (President)
 Dr. D. Andreani (Honorary Treasurer)
 Dr. K. D. Hepp (Honorary Secretary)
 Dr. A. G. Cudworth (Editor-in-Chief, *Diabetologia*)
 and 123 members

1. Opening Remarks

After formally declaring the meeting open, the President said that he had three most pleasant duties to perform.

The first was to welcome members, which he did most warmly and the second was to pay a warm and sincere tribute to the hosts of the 1981 meeting. He said that all those who attended the 1981 meeting would recall a well-organised and active meeting in pleasant surroundings, and wished to reiterate on behalf of the membership the thanks of the Association to Professor Bouman and Professor Krans and their colleagues for all that they had so successfully achieved in Amsterdam. Although Dr. Gepts did not wish to anticipate anything which the Honorary Treasurer may wish to say, he was still able to report that the Amsterdam meeting had produced a considerable surplus, which would greatly improve the ever precarious financial situation of the Association.

Continuing, the President said that his third task was to express the thanks of the membership to the organisers of the current meeting. Sincere appreciation was due to Professor Magyar, Dr. Tamas and Hungarian colleagues for the arrangements which they had made for the meeting in Budapest. Although the attendance was numerically not as high as in previous years, Dr. Gepts felt that this did not in any way imply a diminution of interest amongst the membership, but rather the increasing economic restraints which affect us all. He said that the organisers might be consoled by the expression "quality not quantity", and felt that from what he had already seen and heard of the meeting, it would be remembered with gratitude by all who attended it. He was especially happy to be able to welcome so many colleagues from Eastern Europe to this meeting in Hungary.

2. Minutes: 17th General Assembly, 1981

The Minutes of the 17th General Assembly held in Amsterdam, having been printed in *Diabetologia*, Volume 23, Number 2 (August), 1982, were taken as read and confirmed as a correct record. The file copy of the Minutes was signed by the President and the Honorary Secretary.

3. Reports

President: Dr. Gepts opened his report by saying that he was happy to say that the affairs of the Association continued to thrive, although there was natural anxiety on the financial front. He pointed out that the Association was somewhat unique in that most of its support came from individual members, and not from national associations and societies of diabetes and he felt gratified that so many young colleagues in many different disciplines perceived the value of membership by

wishing to join the activities of the Association. The Association was also most grateful for the valued support of the pharmaceutical industry without which it would be difficult to maintain the high standards which had been set at the first meeting in Montecatini in 1965.

Continuing in this vein, Dr. Gepts said that he wished to express the thanks of the Association to Novo Industri for their support of the Volume of Abstracts and also for their annual Travel Grant subvention, which this year had been most generously increased. He also wished to express renewed thanks to Hoechst AG for their valued sponsorship of the Minkowski Prize which had been awarded for 1982 to Dr. Gian Franco Bottazzo. At the same time he commented that the standard of nominations remained exceptionally high, which meant that the Award Committee had an extremely difficult task in selecting the recipient. The Paul-Neumann Laboratories had continued their sponsorship of the annual Claude Bernard Lecture and gratitude was due to them for increasing the value of this Lectureship to FFr 6,000 plus travelling expenses. Finally, Dr. Gepts said that he should again single out Pfizer-Europe who had kindly renewed their subvention for travel grants which had enabled the Association to offer additional support to young colleagues under the age of 35.

Turning to other matters, the President said that the Officers of the various Study Groups would be giving their reports at a later stage in the agenda. However, he wished to advise the members that the Executive Committee, at their meeting in April 1982, had approved the establishment of two further Study Groups; one concerned with nutrition and the other with lipoproteins. The formation of these Study Groups had given rise to concern amongst some members that the basic interests of the Association might be diluted by the emergence of numerous smaller groups concerned with specific aspects of diabetes. However, after due consideration, the Executive Committee believed that the value of such small groups outweighed the possible disadvantages and was anxious that such groups should operate within the frame-work of the Association, which would be mutually beneficial to EASD and to the Study Groups.

To conclude his report Dr. Gepts read the following letter which he had received from Dr. Alexander Marble, in response to his election as an Honorary Member at the General Assembly in Amsterdam:

"I was greatly surprised and delighted to receive your letter stating that at the Amsterdam Meeting I had been elected an Honorary Member of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes. I am most grateful and deeply touched by this high honor which you and the General Assembly have conferred upon me. It has been my privilege over many years to have been closely associated with clinicians and investigators from Europe, and I treasure the friendships made in this way.

With many thanks and kindest regards to fellow members of EASD,

Sincerely yours,
 Alexander Marble"

Honorary Treasurer: Dr. Andreani introduced the annual accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1981.

costs related to administration, especially postage and telephone costs: but this merely reflected both basic increases in statutory charges and also the cost of keeping in touch with the growing membership.

The Editorial Office expenses for *Diabetologia* had risen by 35%, due to the move from Newcastle to London, where salaries and costs were higher. Secretariat costs in connection with the Annual Meeting had also risen, but this was principally due to the high cost of printing the Volume of Abstracts, which had amounted to over £5,000 after deduction of the generous grant from Novo Industri towards this activity. The high cost had been in part due to the increase in the number of abstracts which had been printed . . . 575 as against 415.

Dr. Andreani continued by saying that the other figures were hopefully self-explanatory. At the end of the year there had been a deficit of £420 on the EASD Travel Fund, which meant that the Association had contributed this sum from the balance in the account, over and above the grants which had been received from Novo and Pfizer. There had been a surplus of £9,280 on the Annual Meetings Fund and a deficit on the General Funds of £6,650, which was double that of 1980, and emphasised again the reason for the increase in annual subscriptions, which had come into force on 1st January, 1982.

Referring to the Balance Sheet, the Honorary Treasurer pointed out that at the beginning of 1981 the Association had had assets of £8,600 in the Accumulated General Fund. To this was added the difference on conversion of the Swiss account into pounds sterling. The deficit for the year on general funds was then deducted.

The balance of £9,280 had been transferred from the Annual Meetings Fund to the General Funds as it was not necessary to keep more than £4,000 in the Annual Meetings Fund, which was a reserve to meet the London secretariat expenses in connection with the Annual Meetings.

The EASD Travel Fund showed a balance of £4,700, which was in addition to the grants which the Association had received in 1982 from Novo Industry and Pfizer-Europe. Finally, £16,000 had been paid in advance for annual subscriptions and for journal subscriptions.

Therefore, the total assets of the Association at the end of 1981 were £37,920, which represented an increase of £1,200 over the previous year. However, Dr. Andreani wished to emphasise that this happy state of affairs was entirely due to the expertise of the Dutch Organising Committee, and unfortunately, the Association could not afford to rely on such remarkable results from future meetings.

Looking to the future, the membership would have to recognise that the administrative expenses, which in 1981 had totalled £27,500, would continue to rise, at least in line with inflation. The Honorary Treasurer assured the General Assembly that every effort was made to keep expenses to a minimum, but at the same time it should be realised that the growth of membership, which had almost doubled in the past ten years, carried with it increased demands on the services which were provided. The Council had approved the purchase of a micro-computer to assist the secretariat in its administrative procedures which until now had been handled manually, and it was hoped that this would assist the small staff in the execution of their duties. Equally, the Honorary Treasurer had tried to encourage higher contributions from the pharmaceutical industry, whose contribution to the work of the Association had been so much appreciated over the years, but whose percentage support had fallen from more than 50% to around 25%.

To conclude, Dr. Andreani said that it was not the aim of the Association to build up funds unnecessarily, and he was reasonably confident that the annual subscriptions which came into force on 1st January 1982 would provide sufficient income for the Association to maintain the high standard of service expected. He assured the General Assembly that the Executive Committee would continue to exercise vigilance and foresight in the handling of the Association's resources. It only remained to him to wish his successor, Dr. H. M. J. Krans, the best of luck, and to say that he knew the Honorary Treasurership would be in good hands.

Honorary Auditors

Dr. E. Standl, on behalf of Dr. M. Serrano Rios and himself, confirmed that the accounts were in good order and discharged the Honorary Treasurer from responsibility for the year ended 31. December 1981.

Honorary Secretary

Dr. Gepts invited Dr. Hepp to give his last report as Honorary Secretary.

Table 1. European Association for the Study of Diabetes membership by country at 31 December 1981 (with comparatives for 31 December 1980)

1980		1981
1	Algeria	1
3	Argentina	3
27	Australia	26
18	Austria	20
-	Bangladesh	1
60	Belgium	81
-	Brazil	1
13	Bulgaria	13
10	Canada	12
1	Costa Rica	-
39	Czechoslovakia	38
2	Cyprus	2
91	Denmark	130
1	Dominican Republic	1
1	Egypt	3
32	Finland	28
117	France	114
31	German Democratic Republic	34
124	Federal Republic of Germany	134
15	Greece	17
23	Hungary	24
2	India	1
1	Iraq	1
26	Israel	31
125	Italy	146
7	Japan	9
1	Kuwait	1
3	Lebanon	3
1	Luxembourg	1
-	Malta	1
52	Netherlands	74
3	New Zealand	3
-	Nigeria	1
16	Norway	18
-	Papua New Guinea	1
16	Poland	15
16	Portugal	17
21	Romania	22
4	Saudi Arabia	3
2	South Africa	2
33	Spain	44
75	Sweden	93
70	Switzerland	76
-	Thailand	1
7	Turkey	7
230	United Kingdom	299
60	United States	68
-	Venezuela	2
18	Yugoslavia	13
-	Zaire	3
1398	Total	1638

Dr. Hepp said that he was happy to report that the membership was continuing to rise, as was shown in the breakdown of membership at the end of 1981 (Table 1) from which it could be seen that numbers had risen by a net figure of 240. In fact, the total enrolments in 1981 had exceeded 300, for the first time in the history of the Association. Continuing, Dr. Hepp said that it was interesting to note that from the point of view of EASD, Europe now extended to 50 countries, and included parts of the world which were not geographically recognisable as being part of Europe. He felt that it was to the credit of the Association that so many of the overseas colleagues who had come to European Centres for temporary assignments still continued their membership on their return to their home countries.

All members had been asked to complete a form indicating both their disciplinary interests and also their date of birth, in anticipation of the records being computerised. The oldest member had been born in 1898: the youngest in 1960, making an age span of 62 years. 54% of those who had returned the forms were over the age of 40.

Continuing, Dr. Hepp said that for the current meeting, 537 abstracts had been received, which was a reduction of 19% on the previous year. Of these, the Programme Committee, consisting of Drs.

Freychet, Hellerstrom, Sönksen, Tamas and himself, had been able to accept 357, which equalled 66%. Before the Programme Committee had met, the Executive Committee had decided that due to the increasingly high cost of printing and the fact that *Diabetologia* was a prestigious journal, no abstracts would be accepted for publication which were not included in the programme for oral or poster presentation.

Turning to travel grants, the Honorary Secretary said that thanks to the generous subventions from Novo Industri and Pfizer-Europe, the Association had been in a position to allocate £ 6,500 for travel grants for 1982, which had been awarded to 57 young colleagues under the age of 35. Additionally he reported that 1,875 Rubels had been transferred from the East German account at the suggestion of the Sektion Diabetes of the Gesellschaft für Endokrinologie und Stoffwechselkrankheiten, for use for additional travel grants.

A further change in 1982 related to the age division for those paying the lower registration fee. As the newly introduced two-tier subscription rates had a cut-off age of 40, the lower registration fees for the current meeting had also been made available to those under 40 years of age instead of only to those under the age of 35 which had been the age cut-off for all previous meetings.

At this point, Dr. Hepp said that he had been asked by the London Secretariat to apologise on their behalf for the poor service which some members had received in relation to their orders for journals of the American Diabetes Association. This had been due entirely to a change in procedure instituted by the ADA without advising the London office; and also to a failure in postal deliveries. The ADA had now assured head office that all future orders for *Diabetes* and *Diabetes Care* sent through London would receive priority, and would be activated immediately on receipt of name and addresses, instead of waiting for payment. Those members wishing to ensure continuous delivery of their journals should complete the renewal forms sent to them at the end of the year without delay.

On the same subject, the Honorary Secretary drew the attention of the General Assembly to the fact that only about 20% of the membership subscribed to the Association's journal, *Diabetologia*, despite the generous 50% reduction which had been negotiated by the Editor-in-Chief over the years. He urged members to consider subscribing to this excellent journal which maintains a very high scientific standard.

Future meetings of the Association had been arranged as follows:

1983 14–17 September, Oslo, Norway

1984 15–18 September, Barbican Centre, London, U.K.

1985 No EASD Scientific Meeting, 12th IDF Congress in Spain

1986 Rome, Italy

Dr. Hepp informed the General Assembly that the closing date for abstracts would be 15 April 1983. This date would be strictly enforced. He emphasised that this implied that the abstracts should be received at head office by 15 April 1983 and thus did not mean that abstracts might be postmarked 15 April 1983.

The closing date for the nominations for the 1983 Minkowski Prize would be 1 February 1983.

Dr. Hepp concluded his report by thanking everyone for their support during his term of office. Special thanks were due to the Executive Director, Mr. J.G.L. Jackson and his secretary, Miss H.M.M. Bellamy, for all their invaluable help. It only remained for Dr. Hepp to say how much he had enjoyed working for the Association as Honorary Secretary and that he wished the Association much success for the future.

The President thanked Dr. Hepp for his report and expressed the sincere gratitude of the membership to him for the impressive and exemplary way in which he had carried out his duties as Honorary Secretary over the past three years. The Association was greatly in his debt and Dr. Gepts wished to thank him personally for the way in which he had upheld the traditions of the Association and for his generous and helpful support at all times.

The President's remarks were met with warm applause.

Before inviting Dr. Andrew Cudworth to give his report as Editor-in-Chief of *Diabetologia*, the President said that he was sure he was speaking for all the members when he said how glad they were to see him restored to active leadership of this much valued journal. He also wished to express the thanks of the Association to Drs. Malaisse, Tattersall, Nattrass and Alberti who had most ably guided the journal's affairs during the temporary absence of Dr. Cudworth. His thanks were corroborated by warm applause from the General Assembly.

Editor-in-Chief, Diabetologia

Dr. Cudworth reported that the Journal appeared to have remained in a healthy state with a steady influx of new papers and no dramatic

events to report over the past 12 months. He felt that there had been a significant speeding up of papers through the Editorial Office, although it was difficult to demonstrate the impact of this in the statistics of the time taken from initial receipt of a manuscript to the date of final publication.

In 1981, 402 papers had been received, including 24 reviews, editorials and scientific reports. The total number of papers received had remained fairly constant and the projected figure for 1982 was likely to be 390–400.

The acceptance/rejection rate had continued to show some fluctuations over the past few years, for example, 61% of papers had been rejected in 1980, but this number had been reduced to 50% in 1981 due predominantly to the Editor-in-Chief having put a lot of pressure on authors to cut down on the length of papers, particularly the discussion sessions, in order to create more space for additional original papers. However, Dr. Cudworth regretted to have to say that of the first 150 papers received in 1982, the rejection rate had again risen to 58% and he wished to discuss this trend in more detail.

Firstly, there was no doubt that the standard of papers submitted in the early part of 1982 had fallen quite considerably and very obviously. In particular this had been applicable to a lot of papers received from the USA and 18 out of 21 had been rejected. However, this at least did show that English speaking countries were not being favoured and that *Diabetologia* was not in danger of becoming simply another trans-Atlantic journal. In fact, papers had been received from 30 different countries.

Continuing, Dr. Cudworth said that all papers were carefully reviewed, usually by three independent experts, as well as by himself. The total number of 856 referees from 19 countries used in 1981, emphasised the international breadth of opinions obtained.

The Associate Editors had handled 66 papers (17.5%) submitted during 1981. They had performed their responsibilities in an excellent manner by choosing a wide selection of referees and collating their opinions. This system appeared to be working well and the Editor-in-Chief hoped that he would be able to expand the usage of Associate Editors in 1982/83. At this point Dr. Cudworth wished to acknowledge particularly the excellent helpful extra support provided by Professor K.G.M.M. Alberti, Dr. R.B. Tattersall, Professor W. Malaisse and Dr. M. Nattrass over the past 9 months.

Dr. Cudworth gave a breakdown of the handling time during various stages of a manuscript being processed to publication. There had been no change in the average time taken by referees, nor in the time taken by the Editor-in-Chief to evaluate the reports and make a decision concerning acceptance or rejection. On the whole, the time taken by Associate Editors was slower than the Editorial Office but the extra postage delays involved when papers were sent to Associate Editors should be taken into consideration.

Similarly there had been no significant change in the number of days taken by authors to revise their manuscripts, although in some cases this had been the major factor in producing delays. The number of days taken from receipt of the revised manuscript to sending it to the publisher had been 60 days in 1981 but there had been insufficient data for 1982 to enable the Editor-in-Chief to make a legitimate comparison. The publication time taken by Springer had also remained fairly constant at 110 days in 1981. The total number of days from initial receipt to publication had been 310 in 1980 and 328 in 1981. However, 16 papers had taken more than 400 days to get into print. Analysis of those cases had shown invariably slowness on behalf of the authors or the need for a second refereeing.

An encouraging feature of the Journal's affairs was the increase in subscribers, especially the number of new subscribers from the UK and USA.

Dr. Cudworth reported two innovations which had taken place over the past 12 months. He had decided to accept for publication informative Workshop Reports relating to international meetings, but he said that it would remain to be seen whether or not these would add any scientific merit to the Journal. These did not erode the available space for original articles as the printed page charge of DM 500 was paid for by the sponsors of the meetings.

The second innovation related to a series of "Historical Articles", which the Editor-in-Chief hoped would be of interest to the readership. These would relate to interesting or amusing events that had taken place during the lifetime of leading diabetologists and scientists, and the first of the series had just been published.

In addition, the first of a new series of "Controversial topics" was due to be published shortly. The basic idea behind this was to take a subject which was open to considerable debate and to invite two people to write succinct reviews in support and against the hypothesis. A moderator would be chosen for each subject to identify those points

which still remained open to debate. The three articles would then be published together in the same issue. The first of these was to be devoted to the question of insulin interaction with its receptor. Other ideas in the pipeline included chlorpropamide alcohol flushing, the genetics of diabetes and the role of growth hormone in experimental obesity. Dr. Cudworth said that he would welcome other ideas for this development.

In conclusion, Dr. Cudworth said that the Journal appeared to be continuing along the lines that the Editorial Office would consider as being satisfactory and healthy. He felt that there were encouraging signs that the publication of papers had speeded up and he hoped to be able to continue to improve on this trend. The continuation of a relatively high rejection rate of potentially acceptable papers might mean taking up negotiations with Springer to enlarge the Journal by increasing the number of pages per issue. However, this would inevitably be reflected by an increase in the subscription rate which would probably be unacceptable to many subscribers.

Finally Dr. Cudworth acknowledged the tremendous editorial work put in by the team of Assistant Editors in his department. This had been particularly relevant to the editing of more than 500 abstracts for the 1982 meeting, many of which had had to be written. Special thanks were due to Sarah Spencer-Smith for her efficiency and extreme hard work and support. Dr. Cudworth also wished to express his thanks to Maxine Long and Herr H. Goebel of Springer Verlag for their help and support.

The General Assembly paid tribute to Dr. Cudworth's report with warm applause.

Before continuing with the agenda, Dr. P. Lefebvre asked the President if he may say a few words. He said that he had listened with much interest and appreciation to the previous reports and although he had not formally prepared any remarks he felt that someone from the audience should show the appreciation of the membership for the excellent services provided by the Association and for the journal of the Association, *Diabetologia*.

Continuing, he said that it was a tribute to the organisation of the annual meetings that when Dr. Hepp had announced the future dates of forthcoming meetings, a large percentage of the members present at the General Assembly had immediately noted them down in their diaries. It was obvious that many people considered the annual meetings to be a priority engagement.

Furthermore, having just heard the report of the Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Lefebvre wished to pay a special tribute to the journal *Diabetologia*. He applauded the perfect presentation of the journal and its outstanding scientific content. Since its foundation it had been recognised as the leading journal in diabetes for clinicians and researchers alike. He was sure that he was not alone when he said how much he appreciated the extraordinarily punctual appearance of the journal every month and he acknowledged the tremendous amount of work behind such prompt publication. Indeed the August 1982 issue had already carried the complete abstracts for the Budapest meeting, allowing subscribers valuable time to peruse them before the start of the meeting. He invited the members to applaud again the splendid work performed by Dr. Cudworth and his team, which they duly did with enthusiasm.

4. Elections

Council Members, 1983–1986

Drs. D. Andreani (Italy), A. Luyckx (Belgium), R. B. Tattersall (UK), E. Standl (FRG) and J. Wahren (Sweden) were elected in succession to Drs. W. Gepts, H. M. J. Krans, P. H. Sönksen, I.-B. Täljedal and I. Valverde retiring by rotation in 1983. The President advised the General Assembly that the Council had unanimously elected Dr. Domenico Andreani as President of the Association for the period 1983–1986. This announcement was greeted with warm applause.

Honorary Treasurer, 1982–1984

Consequent upon his nomination as President-Elect, Dr. Andreani submitted his resignation as Honorary Treasurer to take effect after the General Assembly. On the unanimous recommendation of the Council the General Assembly elected Dr. H. M. J. Krans (The Netherlands) as Honorary Treasurer for the period 1982–1984.

Honorary Auditors, 1982–1983

Drs. M. Serrano-Rios (Spain) and E. Standl (FRG) were re-elected as Honorary Auditors for the coming year.

5. Study Groups and Sub-Committees

Postgraduate Education Sub-Committee

In the absence of the Chairman of the Postgraduate Education Sub-Committee, (Dr. J. J. Hoet), the Secretary, Dr. V. Schliack, gave the report, which was accepted by the General Assembly.

An EASD Postgraduate Meeting was planned for Turkey in 1983 and Dr. N. Bagriacik had approached Dr. Hoet for help in organising this. The course was planned to coincide with the Annual Turkish Diabetes Days, in May, 1983, and would probably involve about six European visiting faculty, members each of whom would probably be required to give more than one lecture. Pharmaceutical companies would be approached for financial support. Approximately 200 participants were anticipated and it was hoped that this number would include many colleagues from neighbouring countries. The Course would be conducted in English, with Turkish translation.

Epidemiology Study Group

The report on the activities of the Epidemiology Study Group was given by Dr. J. H. Fuller and accepted by the General Assembly.

Dr. Fuller reported that the 17th annual meeting of the European Diabetes Epidemiology Study Group had taken place at Abbaye de Fontevraud, Maine et Loire, France from 3–7 May, 1982. It had been held in association with the INSERM/NIH/WHO colloquium "Advances in Diabetes Epidemiology", which had been organised by Dr. Eveline Eschwege, and had been dedicated to the memory of the late Dr. Kelly M. West. A full report of the meeting had been submitted to the Executive Committee of EASD.

At the business meeting of the Group it had been agreed to accept the invitation of Dr. G. Pozza to hold the 1983 meeting in Italy, near Milan. The topics which would be discussed at the next meeting included:

- 1) Problems in the study of diabetic mortality;
- 2) The use of glycosylated haemoglobin and other non-blood glucose measures in the diagnosis of diabetes and the assessment of diabetic control;
- 3) The classification of diabetes mellitus.

Full details of the meeting would be published in *Diabetologia*.

Pregnancy Study Group

Dr. C. Hellerstrom, Chairman-Elect of the Diabetes Pregnancy Study Group gave the report on behalf of the Chairman, Dr. H. W. Sutherland, and it was accepted by the General Assembly.

The 12th Annual Meeting of the Study Group had been held in Liège, Belgium from 19–21 September 1981. The meeting was attended by 23 members and 51 guests representing a particular expertise in the topics which had been selected for study, namely diabetic pregnancy and fetal growth and malformation.

In addition, one session had been devoted to the Jörgen Pedersen Memorial Lecture which was given by Dr. Lars Mölstedt-Pedersen of Copenhagen, Denmark, on the subject of Patterns of Fetal Growth in Diabetic Pregnancy.

The limited number of formal presentations combined with short, informal communications and lively discussions had contributed to a successful and stimulating meeting. The 1982 meeting would be held in Villards, Switzerland and a full report of this meeting would be published in *Diabetologia*. The 1983 meeting would be held in Belgium.

Diabetes Education Study Group

Dr. J.-P. Assal introduced his report on the activities of the Diabetes Education Study Group and this was accepted by the General Assembly.

He reported that thanks to the generous financial support of Les Laboratoires Servier, the Diabetes Education Study Group had been able to continue its activities in several areas. The updated list (1st August, 1982) of members and teaching centres had shown 470 members and 230 centres where teaching was provided. He said that it should be noted that some 50% of the members were active members of EASD.

A preparatory workshop for the moderators participating in the Second Symposium on Diabetes Education, had been held in Geneva from 29th April to 2nd May 1982, and a workshop had been held in Bucharest from 8–11 July 1982 with participants from Eastern Germany, Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Romania and Bulgaria. The

meeting had been organised by Professor Mincu and Dr. Ionescu-Tirgoviste with the collaboration of Professor Berger, Dr. Mülhausen and Dr. Hornke from Düsseldorf, as well as Professor Ruffino and Dr. Assal himself from Geneva.

Dr. M. Buyschaert (Belgium), Dr. A. Conti (Italy), Dr. J. Hearnshaw (UK), Dr. V. Jörgens (Denmark), Dr. A. Kunz (Austria), Dr. E. Moncada (Spain), Dr. V. Percin (Yugoslavia), Dr. W. Schumacher (FRG) and Dr. N. C. Thalassinos (Greece) would replace the following on the General Committee and Executive Committee who would be retiring by rotation: – Drs. J. Alivisatos (Greece), A. Gries (FRG), K. Irsigler (Austria), B. Kraus (FRG), A. Maldonato (Italy), J. Pirart (Belgium), R. Tattersall (UK), B. Tomic (Yugoslavia), B. Willms (FRG).

Dr. N. Petitpierre (Switzerland), Honorary Treasurer of the DESG and Dr. A. Maldonato (Italy) would be retiring from the Executive Committee in 1982. Their successors would be nominated at the present meeting.

The DESG had participated in a joint programme conducted by the IDF, WHO, Yugoslavia and Belgium on the island of Malta in order to help the Maltese government with problems with diabetes on the island. Teaching sessions had been given to patients as well as training courses organised to help nurses to teach patients together with a Postgraduate Course on diabetes for physicians.

The Second European Symposium on Diabetes Education had been held from 3–6 June 1982 and had been supported by generous grants from Becton Dickinson Europe, Boehringer Mannheim (Germany and Switzerland), Novo Industri (Copenhagen, Denmark) and Les Laboratoires Servier (France). 250 participants had attended this Symposium. As well as main lecture programmes, an important poster session had been set up to enable centres to be presented from each country. The interaction between participants had been particularly encouraged and this had proved successful. 44 abstracts had been received and published in the June issue of *Diabete Et Metabolisme*.

A Handbook on Patient Education had been prepared and would be published at the end of 1982 by Excerpta Medica in Amsterdam. It would contain the main lectures given at the Second European Symposium in Geneva as well as the half-day session conducted during the 1981 Annual Meeting of EASD in Amsterdam.

Artificial Insulin Delivery Systems Pancreas and Islet Transplantation Study Group

Dr. K. Federlin gave the report on behalf the President (Dr. E. F. Pfeiffer) who was unable to be present. The report was accepted by the General Assembly. The first meeting of the Study Group had been held at Igls, Austria on 1 and 2 February 1982. The following officers had been elected: Dr. E. F. Pfeiffer (FRG), President; Dr. K. Federlin (FRG), Vice President; Dr. G. Slama (France), Treasurer; Dr. K. G. M. M. Alberti (UK), Secretary.

The meeting had proved highly successful and a small sub-group comprising of Drs. Pfeiffer, Federlin, Franetzki, Hepp, Massi-Benedetti, Pozza, Skrabalo, Slama, Träger and Waldhäusl had produced a summary of the State of the Art together with certain recommendations based on the papers and discussions that had taken place.

The next meeting would be held in Igls on 7 and 8 February 1983 and a preliminary programme was already available for those interested. It was felt strongly that the contact between transplantation workers and those using mechanical devices was useful and should be continued.

6. Any Other Business

Dr. G. Pozza (Italy) said that he was concerned about the registration fees for annual meetings of the Association. He felt they were too expensive, especially for the younger members of the Association and he thought that this factor was preventing some younger people from attending the meetings. He asked whether it would be possible to lower the registration fees for meetings and balance this with an increase in membership subscriptions.

In his reply, the President pointed out that it was entirely the responsibility of the local Organising Committees to fix the cost of registration and the fees had reflected the ever increasing cost of living over the past years. He continued by saying that all young members of the Association who had applied for travel grants and whose papers had been accepted for presentation had been given assistance. Additionally the break-off point for eligibility for lower registration fees had been raised to the age of 40 from 35 for the current meeting. However, he understood Dr. Pozza's concern and said that he would bring the matter before the Executive Committee at their next meeting.

Dr. J. Jervell (Norway), the Secretary of the Organising Committee for the Oslo meeting, pointed out that there was no financial back-up available from the Council of the EASD if local Organising Committees ran into deficit and for this reason registration fees had to be set at a level to prevent this unhappy situation occurring. Additionally, in his experience the pharmaceutical companies were no longer as willing to provide financial support. He warned members that Norway was an extremely expensive country and that it would not be possible for the registration fee to be any lower for the next meeting. However, he wished to express a warm welcome to all those present and hoped to see them in Oslo in 1983.

Before the meeting was closed, Dr. Andreani wished to comment that very few people took part in the General Assembly and urged the membership to more active participation in the decision making of the Association. For those people who did not wish to speak at the General Assembly, he suggested that they might like to write with any suggestions or comments to the President.

7. Close of Meeting

Before declaring the General Assembly closed, Dr. Gepts said that he wished to thank Drs. Binder, Buchanan, Malaisse, Tamas, Tchobroutsky, Hepp and Andreani, the retiring members of the Council for their valued help and support over the years. At the same time he would like to welcome the new members of Council, namely Drs. Crepaldi, Hanssen, Heding, Mincu, Raptis and Alberti, who would now take office.

He also wished to thank most warmly Mr. J. G. L. Jackson, the Executive Director, and his secretary, Miss H. M. M. Bellamy, for their continued help and dedication.

Agenda for the 19th General Assembly of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes, to be held in the Oslo Concert Hall, Munkedamsvn. 14, Oslo, Norway on Friday, 16 September 1983 at 5. 35 p. m.

1. <i>Opening Remarks</i>	The President	4. <i>Annual Subscriptions</i>	Honorary Treasurer to introduce recommendation to increase annual subscriptions from 1st January, 1984
2. <i>Minutes: 18th General Assembly, 1982</i>	Printed in <i>Diabetologia</i> (1983) Vol. 25, No. 2 To be confirmed as a correct record	5. <i>Elections</i>	To elect
3. <i>Reports</i>		<i>Council Members, 1984–1987</i>	To elect
<i>President</i>	Dr. W. Gepts	<i>Honorary Auditors, 1983–1984</i>	To elect
<i>Honorary Treasurer</i>	Dr. H. M. J. Krans	6. <i>Study Groups</i>	To receive reports
<i>Honorary Auditors</i>	Drs. M. Serrano-Rios and E. Standl	7. <i>Handing Over the Presidency</i>	
<i>Honorary Secretary</i>	Dr. K. G. M. M. Alberti	8. <i>Any Other Business</i>	
<i>Editor-in-Chief, Diabetologia</i>	Dr. M. Berger		