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Minutes of the General Assembly of the European Society for Muscle Research held on the 25th of September 2024 at the 51st European Muscle Conference (EMC) in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

§1 The chairman of the European Society for Muscle Research (ESMR), Prof. Wolfgang Linke, welcomed the Assembly to the membership meeting, introduced the agenda (with approval from the Assembly), and explained the nature of the ESMR as well as its relationship to the EMC. He expressed gratitude to Drs. Sergej Pirkmajer (Conference chair), Katarina Miš (Co-chair), Tomaž Marš (Co-chair) and their team for organizing a very successful EMC in Ljubljana, Slovenia, for the first time in the history of the ESMR.

§2 Prof. Linke proposed **Dr. Chiara Tesi** (Florence) to be appointed to take the minutes of the General Assembly. **Dr. Josine de Winter** (Amsterdam) was appointed as the accountant on the minutes.

This was **agreed** by the Assembly.

§3 The current members of the Board of the Society were presented:

Wolfgang Linke, *Chair*, University of Münster, Germany (re-elected 2022)

Anders Arner, *Treasurer*, Lund University, Sweden (re-elected 2022)

Kristina Djinović-Carugo, University of Vienna, Austria & EMBL Grenoble, France (re-elected 2022)

Elisabeth Ehler, *Secretary*, King's College London, UK (re-elected 2022)

Chiara Tesi, Università degli Studi di Firenze, Florence, Italy (re-elected 2022)

Maria Jolanta Redowicz, Nencki Institute, Warsaw, Poland (re-elected 2023)

Coen Ottenheijm, Free University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands (re-elected 2023)

Alain Lacampagne, Inserm U1046 CNRS, Montpellier, France (elected 2023)

Josine de Winter, Free University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands (elected 2023)

§4 The minutes of the previous EMC meeting in Florence 2023 (accountants: Dr. **Jolanta Redowicz**, Poland; Dr. **Kristina Djinovic-Carugo**, Austria/France) have been available at the Society homepage (www.esmr.org).

No further comments were made and the minutes **were approved**.

§5 Wolfgang Linke reported on the activities of the board.

Dr. **Anders Arner** reported (on 2024-07-12) on the economy of the ESMR, which has been registered as a charitable organization (“ideell förening” #802467-4528) in Sweden since 2012. In this organization form the society has been able to open a bank account to keep funds, receive membership fees and interest without tax. Society funds are kept at the Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken (SEB, a respected bank with experience in societies and foundations) in one low interest account with faster access and one account with 3 months access and fixed interest rate. The interest rate is low (1.75 and 3.8 % in

September 2024), but is the best available without taking risks or binding the money for longer times. The funds are kept in Swedish krona (SEK). 100 SEK~9 EUR (09-2024). The chair, Prof. Wolfgang Linke, informed the Assembly that both the Chair and the Treasurer, Prof. Anders Arner, can sign for administrative and economic matters on behalf of the Society.

At the end of the previous fiscal year (Sept 2023), society funds were **358,538.10 SEK** (~28,185 EUR; July 2024 exchange rate). During the last year (2023-2024), ESMR received **interest of 10,216.76 SEK** and collected membership fees from **Prague 2022 (20,065.66 SEK)** and **Florence 2023 (28,916.66 SEK)**. Thus, the funds are (Sept. 2024) **417,096.44 SEK (~34,254 EUR)** in the two bank accounts. There were no other expenses from the ESMR accounts. The tax declaration for 2022 was approved and there was no tax. A new tax declaration for the year 2023 has been submitted in July 2024. The auditor, Dr. **Katja Gehmlich** (UK) has received copies of the bank status report (accounts "konto" and interest "ränta") and a copy of the economic report. The auditor has approved the economic report.

Wolfgang Linke then informed the Assembly that the ESMR board has agreed to move the Society registration from Sweden to the Netherlands, where it should be permanently registered, and to transfer the Society funds from Sweden to a new society bank account in the Netherlands as soon as possible.

On request, the Assembly **granted discharge of liability** for the ESMR Board members.

The **annual membership fee was decided to be 10 EUR/year**, paid by meeting delegates as a part of the registration fee. The Assembly **approved this proposal**.

§6 Election of the Auditors

Dr. **Miklos Kellermayer** (Hungary) and Dr. **Martina Krüger** (Germany) were proposed as the auditor and deputy auditor for 2024/25 and were approved by the membership.

In 2024, no elections or re-elections of ESMR board members were held. The regular interval of service on the board is **4 years**, with the possibility of re-election.

ESMR chair Wolfgang Linke commented that the society's policy is to usually have one representative, occasionally two representatives, from the same country on the stirring board. Because it is planned to permanently register the society and open the bank account in The Netherlands, two representatives from The Netherlands are members of the board.

§7. Dr. **Michelle Peckham** reported on the activities and standing of the Journal of Muscle Research and Cell Motility, a long-term professional ally of ESMR. A **Special Issue of EMC 2024** was announced, and scientists were invited to submit papers.

§8. Young Muscle Researchers

Dr. **Christine Loescher** (Univ. of Münster, Germany) reported on the activities of the

Early Careers Association (ESMR-ECA), founded in 2022. The young muscle researchers of ESMR-ECA have developed their own scientific and socializing activities during EMC and plan to hold webinar events throughout the year. They also acquired Travel Award money for EMC 2024 and plan to do so for EMC 2025. ESMR-ECA is also represented on the Society homepage (<https://esmr.org/early-careers.html>).

- Secured ~\$1250 USD for travel awards
- Organised 2 online events
 - Accessing biobanks for research
 - Utilising social media for science
- Set up a constitution for the ECA
- Organised the EMC early careers symposium 2024
- Organised Early Careers Social Gathering at EMC 2024

§9. Other issues

None raised

§10. The plans for the Annual ESMR Meeting 2025 to take place in **Amsterdam**, The Netherlands September 20-24, were presented by Dr. **Josine de Winter**.

Future plans for EMC events include 2026 Vienna and 2027 Hannover.

The Assembly was closed.

Chiara Tesi

Dr. Chiara Tesi (Florence)

Date: June 13, 2025



Dr. Josine de Winter (Amsterdam)

Date: June 17, 2025