



scientists in
reproductive
medicine

**Alpha Annual General Meeting
Saturday, 3rd May, 2008 - 14.40 - 15.40
Askeri Museum, Istanbul, Turkey**

MINUTES

1. Welcome by the Chairperson

Marc Van den Bergh opened the meeting.

2. Minutes of last AGM

The minutes from Lucern (September 2006) were approved without changes.

3. Treasurer's report

Karin Erb reported total income for 2005 and 2006 of £13,803 and £101,646 respectively and total expenditure for 2005 and 2006 of £21,862 and £91,888 respectively giving Alpha total fund balance at 31 December 2006 of £29, 034. A full balance sheet is available upon request.

A membership fee increase to 60 Euros (full members) and 40 Euros (student members) was proposed and carried unopposed. The rationale is to offset costs of processing credit card payments (4.5% per transaction) and there has been no fee increase since 2001. There was some discussion as to whether the fee should be increased more substantially. At present, the fee will not be increased beyond 60 Euros as we wish to recruit and retain more paying members and work on membership benefits.

4. Changes to the Constitution

Amendments (voted for during the recent elections) were presented:

* The Executive Committee proposed the following changes to the Alpha constitution concerning the periods of service of the officers. It is hoped that the proposed changes will provide greater continuity.

1. HONORARY OFFICERS will be elected by ballot at a general meeting and these officers will be: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and *Newsletter editor*.
2. There shall be an EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE which will consist of not less than *four*, these being the honorary officers specified together with such additional members as may be elected at a general meeting.
3. Members of the Executive committee will hold office for a period of *3 years*, beginning from the date of the publication of the ballot, a first year as 'elected', then a year as 'active' and finally a year as 'past'. At the end of this 3 year period, the member shall retire but may be re-elected and re-appointed *once* for an additional 3 year term.

5. Elections to the EC

Results of the recent elections for the Alpha Executive Committee were announced as follows:

New Executive Committee Members

Alpesh Doshi (London, UK)
Peter Fancsovits (Budapest, Hungary)
Aidita James (Washington DC, USA)

Re-elected

Basak Balaban (Chairperson)
Karin Erb (Treasurer)
Lisa Cowan (Membership)
Lynette Scott (Newsletter/Training/Education)
Alan Thornhill (Secretary/Training & Education)

Retiring members

Johan Smitz

Marc Van den Bergh

Additional specific responsibilities for EC members will be communicated to the membership by email and on the website.

6. Venue for 2010 Congress

The following locations were proposed to canvas opinion amongst the members present at the AGM (votes for in brackets):

* United States – Miami/Las Vegas (0)

* Hungary – Budapest (29)

* United Kingdom – Cornwall/Canterbury (5)

This was useful feedback and after canvassing opinion from the entire membership by email, the EC will put forward two suggestions and seek full written proposals for consideration. The final decision will be made by EC.

7. Alpha Journal

Alpha has received new proposals for subsidised subscription to RBMOnline for Alpha members. Proposals will be reviewed and presented to members in due course.

8. Website - www.alphascientists.org

The new website is now live and is managed by a new company under the daily operational control of Alpha central office in Switzerland (Mrs Maya Weder - alpha2@bluewin.ch).

Members are encouraged to review the website and send feedback and constructive comments to Aidita James (aj.embryos@gmail.com)

9. Internet conferences

While internet conferencing has been successful in the past, recent conferences have been poorly or sporadically attended. The EC is currently evaluating new options to include: Online CPD (journal club and self-assessment preparation for exams and certifications, etc.)

10. Any other business

Alpha Newsletter: This will continue to be edited by Lynette Scott but will be made electronic and be distributed by email only with immediate effect. All archived newsletters will be available on the website. All ideas and articles are welcome and should be directed to Lynette: scottl@fertilitycenter.com. There will be focus on contributions made by junior embryologists.

Collaboration with other professional societies: Alpha has been approached by the following societies: ESHRE (represented by EC members – Joep Geraedts, Kersti Lundin, Timur Gurgan and Soren Ziebe) – to discuss possible future joint meetings and task forces to cover training or consensus opinion in embryo grading, etc with the ESHRE Embryology SIG. Members will be notified of concrete plans. International Society for IVF (represented by Timur Gurgan and Victor Gomel) - to discuss possible Alpha session at 2009 iSIVF meeting in Geneva. Members will be notified of concrete plans.

Travel Grant winners (sponsored by Ferring): The following attendees were awarded travel grants:

- * Alexei Acosta, Lima - Peru
- * Pamela Conde, Villa Luzuriaga, - Argentina
- * Khatool Najimi, Kabul - Afghanistan

The meeting was formally closed at 15.25 hours

Istanbul, May 4, 2008

For the minutes:
Alan Thornhill - Secretary Alpha

Distribution via Alpha website as a PDF-file