



scientists in
reproductive
medicine

Alpha General Assembly
Saturday, May 1st, 2010
16.40 - 17.40
Hilton Budapest, Budapest, Hungary

MINUTES

Welcome by the Chairman

Basak Balaban welcomes all members present and thanks them for having joined us here today.

Basak Balaban summarizes the activities of the past two years:

- * The EC met on a regular basis during the past two years and has been very active in promoting ALPHA
- * New guidelines, letter templates, abstract evaluations....and etc. for a more professional running of our biennial conferences are established and will be used in the future
- * Educational workshops are aimed every year in between the two years of biennial meetings
- * Consensus workshop on Embryo morphology took place on 26th-27th, February 2010 in Istanbul in collaboration with ESHRE EMB.SIG. Sharon Mortimer will summarize the meeting later on.
- * We have now a more active website where all activities are posted:
<http://www.alphascientists.org> . We invite you to visit this site regularly.

Every member in good standing received the documents for the General Assembly one month ago and voices his opinion by raising the green voting card during the GA. The votes are being counted by Daniel Brison, David Mortimer and Marc Van den Bergh. There are 37 members present.

1. Agenda, May 1st, 2010

The agenda is approved unanimously

2. Minutes of last meeting (May 03, 2008 Istanbul)

The minutes of the Istanbul GA are approved unanimously.

3. Treasurer's report

Karin Erb presents the years 2008 and 2009. Income depends not only on the membership fees but mainly on the outcome of the Biennial meetings. The expenses are approx. € 30.000/year and were cut down considerably the previous years. The capital on January 1, 2010 is € 68.819.66.

There are no questions raised and the treasurer's report is approved unanimously

4. Changes to the Bylaws

Every member received the new bylaws 4 weeks ago and Basak Balaban highlights the major changes only:

- The bylaws were written following the ones from other European and International societies
- Alpha is no longer a Charity but a non-profit society according to the Swiss Civil Code Art. 60 et seq
- The legal seat of the Society is at the office address
- Unless members are present at the GA, they cannot vote in writing or send somebody on their behalf

- New members to the EC are nominated by the EC and confirmed by the society members at the GA
- The EC constitutes itself (e.g. the EC decides who holds which position)
- There is a limitation to EC members (a maximum of 10 persons)
- The appointments are limited to a maximum of 6 years (4 +2)
- The running of the society is less restricted as it was under the Charity rules
- Members of the Society are exonerated from personal liability with respect to the financial commitments of Alpha

The new bylaws are accepted by a majority vote of members present (37 votes).

5. **Elections to the EC**

Lynette Scott and Karin Erb are stepping down and make space for three new members.

The EC is composed as follows:

Basak Balaban, Turkey

Alan Thornhill, United Kingdom

Aidita James, United States

Ana Cobo, Spain = New

Lisa Cowan, Canada

Alpesh Doshi, United Kingdom

Peter Fancsovits, Hungary

Thorir Hardarson, Sweden = New

Peter Nagy, United States = New

The Executive Committee is approved unanimously

6. **Venue for 9th Biennial Conference 2012**

The venue for this conference has not yet been decided. The main considerations are:

- * Accessibility
- * Financial support
- * Local Membership
- * See that the conference does not coincide with other meetings
- * Politically stable
- * Last but not least a beautiful venue

Tentative options are: India - United Kingdom - Spain

The membership will be informed in due course.

7. **Website**

Aidita James presents Alphas website. It has been changed two years ago, more information is available and the updates are done on a regular basis. Hosting company has been switched in order to allow a faster visit as well as faster downloads.

The presentations of the Budapest conference will be available in about 2 weeks. Also this year an Online Self assessment tool should be available, giving our members the opportunity to check their knowledge and take some tests.

Any suggestions and ideas for the website are most welcome.

8. **Collaboration with RBM-Online**

Lynette Scott informs the membership on this topic.

Alpha was approached by RBMOnline in December 2009 with a proposal for collaboration.

This is a one time opportunity for the Alpha members to get such a good opportunity on a subscription and the Executive Committee strongly recommends accepting this offer and going into collaboration. The agreement is that Alpha members get access to the online

version of RBMOnline for US \$25.00 per year. This agreement is valid for two years and it is not optional. Every member of Alpha has to subscribe.

The EC proposes to vote in favour of this proposition and thus increase the membership fee as of 1.1.2011 from € 60 to € 80. The amount of € 80 includes subscription to RBMOnline. The majority of the member's present vote in favour of the new membership fee (35 votes) and 2 votes disapprove.

As of January 1, 2011 the Alpha membership fee will be EURO 80 and include subscription to RBMOnline.

9. **Alpha Membership**

Lisa Cowan presents the membership status. Alpha currently has 201 members in good standing. Today 325 delegates are in Budapest and of these 67 are Alpha members. There are more non-members than members present and we hope that by the next meeting this number will be different.

41 countries are represented in Budapest and we will try to get some of these delegates to join Alpha.

A main attraction will certainly be the newly accepted RBMOnline subscription.

Consensus Conference Istanbul: February 26 - 27, 2010

This two day meeting of experts to present, discuss and agree on key aspects required for embryo selection/grading took place in Istanbul. The experts were asked to join actively with the expectation that all will agree and endorse a final grading scheme at the conclusion of the meeting.

A consensus was found and a consensus paper was drafted by Sharon Mortimer. She presents this draft with some slides pointing out that the final wording is yet to receive final approval by the Workshop participants, the Alpha Executive Committee, and the ESHRE Special Interest Group of Embryology

Basak Balaban thanks Sharon Mortimer for her great job and we are all looking forward to the final paper.

The meeting concludes at 17.45.

For the minutes:
Maya Weder
Alpha Office

Basak Balaban *(approved by email 4.5.2010)*
Chairperson Alpha

Worb, May 3rd, 2010

Distribution: To the Alpha membership via email and by publication on the Alpha website