



Dear friends,

It is 6 months since we met in the Hilton Hotel in Athens during the wonderful Annual ESGE congress ‘Advanced Minimal Invasive Surgery in the Theatre and in the Office’ on 6–8 October 2005, visited by 596 participants. From 2004 on we have started to evaluate the annual congresses in a structured way by means of questionnaires. Participants are asked how they felt about the registration procedure, whether the scientific programme met their expectations and what they thought of the congress venue. The speakers could answer questions about the timing of their invitation, presentation support and financial conditions. Finally, last but not least, we asked the exhibitors about their level of satisfaction. Without the exhibiting companies there is no meeting, and it is of utmost importance that they are able to meet their potential clients. This depends on the localisation of the exhibition area and the breaks during the scientific programme. Of the participants, 90% evaluated the congress overall as good, very good or excellent (22%), while all speakers considered the congress good, very good or excellent (33%). Exhibitors praised the proximity of the main lecture hall to the exhibition area. On a scale from 1–10 the participants scored the networking value as 7.3. The sessions on new techniques in endometriosis, on oncology and on anatomy were very much appreciated. A critical point was made that no food was served during the breaks. Apparently the search for food diverts from other break activities such as networking and visiting the exhibition. As the Americans say: ‘no meeting without eating’. This point is accepted and will be taken care of during the next congress.

I thank the participants for the many filled-out evaluation forms and want to stress the importance of an evaluation as feedback for the organizers in order to further increase the quality of the congresses and tailor them to the needs of the modern endoscopist.

Already the flyers for the next annual congress (‘Don’t Turn Your Back on Endoscopy’), on 6–8 October 2006 in Strasbourg have been circulated. Strasbourg is the seat of the European parliament and a beautiful old city, that has the for gynaecologists so important stork as its municipal symbol. It will add to the value of the ESGE congress. Apart from the challenging and new research that will be presented—promising drafts of the scientific programme are circulating—an important event from the secretarial point of view is taking place in Strasbourg. If the General Assembly agrees, the new laws and bylaws will be ratified.

Laws and bylaws

It does not happen every day that the laws and bylaws of the ESGE are changed. However, it was felt, that changes in the Society's mission and structure were no longer supported by the laws. Altering such regulations is a laborious procedure. The proposed changes are presented to the board of the society and to the General Assembly. This was done during the annual congress in Athens 2005. At least 6 months before the next General Assembly, the final draft should be circulated among the members to be approved in Strasbourg. In the meantime many members of the society have given their comments, which have been incorporated in the document to as great an extent as possible.

What are the changes? First, the mission of the Society has been extended. Endoscopy is increasingly part of the usual care offered by gynaecologists and new minimal invasive treatments have been introduced. We have chosen to define the mission of the ESGE according to the title of our Journal: gynaecological surgery, endoscopy, imaging and allied techniques. By this mission statement the Society is prepared for all future developments in interventional and diagnostic gynaecology. With regard to which countries are involved in the European Society, a regional definition was warranted. We have opted for the definition of the European Council, which defines a Europe of 46 countries, including Russia and Turkey, with more than 800 million inhabitants. Countries in the Middle East and northern Africa are considered potential member states as well. Finally, the new structure of the ESGE, with sections that work within the legal frame of the society but are responsible for their own organisation, demanded certain rules to safeguard the co-ordinating task of the Society.

Hans Brölmann
Secretary General ESGE

Newly elected Board Members (2005–2009)

Mariusz Bidzinski (Poland)

Date of birth 18.09.1957

Associate Professor, Head of Department of Gynecologic Oncology, Memorial Cancer Centre, Roentgena 5, 02-781 Warsaw, Poland (mbidzinski@neostrada.pl)



I am a gynecological oncologist. From 1999 to 2005 I was a Member of Council of the European Society of Gynecological Oncology and from 2003 to 2005 I was the Vice-President of the society. I have been performing laparoscopic surgery since 1995. My experience is concentrated on the

application of endoscopy in gynecologic oncology. A lot of operations in my department are performed laparoscopically. I have authored more than 70 publications in international and domestic scientific journals, some of them concerning laparoscopy. My scientific work is also concentrated on laparoscopy in gynecological oncology.

Michel Canis (France)

Date of birth 03.10.1957

Polyclinique de l'Hôtel-Dieu, CHU, Dept of Gynecology and Obstetrics, Boulevard Léon Malfreyt, 63058 Clermont-Ferrand, France (mcanis@chu-clermontferrand.fr)



Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology in the department of Prof. Gérard Mage, previously run by Prof. Bruhat. Main activities are endoscopic surgery with special

interest in adnexal masses, endometriosis and gynecologic oncology. Research in endometriosis and in peritoneal physiology. Teaching endoscopic surgery in the CENTI created by our team several years ago (1991) in Clermont-Ferrand and located in the Faculty of Medicine.

Andreas Thurkow (The Netherlands)

Date of birth 13.06.1952

Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, St. Lucas Andreas Ziekenhuis, J. Tooropstraat 164, 1061 AE Amsterdam, The Netherlands (a.thurkow@slaz.nl)



Consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist in a group of seven gynaecologists in a large teaching hospital with residents from both the VU and AMC university clinics. Main topic: gynaecological endoscopy (in the broadest sense), for which our hospital is a referral centre and a renowned training centre.

Personal experience in gynaecological endoscopy: hysteroscopy (diagnosis and therapy) since 1982, therapeutic laparoscopy since 1984.

President of the Dutch Society for Gynaecological Endoscopy (WGE: working group of the Dutch Society for Gynaecology and Obstetrics). Faculty Member of the

national training programme in laparoscopy and hysteroscopy for residents in obstetrics and gynaecology. International Advisor AAGL. Past President and Founder of the Amsterdam Association of Gynaecology and Obstetrics.

Languages: Dutch, English, French and German fluently; some knowledge of Italian and Spanish.

Uwe Ulrich (Germany)

Date of birth 26.04.1962

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Florence Nightingale Hospital, Kreuzbergstrasse 79, 40489 Duesseldorf, Germany (ulrich@fnk.de)



Director of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Florence Nightingale Hospital, Duesseldorf, Germany; appointment as Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Bonn School of Medicine, Bonn, Germany. Professional focus: Laparoscopic surgery for severe endometriosis, and ovarian masses; gynecologic oncology, including laparoscopic pelvic and paraortic lymphadenectomy. Many national and international oral presentations and lectures on laparoscopic surgery, including live-surgery demonstrations. Author and co-author of more than 60 scientific publications. Member of the editorial board of *Gynecological Surgery*. Special academic interest in teaching and education.

Study Group for Gynecological Endoscopy (AGE)

Within the framework of the "Gynécologie Suisse" project, the Study Group for Gynecological Endoscopy (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Gynäkologische Endoskopie, AGE) promotes scientific and practical aspects of endoscopic surgery as well as the training of its members.

Specialist training

AGE has developed a three-stage program for training in gynecological endoscopy:

Stage 1

The first stage corresponds to the Practical Course in that takes place in Davos early in March every year (12th course: 9–13 March 2006; 13th course: 4–7 March 2007). Close to 100 participants are offered an attractive program in the generously proportioned Davos Congress Center with its excellent infrastructure. Uniquely, each fully equipped and instrumented workplace (Pelvitainer, video system, electrosurgery) is shared by only two trainees. Not only that, every group of four participants is coached by an experienced tutor (member of AGE). The practical exercises are accompanied by seminars and by further practical sessions on hysteroscopy and laser surgery as well as the electronic laparoscopic simulator (LapSim).

Stage 2

A second, extended stage of training takes places at the SwissEndos Center in Fribourg (www.swissendos.ch). It comprises several one- and two-day courses, some offering the opportunity for practice (pelvic floor surgery, lymphadenectomy, cancer surgery) on specially prepared cadavers.



M.K. Hohl

Stage 3

AGE offers graduates of Stages 1 and 2 the opportunity to assist experienced AGE committee members in real operations.

Our three-stage program of training in gynecological endoscopy is unique in Europe.

Furthermore, AGE is constantly concerned with questions of quality assurance, in close cooperation with Gynécologie Suisse. AGE supports and promotes scientific projects on gynecological endoscopy (current studies: extrauterine gravidity, endometriosis, hysteroscopy in endometrial carcinoma).

Recently an AGE working group went to great lengths to produce a patients' information brochure on endometriosis. This popular publication, accompanied by a drawing pad, is available in German, French and Italian and can be obtained free of charge at www.endometriose.ch or by sending a postcard to Endometriose, Postfach 258, 6301 Zug, Switzerland.

Committee

President

M.K.Hohl, Baden

Vice-President

R. A. Steiner, Chur

Secretary

M. Eberhard, Schaffhausen

Scientific Secretary

M. Mueller, Bern

Treasurer

H. U. Bratschi, Bern

Events organised by the ESGE

ESGE organised events at the occasion of the 19th European Congress on Obstetrics and Gynaecology (EBCOG Congress)

Torino, Italy, 5–8 April 2006

www.ebcog2006.it

1. ESGE Hand-on Training Session

Laparoscopic skill evaluation

Co-ordinator: R. Campo (B)

6 and 7 April 2006

Info: eage@esge.org

2. Special Symposium on Endoscopic Surgery

Current place of endoscopy in gynaecological surgery

In collaboration with: J. Dequesne (ESGE President)

Date to be confirmed.

Info: centraloffice@esge.org

15th Annual Congress of the ESGE
 Strasbourg, France
 5–7 October 2006
 Information: sabine.gisler@meeting-com.ch
 Website: www.ESGE.org

Events organised under ESGE auspices

5th Spanish Congress on Endoscopic Gynaecology
 Bilbao, Spain
 3–5 May 2006
 Info: ibrouard@hbas.osakidetza.net
agorosti@hbas.osakidetza.net

Events organised by National Societies or others

Workshop on descensus surgery and stress incontinence
 ETC-European Training Center
 K. J. Neis, Saarbrücken, Germany
 30–31 March 2006
 Info: www.etc-gyn.de; etc.saarbruecken@t-online.de

BSGE Annual Scientific Meeting
 5–6 May 2006
 Sheffield, UK
 Info: susie.bsge@btinternet.com

Czech Society for Gynaecological Endoscopy
 and Pelvic Surgery
 Urogynaecological minimal access surgery:
 management, approaches and techniques
 11–13 May 2006
 Prague, Czech Republic
www.CSGE.cz

SEGI Annual Congress
 The World Meeting on Gynecological Pelvic Pain
 and Endometriosis
 10–14 May 2006
 Milan, Italy
 nfo: info@milan2006.it
<http://www.milan2006.it>

Serbian Society for Gynecological Endoscopy
 First Symposium on Minimal Invasive Pelvic Surgery
 26–27 May 2006
 Novi Sad, Serbia and Montenegro
 Info: urgem@uns.ns.ac.yu

Czech Society for Gynaecological Endoscopy
 (CGPS-CSGE)
 New horizons of endoscopy
 12–14 October 2006
 Hradec Kralové city, Czech Republic
www.laparoscope.cz/2006



European Society for Gynaecological Endoscopy

MEMBERSHIP FORM 2006

Join (or renew) the ESGE as a member for the year 2006 by completing and returning this form as mentioned below (full information on www.ESGE.org)

PERSONAL DETAILS

Last name (family name):

First name:

Title:

Institute:

Department:

Street:

Postal code and city:

Country:

Email address:

PAYMENT SECTION (please tick the appropriate check-box):

Amount due in Euro: If no amount is indicated, 125 Euro will be charged
(Subscription to the journal '*Gynecological Surgery*' is included in the fee)

- Euro 55 Trainees (please prove by document)
- Euro 85 If you are a member of an ESGE Member National Endoscopic Society* from Croatia, Czech Rep., Slovenia, Sociedad Ibero-Americana, Turkey, Hungary, Poland, Russia (please prove by document)
- Euro 125 All other members

- Please charge my credit card: Eurocard/Mastercard VISA

Card N°: _____

Exp. date: _____

Name of Cardholder: _____

Signature: _____

- I enclose a certified bank cheque, payable to ESGE
- I will make a bank transfer in **Euro** to account N° (IBAN) CH30 0827 9001 R327 4689 0 of the ESGE. Bank: Anker Bank, SWIFT code: ANKBCH2L (bank address: Anker Bank, Avenue de la Gare 50, 1003 Lausanne, Switzerland). No costs for the beneficiary