



Minutes of the the General Meeting of the European Oncology Nursing Society (EONS)
Tuesday, 22 September 2009, 18.00-20.00
Hall 10, ICC Berlin- Internationales Congress Centrum, Berlin

Present:

Prof. Sara Faithfull	President
Dr. Sultan Kav	President-Elect
Dr. Ulrika Östlund	Board Secretary
Mrs. Françoise Charnay-Sonnek	Board member
Dr. Daniel Kelly	Board member
Mrs. Anita Margulies	Board member
Dr. Clair Watts	Executive Director
Mr. Rudi Briké	Executive Secretary

Apologies:

Mr. Rolf Bäumer	Treasurer
Prof. Yvonne Wengström	Past President
Ms. Kay Leonard	Board member

In attendance: representatives of the national societies, individual members and associated members.

01/01 Welcome and apologies for absence

Prof. Faithfull welcomed everyone to the General Meeting and informed the attendees of apologies for absence.

01/02 Minutes of the Previous meeting

The members approved and the President signed the minutes of the previous meeting held during the 6th EONS Spring Convention, 28 March 2008, Geneva, Switzerland.

Prof. Faithfull introduced the EONS Board members and Executive team to the participants.

She welcomed Dr. Mary Wells and Mr. Dimitrios Papageorgiou as new members of the EONS Board and thanked the departing Board members, Prof Yvonne Wengström and Mr Rolf Bäumer, for their hard work and commitment over the past years.

01/03 Presentation of the Excellence in Patient Education Award 2009

The **Excellence in Patient Education (EPE)** Award was launched by EONS in 2005 with the aim of honouring individual nurses or organisations that have consistently excelled at enlightening cancer patients about their disease and its treatments. Prof. Faithfull welcomed Ms Corien Eeltink, Department of Haematology of the VU Medical Centre, Amsterdam who is the winner of the 2009 EPE Award together with Mrs. Daniela Hahn of the Dutch Cancer Institute,



Antoni van Leeuwenhoek Ziekenhuis, the Netherlands for their booklet: “A question and answer approach about cancer and sexuality”. Prof. Faithfull highlighted that the EPE judging panel were very impressed with the overall high quality of the submissions for the EPE Award.

Dr. Sultan Kav presented the EPE Award to Mrs. Corien Eeltink and congratulated both winners on behalf of the entire EONS Board and all EONS members.

01/04 Presentation of the EONS Major Research Grant 2009

Prof. Faithfull introduced Dr. Lena Sharp whose proposal for the EONS Major Research Grant 2009 “*Randomized blinded trial of Calendula officinalis compared with aqueous cream for the prevention of acute skin reactions in relation to radiotherapy for breast cancer*” was awarded for funding. Dr Sharp will report the findings of her work to the EONS members at the end of the project, during the General meeting in Spring 2012.

01/05 Proposed amendments to the EONS Constitution and EONS By-laws

Prof. Faithfull reminded the participants of the reasons to amend the EONS constitution and bye-laws. The EONS Executive Board recognised that recruitment for the role of President (elect) had become increasingly difficult in past years and there was a need to amend the EONS Constitution and Bye-laws to resolve this practical issue. The fact was stressed that the amendments do not alter in any way the ethos or structure of the organisation. They do, however, enable the Executive Board to introduce a limited level of flexibility into the process of appointing future Presidents, should the ideal situation (of three Presidents from 3 different countries) not be available.

The amendments proposed were made by the solicitor and the process used was guided by his instruction. The proposal to change the text was supported by 10 full members of EONS, in accordance with the current Constitution and Bye-laws. The EONS Constitution states that the proposed changes must be agreed by at least 75% of the members present during a vote at the General meeting. All members were informed of the proposed changes and that the decision would be taken during the General meeting some 12 weeks before the General meeting, allowing ample time for attendees to be found to attend and for comments to be delivered to the EONS office in advance. (Note: The constitution requires that 2 calendar months notice be provided).

Prof. Faithfull confirmed that only EONS members were present and asked all attendees to state their affiliation to EONS (individual or society member) before proceeding with the discussion and voting process. A list of attendees and their affiliations was collated during the meeting. Mr. Giel Vaessen (individual member) pointed out that he interpreted the Bye-laws differently from the solicitor, suggesting that all voting (not just that of electing a Board member) should follow the regulations detailed in item 5-*Elections* of the EONS Bye-laws (1 vote for an individual member and 1 vote per 500 members for the national member societies). The Executive Director informed the attendees that the proposed changes and process by which any changes could be discussed and voted upon by the membership were advised by the EONS solicitor and that there had been no use of the Bye-laws section 5 by the solicitor in defining the process for changing the Constitution and Bye-laws. It was therefore understood that section 5 of the Bye-

laws applied only to voting in new members.

Clarification of this query would be checked with the solicitor post-meeting.

Members voted on the proposed changes, with the majority agreeing to the change. 47 voted for the change, 6 against and 1 abstention. The proposed changes to the EONS Bye-laws and Constitution were, therefore, agreed by more than 75% of the members present and voting at the General Meeting. The validity of this vote (in relation to Bye-laws section 5) would be checked with the solicitor post-meeting and all members would be informed of the outcome.

The attendees were informed that the Constitution and Bye-laws had been drafted many years previous, when the organisation was much smaller with a more limited level of activity. Due to the growth of the organisation, and correspondingly its activities, the Constitution and Bye-laws were recognised to be due for revision in several key areas to ensure that they met all new standards for the UK charity commission and regulations for Belgium non for profit organisations and offered clearer guidance on all matters of business. These changes would be provided to the members at the next General meeting.

Post meeting note: key extract from email sent to all members on 30 June.

*We would like to draw your attention to **item 3 on the agenda:***

Proposed amendments to the EONS Constitution and EONS Bye-laws.

The EONS Executive Board have recognised that recruitment for the role of President (elect) has become increasingly difficult in past years and there is a need to amend the EONS Constitution and Bye-laws to reflect this on-going practical matter. At a recent meeting of the EONS Executive Board it was agreed that legal advice should be taken regarding any changes. The attached amendments are those proposed by the solicitor. The amendments are minor and do not alter in any way the ethos or structure of the organisation. They do, however, enable the Executive Board to introduce a limited level of flexibility into the process of appointing future Presidents. In order to make these changes a reality, EONS now follows the processes laid down in its Constitution and Bye-laws and as such has obtained written consent from 10 full Members in support of these changes.

The 10 full Members proposing the change are:

Prof. Sara Faithfull (UK)

Prof. Yvonne Wengström (Sweden)

Dr. Sultan Kav (Turkey)

Mrs. Anita Margulies (Switzerland)

Ms. Kay Leonard (Ireland)

Mrs. Françoise Charnay-Sonnek (France)

Dr. Daniel Kelly (UK)

Dr. Ulrika Östlund (Sweden)

Mrs Irene Bachmann-Mettler (Switzerland)

Mrs Frieda Clinton (Ireland)

The proposed change will now be discussed and voted upon during the coming General Meeting in September. Please find attached for your use the proposed amendments to the EONS Constitution and Bye laws.

I thank you for your engagement with this issue and look forward to your active participation in this discussion at the General meeting in Berlin.

01/06 Financial Report

Dr. Daniel Kelly presented an overview of the budgetary planning for 2009-2010. Dr. Kelly pointed out that since EONS is registered as a UK charity, a UK financial year is applied which runs from 1 April until 31 March of the next year. Although the overall result for the year was likely to generate a positive balance on the EONS accounts, the budget contained approximations, and as such an estimated surplus of 116.000 Euro could only be considered to be indicative. As a result, the Board had opted to follow a cautious approach regarding new expenditure. Given the uncertainty of the congress income and the reduced income from advertising, the Board had agreed to focus on delivering outcomes from existing projects and strengthening EONS core functions (e.g. communications/education) rather than start new work in this financial year. Alternative revenue streams would be explored in order to create a more diverse and stable portfolio of income for the organisation. One-off projects delivering the new website and the design of the Newsletter would be managed, since these would provide the means for enhanced communication with members and demonstrate EONS members skills and professionalism to the wider community. New legislation from the Charity Commission required that increased funds be set aside to offset potential financial problems; this enhanced fund would be established over the next 2-3 years.

01/07 EONS activities

An update on deliverables of the EONS CARE strategy was presented. With regard to Communication, Prof. Faithfull pointed out the EONS Newsletter and the EONS website have been restyled completely. The EONS Newsletter will routinely be available in pdf format only and will be printed in relation to special events such as the ECCO – ESMO conference, Spring Convention etc.

These communication tools have been developed with the aim to generate interest beyond the nursing community: sharing nurses' experiences with other healthcare professionals. An update was also given with regard to activities on the Policy agenda, Research and Education.

Mrs. Françoise Charnay-Sonnek, presented an update of the work of the Providing Supportive Care and Advice to Men with Prostate cancer (PSA) Project, whilst Dr. Ulrika Östlund and Prof. Sara Faithfull provided updates on the launch of two new curricula: the Breast Cancer Curriculum and the Lung Cancer Curriculum, respectively. All project participants were thanked for their invaluable expertise.

01/08 Open discussion forum

There were no further comments/questions.

01/09 Date, time and place of next meeting

The next EONS General Meeting will be held during the 7th EONS Spring Convention, 15-16 April 2010, The Hague, The Netherlands.

Exact date to be communicated in due time.

01/10 Introduction of the new EONS President

Prof. Faithfull handed over the EONS Presidency to Dr. Sultan Kav.
Dr. Kav expressed her thanks for this great opportunity to represent the oncology nurses. She expressed also her sincere thanks, on behalf of the entire EONS Board, to Prof. Faithfull for her work as EONS President.

Signed:

Date: