European Oncology Nursing Society
General Meeting

Room Lehar 1, European Cancer Congress, Vienna, Austria
Saturday 26 September, 13.00-14.30
(Networking reception at 12.30)

MINUTES

Present:
Erik van Muilekom (EvM) President
Birgitte Grube (BG) Past-President
Daniel Kelly (DK) President-Elect
Mary Wells (MW) Board Secretary
Cristina Lacerda (CL) Treasurer
Lena Sharp (LS) Board member (Research)
Patrick Crombez (PC) Board member (Advocacy)
Andreas Charalambous (ACh) Board member (Education)
Clair Watts (CW) Executive Director
Rudi Briké (RB) Coordination and Membership Manager

Also:
Representatives of the national society members, associated members, individual members and members of the EONS National Oncology Nursing Societies. 60 delegates participated in the meeting, of whom 32 were voting members.

Item 1 Welcome
President Erik van Muilekom welcomed everyone to the General Meeting and introduced the members of the EONS Executive Board and the EONS staff.
Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Mr. Paul Trevatt, EONS Executive Board member.
EvM reminded the participants about the operational changes which have been implemented within EONS, due to changes to the tax and VAT arrangements in Belgium. He referred also to the ongoing changes within ECCO as a result of the ESMO withdrawal from the ECCO organisation.
EvM presented a short overview of his presidency and he announced that the EONS-10 Congress will take place from 17-18 October 2016 in Dublin, Ireland.

Item 2 Minutes of the previous meeting:
The members approved, and the President signed, the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19 September 2014 during the EONS-9 Congress in Istanbul, Turkey.

Item 3 Approval of the Executive Board Election result:
Dr. Clair Watts presented the participants with an overview of the two election processes related to the election of a President-Elect/Board Secretary (1st round) and the election of the EONS Board member Education (2nd round). She reminded the participants that clear processes had been developed and agreed by the EONS Board in advance and these have
been published on the EONS website, in the EONS Newsletter and forwarded to the EONS membership.

CW informed the participants about the election results which now had to be approved by the voting members of the European Oncology Nursing Society, present at this General Meeting.

She asked delegates from the national oncology nursing societies and individual members to take a seat in the voting section of the meeting room and to visibly present their voting slip or to raise their hand during the voting. CW then invited the voting members to confirm the election results.

The voting members unanimously accepted the voting results for both rounds. Prof. Lena Sharp was therefore confirmed as the new EONS President-Elect while Dr. Theresa Wiseman was confirmed as the new EONS Executive Board Secretary and Dr. Rebecca Verity as the new Executive Board member for Education. CW expressed her thanks to all the non-elected candidates for offering their time and commitment to EONS and she invited them to consider standing for a Board role in future elections.

**Item 4  Presidential hand-over ceremony**

Prof. Daniel Kelly officially took over the Presidency of EONS from Mr. Erik van Muilekom. He thanked Mr. Erik van Muilekom for his important contribution to EONS as EONS President.

**Item 5  Welcome New Board & thank departing Board**

The newly elected Board members Prof. Lena Sharp (EONS President-Elect), Dr. Theresa Wiseman (Board Secretary) and Dr. Rebecca Verity (Board member Education) were welcomed by the membership.

Leaving Board members Mrs. Birgitte Grube (Past-President) and Prof. Mary Wells (Board Secretary) received a deserved “Thank you” from all the participants for their commitment to EONS during their terms of office.

**Item 6  New President’s strategic direction 2015-2017**

Prof. Daniel Kelly shortly outlined the new Strategic Direction for 2015-2017. He discussed the value of EONS being part of the ECCO structure. He pointed out that the new strategy would focus on 3 main areas: research promotion, promoting leadership for oncology nurses and teenage and young adult care. He stressed the importance of having a healthy financial position and of continuing to enhance cooperation with other European organisations in order to face future challenges.

**Item 7  Treasurer’s Financial Report**

Mrs. Cristina Lacerda presented the end of year report FY 2014-2015. She informed the participants that the external audit has been carried out and that the accounts need to be formally approved by the EONS Executive Board.

CL referred to the reduced income for FY 2014-2015 compared to the high level of expenditure. She pointed out that this is in line with the advice from the auditor, which was that, as a charity organisation, EONS should be spending more money.

She informed the participants that the financial report will soon be available on the EONS website and that an accompanying activity and public benefit report will be available by end 2015.

Related to the budgetary strategy for FY 2015-2016, she highlighted the need to seek new income streams, to review and reduce project costs and to increase shared project development.
Item 8  Grants & Awards
  Prof. Lena Sharp provided an overview of recent grants & awards and she informed the members that the call for applications for the Invited Speaker Grant is now live. The deadline for applications is 1st December 2015.
  Mrs. Valentina Biagioli, who received the 2015 EONS Novice Research Dissemination Award together with Carolina Chabrera, provided an outline of her awarded abstract “Propolis for prevention of chemo-induced oral mucositis in breast cancer patients: A randomized controlled trial”.

Item 9  Activity Update
  CARE activity update:
   - Communication – Patrick Crombez
     EONS magazine: PC informed the participants that the latest issue of the EONS Magazine on Advocacy is available on the EONS stand.
     EONS website: the EONS website team will carry out “usability” tests in the EONS Society lounge during the Congress to test the level of accessibility of the website. PC pointed out that engagement with social media is steadily increasing.
     Membership Survey: PC indicated that a new format containing new questions is in development.
     Inclusive communications: PC informed the participants about the development of a survey in order to identify the need for European non-oncology Societies to collaborate with EONS. The survey would be distributed online to non-oncology nurses in Europe through the EONS National Oncology Nursing Societies.
   - Advocacy - Patrick Crombez
     Recognition of Oncology Nursing Specialty at EU level: PC provided an overview of the progress on this topic as well as activities planned in 2016.
   - Research – Andreas Charalambous
     Dr. Andreas Charalambous provided an overview of activities during 2015 and planned activities for 2016. He informed the participants that a Research Proposal Workshop for EONS PhD students is scheduled to take place at the University of Stirling in May 2016. The call for applications will soon be available on the EONS website.
   - Education – Andreas Charalambous
     ACh provided the meeting attendees with an overview of guidelines available from the EONS website. He also informed them that the EONS Cancer Nursing Core Curriculum will be revised in 2016 and that another Teenage Cancer trust leadership summit will take place in 2016, following up on a successful TCT event in 2014.

Item 11  Upcoming events
  Prof. Daniel Kelly informed the participants that applications for the 2016 Masterclass, which will take place in Ermatingen, Switzerland, are now open. He pointed out that as of 2017, the Masterclass would take place in Germany. He also referred to the Research Proposal Workshop for PhD students, taking place in Stirling, UK from 18 to 20 May 2016. The EONS-10 Congress will take place in Dublin, Ireland from 17-18 October 2016, and the ECC 2017 Congress will take place in Amsterdam, the Netherlands from 27 to 30 January 2017.

Item 12  Date, time and place of next meeting
  Prof. Kelly closed the 2015 General meeting by encouraging the participants to increase their involvement with EONS. He invited the participants to the Nursing Presidents reception on Monday 28 September in the EONS lounge and to the next General meeting taking place in Dublin at the EONS-10 Congress in October 2016. Exact time and location will be communicated in due course.
Mrs. Birgitte Grube expressed her thanks to Mr. Erik van Muilekom for his achievements as EONS President. On behalf of the EONS Board, she handed over a small gift as an acknowledgement for his important contribution as EONS President. She expressed her thanks also to Mr. Harald Titzer for his valuable role as time keeper of the meeting.

Signed:

Date:

*The presentations made during the meeting are available on the EONS website and can also be found as a separate attachment to these minutes.*