

2MINUTES OF THE GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING  
OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL EMBRYO TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Virtual Meeting

I. Call to order

President Pascale Chavatte-Palmer called the meeting to order at 10:33 am. Pascale reported that the meeting has gone very well. Pascale stated that she would also be doing most of the reports from the committees.

II. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes have been posted on the meeting website for the members to review.

*Marc-André Sirard moved to accept the minutes from the business meeting last year in New York. Rebecca Krisher seconded the motion. Motion passed*

III. Report of the President

President Chavatte-Palmer reported that she is the first president that had a mandate of two years. The second year has been harder with the COVID 19 epidemic.

Pascale had technical difficulties and Pierre Comizzoli stepped and took her place with the reports. He reported that in May and June the Board worked on postponing the Lima meeting to January 2023 and started the process of changing the onsite IETS meeting to a virtual meeting. In July, the Board extended the abstract deadline and worked with CSIRO to meet the deadlines for the January journal production. IETS formed the ad hoc committee for the Virtual Annual Conference, chaired by Patrick Blondin and Ann Van Soom. In September IETS signed the contract with Performedia as the host platform for the virtual meeting and with FASS to begin the development of the new IETS website. The Website Committee chaired by Marc-André Sirard did an outstanding job on the new website. It will be ready for review to the membership tomorrow. Pascale considers the new website her gift to the society. For the past two years the Board has been discussing the plans for a strategic plan. 2020 was not very compatible for a meeting, however, with all the different technologies that the Board had used in the past year, they will move forward with the strategic plan in 2021. One of the first steps will be a consultation with the membership. The Board will also make sure that IETS is relevant to animal welfare issues and embryo technologies.

#### IV. Treasurer's Report

Pierre Comizzoli reported that the assets have decreased due to the market vulnerability in 2020. We are still okay, as we know that we still have enough money to run the association for the next three years and still be okay. This is not an emergency situation. We have a lost in investments. Revenues in membership and publication are about the same, the lost is on the investment side. We had some extra cost due to the venue of the meeting in New York. It was more expensive to organize the meeting in New York. With the lost in the annual conference and the investments, we had a total lost to the society of \$132,260.71. During this current fiscal year of 2021, the markets are much better, so the investments are back where they were before COVID, and we anticipate less expenses for the virtual meeting. The IETS Foundation have their own investments, they also had a loss. Expenses for the Foundation were the same as in the past year. The Foundation investments are also doing better. For the next year, we will meet in Savannah, Georgia and we do well when we meet in the US, and we anticipate a good fiscal year for 2022. If you have any questions, please email Pierre.

Pierre then thanked the Program Chairs for all of their work. They had double the duties, first the planned meeting in Lima, Peru, then switching the meeting to the virtual format. Congratulations for the wonderful program.

Pierre thanked the Morulas, Osvaldo Bogado Pascottini, President, Beatriz Rodriguez Alonso, Governor, and Rolando Pasquariello, Governor. They adapted to the virtual format and did a fantastic job. The new governors are Caroline Cardoso Okada and Morgan Orsolini.

Pierre then thanked the Committee Chairs, HASAC, George Perry, Manual subcommittee, Sue Leelawardana; Regulatory subcommittee, Angela Snell; Research subcommittee, Lamia Briand; Forms and Certificates subcommittee, Ann Holmes; and Emerging Technologies subcommittee, Charles Looney. Thank you to all for the hard work. The HASAC reports are important work and posted on the website. In 2022, the HASAC committee is planning a pre-conference with the focus on promoting safe trade in in-vitro produced embryos, covering a lot of safety issues on different species.

Cesare Galli reported that the Manual committee is working on the 5<sup>th</sup> Edition. A lot of chapters, including Volume 2 and many in Volume 1, have been completed thanks to Sue Leelawardana and George Perry and all the authors and reviewers. The new chapters are posted on the new website.

Pierre thanked the Partner Societies, chaired by Patrick Blondin. DABE, for the pre-conference workshop, on EVs, chaired by Marcia Ferraz. Jorge Piedrahita will leave the committee, and Marcia is looking for a replacement. Thank you, Jorge, for your service.

CANDES, for the concurrent session, chaired by Dragos Scarlet. The invited speaker was Marcelo Ratto on new world camelids and the three short oral presentations. Next year,

CANDES will present a pre-conference symposium with talks on white rhino, marine species, amphibians, wild cats and horse.

Data Retrieval, chaired by João Viana. It is very important to collect all the data from all over the world.

Current trends Cattle: decrease in transfer of IVD embryos (-17.1%), increase of IVP (+7.3%). Other species: increase in both IVD and IVP embryos in horses and sheep, inconsistent trends in goats

- **Highlights**

- Well established, consistent data recover from cattle in Europe and Americas
- Ongoing progresses in data recover from other species

- **Challenges**

- Erratic data report from Oceania, East Asia (needs to be improved!)
- Resume of data report by Japan still under discussion by the JETS

We are good at reporting data from most of the world, and we hope that through the partner societies, that we have more input of data from those areas that we don't have data reported.

#### IETS Foundation

Jennifer Barfield, chair, of the IETS Foundation was pleased to report that the Foundation was able to carry-out all of the student competitions and administer the Early Career Achievement Award. This was all do to the hard work of the Foundation trustees. Jennifer thanked the reviewers for all of their work. Jennifer thanked Hilde Aardema, Lucky Nedambale and Satoko Matoba for their service on the Foundation. Jennifer also reminded the membership that there is a link on the IETS website where donations may be made, and thanked the members for their support for the competitions and the annual conference.

#### In Memoriam

Pierre listed the members and friends of the society who have passed away. Lois Etherington Betteridge, designer of the Pioneer Award. Antonio Lauria, pioneer of embryo transfer. Vlad Pawlyshyn, also a pioneer of embryo transfer.

#### New Business

Pierre thanked the members departing from the Board, Xiuchun (Cindy) Tian, governor from 2018-2020, Charles F. Rosenkrans, Jr., governor 2018-2020, and Pascale Chavatte-Palmer, president, first to serve the two-year term, 201-2020.

Incoming Board members are Rebecca Krisher, Vice President, Joanna Souza-Fabjan, governor and Kazuhiro Kikuchi, governor. Continuing on the Board, Cesare Galli, President, Pierre Comizzoli, Treasurer, Hanna Grothmann, Governor, Marc-André Sirard, Governor and Lotte Strøbech, Governor. Pierre welcomed Cesare Galli as the new president. Cesare thanked Pascale Chavatte-Palmer who lead the society in a very difficult time and to Cindy Tian and Charles Rosenkrans for their service. He welcomed the new governors and thanked the program chairs Ann Van Soom and Patrick Blondin and the virtual meeting committee for a very well-organized conference in such a short time. He reported that the next meeting will hopefully be in person, in

Savannah, Georgia. Program chairs Hilde Aardema and Flavio Meirelle are working hard on the program. He reported that given current epidemics, IETS will keep the membership updated on any changes to the meeting format.

Meeting adjourned at 11:06 am