

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING
OF THE
INTERNATIONAL EMBRYO TRANSFER SOCIETY

Wednesday, January 13, 2022

Hyatt Regency Savannah, Ballroom ABC

I. Call to Order

President Cesare Galli called the meeting to order at 9:52 am.

II. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes were posted on the meeting website, before the start of the annual conference, for the membership to review.

Cesare Galli moved that the minutes from the business meeting in January 2021 be accepted. Katrin Hinrichs seconded the motion, motion passed.

III. Report of the President

Cesare Galli reported that the 2021 Virtual Annual Conference has been available online for the past year. The program was well received by the members; however, this posting affected IETS's finances because the conference was free to all members. This year will again be difficult because of the low attendance due to the ongoing pandemic. There were 181 abstracts submitted and with 171 accepted. There were 287 on-site registrations, 54 registrations for the online recordings, 87 registrations for the IVF preconference session, and 44 registrations for the CANDES preconference session. For those who could not make the conference or had to cancel at the last minute, online recordings of the preconference and main sessions and PDFs of the posters will be available to view online. Four invited speakers were unable to attend but sent their recorded presentations to be viewed during the meeting and will be available for questions.

Position statements for ART and genome editing were published on the IETS website. Additional chapters of the *IETS Manual* were finalized and posted on the website for members-only access. The committee is getting closer to completing the fifth online edition of the *IETS Manual*.

The Foundation presented a webinar on embryo grading. The next annual conference will be held in Lima, Peru, in January 2023. The Board of Governors has decided to have a hybrid conference given the unpredictable situation next year with regard to pandemic. The program chairs will be Hanna Grothmann and Felipe Perecin. The 2024 Annual Conference will be in Denver, Colorado, USA, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of IETS. Program chairs will be Dawit Tesfaye and Daniela Demetrio. The local organizing committee for 2024 will be led by Jennifer Barfield.

The IETS Board is planning to schedule meeting locations for the coming years and will send out requests for proposals for the 2025 and 2026 meetings. The annual conference for 2025 will be held in North America, and the Board will be soliciting proposals from within the United States and Canada. For 2026, the Board plans to have the annual conference outside of North America and will be sending out requests to receive bids to host the conference. IETS applied to USDA for a grant to support the annual conference. The sum of \$50,000 was awarded to cover three annual conference years, 2022, 2023, and 2024. This will help alleviate the financial burden caused by COVID. The Board has also been working to draft a strategic plan, which will be illustrated during Pierre Comizzoli treasurer's report.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Pierre Comizzoli reported that IETS had a good year, despite the problems with the COVID pandemic. The investments have done well, and IETS is in a good position financially. The Foundation did not grant the total amount for awards, because the winners were not able to travel to the meeting due to COVID. Because less funds were paid out and investments increased in value, the Foundation is in a good position financially.

Strategic Plan

Pierre Comizzoli presented a draft of the strategic plan and the new IETS mission and vision statements.

IETS Mission

The mission of IETS is to bring together scientists and practitioners with the latest knowledge impacting the research, development, and application of embryo and related technologies through educational and networking activities, regulatory guidance, and scientific publications while promoting responsible development and use of animal reproduction technologies.

IETS Vision

To be the world's leading scientific and technical reference in animal-assisted reproduction technologies.

GOAL 1: IETS will be known for growing and retaining a diverse IETS membership.

Objective 1: Increase member benefits all over the world.

Objective 2: Bolster the annual conference as the premier event for the profession.

Objective 3: Increase the number of early career members.

Objective 4: Increase the managerial support and focus to be able to quickly adapt to changes in environment (professional landscape).

GOAL 2: IETS will enhance its value for scientists and practitioners.

Objective 1: Increase opportunities for participation within IETS.

Objective 2: Increase opportunities for recognition within IETS.

Objective 3: Increase engagement with various government and other entities.

GOAL 3: IETS will become an active player in the development of responsible animal reproduction science and participate in the debate on the social acceptance of animal reproduction technologies.

Objective 1: Engage with social perception and communication specialists in relation to animal reproduction technologies and animal for food issues, as well as their impact on the environment and climate change.

Objective 2: Inform the public about the relevance and value of wildlife and zoo animal research in the biodiversity goals of the world.

Objective 3: Increase the appreciation of animal models (e.g., toxicology, biomedicine, IVF).

Cesare Galli thanked the co-chairs of the program, Hilde Aardema and Flavio Vieira Meirelles, for all their hard work on an excellent program. Cesare then thanked the Morulas; Osvaldo Bogado Pascottini, president; Carolina Tiemi Cardoso Okada, governor; and Morgan Orsolini, governor for all their work on

the CANDES Morulas preconference program, Morulas career luncheon, Morulas mentor luncheon, and Morulas forum. Cesare announced the new president of the Morulas for 2022–2023 is Krishna Chaitanya Pavani. Carolina and Morgan will serve one more year as governors. Cesare recognized the HASAC chairs for their hard work and thanked them for their service: HASAC chair, George Perry; manual subcommittee chair, Sue Leelawardana; regulatory subcommittee chair, Angela Snell; research subcommittee chair, Lamia Briand; forms and certificates subcommittee chair, Ann Holmes; and emerging technologies subcommittee chair, Charles Looney. Cesare thanked Dragos Scarlet, chair of the CANDES committee for the preconference; Marcia Ferraz, chair of the DABE committee for the DABE concurrent session; and João Viana, chair of the data retrieval committee; and reported that the data retrieval report would be posted on the IETS website February 1.

Jennifer Barfield, chair of the Foundation, reported that there were 52 applicants for the Graduate Student Competition, 10 applicants for the Undergraduate Poster Competition, 51 entries for the RFD Poster Competition, 10 applicants for the Peter Farin Trainee Travel Award, and four applicants for the Early Career Achievement Award, all under the scientist category. Jennifer Barfield and Bianca Gasparrini will depart from the Foundation this year. The new Foundation leaders are João Viana as chair and Paula Tribulo as vice chair. The new trustees are Brad Daignault (USA), Rolando Pasquariello (Italy), and Carrie Hanna (USA). Remaining on the Foundation Board are Nisar Wani (UAE), Khoboso Lehloenya (South Africa), Jennifer Kelly (Australia), and Yao Xiao (China).

V. In Memorial

A few moments of silence were held for Robert Michael Moor, Ian Gordon, Twink Allen, and George E. Seidel Jr.

VI. Board

Cesare reported that Hanna Grothmann will be departing from the Board. New members to the Board are Gabriela Mastromonaco (Canada) and Marcello Rubessa (USA). Continuing on the Board is Cesare Galli, president; Rebecca Krisher, vice president; Pierre Comizzoli, treasurer; Joanna Souza-Fabjan, governor; Marc-André Sirard, governor; Lotte Stroebech, governor; and Kazuhiro Kikuchi, governor.

VII. Drawing

The winner of the 2023 complimentary registration in Lima, Peru, is Rocio Rivera.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 am.