

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

Wednesday, January 18, 2023

Limatambo 4,5, Westin Hotel, Lima Peru

I. Call to Order

President Cesare Galli called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

II. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes from the Savannah meeting 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 2022 be accepted. A motion was made, seconded and passed.

III. Report of the President

Cesare Galli reported that the 2022 AC hybrid has been available online for those who could not make it to Savannah. The spike of Covid around Christmas affected significantly the number of participants and as a consequence our finances. The turnout of 287 registrants on site was considered a success. For those who could not make it, if they were registered, the recordings were made available online the next day. Registration being low, the Society incurred attrition charges to the hotel. Our sponsors and exhibitors have been very generous (one of the highest budgets of the past few years) in supporting IETS. The preconference on the IVF embryos was very well attended by practitioners indicating the attractiveness of these type of activities to our membership, but requires a lot of effort and dedicated volunteers to organize the activity.

Cesare participated at the SBTE Annual Meeting in Iguazu, and established contact with some new sponsors. We have signed a contract with RFD for three years. They accepted our request for an increase of the royalties up to \$6000 from \$2000. The fee for open access for IETS members has been lowered from \$2000 to \$1000. Other benefits are the same as before.

Brad Daigneault, trustee on the Foundation has set up a webinar in July on pig *in vitro* embryo production. Marcello Rubessa, Board member has organized three webinars for this fall, one on microfluidics, one on buffalo IVP, and one on ART for at conservation. The Morulas have also organized two research webinars. All webinars will be available for viewing on the website. More are planned for the coming months.

2023 will also be difficult due to low attendance at the annual conference, due to ongoing political turmoil in Peru. There were 255 accepted abstracts. All posters have been loaded and available on line, many with video presentations. We have 426 registrations, 382 in person, 44 online, 43 for the DABE preconference, 50 for the HASAC preconference and 17 for the

ARTCM virtual module and 19 for the ARTCM onsite module. For those who could not make it or had to cancel at the last minute, there are recordings of the preconference and main sessions, plus PDFs of the poster posted on the website. We had fee registrations from South America before Christmas, due to the high cost for local people. Per a request from the LOC, the Board decided to lower the fees to \$20 to allow local students access to the meeting. Three invited speakers could not make it to the meeting, but sent their recorded presentations and are available live for questions online after the recorded presentation.

The Board is launching a fund-raising campaign for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an opportunity to make IETS known to a wider audience to boost membership and increase membership programs.

Nest year we will be in Fort Worth, Texas for the 2025 annual conference. We are collecting bids for 2026.

#### IV. Treasurer's Report

Pierre Comizzoli reported that there have been some changes in our assets due to the fluctuation of the market, and the decrease in attendance at the meetings, due to Covid, political unrest, and we will have losses from our meetings. The Foundation has also had losses due to the change in assets.

#### V. Strategic Planning Update

Cesare gave an update on the strategic plan.

**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 of the professional landscape.

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

**Objective #1:** Increase opportunities for participation within IETS.

**Objective #2:** Increase recognition for participation in IETS.

**Objective #3:** Increase engagement with various governments 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 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 (toxicology, Biomedicine, IVF, etc.).

Implementation and actions in year 1.

Twitter account is functioning very well, but we need to upgrade our visibility. 322 followers, since March 2021.

The web page is now activated with news feed for the 4 social platforms, and weekly emails of relevant papers are sent out every week. Social media platforms (monitoring the value of continuing using Twitter since platform changes frequently)

To help feed the news channel, we are supporting the idea that a morula would participate (ad hoc) with the Board meeting to inform about directions for expanding our presence.

We are also receiving services from communication specialists (through FASS and internal resources). The strategic plan will be used to solicit donors for the 50th anniversary fundraising campaign. Specific actions are being developed for the Annual Conference.

Program co-chairs Hanna Grothmann and Felipe Perecin did a fantastic job. The reviewing process had 10 manuscripts for review, and all were completed on time and sent to RFD and are posted online for viewing. 8 abstracts were selected for oral presentations for the main program. The Practitioners' Forum with co-chairs Gabriel Bo and Carolina Herrera is completed.

Cesare thanked the Morulas, Krishna Pavani, President, Carolina Tiemi Cardoso Okada, Governor, and Morgan Orsolini, Governor, for their work on the program with the Morulas Career Luncheon, Mentor Luncheon, Morulas Forum and Student Mixer. Carolina and Morgan go off the Morulas board this year, and new members are Daniel Angel Velez, Governor and Alejandro de la Fuente-Lara, Governor.

George Perry will stay as HASAC chair. Sue Leelawardana will retire this year from the manual subcommittee. Andrea Preusche will stay as chair of the Regulatory subcommittee and Lamia Briand for the Research subcommittee and Anne Holmes on the Forms and Certificates subcommittee. The 5<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Manual is completed and online. It will be compiled in an e-book and obtain a DOI.

Thank you to the following committee chairs for all their work. Barbara Durrant and Matthew Wheeler, co-chairs of the Partner Society Committee, Marica Ferraz, DABE chair, Dragos Scarlet, CANDES chair and João Viana, Data Retrieval chair.

Data retrieval committee update: Despite the Covid pandemic, general trends of the embryo industry were very positive. Reporting of ET data remains at 20%. Over 1.5 million *in vitro* produced embryos were recorded, an increase of 31.5% compared 2020 (1,521,018 vs 1,156,422.)

The DABE preconference workshop will focus on modelling embryos, "Modelling embryo function *in vitro*: the era of synthetic embryos.

For the 50<sup>th</sup> IETS annual conference, CANDES with the Morulas will have a preconference symposium where CANDES members can come together and present the advances made within CANDES since its beginning as well as most recent developments in wildlife ARTs.

João Viana reported that there were 82 applicants for the Graduate Student Competition. 14 applicant for the Undergraduate Poster Competition and 86 entries for the RFD Best Poster

Competition. Peter Farin Trainee Travel Award and 48 applicants and the Early Career Achievement Award had nominees in both categories and two winners this year. João will be departing as chair of the Foundation, with Paula Tribulo taking position. Continuing on the Foundation is Khoboso Lehloenya, South Africa, Jennifer Kelly, Australia, Yao Xiao, China, Nisar Ahmad Wani, United Arab Emirates, Brad Daignault, USA, Rolando Pasquariello, Italy, and Carrie Hanna, USA.

Going off the IETS Board of Governors is Cesare Galli, and Lotte Stroebech. New members to the Board are Beatriz Fernandez-Fuertes, Spain and Bianca Gasparrini, Italy. Remaining on the Board is Marc-André Sirard, as in-coming Vice President, Rebecca Krisher, President, Pierre Comizzoli, Treasurer, Governors, Joanna Souza-Fabjan, Kazuhiro Kikuchi, Gabriela Mastromonaco, and Marcello Rubessa.

## VI. Drawing

Winner of the 2024 registration drawing was Jesus Alfredo Berdugo.

Business meeting was adjourned.