

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

Thursday, January 11, 2:30 pm

Centennial Ballroom A-C, Hyatt Regency Denver, Denver, Colorado

I. Call to Order

President Rebecca Krisher called the meeting to order at 2:47 pm and reviewed the agenda.

II. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Rebecca opened discussion on the previous minutes of the 2023 business meeting. There was not any discussion, she then called for a motion to approve.

Marc-André Sirard moved that the minutes of the 2023 business meeting be approved. George Perry seconded the motion. Motion passed.

III. Report of the President

Rebecca reported that we have 581 attendees this year. This is the largest conference we have had since 2015 in Versailles. There have been only 4 other conferences that have been larger than this one, Versailles at 608, Cordoba at 670, Kyoto, Japan, at 732 and Orlando, Florida at 633. Our two top types of attendees are professional members and student members, next exhibitors, then non-member professionals, post-doc members and the non-member graduate students. Debi Seymour is retiring. Jenny Paul is joining us and is learning the ropes. We are happy to have her in Denver, she is going to be a great asset. FASS has had a change in their structure. Since 2015, ADSA has been the sole member of the FASS 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization. In late 2023, ADSA decided to consolidate with FASS. This change will not affect IETS. The full FASS staff will remain in place as ADSA employees.

Marc-André Sirard is liaising with George Perry, HASAC on a MOU with ICAR. There is also preparation and publication on a White Paper describing the outcome of the HASAC preconference in Lima, Peru on, “International trade in IVP embryos is as safe as in IVD embryos.”

The board has also approved the financial support for the HASAC project, “Assessment of pathogen risks with IVD and IVP embryo transfers”. This will be in collaboration with Professor Javier Guitian and Mrs. Erica Nunney of the Royal Veterinary College, United Kingdom.

The proposal will:

- i. gathering relevant existing data on pathogen risks with IVD and IVP embryo transfers
- ii. analysis of data, development of new international sanitary standards for trade in embryos
- iii. develop dashboards for ongoing monitoring and data analysis

IETS kicked off the fund-raising campaign this fall and it will continue until the meeting in Fort Worth next January 2025. We have had several members give. At this time, we have raised \$40,101.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Rebecca reported for the treasurer Pierre Comizzoli. IETS has a fiscal year of July through June. Our assets have not changed a whole lot, they have gotten a little better. 2023 has been a good year. Expenses have stayed about the same. Loss of \$65,701 in Lima. In 2023 IETS gave the Foundation \$6500, and in 2022 \$22,000.00. The net change for IETS in 2023 is a loss of \$72,201.16.

The IETS Foundation relatively stable of a loss of \$12,404.31.

This is the second year for working on the strategic plan.

The three goals are:

1. IETS will be known for growing and retaining a diverse IETS membership
2. IETS will enhance value for scientists and practitioners
3. IETS will become an active player in the development of responsible animal reproduction science and participate in the debate on the social acceptable of animal reproduction technologies.

Implementation and actions in year 2. We have kicked off the 50th Fundraising campaign to support strategic plan initiatives. We are utilizing more services available at FASS to help us achieve our objectives and finalizing a new FASS MOU contract.

We have established a social media platform. We use Hootsuite to increase our presence. When you see the post, repost and like the post. The weekly email of relevant papers continues, this responsibility has been fully assumed by the Morulas. The Morulas are sending an email to new student members to welcome them. They are planning an event at the 2025 annual conference targeting post-doctoral registrants, to encourage continued participation after members graduate from the Morula group. We have increased webinars, there were a total of 9 in 2023. Marcello Rubessa coordinates the efforts with the Board, Foundation, Morulas and Partner Societies throughout the year. 2 webinars are already planned for 2024.

The Board is working with the Foundation to become more financially independent and be able to support the awards.

There is a working group to examine methods to reach out to and increase participation from low-income countries. The Board has increase interactions with the IETS committees and the Foundation to discuss optimizing the location, affordability, format, and content of the Annual Conference.

Rebecca thanked the program chairs, Daniela Demetrio and Dawit Tesfaye for their wonderful job. 12 manuscripts were reviewed and all are included in the proceedings which were posted in December. 7 abstracts were selected for oral presentations in the main program. 254 abstracts were submitted with 234 accepted for publishing.

The program chairs for 2025 is Kiho Lee, University of Missouri and Paula Rodriguez from Genus/ABS.

Thank you to the Morulas, Krishna Chaitanya Pavani, President, Daniel Angel Velez, Governor and Alejandro de la Fuente-Lar, Governor, for all the work on the 2024 events: Morulas Career Luncheon, Mentor Luncheon, Morulas Forum and Student Mixer. Krishna is rolling off the Board, with Alejandro de la Fuente-Lara as the new President and Daniel Angel Velez remaining as Governor. There will be a special election in January for the second governor.

HASAC Committee Chairs

George Perry chairs the HASAC committee. They had an excellent meeting this morning. Lamia Briand is Research subcommittee chair, Andrea Preusche is Regulatory subcommittee chair, Ashley Swenson chairs the Manual subcommittee, Alvaro Garcia Guerra chairs the Emerging Technologies and Issues subcommittee and Anne Holmes chairs the Forms and Certificates subcommittee.

Partner Society co-chairs – Barbara Durrant and Matthew Wheeler. Rebecca reported that they had a very good meeting with the partner societies and they are looking forward to increase interaction with the partner societies and IETS.

DATA Retrieval – João H. Viana. The data retrieval report will be available on the IETS website February 1.

DABE Committee – Marcia Ferraz, chair. Marcia is stepping down from chair and Paula Rodriguez, USA, will be the new chair. Committee members are: Beatriz Fernandez-Fuertes, Spain, Lleretny Rodriguez, Chile, and Carlos Pinzón, USA. The committee is looking for additional members, especially from Asia or Australia. This year they have a concurrent session, titled, “Unveiling the journey of animal cloning.” 15 abstracts were submitted for oral presentations, with 3 selected.

CANDES updates

Dragos Scarlet, chair, reported that CANDES celebrated their 25th anniversary. There were 7 invited speakers, North America, South America, Australia, Europe, and Asia. 2 short presentations from the CANDES Trainee Travel Award winners. 54 attendees for the preconference. Thank you the IETS Board and Morulas.

Foundation- Paula Tribulo

There were 58 applicants for the Graduate Student Competition, 17 for the Undergraduate Poster Competition, 70 entries for the CSIRO Best Poster Competition, 34 applicants for the Peter Farin Trainee Travel Award and nominations for both categories for the Early Career Achievement Award with 2 winners being selected. Khoboso Lehloenya, South Africa, Jennifer Kelly, Australia, Yao Xiao, China, Brad Daignault, USA, Islam Saadeldin, Korea, Rolando Pasquariello, Italy and Carrie Hanna, USA will continue on the Foundation. Nisar Wani is rolling off. Paula reported that the Foundation is working to be more independent and support the Foundation programs and develop new initiatives.

V. IETS Board composition update

Joanna Souza-Fabjan, Brazil and Kazuhiro Kikuchi, Japan, are going off the Board. Trudee Fair, Ireland and João H Viana, Brazil are our two new Board members. Continuing on the Board is Rebecca Krisher, President, Marc-André Sirard, Vice-president, Pierre Comizzoli, treasurer, Beatriz Fernandez-Fuertes, Governor, Bianca Gasparrini, Governor, Gabriela Mastromonaco, Governor, and Marcello Rubessa, Governor.

VI. In Memorial

Sadly, we lost some of our members this year. Brad Stroud, Ian Wilmut, Andrzej Bielanski and Robert Wall. Let's have a moment to remember.

VII. Other Business

Matthew Wheeler came to the podium to address the membership to propose a motion.

**Membership of the
International Embryo Technology Society**

To

Dr. Sarah Moore Seidel

WHEREAS Dr. Sarah M. Seidel was instrumental in the operations and success of the International Embryo Transfer Society (IETS) from 1977 to 1999.

WHEREAS Sarah efficiently prepared meeting abstracts and papers for the proceedings in the years before internet and email.

WHEREAS Sarah was instrumental in starting the quarterly newsletter, setting up satellite symposia, assisting with the Pioneer and Distinguished Service Awards, arranging for the annual meeting to move globally.

WHEREAS Sarah had a legendary ability to deal with details, particularly remembering faces and names of hundreds of people from dozens of countries around the world.

WHEREAS Sarah's friendly, low-key, registration process for annual meetings was much appreciated by the delegates.

WHEREAS Sarah was the key person in charge of making the International Embryo Transfer Society work for the first two decades of its existence.

WHEREAS Sarah provided "institutional memory" maintained archives and enabled the Society to grow in scope and quality.

BE IT RESOLVED That the IETS membership expresses deep appreciation to Dr. Seidel for her tremendous contributions as Executive Secretary for over 20 years. We bestow upon her the title of "IETS Executive Secretary Emerita" in gratitude for her dedication and efforts on behalf of the Membership of the Society.

Seconded by Marc-Andre Sirard. Unanimously passed.

Members were invited to come and sign the motion. Katrin Hinrichs thanked the Board for the work and continue work on the strategic plan.

VIII. Drawing

Dragos Scarlet won the drawing for the free registration for 2025 Annual Conference at Fort Worth.

Marc-André Sirard moved to accept all the reports. Joanna Souza-Fabjan seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm