



European Association for Haematopathology

Minutes

General Assembly, 22nd Meeting of the EA4HP

Dubrovnik, Croatia, September 24th, 2024, 16:15 – 17:15 CET

1. Opening by the President and Presidential address

President Stefan Dirnhofer welcomed the EA4HP members to the General Assembly. The agenda was posted on the website in a timely fashion, and no additional agenda points were received. The minimum quorum of attendees was reached to make legitimate decisions. The president gave a brief overview of the accomplishment of EA4HP since the Florence meeting in 2022.

2. In Memoriam

A moment of silence was taken for the well-respected Prof dr Hans Konrad Mueller-Hermelink who passed away. The obituary, as prepared by prof German Ott, will be posted on the EA4HP website.

3. Minutes of the General Assembly 2022

The minutes of the GA 2022 in Florence, Italy, were made available on the EA4HP-SH homepage (<https://www.european-association-for-haematopathology.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Minutes-from-the-General-Assembly-21-st-Meeting-of-the-EA4HP-September-20-2022.pdf>). No comments/questions have been communicated and the minutes were unanimously approved by the General Assembly.

4. Report of the Scientific Secretary (John Goodlad)

John Goodlad gave an overview of the past meetings of EA4HP and SH, as well as meetings under the auspices of EA4HP. Among previous meetings were the hybrid **XXIst Meeting of the European Association for Haematopathology (EA4HP-SH)** in September 2022 in Florence, that was attended by 996 delegates, of which 610 in person, 281 virtual and 105 other (including industry partners). 362 workshop cases were received (245 for the lymphoma workshop, and 117 for the bone marrow workshop), and 112 abstracts were submitted, of which 28 were selected for oral presentation.



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EA4HP also contributed to the 35th **European Congress of Pathology** in September 2023 in Dublin, Ireland by organizing a symposium on 'The impact of structural chromosomal abnormalities in lymphoma diagnosis and prognosis' , a slide seminar on 'New and emerging disease entities' . EA4HP also contributed to a joint session with the Nephropathology working group on 'Plasma cell disorders in the kidney' , as well as to the Working group on Pathology in Favor of Developing Countries & Infectious Diseases on Pathogen-driven haematological malignancies.

EA4HP actively contributed to the virtual 36th **European Congress of Pathology** in September 2024, by organizing, a symposium on 'How genetics contributes to the diagnosis of extranodal lymphomas' , a short course on 'Application of ancillary techniques for diagnostic resolution of reactive and neoplastic bone marrow diseases' and a slide seminar on 'Unravelling the intricacies of T- and NK- lymphomas and lymphoproliferations' . EA4HP also contributed to a joint session with the Paediatric Pathology working group on 'Lymphoid and histiocytic lesions in CAYA' , as well as with the Pulmonary pathology Working group on 'Too much blue in lung and pleura – malignant and benign lymphoid lesions' .

EA4HP engaged in the **European School of Pathology (EScoP)**. The goal is to organize 4 haematopathology courses over a period of 7-8 years, each in a different area of Europe. The target audience are those beginning their training in the subspecialty, including general/surgical Pathologists who may wish to expand their knowledge in Haematopathology; Residents and colleagues with advanced training also welcome.

Goal is to allow 80-120 participants per course, each course lasting 2.5 days. The first course (on bone marrow pathology) was successfully delivered in June 2024 by Alexander Tzankov and Laurence de Leval.

EA4HP also continued the **virtual webinar** series for both members and non-members. Topics that were addressed included 'mediastinal grey zone lymphoma' , 'core biopsy diagnostic approach' and 'the classification of myeloproliferative neoplasm' . The next webinar on 'Castleman disease' is scheduled for November 2024.

5. Report of the Secretary-Treasurer (Birgitta Sander)

Birgitta Sander reported on the healthy financial status of the EA4HP foundation, which was confirmed by yearly accountant' s control, performed by a registered accountant in the Netherlands (Mrs H.M. Borst, Quality Company Support). This was done based on all submitted files and bank accounts of the ESVH Foundation. It was also controlled and signed by the board of ESVH Foundation. The report is posted on the Foundation website (<https://stichtinghaematopathologie.nl/>)

The yearly net result for 2022 was negative (-50124EUR) since the revenue for the Florence meeting was paid in 2023. There is a significant increase in the secretarial cost (30-35000EU) due to more communication with members, organization of the webinar series and the



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necessary registration of EA4HP as a legal body.

In 2023, there was a positive result of 75213 EUR, mainly related to the result of the 2022 EA4HP congress (+121093 EUR). For 2024 we predict a negative result of -45324 EUR but expect a positive result in 2025 due to the revenue of the Dubrovnik meeting.

During 2022 there was no application for travel grants, likely to the hybrid format. In 2024 we got 2 applications for travel grants/waivers and both were granted.

EA4HP membership administration has been further professionalized and by September 1st 2024, EA4HP counted **572 members**. 145 new members have joined EA4HP since the Florence 2022 meeting, originating from countries all over the world. Of the new members, 71 are <40 years of age, which is important for the future of our association.

The EXCO proposes to **increase the yearly membership fee** from 75 to **100 EUR/year**. Last time the membership fee was raised dates back from 2018, and since then all costs have increased due to inflation. The proposed fee is comparable to similar associations (SH charges 125 USD/year). Rationale for the increase: the income by membership fees should cover the yearly operational cost of the Association, including the membership administration, website administration and webinars (through QCS is approximately 35 000 EUR/year). In addition expenses, related to accountant control, IT-services are approximately 5 000 EUR/year. This totals min. 40000 EUR/year, requiring 400 members to pay their yearly membership fee of 100eu. After a discussion with the members of the GA, this increase was unanimously accepted.

The first contract with our professional **congress organizer MCI** was for a period of three congresses (Basel 2016, Edinburgh 2018, Dubrovnik 2020). The evaluation by the EXCO in January 2019 was positive and it was felt that MCI has set up a road-map" for organizing the biannual EAHP-SH meetings. Further, the Dubrovnik congress was put forward to 2024 due to the pandemic. The planning for Florence in 2022 was already started in 2019. The decision was to continue with MCI. At present the contract with MCI is for Dubrovnik 2024 and will be continued for **Berlin in 2026**.

Since 2018 our membership administration and EA4HP website has been managed by **Quality Company Support (QCS)**, based in the Netherlands (contact person Mr. Danny Douwes). Our bills, membership applications, membership payments and membership registry are handled by QCS. QCS also assists with the organization of the webinars, and the websites of EAHP and of the foundation ESVH are both managed by QCS. On the website <https://www.european-association-for-haematopathology.org/>, educational material (including webinars) is made available for EA4HP members.

A registered **accountant** in the Netherlands (Mrs H.M. **Borst**, Quality Company Support)



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accomplishes the yearly accountants control. QCS asks to report any changes of contact details in order to stay connected.

6. Process of formal registration of EA4HP as a legal body

The constitution was updated in 2022 and approved by the GA in Florence. The GA in Florence also mandated the EXCO to proceed with the registration process of EA4HP as a non-profit Association, to which to members will pay their membership fee.

The constitution was thereafter sent to the notary who made some language changes to adopt the wording according to legal requirements. Due to legal requirements two modification had to be done in the constitution.

- EA4HP is obliged to have a financial committee consisting of 2 EA4HP members that are not part of the EXCO. The financial committee is elected by the General Assembly for a term of 2 years and can be re-elected for 2 years. The task of the financial committee is to review the yearly financial statement and to make a recommendation on whether to grant discharge of the board and especially the treasurer. The granting of discharge should be approved by the General Assembly.
- From this follows that EA4HP has to have a yearly General Assembly, and we propose that in the non-meeting years this can be arranged by zoom.

In October 2023, Birgitta Sander and Leticia Quintanilla went to QCS in Leiden to discuss the notary's comments on the constitution with Mr. Danny Douwes at QCS.

The **registration of EA4HP as a non-profit Association** was approved and **registered** by the Chamber of Commerce in the Netherlands **August 21st 2024**.

7. Projects and activities of EA4HP during 2023-2024

EA4HP educational activities: See 4. Report of the Scientific Secretary for educational activities.

Young EA4HP activities: YEA4HP was established in 2019 to ensure the future of EA4HP. Early career professionals (under 40 years of age) with a varied background ranging from residents and scientists through general pathologists, to specialists in haematopathology and researchers can apply for membership. The purpose is to create a multidisciplinary community with a shared interest in haematological malignancies and a network to support career progression. The group is growing and counts **120 members**. During the Dubrovnik meeting the first YEA4HP organized a symposium on 'Spatial biology approach to neoplastic haematopathology' .

Activities related to ICC/WHO

Stefan Dirnhofer, together with Robert Hasserjian, as representatives of the European and American pathology societies, initiated **meetings with the WHO**, to solve the problem of the



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coexistence of 2 lymphoma classifications (22ICC and WHO HAEM5). They expressed the importance of the involvement of independent academic societies, as a partner in the development of 1 classification, preferably WHO HAEM6 (instead of ICC2). They also stressed the importance to build consensus with clinicians prior to the start of the writing process of a follow-up classifications. The EA4HP intensified contacts with EHA in this matter.

8. Election of new EXCO members (Stefan Dirnhofer)

The proposal by the EXCO for new EXCO members was sent out with the agenda of the GA. The members had the opportunity to send comments by email to the Secretary-Treasurer, but no comments were received.

John Goodlad was proposed as **president-elect**. The present EXCO officer **Laurence de Leval** was proposed as **Scientific secretary**. **Mats Ehinger**, **Gorana Gasljevic** were proposed as new EXCO members.

All proposals were unanimously approved by the GA.

Leonie Frauenfeld was proposed by the Young EA4HP as their representative in the EXCO. **Carlos Bueso-Ramos** (president of SH) and **Leoni Saft** will join the EXCO, on behalf of the SH and EBMWG, respectively.

The retiring EXCO members (past-president Leticia Quintanilla-Fend, secretary-treasurer Birgitta Sander, Maria Socorro Rodriguez Pinilla, Lorenzo Leoncini, Livia Raso Barnett, Alexander Tzankov and James Cook) were warmly thanked for their contribution of the past years and official diplomas will be offered at the EXCO dinner meeting.

9. Election of 2 members for the financial committee (Stefan Dirnhofer)

According to Dutch law, the newly established association, requires an **independent financial committee** to perform a financial control, in order to discharge the EXCO members. The committee can consist of members of the GA, but not members of the EXCO. The EXCO proposed **Stefan Dojcinov** (UK) and **Thomas Menter** (CH) for a period 2024-2026 and the GA accepted this proposal unanimously.

10. Approval of honorary membership (Stefan Dirnhofer)

In the GA in Florence the proposal to introduce Honorary EA4HP-SH Memberships was accepted.

The following procedure was worked out by the EXCO:

- Honorary members are persons recognized for their outstanding support of EA4HP, their contributions to educational activities of EA4HP and their contributions to the field of haematopathology.
- Honorary members have the benefit of being life-time members without paying the



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yearly membership fee.

- All of the following criteria for being eligible as an honorary member of the EA4HP should be fulfilled:
 1. The candidate should be completely retired. Thus persons who are still active in a formal, salaried hospital or university position are excluded.
 2. The candidate should have contributed considerably to the field of hematopathology.
 3. The candidate should have been actively involved in education in EA4HP and/or have supported the development of EA4HP
- Nominations, including a motivation letter are sent to the Secretary/Treasurer of EA4HP. The nominations are evaluated and discussed in the EXCO who present the candidates to the General Assembly. Candidates are finally approved by the General Assembly.

The following **honorary EA4HP members** were approved unanimously by the GA.

- **Steven Swerlow**
- **Harald Stein**
- **Jon van der Walt**
- **Peter Isaacson**

11. Handing over of the Presidency

The presidency was passed on from Stefan Dirnhofer to **Maurilio Ponzoni**. Stefan was warmly thanked for his contribution and efforts. The new president expressed his vision and hopes for the successful future of our community.

12. Presentation of the venue for 2026 (Ioannis Anagnostopoulos)

The upcoming SH-EA4HP meeting will be in **Berlin 2026** (local organizer Ioannis Anagnostopoulos). Ioannis Anagnostopoulos presented the venue for the XXIIIrd EA4HP-SH Congress from **October 3-8, 2026** in Berlin. The congress venue will be Kosmos and the various options for social events will be decided upon during the site visit in January 2025. The topic for the meeting will be communicated in February 2025.

13. Proposal for 2028 – Barcelona

Fina Climent proposed the Intercontinental hotel in **Barcelona** as the venue for **2028** and this proposal was accepted by the GA.

14. Presentation of the 2025 SH workshop (David Grier and Alexandra Kovach)



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David Grier and Alexandra Kovach presented the 2025 SH/EA4HP workshop that will take place from **September 3-6, 2025 in Cincinnati, Ohio, USA**. The topic will be 'Adolescent/young adult hematopathology'. Case submission opens 27th September, 2024 and closes December 2nd. Cases are restricted to individuals below 25 years of age. More information on <https://www.society-for-hematopathology.org/2025/>

15. Closure of the General Assembly

With warm words of thanks to Ana Dotlic and the organizing team of this XXIIInd EA4HP-SH meeting, the new president Maurilio Ponzoni closed the General Assembly of EA4HP, and a Networking Dinner followed.

Thomas Tousseyn
Secretary-Treasurer

Stefan Dirnhofer
Past-President

Maurilio Ponzoni
President