

Minutes Meeting of the Board FESTMIH

March 16th 2007

DBL-Centre for Health Research and Development, Copenhagen, Denmark (DBL-CHRD)

Present

Zeno Bisoffi (ZB) (Italy, Vice-President), Martin Boeree (MB) (The Netherlands, President), Pascal Magnussen (PM) (Denmark, Secretary), Pierre Ambroise Thomas (PAT) (France), Michel Pletschette (MP) (United Kingdom), Lasse Vestergård (LV) (Denmark, President Danish Society for Tropical Medicine and International Health)

Apologies for Absence

Esther Jurgens (EJ) (The Netherlands, Policy Advisor for FESTMIH), Thomas Junghanss (TJ) (Germany), Patrick Van der Stuyft (PvdS) (Belgium, Treasurer).

Agenda

- 1. Opening. Welcoming the host of the meeting (DBL-CHRD) and introduction to CHRD by Director Niels Ørnbjerg*
- 2. Approval of minutes from Board Meeting in Amsterdam 17th March 2006*
- 3. Report of the president*
- 4. Report of the Secretary*
- 5. Financial Report by the Treasurer and financial future*
- 6. Constitutional matters*
- 7. New members*
- 8. Update on Amsterdam 2007 Vth European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health (ECTMIH)*
- 9. Update on Verona 2009 Vth ECTMIH*
- 10. Update on VIIth ECTMIH*
- 11. Relations to International Federation of Tropical Medicine (IFTM)*
- 12. An introduction to the Danish society for Tropical Medicine and International Health*
- 13. The role of the Journal of Tropical Medicine and International Health (TM&IH) in relation to FESTMIH*
- 14. The future of the FESTMIH, plans and realities. Follow-up on action plans from March 2005 and March 2006 meetings*
- 15. Update on TropMedEurope & TropED*
- 16. Any other business*

- 1. Opening*

The President welcomed the participants and thanked Director Niels Ørnbjerg for DBL offering to host the meeting. Niels Ørnbjerg gave an introduction to DBL its vision and goals, developments over the 43 years of existence and prospects for the future as a Centre in the Faculty of Life Sciences, Copenhagen University

2. *Minutes*
Minutes of the board meeting in Amsterdam 17th March 2006 were approved
3. *Report of the President*
MB reported main activities had been concentrated on the planning and implementation of the Vth ECTMIH in Amsterdam 24th-28th May 2007 (See under item 8.) MB had been in contact with the newly established Norwegian Tropical Medicine Society which has 68 members. The new society was welcomed. Contact had been made between EUCDC and the FESTMIH (meeting in Stockholm in February 2007) regarding a possible advisory role of the FESTMIH. EUCDC interested in an inventory of European Tropical Medicine Societies. It was decided to invite EUCDC to the ECTMIH in Amsterdam in order that it could present itself and establish contacts.
4. *Report of the Secretary*
PM mentioned that it remains a problem to update contact addresses and e-mails of the societies. The secretary wish to step down after the Vth ECTMIH
5. *Financial Report by the Treasurer and financial future*
In the absence of the PvdS it was only possible to briefly discuss the financial report. The President will contact Patrick regarding a few questions raised by Board members and how the situation is regarding member fees for 2007. Auditing was an issue discussed and the General assembly (GA) should elect auditors amongst delegates. It was proposed that the Tropical Institute in Antwerp could do the official auditing
6. *Constitutional matters*
It was discussed to add more members to the Board to increase the critical mass in order for the Board to be more active and able to follow-up on action plan points. It was suggested to have it as a point on the agenda for the GA at the Amsterdam Congress in May.
It is time to invite the societies for the GA and request them to elect candidates and suggest officers for the Board.
7. *New Members*
The Norwegian Society of Tropical Medicine and International Health has been established and has already 68 members. The society has requested to become member of the FESTMIH
8. *Update on Amsterdam 2007 Vth European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health (ECTMIH)*
MB presented the content of the Congress and urged members of the Board to participate at the Congress Marathon Meeting in April in Amsterdam where the final programme will be prepared. It was agreed that the overall content of the congress was very good and covering the interests of many individuals and research groups involved in Tropical Medicine and International Health.

Unfortunately a session of Neglected Tropical Disease had been cancelled and it was suggested to approach WHO/NTD and ask whether they could mount a session (but no funds available at this late stage for support of such a session). There will be daily plenary sessions followed by 4-5 parallel sessions. Several satellite symposia had been included and as well as “Meet the Professor sessions and interactive (computerized) morning sessions.

To date 650 abstracts had been received. And 250 participants registered. The budget had been based on 900-1000 participants, but had been re-budgeted for 750 participants. An insurance to cover loss up to € 40.000 is in place. With 750 participants the minus is estimated at € 49.849,52. If 900 participate the minus is estimated at € 15.759,32 (well within the insurance coverage). A major problem had been that it had only been possible to sell $\frac{1}{2}$ of the budgeted exhibition space (€ 33000 in stead of 66.000) and it had been extremely difficult to attract sponsors (€ 61.000, budgeted 90.000). In comparison the Marseille congress in 2005 had incurred a loss of approx. € 13.000 with 1300 participants and 2500 abstracts.

Other problems mentioned were that the he congress coincide with the Vancouver meeting on Travel Medicine (attracts a lot of sponsors) and the Centenary meeting of the British society

Members of the Board and all societies had been requested to try to find sponsors but with little success. It was hoped that more participants would register during the next months and to reduce costs presenters and session chairs had been requested to cover a larger share of their participation. It was suggested that NGO could be invited to sponsor presenters for sessions and symposia.

At the Marathon meeting the final layout of the congress will be planned and it is also envisaged to open for “late coming” sessions.

9. *Update on Verona 2009 VIth ECTMIH*

ZB gave an up-date on the 2009 congress to take place in Verona on 6th-10th September. The theme of the Congress will be: Equity, Human rights and Access to Care. A venue centrally located in Verona is looked for. Planning has started and a flyer will be ready for Amsterdam where ZB will present the 2009 congress. A Mediterranean Conference on Travel and Migration Medicine will be organized during the main congress with a 2 days overlap. ZB suggested approaching the Italian society of Infectious and Tropical Diseases (SIMIT) for a possible linkage between the two societies. It was however stressed that it is important to preserve the identity of the European congress. ZB concluded that he will offer the SIMIT to have their annual Congress hosted within the European Congress, but with no interference with the main programme of the latter.

10. *Update on VIIth ECTMIH*

The Spanish society fro tropical medicine ahs proposed to have the 2011 Congress in Barcelona. It is problem that the IFTM holds its congress the same year and the Spanish society should be made aware of that. A suggestion was to

move the Barcelona congress to 2012 and have the VIIIth ECTMIH jointly with IFTM Congress in 2014.

11. Relations to International Federation of Tropical Medicine (IFTM)

The discussion mostly concentrated on how to prevent overlap between the congresses and different models of spacing were suggested. This is a point to discuss at the GA in May. The IFTM is run by a small group of dedicated people including PAT.

12. An introduction to the Danish Society for Tropical Medicine and International Health

LV President of the Danish society of Tropical Medicine and International Health (DSTMIH) gave an introduction to the society: members, organization visions and activities. LV was asked what DSTMIH requested from FESTMIH. More visibility. FESTMIH is mainly mentioned at the General Assembly and the members are not really aware of what the FESTMIH is (probably applies to most European societies)

13. The role of the Journal of Tropical Medicine and International Health (TM&IH) in relation to FESTMIH.

MB would like to have TM&IH as the official journal of the FESTMIH. Two editorials on FESTMIH and the European Congresses have been published in TM&IH. This link should be kept, but here was no agreement on how to establish a closer relationship to the journal as the journal is already journal of the congresses producing abstract book etc. The relationship to TM&IH should be addressed at the GA in Amsterdam.

14. The future of the FESTMIH, plans and realities. Follow-up on action plans from March 2005 and March 2006 meetings

This issue was discussed at length. It is obvious that the Board does not have capacity to fulfill previous action plans and what do the societies really want from the FESTMIH? PAT suggested that the FESTMIH again send a letter to all member societies and present FESTMIH and request permission to contact individual society members in order to establish an awareness of the FESTMIH. Could the FESTMIH be opened to NGOs and Travel Medicine societies? Would it be an idea to organize an orientation workshop? Are the societies basically satisfied with the FESTMIH organizing regular Congresses or could other activities be undertaken by the FESTMIH? It was agreed that the FESTMIH need some form of professional (secretary) support to expand its activities and very little financial power is left with the FESTMIH (€1 per society member/year). ZB suggested that the FESTMIH is practically unknown to individual members of National Societies and that strategies to encourage a feeling of belonging to FESTMIH should be encouraged, perhaps through a strengthened link to TMIH (i.e. made available online at reduced rates) or through any other form that could

be proposed/discussed at the Assembly. Should congress participants pay a fee to FESTMIH?

It was agreed to try to improve the level of communication between FESTMIH and member societies. In the letter of invitation to the member societies for the GA PM and MB will request societies to give their delegates a clear mandate to discuss the future of FESTMIH and bring forward their ideas for what activities could be included in the FESTMIH mandate. Action plans and minutes from meetings in 2005 and 2006 (covering 2007) will be attached to the letter of invitation

15. Update on TropMedEurope & TropED

TropED is functioning well although some students do not fulfill their masters. The situation in TropMedEurope remains unclear. Representatives of both organizations to be invited for the GA.

16. Any other business

Nothing