

Minutes of Business Meeting of ESHRE SIG Endometriosis/Endometrium (SIGEE)

Monday 29 June 2009 18.00 – 19.00, Amsterdam

Minutes:

1. The incoming Co-ordinator, Hilary Critchley, welcomed members of the SIGEE to the annual Business Meeting. Professor Thomas D'Hooghe, now immediate Past Co-ordinator, was thanked for his major contribution to the SIGEE. A welcome was extended to the incoming Deputy Co-ordinator for Endometrium, Anneli Stavreus-Evers and Gerard Dunselman, incoming Deputy Co-ordinator for Endometriosis.
2. **Election result Deputy Co-ordinators:**
Thomas D'Hooghe updated the membership on the election process and incoming Deputy Co-ordinators welcomed. A welcome was also made to members of the Junior Faculty group and their Co-ordinator Annemiek Nap who reported the following Junior Faculty plans after their first meeting in June 2009:
3. **Junior Faculty Plans**
 - a) **Improving website SIG Endometrium and Endometriosis**
Website to be modernised, with more information, links to other interesting sites, links to relevant high quality new publications, links to endometrium/endometriosis related conferences etc.
 - b) **Explore exchange opportunities between endometriosis centres of excellence for young gynaecologists/researchers/gynaecologists in training**
Criteria will be developed that candidate centres will have to meet in order to be selected for participation in the exchange programme. Plans for practical programmes of exchange will be developed.
 - c) **Participation in SIGEE organized courses / meetings**
The junior faculty is willing to participate in the organization of SIGEE courses, to find speakers, to prepare lectures, and to organize a course for junior clinicians or researchers in the field of fertility in general and/or endometrium and endometriosis
4. **Feedback from the ESHRE International Meeting (Pre-congress 2009):**
We are grateful to Anneli Stavreus-Evers for attending the ESHRE International Meeting to represent SIGEE interests. SIGEE suggestions for a session on "fibroids and reproduction" was well received. Speakers to be determined.

The following was noted: not to include in programme any members of the international committee. Topic or speakers should not have had a presentation in the previous 5 (or possibly 3) years.
5. **Basic Science Taskforce update:**
Paola Vigano updated the members on the activities and proposals of the taskforce:
 - a) Organization of basic science meetings and courses. During the 2009 the following meetings were organized:

"REFLECTION DAYS" held in Brussels on "Human Ovarian Tissue culture";

The "Stockholm Sperm Chromatin Course";
The "6th workshop on Mammalian Folliculogenesis and Oogenesis" in Berlin.

- b) Organization of a poster session with real posters since basic scientists want to present posters.
 - c) Set up of a WEBSITE 'Basic Science': the plan is to bring all European Reproductive Research Centers together, as a first step to establishing a Research Network. Currently there is no clear picture where "Research on Reproduction" begins and ends in Europe.
 - d) Partnering: joint activities with other basic research societies inviting them to contribute to workshops on selective topics (example SIG and ESHRE).
6. **ESHRE Endometriosis Guideline Development Group: status and plans:**
Update will be provided later in the year.

7. **EU and WERF-related initiatives:**

Lone Hummelshoj provided an update from WERF, which was founded in 2006 as the first global endometriosis research charity. In those three years WERF has raised €25,000 and has three major studies under way, working with 32 centres in 21 countries:

- a) Global Study of Women's Health (GSWH) - investigating the impact of endometriosis (www.endometriosisfoundation.org/gswh.php)
- b) Women's Health Symptoms Study (WHSS) - investigating whether it is possible to predict endometriosis based on symptoms in order to develop a screening tool (www.endometriosisfoundation.org/whss.php)
- c) EndoCost – a joint initiative with the ESHRE SIG looking at the direct and indirect cost of endometriosis to society and the individual woman with endometriosis (www.endometriosisfoundation.org/endocost.php)

Results from the interim analysis of GSWH and WHSS will be presented at FIGO on 6 October 2009, and the methodology for these first ever prospective multi-centre trials was published in the first volume of the *Journal of Endometriosis* in March this year (Nnoaham et al: "Multicenter studies of the global impact of endometriosis and the predictive value of associated symptoms"). Results from all three studies are expected to be published in 2Q 2010.

In 2007 WERF issued a call for proposals for a multi-centre clinical trial addressing an unmet need in endometriosis, and following an extensive peer review process the WERF board has decided to move ahead with EndoART which will investigate whether there is a need for surgery before IVF when endometrioma(s) is/are present. The study, involving seven centres in six countries is expected to commence in early 2010.

WERF has now kicked off its "general research fund", with the vice president of the European Parliament raising ~€1,000 by running the London Marathon in April this year. This fund is intended for basic research projects, and calls for proposals will be issued by WERF once sufficient funds have been raised.

WERF also went out with a powerful advertising campaign addressed at parliamentarians across Europe – if anyone is interested in utilising the advert and/or image, then please contact Lone (lone@endometriosis.org).

The World Endometriosis Society (WES) was delighted to see the publication of Peter Rogers' paper in *Reproductive Sciences* for "Priorities in Endometriosis Research: Recommendations from an International Consensus Workshop" (www.endometriosis.org/research_priorities.html). The group came up with 24 recommendations within five categories, and the intention is to repeat this workshop at the WCE in 2011 to monitor progress and ensure priorities are up to date. This paper may aid researchers when applying for grants.

On the "political" front, Lone Hummelshoj, together with Stephen Kennedy, met with the EU Commissioner for Health in July 2008 and was requested to submit research priorities in endometriosis, which have subsequently been forwarded to DG7 (the Commissioner for Research and Science). Furthermore, she attended an WHO sponsored meeting together with the German National Institute of Health in November 2008 addressing disease impact, availability of treatments, and quality of/access to care. It is hoped that a workshop report will be published by WHO this year. Finally, Lone was invited to participate in a WHO/ICMART/ESHRE workshop in Geneva in December to get endometriosis recognised as a disease with significant impact on health.

8. Forthcoming SIGEE meetings:

- Leuven 4-5 September 2009 – ESHRE Campus symposium "System biology tools and preclinical models for translational research in endometriosis and adhesion formation: lesions from cancer and inflammation biology"
- ESHRE Campus Guideline Basic Course – Budapest, Hungary, 26 February 2010
- Bologna February/March 2010 (dates tbc) Inter SIG workshop and consensus conference "Poor Ovarian Response".
- Rome ESHRE Pre-Congress Course 27 June 2010
- ESHRE Tripartite SIGEE and SIG EP and SIG SCs meeting in Valencia November 2010.

7. Proposals for ESHRE Pre-Congress Course 2011 Stockholm:

The World Congress on Endometriosis will be held in Montpellier, France 4-7 September 2011. Hence we anticipate our pre-congress course having a focus on the endometrium and Fallopian tube in the context of important gynaecological conditions which impact on health and well being of women – fibroids and extra-uterine implantation.

8. Any Other Business:

One of our members Dr Bakhshi from India highlighted the need to consider TB in the context of pelvic infection and reminded the membership that this was a significant issue for patients in South East Asia. Dr Bakhshi was thanked for this comment. In addition opportunity for funding in the area of endometriosis from pharma was highlighted by Bayer Schering Pharma. Lone Hummelshoj also reminded membership of the World Congress for Endometriosis (WCE) 4-7 September 2011, in Montpellier, France (www.wce2011.com)

9. Date of next Business meeting: Rome 2010.