



European Federation of Immunological Societies

EFIS BOARD 2016 - 2018

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EFIS Board Meeting

September 1, 2018 – 12:00 - 5:00 PM
Venue: Residence of R. van Lier
Legmeerdijk 66, Amstelveen

Minutes (Draft_2018-11-21)

In attendance: René van Lier, Andreas Radbruch, Lorenzo Moretta, Pablo Engel, Winfried Pickl, Christina Helbig, Thomas Wiley

Invited guest: Marieke van Ham, ECI 2018 President

1. Adoption of the agenda
The agenda was adopted.
2. Adoption of the minutes of the previous Board Meeting (June 2, 2018, Tallinn)
The minutes of the Tallinn Board Meeting were adopted.
3. Matters arising
L. Moretta informed the Board about the critical health conditions of Vito Pistoia, Editor-in-Chief of *Immunology Letters* (IL); he confided that he was certain V. Pistoia would be unable to continue in the position. The Board agreed to first appeal to standing IL Section Editors (Václav Hořejší, Hannes Stockinger) to learn of their willingness to serve on an interim basis, but to nonetheless act quickly to launch the search for a new chief editor. It was decided to **1) invite candidates from Member Societies by 30/09/2018, 2) announce a shortlist of candidates to societies and begin remote voting to conclude on 31/10/2018, 3) ratify the voting results and appoint the new IL Editor-in-Chief by Board decision by 30/11/2018.**
4. ECI 2018
The Board welcomed ECI 2018 President Marieke van Ham, who presented an update of the status of the congress. As for the program, she recalled the following numbers: 8 Keynote Lectures, 24 Symposia, 62 Workshops, 3 Educational Sessions, 6 Hands-on Sessions on Dynamic Modelling and Analyzing Big Data, 4 Bright Sparks Sessions, 8 Late Breaking Hot Topic Sessions, 10 Joint Symposia, 110 Poster Sessions with 2100 posters, 4 Industry Symposia.
The program respected commitments to gender balance, with women accounting for 49% of chairs, more than 33% of invited speakers, 56% of workshop participants and 60% of poster presenters.
Overall, 3257 participants had registered for the congress, 80% of whom for the entire event.
From a financial standpoint, exhibition and sponsorship revenues totaled € 465.100, and € 294.050, respectively, thus exceeding budgeted income from these categories by nearly € 100.000,00.
M. van Ham specifically invited EFIS Board Members to act as hosts at Joint symposia and Poster Sessions to enhance the effective participation of delegates.



The EFIS Board was unanimous in declining the request to endorse an interview of ECI 2018 representatives and release of footage of exhibiting companies by a Dutch TV network in a proposed broadcast of “Fair Medicine”.

The Board congratulated M. van Ham and her team (in particular Christina Helbig) for their extraordinary efforts in assembling an outstanding scientific program and procuring superlative sponsorship/exhibition revenues.

5. President’s Report

- Contract negotiations with European Journal of Immunology (EJI)

R. van Lier briefly summarized the 24/08/2018 meeting that he, A. Radbruch, W. Pickl and M. McGrath had with EJI representatives Cate Livingstone and Vicky Johnson in Berlin c/o the Deutsches Rheuma-Forschungszentrum. The main issues emerging were:

- EJI concerns about the drop in submissions (especially quality manuscripts) in recent years;
- A perceived reluctance of authors to publish in EJI – with an IF below 5 – due to high page and color charges;
- EJI is especially expensive for open-access (OA), compared to other journals.

To deal with authors’ complaints regarding publication costs and to make EJI a more attractive medium in which to publish, EJI proposed:

- Eliminating page and color charges by 2020;
- Transitioning to an e-only journal;
- Retaining EFIS royalties at 18%.

Discussion focused particularly on the financial impact for EFIS over the next five years resulting from the EJI proposal, with EFIS representatives suggesting that royalties be calculated at a flat rate of 22% to compensate for any shortfall in revenues. This scheme was viewed by EJI as impracticable. There was consensus between the parties that, given the uncertainties of the publishing market, royalties could be re-negotiated more frequently (e.g., every two years), thereby providing further incentive to EFIS to promote the journal.

It was agreed that changes to the EJI proposal would need to be made before the next EFIS Board meeting in November 2018, and that a new contract that clarified standing issues (royalty rate for EFIS, transition period to e-only publication, fees for OA (gold and green) and non-OA publishing that covers both page and color charges) would need to be in place by the end of the year.

The Board thanked R. van Lier, A. Radbruch and W. Pickl for their efforts in the contract negotiations. However, given the uncertainties, it was agreed that **EJI should be contacted to learn when a response on numbers could be expected, to request a definitive negotiation timeline, and to propose a three-year duration of the contract to coincide with term of the EFIS Board.**

- Relations with IUIS

A. Radbruch reported that, in view of her assuming the EFIS President’s Office in January 2019, his assistant Mairi McGrath met with Sumiko Tanaka of the IUIS Central Office c/o the Kit Group in Berlin in late July. The short introductory meeting served to inform M. McGrath on the activities of IUIS, how these involved EFIS, and what sort of interactions could be anticipated.

The Board then addressed **questions to raise at a meeting with IUIS representatives during ECI 2018, chief among which were the current and future commitment of IUIS to the ECI (that in the Board’s view could be enhanced), respective responsibilities regarding the Day of Immunology, and whether and to what extent IUIS initiatives in Africa required EFIS support (as per recent requests).**

R. van Lier then brought to the Board’s attention his exchange of emails with both IUIS President Alberto Mantovani and *Frontiers in Immunology* (FIMM) Field Chief Editor Luigi Notarangelo to express disappointment, given the standing commitments and obligations of EFIS towards EJI and IL, with approaches by FIMM towards ECI 2018 Session Chairs to commission lead article collections on topics



directly linked to ECI workshop sessions, presumably for publication in FIMM. Both IUIS and FIMM assured that it was never their intent to infringe on EFIS publication privileges, and IUIS Secretary General Roslyn Kemp also promised to raise the question with FIMM and the IUIS Publications Committee. In any case, **it was agreed that the issue would be raised with A. Mantovani during the planned EFIS-IUIS meeting at ECI 2018.**

- Recommendations on Core PCO for ECI 2024 and ECI 2027
With the definitive selection of the Core PCO for the 2024 and 2027 iterations of the ECI to be voted on by stakeholders of the EEIG ECI-EFIS at its General Meeting on September 4, 2018, **it was agreed that the Board would not make any particular recommendations or express a preference about candidate PCOs.**
- Contacts with Becton Dickinson (BD)
R. van Lier recalled that it had been agreed to explore relations with some companies that had not committed financially to ECI 2018 as could have been expected. He reported that he had spoken with Rodrigo Hanna, Vice President and General Manager (EMEA) of BD Life Sciences, and learned that BD had no intention to reduce its efforts in the immunology field and that the company was willing to explore with EFIS efforts to strengthen the European immunology community. **R. van Lier specifically emphasized the EFIS on Tour Symposium series as a possible means to involve BD, and extended an invitation to R. Hanna to the next Board meeting to discuss the question.**
- Planning of the strategic retreat with the member societies
A. Radbruch reviewed his intention to convene a meeting/retreat for March 4th-5th, 2019 in Berlin of EFIS Member Society representatives. Preceded by the EFIS Board Meeting on Sunday, March 3, 2018, the meeting was meant to explore opportunities and options to enhance relations between EFIS and Member Societies. **Once Societies committed to the retreat, a detailed agenda would be circulated. The planned retreat would be presented during the EFIS General Assembly on 04/09/2018.**
A. Radbruch also offered to reach out to a collaborator of his, Sergei Nedospasov, to better understand the position of the Russian Society for Immunology that had been noticeably underrepresented in the ECI 2018 Scientific Program Committee.
With reference to the planning of 2019 EFIS Board commitments, **the Board agreed that a site visit to Belgrade in 2019 in view of ECI 2021 was necessary.**
- Succession scheme for *Immunology Letters* Section Editors
R. van Lier reminded the Board of IL Publisher Jenny Henzen's concerns about the low turnover of the journal's Editorial Board and the risk of losing continuity when current editors leave office. Her request to the EFIS Board was to devise a succession scheme that would secure the expertise within the Editorial Board and provide better assurance for continuity.
Considering that the Editor-in-Chief and Section Editors are appointed for three years, after which they may be re-appointed for another three years, and because they know their respective fields best, current Section Editors should be prepared to propose their successors to the EFIS board. **It was agreed that the process of refreshing the IL Editorial Board be started by requesting the longest serving Section Editors to begin identifying their respective successors.**
- AAI Invitation for Guest Symposium at IMMUNOLOGY2019™
R. van Lier had been contacted in mid-August by the American Association of Immunologists (AAI) to invite EFIS to consider organizing a Guest Symposium for the AAI annual meeting, IMMUNOLOGY2019™ (San Diego, CA; May 9-13, 2019). **While the Board enthusiastically embraced the idea of strengthening interactions with the AAI and expressed its appreciation of the support given to ECI2018, because of budget limitations, it was agreed to propose EFIS Guest Symposia at AAI meetings on a regular basis every two years, beginning with IMMUNOLOGY2020™.**



- IPOPI & IUIS application on WHO Essential In Vitro Diagnostics
EFIS had recently been approached by the International Patient Organisation for Primary Immunodeficiencies (IPOPI) to request endorsement of a joint application it was preparing together with IUIS to submit for the inclusion of key and essential diagnostic tests for primary immunodeficiencies in the soon-to-be revised WHO Essential In Vitro Diagnostics List. **The Board agreed that EFIS could endorse this initiative and that the IPOPI should be informed accordingly.**
- Annual Meeting of the European Federation for Immunogenetics
It was recalled that the European Federation for Immunogenetics (EFI) would be holding its annual meeting in Lisbon (PT) on May 8-10, 2019. Pursuant to the objectives of the standing agreement between EFIS and EFI, **it was agreed to propose an EFIS Guest Symposium at EFI 2019, with R. van Lier, A. Radbruch and W. Pickl as speakers, and a chair still to be decided.**

6. Secretary's Report

- Update on replacement of "Your Amazing Immune System"
P. Engel reported that he had contacted different sources (Hans Martin Jäck, Angela Santoni) and was working with illustrators on the text, the tentative title of which was "Fantastic Journey into the Immune System". **The Board acknowledged his efforts, and looked forward to receiving an update on the status of the project in the coming months.**
- Proposal from Anne Spurkland on publication endeavor
Prof. Anne Spurkland (University of Oslo; Scandinavian Society for Immunology) approached EFIS with a generic request to assist her in finding a literary agent/publisher for the English version of a public outreach text, *Immune: The Body's Eternal Struggle to Survive*, which she had already published in Norwegian. **The Board agreed that the only suggestion it could offer was to propose the initiative – if she agreed – to Elsevier and Wiley, the publishers of its two official journals.**
- Preparations for EFIS General Assembly
The Board acknowledged that all preparations had been appropriately made for the EFIS General Assembly (Tuesday, September 4, 14:00-17:00). **The Board regretted the pre-announced absence of EFIS President-elect candidate Federica Sallusto, but conceded that a video of her nomination address would have to be accepted.**
- Decisions on applications for EFIS-EJI Meeting Support

Event	Dates	Location	Request / Approved (€)
CYtoMORE and More 2018: 7th Modena Advanced Course in Cytometry	17-21/09/2018	Modena, IT	5.000 / 5.000
Defence is the Best Attack: Immuno-Oncology Breakthroughs	11-13/03/2019	Barcelona, ES	2.000 / 2.000
Autoimmunity: Basic and Clinical - ABC6	23-24/05/2019	Tartu, EE	5.000 / 5.000
3rd African International Conference on Immunity	3-6/11/2018	Victoria Falls, ZW	20.000 / 15.000

7. Treasurer's report

Given the unexpectedly high costs sustained for the EFIS Guest Symposium at IMMUNOLOGY2019™, W. Pickl invited the Board to consider formally limiting refundable travel and lodging expenses of invited guests to EFIS-sponsored events, similarly to parameters used for international speakers at an ECI (e.g., 4 nights max. hotel, and travel allowances of € 300, € 500, € 1.750 and € 2.000 for local, European, US/Canada East Coast and US/Canada West Coast/Asia invitees, respectively). **The Board agreed that speakers invited to take part in EFIS-endorsed symposia should be informed about these benchmark figures in advance.**



He then reported on the status of EFIS accounts, affirming that these were in acceptable condition. He continued by informing the Board of a funding gap of 2,75% (slightly above € 18.000,00) between budgeted expected 2018 income from official journals and the Fondation ACTERIA (€ 659.816,00) and what had actually been received during the year (€ 641.658,48), due principally to lower than forecasted royalties from Wiley/EJI (€ 291.982,00 versus an expected € 310.000,00). He nonetheless concluded that this shortfall was not a cause for alarm, but that the anticipated gradual reduction of Wiley/EJI royalties in the future should be appropriately taken into account.

The Board, on the Treasurer's motion, approved the following allocations:

APPROVALS BOARD MEETING Amsterdam, NETHERLANDS; September 1, 2018				37.000,00
	EJI		IL-MAIN	
	Plan figures		Plan figures	
	Plan - before Meeting	Plan - approved	Plan - before Meeting	Plan - approved
APPROVALS BOARD MEETING Amsterdam, NETHERLANDS, September 1, 2018	32.000,00	27.000,00	10.000,00	10.000,00
Fostering National Societies (Meetings)				
Fostering National Societies			10.000,00	10.000,00
9_Board_Meeting_11/2018 (Barolo)			10.000,00	10.000,00
Support Conferences (Meetings)				
Support Conferences	32.000,00	27.000,00		
9.1_Cytomere and More 2018_7th Modena advanced course in cytometry, Modena, Italy, Rita Repizzi	5.000,00	5.000,00		
9.3_2nd EACR Conf Defence is the best attack: Immuno-oncology breakthroughs, Barcelona, Kathryn Wass	2.000,00	2.000,00		
9.4_ABC_6, Tartu, Kai Kisand	5.000,00	5.000,00		
9.5_3rd_African_International_Conference on Immunity, Victoria Falls, Rudolf Valenta	20.000,00	15.000,00		
Support PHD Courses				

8. AOB

- Further to exchanges of emails over the previous two months on the matter, the question of exploring collaborative relations on shared interests (e.g., education, animal use in research, proliferation of OA journals) with the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) was briefly discussed: it was agreed that that for the moment EFIS should concentrate on addressing strictly European issues, and that – in any case – a formalized proposal for collaboration would have to be received in order to be evaluated and ultimately accepted.
- Date and venue of next Board Meeting: 24/11/2018, La Morra (IT)