

Lena Claesson-Welsh as President of the European Vascular Biology Organization (EVBO) started the General Assembly at 13.00 CET held by video conference using the Zoom platform. Lena started by welcoming all 32 EVBO members.

Lena presented the agenda of the meeting, as follows:

1. Summary of EVBO's activities during the last year
  - 1a. EVBO seminar series
  - 1b. EVBO social media
  - 1c. EVBO new web page
  - 1d. EVBO Conference support, Summer school
  - 1e. EVBO YIS – young investigator spotlight
  - 1f. EVBO awards
  - 1g. EVBO publication highlights
  - 1h. EVBO Finances
2. EVBO financial status
3. Acknowledgement of council members stepping down
4. Resigning Secretary's perspective
5. Introduction of the new President
6. Introduction of the new council and the new secretary
7. New Secretary's perspective
8. Vision and goals for EVBO
9. Conclusion remarks and General meeting closure

### **1. Summary of EVBO's activities during the last year**

Lena Claesson-Welsh praised all Council members for their work on the council activities, which were a great success last year.

#### **1a. EVBO seminar series**

She first introduced the EVBO seminar series committee, and gave word to Taija Makinen to describe the activities. Taija mentioned that the EVBO seminar series would continue online until autumn in its current format. Taija said that the EVBO seminar series committee would ask for input from EVBO members to decide if the series should continue or not, and if it should change its format. The committee also described that time keeping had been an issue, leading to few questions and discussions. Thus, from the next webinar on, time keeping will be more rigorous. As an alternative, Taija also mentioned that the committee was considering reducing the format from 3 to 2 speakers in order to increase the number of interactions and questions.

Finally, Taija also described the process of selection, and she made a request for EVBO members to propose names for YIS and also for young researchers to nominate themselves by contacting the committee directly.

#### **1b. EVBO social media**

Next, Lena mentioned the activities from the EVBO social media committee, with increasing visibility on Twitter and Facebook. On Twitter, EVBO had risen to 1969 followers. Lena mentioned that EVBO members should actively share EVBO Twits and they should follow Twitter to further expand visibility and to reach new members.

### **1c. EVBO new web page**

Next, Lena introduced the EVBO web page committee. Fiona Wilkinson introduced the new web page for EVBO, showed the new site and demonstrated some of its new contents and visual. Fiona mentioned that the new site would have a members' log in. This new feature would allow access to EVBO member exclusive content, as videos, tutorials, job advertisements, and other features. Fiona asked for feedback from the community to improve the new site.

### **1d. EVBO Conference support, Summer school**

Lena mentioned that EVBO supported conferences of interest to our community – with a scheme for applications by the organisers. In exchange, EVBO requested visibility and support, especially for young members. Lena mentioned that a summer school together with ESM had just finished. Lena also mentioned that EVBO was supporting IVBM2022 and giving visibility to EVBO through dedicated sessions.

### **1e. EVBO YIS – young investigator spotlight**

Lena mentioned the YIS committee and the main activity developed this year by Jeremiah Bernier-Latmani, from Tanya Petrova lab, a practical online workshop on imaging the intestinal vasculature, which attracted a good audience and attention from the community.

### **1f. EVBO awards**

Next, Lena introduced the EVBO awards committee and explained that we were given several awards including Lectures, medals and travel awards. The EVBO lecture award will be given during the IVBM2022.

### **1g. EVBO publication highlights**

Lena then introduced the EVBO publication highlights committee which had reported that finding publications of EVBO members had been easy and that selection process was going smoothly.

### **1h. EVBO Finances**

Finally, Lena introduced the EVBO finances group. Unfortunately, Lena mentioned that the group was not able yet to find good sponsors. Nevertheless, to make the jump towards a more professionally run society, the new presidency should focus on this aspect and should try to secure partnerships with the private sector to get substantial donations.

## **2. EVBO Financial status**

Lena praised Judith for her great job as EVBO treasurer and for her long-term services to our society. Judith Sluimer described the finances of EVBO. Judith showed EVBO bank account balances, with the amount of € 38.647,26 on May 28th 2022. The net yearly growth for the period 2019-2021 was an average of € 6.900 (2.800-11.900)

A detailed breakdown of the 2021 and 2022 budgets is provided as appendix 1.

In addition, Judith demonstrated that the EVBO 2021 budget was approved by Prof. Yvonne Alexander and Prof. Ingrid Flemming, two external auditors.

Also, Judith mentioned that PayPal charges a fee in each membership, but there was no real alternative to this payment method. Finally, Judith mentioned that EVBO had higher levels of expenses in 2022 budget but that the new incomes from sponsors, and generous donations from Lena Claesson-Welsh and Kari Alitalo, allowed to break even in terms of account balance.

Nevertheless, these expenses are expected to have a positive impact on the visibility of EVBO.

### **3. Acknowledgement of council members stepping down**

Lena praised the three members of the council that were leaving the council, namely, Kari Alitalo, Mauro Siragusa, and Friedemann Kiefer. Lena praised their dedication and commitment to the EVBO council.

As a token of consideration, Lena disclosed the EVBO certificates of appreciation to Friedemann, for his services as EVBO Treasurer (2017-2019) and council member (2016-2022), and to Mauro, for his services as EVBO secretary (2019-2022) and council member (2017-2022). Certificates were presented in digital format, but they were also going to be delivered by post, signed both by Lena Claesson-Welsh (President) and Mariona Graupera (President-elect).

All attendees applauded and demonstrated their appreciation to the three members.

### **4. Resigning Secretary's perspective**

Afterwards, Lena gave word to Mauro Siragusa. Mauro started his speech by saying how proud and surprised he was by the EVBO certificate, which he considered a great honour. Mauro shared a presentation where he showed the growing curve of EVBO members over the years, making the link between EVBO activities and new memberships. He also showed and discussed the diversity of nationalities of EVBO members, yet, there was a high concentration in a few countries, specially in Germany. He mentioned that the aim of increasing memberships in eastern countries was not very successful, and that efforts should be made in the next Presidency.

At the end, Mauro thanked Lena and mentioned the historical perspective of its interaction with Lena along the years at the EVBO council. Mauro also thanked all EVBO councillors, in particular to Judith and Fiona. At the end, Mauro gave the voice back to Lena for her final remarks.

### **5. Introduction of the new President**

Then, Lena introduced Mariona Graupera as the new EVBO President and then gave word to Mariona for her inauguration speech. Mariona started her presentation by thanking Lena Claesson-Welsh for her Presidency, dedication and for entrusting her on this task.

First, Mariona described her background and her current position at the Josep Carreras Leukaemia research institute, in Badalona.

### **6. Introduction of the new Council and New Members**

Then, she made an overview of the organization of the EVBO council, described the rules of participation at the council, namely that members could serve in the council during 2 mandates of three years each. From this rule, 4 members could be re-elected, whilst 3 were required to step down. In the election, 208 members voted. All 4 members that could be re-elected were re-elected, namely, Hellmut Augustin, Karina Yaniv, Paola Compagnolo, and Judith Sluimer, who will continue as treasurer. 3 new members were elected, namely Katrien de Bock, Stephan Huveneers and Elizabeth Jones.

### **7. New Secretary's perspective**

Next, Mariona Graupera introduced the new secretary, Claudio Franco, giving him the word for a brief introduction. Claudio mentioned that he was very honoured by the trust that Mariona and the council had deposited on him. Claudio thanked Mauro for his services as former Secretary, and promised to try to do as well as he did. Claudio mentioned that his mission was to support the President in any possible way. Claudio then gave the word back to Mariona.

### **8. Vision and Goals for EVBO**

Mariona then provided a comprehensive outline for the 3 main goals of her presidency:

- 1- Continue Growing
- 2- Enhance EVBO's visibility
- 3- Promote the new generations

For the first goal, Mariona aimed to:

- Reach to new members, including more clinicians
- Engage PIs to enrol their team members

- Promote renewal of existing members
- To go beyond the European community, including reaching out to NAVBO members.

For the second goal, Mariona proposed to:

- Make the EVBO brand stronger by consolidating and new actions
- Periodic activities, as a way to easily associate them with the EVBO brand
- Update the new web page on a regular basis, in exclusive content for members and non-members
- Be active on social media
- Engage clinicians, patient organizations

For the third goal, Mariona wanted to:

- Continue promoting activities which enhance visibility of young researchers (YIS, EVBO workshops, EMBO lecture Award)
- Summer schools
- Travel awards
- Foster mentorship programs
- Create EVBO Internships

### **9. Conclusion remarks and General meeting closure.**

At the end, Mariona praised the core team, made of Judith and Claudio, but also the entire EVBO council that would be helping her delivering the main goals for her Presidency.

Finally, Mariona Graupera praised Lena Claesson-Welsh for her generous dedication to EVBO as EVBO President. Mariona acknowledged the great impact that Lena's Presidency had on the society. As a distinction, Mariona presented Lena with the EVBO certificate of appreciation for the extraordinary service and dedication to the EVBO mission as EVBO President in 2019-2022. All attendees applauded and demonstrated their appreciation to Lena Claesson-Welsh. As a gesture of appreciation and consideration, Taija Makinen, on behalf of the new EVBO council, gave a flower bouquet to Lena, delivering it by surprise at her office, even if this meeting was held via Zoom.

With this gesture, the EVBO General Meeting ended.