

EATB E-BULLETIN

JULY 2013



From: Ramadan Jashari, President



Dear readers,

In this first e-bulletin, I would like to inform you about the recent activities of the Board of the EATB.

Since October last year, the EATB Board has convened several times both in person as well as by teleconference. During these meetings the board addressed the following issues:

- Interim report of the Ad-Hoc Review Committee
- EATB Strategy 2013-2015
- Preparation of the 2013 Annual Meeting in Brussels, Nov 20-22, 2013

Here below, you will find an update of the progress so far.

I realize that this newsletter doesn't give the answers yet, however I thought it would be appropriate to share with you this interim information.

Interim report of the Ad Hoc Review Committee

During the Annual Congress in Vienna, last November, the outgoing board demonstrated that there were several important issues and questions with respect to the structure and functioning of our Association.

The following two slides summarize the inventory of the issues and questions:

EATB

DEMOCRATIC

SCOPE
Tissue and cells

OFFICIAL EATB
English/German language for all EATB official documents

REGULATIONS
Local Country
To help EATB objectives not EATB focus on local regulations

STRONG / SOLID

UNDER CONTROL OF EATB ACTORS
Mostly EU TEs/NON for profit &/or public
Open to others stakeholders controlled

Vienna, November 22nd of 2012

EATB

TRANSPARENT
Declaration of interests

INDEPENDENT
Not linked to any TE

PROFESSIONAL
Strong professional office, website, committees
Training and accreditation
Journal

Vienna, November 22nd of 2012

The incoming board recognized the necessity to address these issues and the General Assembly appointed an Ad-hoc Review Committee consisting of three members: Bob Parker, Jacinto Sanchez and Theo de By.

In two interim reports, the Committee has formulated recommendations regarding all the aspects mentioned on the slides. In general, it can be said that the Committee concluded that some of the Bylaws of the Association are not clearly defined and probably need to be reviewed and modified.

The Committee advised on aspects such as the definition of membership, the office, and the rules for voting. Also, the committee obtained quotes from two providers to improve our website in such a way that the EATB Board would be able to change the content itself without the assistance of an external party, which generated additional costs for the Association in the past.

One aspect which was highlighted by the Committee: since there are so many possibilities for future evolution and choice, the new Board was advised to formulate the EATB strategy for the next three years. The board did exactly that on April 15.

The recommendations of the Committee have now been discussed by the board. The board will strive to send a E-Bulletin by the end of the summer, and to present its draft proposals to the members for approval at the next General Assembly to be held in November of this year in Brussels.

Development of the EATB strategy 2013-2014

From: Theo de By

Following Seneca's words *"If one doesn't know to which port one is sailing, no wind is favorable"*, the Board of the EATB, supported by the Ad Hoc Review Committee, held a strategic development workshop on April 15 of this year.

Since making a strategic plan is an EATB statutory requirement (Article 8.2), and since the EATB is confronted with many subjects, choices have to be made about what the EATB can realistically achieve. Defining these choices will create clarity for the members, but also for outsiders, about what the EATB stands for. Moreover, one of the organizational questions of the EATB is the role and the composition of the office. Depending on the strategic choices, the qualities required in the office may be quite different. Therefore, the EATB office may need some reorganization and restructuring

During the strategic development workshop, the board defined 14 different strategic goals. Since the Association is rather small and since the EATB (Board) members are also occupied with their daily work in at their organizations, the Board recognized that it needed to make a prioritization of the strategic possibilities. For this reason the 14 strategic goals were scored by each Board member with a maximum of 5 points.



EATB Board and the Ad-Hoc Committee at work at the EHB in Brussels

The result of the scoring process is that the board will make a plan for the following three strategic goals:

1. Development of medical and technical standards
2. Scientific committee development and projects
3. EATB certified training

At the closure of the strategy development workshop it was agreed that the board members, in groups of two, will elaborate these strategic goals. They will also write an implementation plan. This means that they will not only describe the strategic goals, but they will also propose to the General Assembly how these goals can be achieved. Last, but not least, it is their intention to involve more members in different EATB activities.

Information about the Annual Meeting, November 20-22, 2013

From: Ramadan Jashari, EATB President, and Jean-Paul Pirnay, Chair of the Scientific Committee

Dear Colleagues,

We would like to invite you to the upcoming International Congress of the EATB that will be held from the 20th to the 22nd of November 2013 in Brussels, the Capital of Belgium and the European Union.

This 22nd EATB Congress will be organized as a joint meeting with the Belgian Transplantation Society (BTS), the Belgian Transplant Coordination Organization (BTCO), the Belgian Association of Cell and Tissue Banks (BACTB) and the European Normalizing Institution (CEN).

The venue will be the Royal Military Academy (RMA) in Brussels, which is situated in the central part of the capital, next to the European Institutions and easily accessible from Brussels airport. The city center is also easily accessible from the RMA. Many hotels are located in the surrounding areas of the RMA and close to the city center.

The RMA has an excellent infrastructure for more than 350 participants and has vast experience in hosting these kinds of events.



The Royal Military Academy of Belgium

Belgium's tissue banking activity background is very diverse, delivering traditional grafts such as musculoskeletal, cardio-vascular, ocular, skin and

reproductive tissues as well as what is currently called “Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products” (ATMPs).

The topics of the 2013 EATB Congress will include such “burning” topics such as Ethical Issues, Legislation, Vigilance and Surveillance, ATMPs, Emerging Infectious Diseases in Blood and Tissue Donors, Technical Requirements and Stem Cells. Also, the long-term outcomes of the different tissue transplantations will be presented by eminent experts, who are users of the tissue grafts as well. In addition, interactive workshops concerning “Donor Selection” and “Quality Assurance” will be organized.

The organizers will also try to offer a various and attractive social program for Congress participants and accompanying persons, such as a city tour and guided visits to some of the numerous museums in Brussels. The opening ceremony and gala dinner will be organized in exquisite locations (Hotel de Ville of the City of Brussels and the famous Solvay Library, next to the European Commission) and will give an opportunity for everyone to enjoy as much as possible of these important cultural and historical sites.

Although the decision for organizing the EATB Congress 2013 in Brussels was taken relatively late due to the resignation of our Dutch colleagues in September last year, the LOC has made enormous efforts to get everything ready. So, all EATB members and other interested persons are kindly invited to visit the website of the 2013 EATB Congress (www.eatb2013.eu), to submit their abstracts and register for this interesting event. Also some information about the venue, the city of Brussels and the networking events can be found, to give a greater insight to you before your arrival in Brussels.

We look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to Brussels.

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