

MINUTES OF THE  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
of THE EUROPEAN VENOUS FORUM held on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023 at 17.30,  
Berlin, Germany.

The President Dr Erika Mendoza welcomed all members.

**1. Present (Appendix I):**

Apologies were received from:

Oscar Maleti, Marzia Lugli, Sylvain Gaillard, Anne Taft (remote access) Stephen Black, JJ Guex

2. **Minutes** of the last Meeting of the EVF AGM held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022, Venice Italy, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. **Matters Arising.** None

**4. President's Report** (Dr Erika Mendoza)

The President thanked the members of the organising committee particularly Anne Taft and Dawn Bond and the scientific committee who regularly met every Tuesday for several months. This collective hard work resulted in a high-quality meeting. EM also mentioned that despite the high costs of Berlin we had 400 delegates.

**5. Secretary's Report (Athanasios Giannoukas)**

The secretary (AG) congratulated EM for the success of the meeting, which has maintained the high EVF standards and great hospitality of the German Phlebological Society. Currently there are 188 paying members. AG thanked the sponsors for supporting EVF and the participants for attending the meeting. He also thanked EM and AN for the excellent job of grading abstracts and organising the programme. He also thanked the chairman (AN) for doing a great job with EVF.

**6. Treasurer's Report and Audited Accounts 2022 (Appendix – see attached audited accounts) (Marianne Vandendriessche)**

MV presented the accounts of the European Venous Forum Ltd. In summary the turnover (income) for the year 2022 was £122,000 with expenditure of £135,000. There was a loss of £12,000.

The audited accounts of 2022 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

It was agreed that the auditors, Nicholas Peters and Co be re-appointed.

**7. Report from Sub-Committees**

**i. Nominations Committee.** (Reported by EM)

Two Honorary Members: Professor Wolfgang Hach (Frankfurt) and Professor Eberhard Rabe (Germany) were proposed. Approved.

**ii. International Relations Committee.** *Chair: Armando Mansilha*

The exchange of the presentations of prize winners between EVF, AVF and Japanese Society of Phlebology continues and is very well received.

EM suggested that additional EVF joint sessions with local phlebologists, GPs, Dermatologists into the main programme covering Lymphology, Phlebology, Vascular Surgery and aesthetic phlebology topics should be considered for future meetings.

**iii. Research, Education and Publications Committee.** *Chair: Marzia Lugli (ANN stood in for ML).* AN praised the great collaboration of the Board members in finalising the VTE International Guidelines with special thanks to Niels Baekgaard (NB), Tomasz Urbanek (TU), Stavros Kakkos (K) and Armando Mansilha (AM) for their diligent work. The Guidelines will be published in the December 2023 or Jan/Feb issue of 2024 in International Angiology (IA). As far as research is concerned, a number of publications are being prepared as a result of research using the new APG (Bluetooth) that can be used during walking. This research is taking place in the department of ML and OM.

**iv. European Venous Foundation (EVF).** *Chair: Andrew Nicolaides*

AN informed the Board that The EVF Foundation continues to support the EVF meetings by providing grants for the EVF website, EVF administration, prizes, software, Guidelines and Research grants. EVF is grateful to the trustees.

#### **8. Report from President Elect: Versailles2024 (Albert-Claude Benhamou)**

ACB talked about the historic city of Versailles and how much he is looking forward to hosting the 25<sup>th</sup> EVF annual meeting jointly with the French Society of Phlebology. He pledged to incorporate additional subjects such as digital phlebology, the future of AI and Robotics, as well as what is new in the VTE guidelines.

#### **9. EVF HOW/HOW Plus (Andrew Nicolaides)**

AN mentioned that the programme and plans for EVF HOW that will take place in Porto 5-7<sup>th</sup> October 2023 hosted by AM is now advertised and has 100 places. In addition, the EVF HOW PLUS workshop organised by SB on 25-26<sup>th</sup> October in London on thrombolysis and thrombectomy has 20 places.

#### **10. EVF Grants**

AN reminded the members that just before COVID-19, EVF gave 2 research grants after an open competition.

One of the grants was awarded to the team of Dr Eliette Bouskela. Its aim was to investigate the changes in the microcirculation in patients with C0s clinical CEAP class. We have now received the final report. The key findings are that compared with asymptomatic healthy volunteers C0s patients have a mean diameter of the dermal papillae increased by 30% and the VAR reduced by 25%.

The second grant was won by the team of Dr Feter Lurie. The aim was to investigate whether based on venous hemodynamics one could improve the selection of patients for stenting in the presence of outflow obstruction. So far, we had interim reports, but we are still waiting for the final one.

#### **11. Future Meetings**

2024 Versailles, France under the Presidency of Prof AC Benhamou in collaboration with the French Society of Phlebology and French Academy of Surgery. Approved.

2025 – Krakow, Poland under the Presidency of Prof Tomasz Urbanek in collaboration with the Polish Society of Phlebology. Approved.

2026 – Two proposals have been received by the Board:

- (a) Netherlands (Marie Josee van Rijn) (Proposed by NB)
- (b) Greece (Stavros Kakkos) (Proposed by AN)

There have been too many meetings in Northern Europe, and it is important to go first South before considering another meeting in Northern Europe in 2026. Another issue revolves around costs. North Europe is proving very expensive. It will help the budget and increase the delegate attendance if EVF was held in South Europe. Also, we still do not know where the UIP meeting will take place in 2026/2027. These are matters to be considered by the Board.

## **12. AOB**

- (a) Collaboration with ESVS – Joint sessions are being considered in future ESVS and EVF meetings.
- (b) IA - AM announced that the impact factor of IA the printed official journal of EVF is now 2.108 and that the electronic version of the Journal is now available to EVF members at €65. The Board should consider whether the EVF subscription should be increased to €95 to include the Journal.
- (c) AN mentioned that the open access official electronic Journal of EVF, VIT is not yet in PubMed and urged members to send reviews.
- (d) It has been suggested that travel grants should be considered by the Board for young people to visit special units outside their countries for educational purposes.
- (e) Dr M Simka suggested that EVF should contact anatomical societies to address short-comings in anatomical nomenclature in relation to venous anatomy. AN pointed to the existing Glossary produced by Michel Perrin, Oscar Maleti and Bo Eklof and suggested he writes to the Board with a clear outline of his proposal.

**13.** The president, thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.