

**MINUTES OF ESCAP GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
**29<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2019**  
**VENUE: HOTEL ASTORIA, VIENNA**  
**TIME: 9 AM TO 5 PM**

**Attendance:**

Andreas Karwautz (Austria)  
Milica Pecovic Milovancevic (Serbia)  
Dimitris Anagnostopoulos (Greece) – President Elect  
Jean- Phillipe Raynaud (France) - Treasurer  
Oscar Herreros (Spain)  
Maeve Doyle (Ireland) – Secretary  
Stephan Eliez (Switzerland) – President  
Arne Popma (Netherlands)  
Manon Hillegers (Netherlands)  
Tobias Renner (Germany)  
Anne Marie Christensen (Denmark)  
Alassandra Rudods (Italy)  
Nermina Kravic (Bosnia and Herzegovina)  
Anck Bistrihx (Bulgaria)  
Marja Lusa Samoldin (Estonia)  
R Cabellero (Spain)  
Leonarh Hohenstein (Austria)  
Bernadka Dubicka (U.K.)  
Eniko Kiss (Hungary)  
Bojen Belec (Slovenia)  
Wawrzyniak Michel (France)  
Eeva Aronen (Finland)  
Fusun Guhadaroglu (Turkey)

**Agenda**

**1. Opening by the President.**

Stephan welcomed all representatives of the National Associations to the General Assembly and hoped everybody would enjoy the congress.

**2. Words by the President elect, new President after Vienna congress.**

Dimitris Anagnostopoulos thanked Stephan Eliez for his contribution as an excellent President of ESCAP. Dimitris stated that there were 5 positions available on the Board and there were 9 candidates. The tradition of the ESCAP Board is to have hosting countries and their representatives as members of the Board. Dimitris welcomed the diversity of candidates who had put their names forward. Jean Phillipe

Raynaud explained the voting procedure indicating that the number of votes depends on the fees and the number of paying members within the National Associations. He asked that member of the General Assembly confirm that they are representative of their National Associations and therefore entitled to vote.

### **3. Election of new Board members.**

There were 9 presentations in all. Anne Marie Raaberg Christensen (Denmark), Eeva Aronen (Sweden), Carmen Schroder (Germany), Professor Jorg Fegert (Germany), Konstantinos Kotsis (Greece), Manon Hillegers (Holland), Eniko Kiss (Hungary), Rafaela Caballero (Spain), Eyup Sabri Ercan (Turkey), each gave a 15 minute presentation on why they wished to become a member of the ESCAP Board. The voting was counted by Jean Phillipe Raynaud with Milica Pecovic Milovancevic assisting. After lunch the successful candidates were identified as follows: Anne Marie Raaberg Christensen, , Yorg Fegurt, Manon Hillegers, Konstantinos Kotsis and Eniko Kiss.

### **4. Hosting of the ESCAP congress 2025.**

There was a presentation given by Manon Hillegers to support Strasbourg's bid to host the 2025 congress. Among the reasons cited for choosing Strasbourg was the presence of very important European organisation such as the European Council and the European Courts of Human Rights. As a city Strasbourg has a very large convention centre which is very well equipped with 3 large auditoria. In addition Strasbourg is very well served by both international airports and national railway services. There is also a very good internal transport system within Strasbourg. The city is also a world heritage city as designated by Unesco and has a lot of wonderful tourist attractions.

#### **Action**

The General Assembly approved the Strasbourg bid for hosting the congress in 2025.

### **5. Approval of the minutes of the General Assembly meeting in Istanbul of 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> May 2018.**

#### **Action**

These were approved.

### **6. Approval of financial report 2018.**

Jean Philippe Raynaud presented the report and spoke to some of the issues. Bank costs for Switzerland do not amount to much. The big expense is the website but the Board is trying to improve on that. Expenses incurred for travel and subsistence by Board members for meetings amounted to very little for knowledge fee and the fee for Laura Kehoe were presented. The question rose as to what should happen in the event that a National Association doesn't pay. Some members indicated that personnel had changed in their National Associations so they may not be aware of the fees to be paid. It was stated that if a national

association doesn't pay, then it cannot vote. Jean Phillipe requested that each National Association would send a vignette or a video about their society to Laura Kehoe for publication. It was recommended that the National Associations contact Laura Kehoe directly.

## **Action**

The 2018 financial report prepared by Jean Phillipe Raynaud was approved unanimously.

### **7. President's report.**

Stephan spoke to the achievements of ESCAP and its activities since he was elected to the Board. He was first elected to the Board in 2011 and took on the role of treasurer. When he became President it was identified that there was a need to review the ESCAPs by-laws in order to change the fees. Stephan also acted as co-chair of the scientific advisory group for the congress in Dublin. He complimented the Board on its unity and solidarity on supporting the work of ESCAP. Stephan believes that the Board needs to meet more frequently, at least twice a year and that there needs to be more meetings of divisions.

In relation to the guideline project, Joaquin Fuentes is an associate Board member and has proposed guidelines for Autism. His recommendations will now be reviewed. Another project involved the publication of a position paper on refugees and their mental health with recommendations in the ECAP journal.

Stephan believes that the organisation of every congress is of critical importance to ESCAP and its members. He was of the view that there is a need to create an ESCAP Congress organisation committee. He wished to express a special thanks to Andreas Karwutz who played a huge role in organising the Vienna congress. Stephan has created ESCAP field advisors for speakers at the congresses. They are world experts and this has increased the scientific value of ESCAP. Stephan has also organised that Moocs and videos would be published online between congresses. Another action has been to the negotiation with Springer publications to have the ECAP journal free for 2 years for attendees of the congress.

Another achievement during Stephan's tenure has been the establishment of the research academy with the goal of allowing young researchers to meet and encourage them in their endeavours. Appreciation was expressed to Johannes Hebrebrand and Paul Klauser in relation to the operation of the research academy. Another welcome development has been the enrolment of new member countries to ESCAP, Cyprus in 2013, Bosnia Herzegovina in 2017 and Serbia in 2018.

ESCAP has also developed strong collaborations with IACAPAP and UEMS.

Stephan indicated that ESCAP's next President Dimitris has identified the strengthening of the links with the National Associations and the promotion of excellence in the field of Child Psychiatry as two of his goals for ESCAP.

#### **8. Proposition about structure of ESCAP working groups and sub divisions.**

Stephan addressed this issue. There is a need to involve more members actively in ESCAP. Stephan proposed that we would consider the possibility of forming sub-groups that could have an official status within ESCAP. These could be done geographically or could be for example disorder specific like a sub-group dedicated for ADHD.

#### **Action**

A vote was taken by the General Assembly. Initially there was one abstention from Bosnia Herzegovina but following clarification of the proposal, the second vote was unanimous.

The new Editor of ESCAP Laura Kehoe introduced herself to the ESCAP General Assembly and talked a little about her role. She indicated that she would speak to as many members as she can and to all of the new Board Members who had been elected.

#### **9. Report on the clinical division.**

Jean Phillipe Raynaud gave the report. Unfortunately there is a need to start the guideline projects from the beginning. He suggested that the role of ESCAP could be to support and/or issue recommendations about guidelines, rather than develop its own guidelines, as this can be very time consuming.

Jean Phillipe Raynaud suggested that perhaps the word "guidance" not guidelines might serve ESCAP better. For example the work undertaken on ASD by Patricia Howlin and Joaquin Fuentes could be considered under guidance.

The clinical division is also working on an editorial with a new colleague Marco Armando in association with Paul Klauzer. This editorial will address early interventions in psychosis in children and adolescents. Unfortunately there is a problem with funding the members of sub-groups to attend meetings.

A new development for the clinical division has been to invite clinical case reports from members of ESCAP and present them at the congress session on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July. Jean Phillipe Raynaud plans to ask Laura to put these onsite in order to develop a bank of complex cases. Jean Phillipe Raynaud concluded his report with a call for new members to become part of the clinical division.

#### **10. Report on the policy division.**

Fusun stated that there is a worldwide absence of identifiable national Child & Adolescent Mental Health Policy (WHO). The mission of the policy division is:

1. The development of a framework for a CAMHS policy.
2. To promote the development of a CAMHS policy programme in every member country of ESCAP.
3. To have ESCAP functioning for the wellbeing for Child & Adolescent Psychiatry at the highest level.
4. To collaborate with the National Associations to encourage the governmental bodies to develop CAMHS services.
5. To establish an advisory group to support the national bodies working on policy programmes.

These aims are further promoted by holding a session at the conferences to discuss the policies and programmes of ESCAP, and developing policy frameworks regarding specific issues in Child & Adolescent Psychiatry for example; youth violence and the mental health of refugee children. In addition a draft for CAMHS policy programme was sent to all the member countries and Slovenia and Croatia are in the process of completing their CAMHS policy programmes.

In relation to the issue of increasing awareness regarding specific issues in Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, an interview was published on the web on bullying.

Other suggestions for the policy division include further development of the prepared draft framework for CAMHS policy programmes regarding the experiences of the member countries, collaborating with the National Associations to encourage the governmental bodies developing CAMHS services and working as an advisory committee for those members who need support during their process of CAMHS policy development. In addition the policy division plan to develop policy frameworks for specific issues for example: youth violence, mental health of refugee children, suicide and non-suicidal self-injury. Regarding their advocacy role, the policy division believe that children's rights in European countries will be important to investigate; they recommend a survey on applications of children's rights in member countries in the future.

Another suggestion would be that the policy division should consider developing European ethical guidelines concerning relations with the pharma industry and research ethics. Also the policy division believes that the establishment of collaborative relationships with other international non-governmental organisations in the field would be very important, for example; UEMS, ISAPP, IACAPAP, EPA, ECAPP.

Fusun concluded her presentation by expressing her hopes that ESCAP will try to integrate policies among members rather than facilitate division, that it will continue to assist in the development of policy programmes that respect the individual differences of the countries, and finally that ESCAP will serve the needs of non EU members as well as EU ones.

Dimitris thanked Fusun for all her work in relation to the policy division noting that she is now stepping down from that division.

### **11. Report on the research division.**

Johannes Hebrebrand addressed this item. One of the activities of the research division is to help early career investigators in getting a paper published. To this end, Johannes has visited Turkey, Israel, Portugal, Serbia, Greece and Germany to give seminars on this topic. Johannes also stated that the ECAP journal has an increased visibility and increased impact. The paper in relation to the mental health of refugees and recommendations for this is the most cited paper.

An interesting published editorial in ECAP in 2018 was titled "Improving Child & Adolescent mental health care provision by scrutiny of national diagnostic practices", a call for increased international knowledge exchange.

Another interesting topic is that of Brexit. In an editorial Johannes and other collaborators in 2019 published the following; "High time to consider the merits of European collaboration in Child & Adolescent Psychiatry". Among the reasons outlined for collaborating within Europe were that competition is stiff from China and from the USA, that time is too precious to pursue redundant projects of national levels for example guidelines and finally that one has to consider the impact and management of novel technologies for example artificial intelligence.

Johannes also informed the General Assembly that there had been 3 ESCAP sessions for the research academy; 2015 in Madrid, 2017 in Geneva and 2019 in Vienna. The senior and junior advisors are Paul Klauser and Alexis Revet. Funding of 5,000 euro is supplied by ESCAP and another 5,000 by Johannes Hebrebrand. Johannes stated that the research academy in Vienna in 2019 concentrated on the national routine assessments in Child & Adolescent psychiatric patients including physical examination, lab tests, imaging, psychological assessment of self, parent, teacher, expert ratings, I.Q., neuro-psychological tests. The academy has linked to the European union of medical specialists (UEMS) via Brian Jacobs.

General discussion with assembly members ensued. There was a view that Child Psychiatrists are best positioned to do both research and clinical work. Dr. Bernadka Dubricka from the UK indicated that their college had produced a document on quality of patient care stating that one cannot have good quality of care without having good evidence base. She agreed to send this document to ESCAP.

### **12. The creation of an ESCAP congress organisation committee.**

Stephan spoke to this. He stated that at the Board meeting it had been proposed that there should be a permanent ESCAP congress organising committee composed of the President, the Vice President, the Chairs of the clinical divisions. A question from the General Assembly was what would the role of the President. Would he/she delegate part of the congress organisation to Stephan. The question also was as to whether this should be an advisory role or a mandatory role. Stephan's role in this organisation

committee would allow continuity in dealing with the professional congress organisers. In addition it would be very important that ESCAP respect the local organising committee. His view is that it would result in a 'win win' situation to have this committee established.

**Action**

A vote was taken on whether to agree to the creation of an ESCAP congress organisation committee. The General Assembly unanimously agreed to this proposal.

**13. Update on the next congresses.**

Anne Marie Christensen from Denmark updated the General Assembly on the progress with the congress organisation in Copenhagen 2023. They have decided on the Tivoli Hotel and conference centre. Their main worry is whether the conference centre is large enough to house the congress.

End of meeting.

Dr Maeve Doyle  
ESCAP Board Secretary