



# SOCIETY FOR VETERINARY EPIDEMIOLOGY AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

## SVEPM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NO. 35

### AGENDA

**Date:** Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2016  
**Time:** 11:40h  
**Location:** Konventum, Elsinore, Denmark

#### 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Kristien Verheyen, Gina Pinchbeck, Ed van Klink, Richard Newton, Kate Sharpe, Dom Mellor, Ed Peeler, Lisa Boden and Christoph Staubach.

#### 2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting No. 34 held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at Het Pand, Ghent, Belgium

No comments or corrections were suggested from the floor and acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Lis Alban and seconded by Maarten Weber.

#### 3. Matters arising (not otherwise on the agenda)

No additional matters arising

#### 4. President's report

The SVEPM President, Hans-Herman Thulke (HHT), thanked the local organisers for their excellent organisation of the conference in Elsinore, particularly as they had stepped in to do this late in the organisational cycle. He also thanked the 199 delegates to the conference and announced that 10 applications for the SVEPM bursary had been received and three bursaries awarded, to a delegate from Slovenia and to 2 members from Portugal. The committee had received 64 abstracts and HHT highlighted to the floor that the committee scored the abstracts blindly in order to enhance the transparency of the selection process. There are 80 posters at the conference, with 39 being offered as short poster pitches.

HHT thanked AVIA-GIS for sponsorship of the poster prize and SRUC for sponsorship of the SRUC prize.

HHT also thanked the SVEPM committee for their hard work and, particularly, outgoing Senior Vice President Koen Mintiens (KM) for his long service to SVEPM, and also Marie McIntyre (MM) and Bart van den Borne (BvdB), whose current term is ending, and Tarek Halassa, who is stepping aside as co-opted committee member.

HHT thanked Mirjam Nielen and Bernhard Url for accepting offers to present the opening plenary lecture and the Gareth Davies lecture, respectively.

#### 5. Secretary's report

The Honorary Secretary, Rob Christley, reported that a small amount of correspondence has been received over the previous year regarding membership and registration for the conference. Occasional requests for distribution of job announcements have also been received and are distributed to the member email list. Members who do not want to receive such announcements are welcome to contact the Honorary Secretary and will then be excluded from such emails. Members were reminded of the SVEPM LinkedIn group which had 3225 members at the time of the conference, a small increase from last year (3188).

Everyone was invited to use the LinkedIn group to post announcements about jobs, workshops and other information.

There continue to be some missing email addresses and bouncing emails. Members were reminded that they can use the Society's website to check and update personal information, including email addresses, but if this does not work, members should contact the Honorary Treasurer Marnie Brennan (MB) with any updates.

SVEPM has secured for members a 25% discount from Wiley across their entire book range. Members are invited to indicate whether they find this offer useful.

## **6. Treasurer's report**

The Honorary Treasurer, MB, presented the accounts for 2014/15, which were approved and signed off by the auditors. Total expenditure in this period was £21,714.00 and total income was £9,402.88, resulting in a loss of £12,311.12. This loss was predominantly due to costs incurred as a result of the SVEPM website redevelopment (approximately £10,000) and funding of 3 bursaries for delegates from developing countries to attend ISVEE 2015 (approximately £2,500); other expenditure was within normal limits.

The Ghent conference, 2015, recorded a profit of £4,209.98. MB thanked Professor Jeroen Dewulf as the Local Conference Organiser and his team for their excellent arrangements of the conference.

The SVEPM savings accounts had earned more in interest than in recent years, but interest rates remain low. The new credit card payment system, with no monthly fee, has substantially reduced the cost of receiving credit card payments and was favourably received by the auditors.

MB announced that a Euro-zone account had recently been opened to help members in the Euro-zone avoid transaction fees and to allow Euro-zone committee members to claim without transaction fees.

MB also reported that an accountant had, at no cost to the Society, provided comments on the Treasurer's accounting spreadsheets and, overall, found them very acceptable, providing only minor suggestions for modification.

There are currently 239 members of the Society (137 UK and Ireland, 24 Scandinavia, 16 Benelux, 36 other European, 11 USA/Canada, 9 Australia and New Zealand and 6 other). MB noted that there had been a jump in membership in the months before the conference, probably due to the substantial reduction in the conference fee for members.

MB proposed that the membership fee remain at £20. A vote was taken from the floor with 2 members abstaining, 1 opposed and the remainder approving the proposal. MB reminded members that membership fees are due on May 1<sup>st</sup> of each year and that standing order and credit card forms are available in the SVEPM website. Standing orders are preferred for UK members. Further information will soon be made available to Euro-zone members regarding use of the Euro-zone account.

## **7. Election of officers and committee members**

The following (automatic) changes to Executive Committee membership were reported :

- Hans-Hermann Thulke moves to Senior Vice President
- Ann Lindberg to President

The committee proposed the following people for Executive Committee roles and asked for each to be seconded from the floor:

- Liza Rosenbaum Nielsen was proposed by the committee as Junior Vice President, seconded by Nils Toft
- Rob Christley was proposed by the committee as Honorary Secretary, seconded by Kenton Morgan

- Marnie Brennan was proposed by the committee as Honorary Treasurer, seconded by Marcus Doherr

Three ordinary member's position have become vacant, due to KM leaving committee and end of current term for Bart van den Borne and Marie McIntyre. HHT announced that FIVE nominations had been received:

- Marie McIntyre, proposed by Gina Pinchbeck, seconded by Robert Christley
- Bart van den Borne, proposed by Mirjam Nielen, seconded by Liza Rosenbaum Nielsen
- Philip Robinson, proposed by Fraser Menzies, seconded by Marnie Brennan
- Jasmeet Kaler, proposed by Laura Green, seconded by Katharina Stärk
- Gerdien van Schaik, proposed by Bart van den Borne, seconded by Dirk Pfeiffer

Each nominee introduced themselves and stated why they were standing for election. Lis Alban and Carola Sauter-Louis acted as tellers. A vote was taken from the members, with each member allowed to select up to three candidates. Following vote counting and checking, Marie McIntyre, Bart van den Borne and Gerdien van Schaik were elected to the committee.

Acceptance of the vote was proposed by Arjen Brouwer and seconded by Nils Toft.

### **8. Election of auditors**

HHT announced that Dominic Mellor (DM) has indicated that he can no longer act as Auditor. HHT thanks DM for his valuable contribution as Auditor over 9 years.

The nominees for the role of auditor were: Keith Howe, proposed by Nils Toft and seconded by Stuart Reid; and, Fraser Menzies, proposed by Koen Mintiens and seconded by George Gunn.

### **9. Oral presentation format (length)**

HHT highlighted that, as a trial, oral presentations this year had been shortened to 25 minutes in order to enable poster pitches to be included, without reducing time for networking during coffee breaks. He asked the delegates to provide feedback on this change, and the inclusion of poster pitches, in the post conference feedback questionnaire that would be circulated on Friday.

### **10. Production and editing of the proceedings**

HHT thanked the committee, referees and authors, and particularly the Managing Guest Editor, LRN, for timely publication of the SVEPM Special Issue, which was published in December 2015, within the same year as the conference. The 2015 Special Issue included 8 papers from the conference. The Special Issue for the 2016 conference is under development, with 8 papers currently under review.

HHT also thanked the Keeper of Antiquities, Tim Parkin (TP), for his work for the Society. He noted that TP would like assistance, particularly with postage of proceedings to non-attending members, ideally by someone located in the Edinburgh/Glasgow region. No volunteers were identified. TP also indicated that he will ask the current publishers how much it would cost for them to post the proceedings directly to non-attending members.

### **11. Electronic proceedings**

HHT announced that, as past issues will begin to be made available via the members' area of the SVEPM website, this will be the last year that a CD will be included with the printed proceedings. He also announced that the role of the printed proceedings are being reviewed and asked for members to provide their opinions via the post-conference feedback questionnaire.

### **12. Information on future conference venues**

The 2017 conference will be in Inverness, Scotland. In 2018 the conference will be in Tallinn, Estonia. Expressions of interest to host the 2019 conference are welcome, and

further information, including the proposal form, will be distributed to the membership with the May mailing.

**13. Redesign of the SVEPM website**

HHT noted that the new website has increased functionality and invited members to make use of it.

**14. Nomination of life members**

No nominations for life members have been received.

**15. Any other business**

No other business raised.

**16. Date and venue of next meeting**

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 in Inverness, Scotland.