



SOCIETY FOR VETERINARY EPIDEMIOLOGY AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

2023 POST-CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES (No. 118)

Date: Friday 24 March 2023
Time: 13:00 GMT (or as soon as lunch is cleared)
Location: Argos room, Toulouse conference center

MINUTES

1. **Apologies for absence**

None

2. **New members and changes to the Committee**

1.1. *Update email distribution list*

Email distribution list: wait for the new website.

Action: FD to send an email to all so that we can reply to all.

3. **Matters arising from the 2023 pre-conference Committee Meeting (117)**

Hans-Hermann happy to continue doing the proceedings book.

A discussion ensued about whether we still want to have the Amazon-sold, printed book, now that it is available online immediately and for all 2.5 years after the conference. The committee is of the opinion that yes we still need that, as people may still want the book during the conference. It was suggested to give the option to order that with registration in Uppsala.

Keeping the orange book means being able to do the book editing by end of February. TV (current Junior Vice President) OK with that.

Uppsala organizers are also to remember to send information earlier to people that they can order from Amazon.

4. **Matters arising from the 2023 Conference**

4.1 *Conference organisation*

General good feedback from people, but seems clear for next conferences that warm lunches are desirable, and a sit-down dinner for Thursday (or at least enough sitting for all). Conference organizers for next years are reminded that there should be a person assigned to support the sponsors.

4.2 *Presented papers*

The committee discussed whether there is a way to improve the variety of subjects - Encourage themes? Score higher good papers in underprioritized areas? How do we score papers – we all seem to have different ways to do that. Discussion continued in item 4.4 below.

4.3 *Keynote speakers*

Opening: very good. Closing: we felt it was a bit too much promoting CIRAD. This also happened last year and the committee urges the next year organizers to try to avoid that.

4.4 *Quality of abstract submission & selection process*

Could we consider the best 30 and try to balance the categories, rather than just keep the best 20? Could we add a criteria to weight underrepresented themes? The committee thought it would be too difficult to systematise this. Agreement that we can encourage some areas but we don't need to change anything about the current process. There was agreement that we need to make objective criteria and harmonize them.

Action: TV to circulate a proposal for all to contribute.

4.5 *Workshop sessions*

Filled up. We need more workshops or bigger workshops. Bigger workshops are challenging because they are hands-on. More workshops will depend on the venue.

Uppsala team to discuss and try to address.

4.6 *Posters and poster prizes*

Really good posters.

Check that the guidelines warn against the use of red and green in contrast – the committee agrees that this should be a recommendation and not a disqualifying factor.

Action: FD to check recommendations and make sure there is guidance to print in B&W and see that it works and paste the recommendations from the oral presentations

LM raised a discussion about whether there is a conflict of interest for us judging posters from the committee – many gave the opinion that it wouldn't be different from how many people we know in this conference. We just have to trust committee members to be impartial.

There won't be Euros in Uppsala – the treasurer can bring cash if reminded. Else we will do big checks and transfer the money electronically.

4.7 SRUC prize

DB and Gerdien van Schaik talked to Sue – for the visibility SRUC gets, they should be offering more than the bronze sponsors (1000) so at least 1000 plus prize. We are happy to offer that and try to secure the next 2 years.

Maybe we need better visibility of the prizes – both criteria and awards, for the SRUC and the bursary.

Action: LC and EF who are reviewing the new website, when reviewing the abstract submission, make sure that in the abstract submission, when people tick the box of being eligible, they are informed that only the top 8 are included. DB action to email Sue Tongue with the proposal (1000 GBP + the prize of 200GBP)

4.8 Conference format

Keep the hybrid format? Cost 4000 euros to implement, only 7 people attended, weren't there all the time. Extra income was 2000. The online registrations all came from Europe – it didn't attract people from far away countries as expected. The committee also has the opinion that the main goal of the annual meeting is to bring people together in person. The committee agrees that the decision of whether to have an online format is up to the local organizer each year.

4.9 Early career scientist event

Went well. Focused on poster making. They also answered a survey about what would motivate them to be in the society. The committee reviewed the results. Networking seems to be the main motivation for coming to the conference. A third and popular activity was to practice the poster pitch, which the committee recommends to keep in Uppsala.

4.10 Feedback questionnaire

Poster pitch prize? Most were not in favour.

5. Matters arising from 2023 AGM

Some feedback from the floor:

Accounts should be voted by committee members – all members get to approve or not, rather than just getting a proposer and a seconder. Would this require people to receive the accounts in advance? PR recommends that this is sent with the agenda.

Action: treasurer to check in our constitution.

Action: FD to remind treasurer next year to prepare accounts in preparation to the sending on the AGM. Check and add if needed to the Handbook.

Most new members do not understand the proposer and seconder.

Action: next president to explain that at the beginning (FD to add to AGM SOP).

Comments about the amount of money saved on the accounts – the committee agrees that there should be enough money to cover one conference if it is cancelled (COVID example).

Recommend not to couple hotel rooms to the conference registration, as this can cause greater liability in case of cancellation.

6. 2024 conference

6.1 Workshops

The Uppsala team should check if the venue has room for more workshops.

Liza Rosenbaum Nielsen had an idea to offer: green epidemiology.

The general format of the workshops was discussed, in some workshops it was felt that the hands-on part was not very good, but it is hard to do that in the short time. Other workshops had too much planned for the short time and ended up not being productive at all. It is suggested that workshop organizers should be clearly advised on this issue. It was even suggested that we should try to keep the themes down to very small and concrete tasks to be learned, for instance a “version control” workshop. A roundtable discussion was also considered and acceptable format for a workshop.

From the post-conference questionnaire we got the following suggested themes: inferential methods, art work for scientific presentation, causal inference methods, statistical methods for analysing intervention models, Bayesian networks, machine learning, epidemiology and sustainability, personal insecurity or nervousness for young scientists, overview of social science methodologies, new methods, spatial epidemiology.

Our call this year should encourage some of these themes.

6.2 Early career event

Ideas above.

6.3 Invited papers

One Health theme? To be discussed by the Uppsala team.

6.4 Call for abstracts and topics to be included

Aquatic, companion animals.

6.5 Conference organisation & budget

A preliminary budget is available breaking even at 160 participants.

Action: FD to send the budget to the treasurer.

6.6 Responsibilities

Not yet assigned.

6.7 Sponsorship – NOSOVE, etc

Keep the sponsor categories? The committee decided in favour.

NOSOVE offered a 5000€ sponsorship if they can name the receptions drink – accepted by the committee. The committee advises the organizing team to be clear and strict of when the money needs to get to us. The society up fronts 5000 euros.

7. 2025 and future conferences

Have a company in mind and will settle on the date ASAP.

8. Any other business

8.1 SOP hybrid format

Action: TV to update handbook

8.2 ChatGPT

Should the detection disqualify? The committee thought that it is not a concern in our case because people have to submit a full paper.

A discussion ensued about plagiarism – we do state that it must be original work, but a strategy to check abstracts against published work was not suggested.

9. Date and venue of next meeting

September 18th, 10-16:00h CET.

Fernanda Dórea
Honorary Secretary

CIRCULATION

President	Dave Brodbelt (DB)	Committee members	Luis Pedro Carmo (LC)
Senior V-P	Philip Robinson (PR)		Katja Schulz (KS)
Junior V-P	Timothée Vergne (TV)		Carla Gomes (CC)
Honorary Treasurer	Egil Fischer (EF)		Locksley Messam (LM)
Honorary Secretary	Fernanda Dórea (FD)	Co-opted members	--

