# Minutes

**ESPEN General Assembly**

**World Forum**

Churchillplein 10

The Hague, The Netherlands

**Monday, September 11th 2017, 17:30-19:00**

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1. Opening
The General Secretary opens the General Assembly and welcomes all participating members.

2. Minutes from Copenhagen 2016
The General Secretary asks for any comments on the Copenhagen GA minutes. No questions arise from the assembly, and the minutes are approved by the GA.

3. Chairman’s report
The Chairman, André Van Gossum, welcomes everybody. He starts his address with thanks to the Dutch team under the leadership of Professor Geert Wanten, with Local Scientific and ECP Committee Chairpersons Anemie Schols and Marian de van der Schueren as well as vice-president Koen Joosten, for a fantastic job in organizing a very successful The Hague Congress with very high attendance. This is paralleled by a new record in ESPEN membership that just reached 3'172 members. The ESPEN Council consists now of 57 national PEN societies, and he welcomes the new members in 2017: Sri Lanka and Ecuador.

Events: The The Hague Congress is indeed becoming a great success. More than 3200 participants have registered. Main countries in terms of participation are The Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, China, Turkey, United Kingdom, Italy, France, Germany, and Japan. All professions are well represented. The number of abstracts is the highest ever, with 870 submissions (including 80 late breaking abstracts); top-submitting countries are Turkey, The Netherlands, Spain, Brazil, Japan, United Kingdom, Italy, France, China, and Poland.

After the Congress in Copenhagen, that was also an excellent event with the record-high attendance of more than 3900 attendees, the ESPEN Advanced Course 2016 was organized in Wielicka, Poland (16-22 October 2016), by the Polish team led by Stanislaw Klek. It has been a very successful event of excellent quality and attendance (67 delegates). The Optimal Nutritional Care for All (ONCA) initiative held its annual Conference in Madrid, November 21-22nd 2016 and confirmed the growing participation and success of this important initiative. In October 2016, the fourth ESPEN Workshop took place in Berlin, Germany, on the topic of “Cancer and Nutrition” which was chaired by Jann Arends and Phil Calder. A top international faculty discussed hot topics in the field, with high participation and attendance from many countries. A resulting Review paper has just recently been published in Clinical Nutrition. The Chairman then summarizes the next planned ESPEN events for 2017, including the ESPEN Advanced Course in Greece, October 22-28th 2017, and the 5th ESPEN Workshop in Bologna, Italy, October 15-16th on the topic of “Acute and chronic intestinal failure”. The 2017 ONCA Conference will take place in Bled, Slovenia, November 13-14th. The Chairman finally reminds all attendees that the 40th ESPEN Congress will take place in Madrid, Spain, September 1-4th 2018.

Grants – ESPEN continues to support scientific and educational activities through a generous grant program, which currently includes Travel Fellowships to the annual Congress and ESPEN Research Fellowships that awarded 300.000 € in 2017. Financial support to ESPEN Workshop organization also remains part of scientific activities of the Society. The Chairman also reminds the Assembly that the annual MNI Grant to national PEN Societies for excellent initiatives in the field of implementation of clinical nutrition has been again awarded in 2017. As many as 21 applications were received with excellent average quality, and the Grant was assigned to BAPEN. The Grant will be again available in 2018.

Nutrition Day – The Chairman recalls that ESPEN continues to strongly and directly support the Nutrition Day initiative. nDay celebrates its 11th anniversary in 2017. The 2016 Nutrition Day was again very successful. More than 236.000 patients have been surveyed to date with registration in the nDay database, from 63 Countries and 6840 Units worldwide. Besides its recognized role as benchmarking and quality assessment survey, nDay has become increasingly successful in publishing scientific papers
in high-quality journals. The Chairman encourages the Assembly to promote participation to the upcoming 2017 Nutrition Day on November 9th, which will be based on new questionnaires with quality indicators and economics.

**Journals** – ESPEN Journals remain in excellent shape. The substantial increase in Impact Factor for Clinical Nutrition in 2015 has been fully confirmed in 2016, reaching 4.54. Submitted papers continue to increase. Clinical Nutrition ESPEN is also increasingly popular, while several articles have been published in the new open-access, online-only Clinical Nutrition Experimental.

**Education & Clinical Practice** – The Guidelines program is progressing as planned. The first set of guidelines supervised by the 2010-2014 officer team completed publication of disease-oriented Guidelines on Cystic fibrosis, Chronic Intestinal Failure, Dementia, and Cancer. The 2014-2018 team started publications with Ethics (in 2016), continued with Terminology Guidelines, IBD, Surgery, Polimorbidity, and Neurology. Several more are planned for the coming months, including Geriatrics, Liver, ICU, Pediatrics, Home PEN & EN, and Pancreas. The ECPC has been very active and is organizing many successful activities. The LLL Program now in its 13th year continues to grow, with 1329 live events so far and almost 50,000 participants, as well as more than 40,000 registered on-line. Since 2010, 386 LLL participants passed the final exam and received the Diploma on Clinical Nutrition awarded by ESPEN. The new Pre-Graduate (Pre-G) LLL Program has also been launched in 2016 with the help of KEPAN, aimed at providing free, high-quality material for teachers and students in medical schools around the world.

**Website – IT** – The Chairman also describes the ongoing success of the ESPEN website, with increasing activities, posts and visits. He particularly acknowledges the excellent contribution of the outgoing IT-officer Michael Chourdakis, who fortunately agreed to add an extra year to his 4-years term of service when this was required by unexpected circumstances.

**ESPEN Activities and Objectives 2017** – The Chairman concludes his address by describing additional important new and ongoing ESPEN initiatives. These include the strong and fruitful collaboration with the European Nutrition Health Alliance (ENHA), the new ESPEN media campaign on communication strategy, and the Global Leadership Initiative on Malnutrition (GLIM), which had two very fruitful meetings during the congress. The aim to reach a global consensus on the definition of malnutrition in the near future seems to be very realistic. In addition, ESPEN is going to connect with other initiatives and scientific societies and has applied to become a member of the United European Gastroenterology. Further objectives for 2017/2018 are to increase the number of ESPEN members > 3300, to reach a high participation rate for the Madrid congress, a further increase of the Impact Factor of Clinical Nutrition, the full publication of the liver and geriatric guidelines and the publication of the Blue Book. A new IT/Communication officer is going to be appointed and will be in charge to develop a new ESPEN website and communication strategy.

The Chairman then acknowledges the many efforts needed to organize, support and coordinate the many activities of the Society. He thanks Ms Nancy Beauprez and Chiara Ruffinengo for their excellent work in assisting the Executive Committee in these tasks. In particular, Ms Beauprez collaborates with the Belgian Company Advanced Fair for the growing Membership renewal management task. The many sponsors of the Congress are finally thanked for their contributions, and the excellent work of Central ESPEN Committees is gratefully recognized.

The Chairman’s report receives a warm applause by members attending the General Assembly.

**4. Copenhagen 2016 Report**

**Henrik Høgaard Rasmussen**, President of the Copenhagen Congress 2016, briefly summarizes the excellent success of the event from all points of view. Record-high number of participants (3937), second
high number of abstracts received (761), and the wonderful atmosphere and general feedback were extremely positive. The Congress gave a true contribution to development of Clinical Nutrition not only in Denmark but worldwide, and fulfilled the motto of the congress “Collaboration in Nutrition”. The report is met with warm applause by the General Assembly.

5. The Hague 2017 Report
Geert Wanten, President of The Hague 2017, proceeds with a brief summary of the ongoing Congress. The Congress appears to be a memorable success, with high number of participants and record-high abstract submission from many countries. The main events in the program are summarized, and the attractive features of the congress venue, the city and its culture are also underscored. The presentation is approved with warm applause.

6. Madrid 2018 Update
Cristina de la Cuerda, President of Madrid 2018, provides an introduction to the 40th ESPEN Congress. The event will be held on September 1-4th 2018, and the motto will be “Nutrition without boarders”. The Local Organizing Committees are presented, and the main structure of the program is introduced. The congress venue and infrastructure as well as the many attractions of Madrid are described. A promotional video of the event is finally presented. The introduction is very successful and met by warm applause.

7. Future Congresses
The General Secretary Matthias Pirlich then summarizes the schedule for future ESPEN Congresses. These now include Madrid, Spain, 2018, Cracow, Poland, 2019, and Lyon, France, 2020. The president of the Cracow congress in 2019, Stanislaw Klek, then gives a short presentation about the city of Cracow, the congress venue, the logistics, and the wealth of social and cultural attractions of this area in Poland. The motto of the congress will be “Nutrition: a highway to health”. The presentation is met by warm applause.

8. Treasurer’s report
The Treasurer, Željko Krznarić, reports that ESPEN has continued to grow. In September 2017, ESPEN has reached the all-time record of 3196 members. These currently include 2760 block-members, 241 individual, 146 junior, 13 senior and 12 honorary members. The national representation of block members is currently led by Germany, followed by Australia, Belgium, Spain, Switzerland, France, Japan and 50 additional countries.

The 2016-2017 consolidated budget is then presented. The ordinary incomes were 547.362 € (Memberships, Clinical Nutrition royalties, bank interest) and total ordinary expenditures reached 468.738 € (Clinical Nutrition, website development, Editorial Office, ESPEN Organization and administration). Activities incomes (Research and Education: Congress, Grants) were 409.000 € with expenditures of 790.550 € (Congress profit shares, ENHA/ONCA, NESG, ESPEN Courses organization and research funding, support of ESPEN Guidelines, Nutrition Day, LLL Administration/Activities, CIF registry). The Ordinary balance was therefore + 78.624 while Activity balance was - 381.550 €, with a total negative balance of – 302.926 €.

Details and different items of the predicted 2017-2018 budget were then presented. In summary, in 2017-2018 ESPEN will have predicted total ordinary incomes of 566.000 € (Memberships, Clinical Nutrition royalties, bank interest) and total ordinary expenditures of 526.800 € (Clinical Nutrition, website development, Editorial Office, ESPEN Organization and administration now including collaboration with a PCO for Membership management). Activities incomes (Research and Education: Congress, Grants) and expenditures (Congress profit shares, ESPEN Courses organization and research funding, support of ESPEN Guidelines, ESPEN Media campaign, Nutrition Day, Blue Book promotion, support to ENHA, Chronic Intestinal Failure registry) are updated at 407.000 € and 758.000 €, respectively. The budgeted
Ordinary balance will be + 39,200 while Activity balance will be – 277,000 €. The budgeted total balance 2017-2018 should then remain negative by -237,800 €. The Treasurer indicates that negative budgets have resulted from growing investments and increasing activities from higher incomes and increasing Treasury over the last years. The ESPEN Treasury is currently 1,452,126 €. Pierre Dechelotte asks whether the budget for research grants could be increased. The Treasurer replies that the budget for the scientific activities has been decided in agreement with the Chairman of the Scientific Committee. ESPEN has invested more money for grants during the last years than before, but we also have to ensure the financial basis of the society. Stephan Bischoff comments that he is positively surprised about the high amount for grants. The Treasurer concludes by thanking Ms Nancy Beauprez for her excellent assistance. The General Assembly approves with applause the Treasurer’s report and the provisional 2017-2018 budget.

After his report, the Treasurer presents the proposal of the Executive Committee to increase the annual ESPEN membership fees from 2018 until at least 2020 by € 10 (individual membership from € 110 to 120, blockmembership from € 80 to 90, and junior/senior membership from € 30 to 40). He explains that the membership fee was not changed since 2012, but that the costs for administration and for almost all other fields were significantly increasing. Therefore, the Executive committee suggests to adjust the membership fee in order to ensure the administration of the society. The Treasurer invites the General Assembly for comments or suggestions, but no alternative proposals arise. The General Secretary then asks for voting, and the increase of the membership fee is approved by the vast majority of the General Assembly.

9. Chairman of the Scientific Committee’s report
The Chairman of the Scientific Committee, Dileep Lobo, presents the composition and necessary rotations in the Scientific Committee. He then summarizes the main activities of the Committee.

The Hague Congress – A record high number of 870 Abstracts has been received for the The Hague Congress, with a 93% acceptance rate. Turkey had the highest number of submissions. 68 abstracts were selected for 7 oral communication sessions. 60 outstanding posters will be presented during 10 one-hour poster sessions led by 2 moderators each.

Grants - The 2017 Research Fellowship program has been completed, with a record number of 82 applications. Seven awarded projects are presented to the General Assembly. A total of 300,000 € was awarded. For Research Fellowships 2018, the call will be open during the fall and closed in early March. The 2018 Fellowship budget will be unchanged 300,000 €. The Chairman then presents the 33 Travel Grants (highest scoring, one per country) for the The Hague Congress. A total of 374,750 € has been awarded by the Scientific Committee during 2016.

Workshops – The Scientific Committee is also responsible for the scientific content of the ESPEN Workshops. The forth Workshop in October 2016 was held in Berlin, Germany, October 23-24th on the topic of Nutrition in Cancer. This event was fully booked out and very well attended. The resulting consensus paper was recently published in Clinical Nutrition The 2017 Workshop on the topic of Chronic Intestinal Failure is organized by Loris Pironi and will take place in Bologna, Italy, October 15-16th. In 2018 the Workshop is planned to be held in the UK on the topic of Surgical Nutrition and Metabolism

Madrid Congress – The Chairman concludes by presenting the topics for the 2018 Madrid Congress Scientific Symposia, as well as the general layout of the Madrid Scientific program.

The General Assembly approves this report with applause.

10. Educational & Clinical Practice Committee’s report
The Chairman, Stéphane Schneider, presents the composition of the Committee and summarizes the different ongoing activities and projects:

• The 2016 Advanced Course was successfully held in Wieliczka, under the supervision of Stanislaw Klek and the Polish PEN Society. The 24th Course will be held in Thessaloniki, Greece,
ESMEN was also involved in collaboration with the European Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ESGE) to organize a very well attended symposium on the topic of IBD and Nutrition, in Dublin on March 31st – April 1st 2017.

The LLL Program, now in its 13th year, continues to grow with 1329 live events so far and almost 50,000 participants, as well as 40,000 participants registered on-line. Since 2010, 386 LLL candidates passed the final exam and received the Diploma on Clinical Nutrition awarded by ESPEN, while 361 teachers were trained at T-LLL courses. The new Pre-Graduate (Pre-G) LLL Program has been launched in 2016 in collaboration with KEPAN, aimed at providing free, high-quality material for teachers and students in medical schools around the world. The material is available upon contact with the LLL office.

Regarding Expert Courses, those on Intestinal Failure and Tracer Methodology have already been held again in 2017. Further Expert Courses planned for 2017 are on Good Pharmaceutical Practices for PN (Krakow, PL), on Nutritional Screening and Assessment (Amsterdam, NL), and on Nutrition in the ICU (Tel Aviv, IL). For 2018, the courses on Intestinal failure (Manchester, UK) and on Techniques of Enteral Feeding (Brussels, BE) will be replicated.

Regarding Guidelines, the first set has been completed (Dementia, Cystic Fibrosis, Chronic Intestinal Failure + a position paper on Acute Intestinal Failure, Cancer). The new Guideline Officers coordinate activities with an extensive program for the next years. From the second set the following guidelines have already been published: Ethics, Terminology, IBD, Surgery, Polimorbididy, and Neurology. Several more are expected for the coming months including Geriatrics, Liver, ICU, Pediatrics, Home PEN & EN, and Pancreas. During the The Hague congress one consensus conference (Geriatrics) and three group meetings (Geriatrics, ICU, Home artificial nutrition) took place.

The new edition of the Blue Book is planned to be published in 2018 and should be launched at the ESPEN Congress 2018. Lubos Sobotka will be Editor-in-chief, and the team includes as Assistant editors Zeno Stanga, Peter Soeters, Rémy Meier and Stéphane Schneider.

The program for the Madrid Congress is introduced. Educational sessions will include 10 educational sessions and 4 tracks (Pediatrics, Renal, Parenteral nutrition, Gastrointestinal), 2 Case discussions (Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, critically ill), Guidelines sessions including two consensus conferences, 15 LLL Courses and 1 TLLL course.

The General Assembly approves with applause the outstanding activities of the ECPC.

11. ESPEN journals: Editor’s Report
The Editor in chief of Clinical Nutrition, Nicolaas E. Deutz, discusses key issues regarding the Journal. The Impact Factor has stabilized in 2016 at 4.55, confirming its leading role among nutrition journals. The most cited papers contributing to the IF are presented. Submissions are increasing and acceptance rate for the journal is decreasing. Reviewer acceptance and performance is stabilizing. In 2017 a lot of effort has been made to handle the new editorial system EVISE, and expanding and replacing associate editors in order to cope with the increased workload. Transfer of submissions from Clinical Nutrition to CNE and CNX is active. Future perspectives and activities include 1) consolidation and potential further increase of IF; 2) improving quality of Clinical Nutrition further, and 3) Further expansion of Clinical Nutrition ESPEN.

The Editor-in-Chief’s report is approved with applause by the General Assembly.

12. Composition of ESPEN Committees and ESPEN Awards
The General Secretary, Matthias Pirlich, presents the composition and planned rotations in Central ESPEN Committees. He reminds the General Assembly that the term of the current Chairman, André Van Gossum, will expire in 2018. The application deadline for chairmanship is December 31st, 2017. According to the constitution, Article 3, Section 17, the candidate/s should have served within one of the
ESPEN Committees. The application requires also written support by 5 current and well respected ESPEN members from different countries, and the approval of the Council in the year of election. If there is more than one candidate, the General Secretary will invite an election statement (one side of A4) from each candidate to be sent out for ballot.

In the Educational and Clinical Practice Committee, the replacement of the permanent members Paula Ravasco by Laurence Genton, and of Peter Austin by Magda Pietka is approved by the Assembly. The outgoing LLL director Miguel Leon-Sanz is replaced by Alessandro Laviano, and the IT and Communications officer Michael Chourdakis is replaced by Elisabeth de Waele. The General Secretary explains the procedure for finding the new IT/Communications officer. The Executive Committee decided to make a call among all ESPEN members highlighting the specific profile of this position which is associated with a number of new tasks including development of a new website and overall communications strategy. Six applications form 5 countries were received and reviewed by the Executive Committee and the Chairman of the ECPC, and three of the candidates were invited for interviews. The appointment of the new LLL director and of the new IT and communications officer is approved by the General Assembly.

In the Scientific Committee, the replacement of the permanent member Nathalie Delzenne by Moise Coeffier and the prolongation of the term of the Editor in chief, Nicolaas E. Deutz are approved by the General Assembly. The rotating Local Committee members for The Hague 2017 are Geert Wanten for Executive Committee, Annemie Schols for Scientific Committee and Marian de van der Schueren for ECPC. They will be replaced after the General Assembly by the Madrid team Cristina de la Cuerda, Sergio Ruiz-Santana, and Rosa Burgos, respectively. All outgoing officers are thanked and acknowledged for their outstanding contributions to the Society and they receive the ESPEN diploma and a medal in recognition of their service.

The General Secretary then presents the proposed ESPEN Honors. Honorary membership is proposed to be assigned to Claude Pichard, Switzerland and Olle Ljungqvist, Sweden, and a Career Achievement award to Regina Komsa-Penkova, Bulgaria. The Assembly approves with warm applause the ESPEN Honors. Rémy Meier then presents the excellent achievements of Regina Komsa-Penkova. These are mainly the initiation and coordination of the EU project for the development of the LLL program in Clinical Nutrition and Metabolism, and her service as a Co-Director of the ESPEN LLL programme for many years. The LLL program is a unique and extremely successful initiative and one of the major educational activities of ESPEN with worldwide distribution of state of the art knowledge in this field. In addition, Regina Komsa-Penkova has made significant scientific contributions, particularly on genetic and non-genetic risk factors in the pathogenesis of thrombotic events, on inherited thrombophilia, and on lifestyle, nutrition and drug abuse. Pierre Singer presents the outstanding contributions by Claude Pichard, who has been a very pivotal player in the field of clinical nutrition for many years. Claude Pichard has published more than 485 papers with more than 280 references in Pubmed. His research interests cover a broad spectrum including catabolism, malnutrition and nutritional support in chronic and acute disease, manipulations of stress-related catabolism by growth factors, development and validation of body composition techniques, modulation of colon cancer cell growth, cost effectiveness of nutritional support and many others. Claude Pichard has served for ESPEN as an IT officer, he was the President of the Geneva Congress and the ESPEN Chairman from 2002 until 2006, revealing great leadership in challenging times. He was then the LLL Director until 2012. He is the founder (2005) and past Chairman of ENHA, and in addition he is also Associate Editor of Clinical Nutrition for many years. Miguel Leon-Sanz then presents the excellent contributions by Olle Ljungqvist in the field of clinical nutrition research, particularly on nutrition and metabolism in the perioperative period and within the ERAS programme. Olle Ljungqvist has served with great enthusiasm in several important positions for ESPEN: He was member of the Scientific Committee from 1997 until 1999 and the Local Scientific chairman of the ESPEN Congress in Stockholm 1999. He was an Arved Wretling Lecturer in 2006, and the ESPEN General Secretary from 2000-2004. From 2006 until 2010 he was the ESPEN Chairman, and during this term ESPEN made major progress by developing the LLL programme, the NutritionDay initiative, a close collaboration to ERAS, and by transforming ESPEN more and more from a European to a global society.

Each presentation and each awardee receives standing ovations by the General Assembly.
13. Revision of the constitution
The General Secretary explains that the proposed modifications of the constitution, according to the documents sent out to all ESPEN members on July 6th, 2017, cannot be discussed and executed because the necessary quorum of members is not reached at this General Assembly. He invites all the present ESPEN members to the Extraordinary General Assembly which will be held directly after the General Assembly according to the invitation from July 6th, 2017.

14. Proposals and comments by the General Assembly
No further comments or proposals arise. The General Secretary thanks all officers for their clear reports. The Assembly is closed.

André Van Gossum  Matthias Pirlich  Željko Krznarić
Chairman  General Secretary  Treasurer