

Protocol

8th General Assembly of the Swiss Metabolomics Society

Date and time: 25th November 2022, 12:30 – 13:24

Place: Remote ZOOM Meeting (54 Min, recorded)

Present: Online participants, Board members (Julijana Ivanisevic, Juan Zhang, Mojgan Masoodi, Christian Berchtold, Julien Boccard, Pablo Sinues, Endre Laczko, Serge Rudaz)

Excused: David Tonoli

Chair: Serge Rudaz

Protocol: Endre Laczko

Agenda:

1. Welcome
2. Acceptance of the minutes of the GA 2021
3. Reports and communications:
 - a) President's communication / 8th Annual & School / Sponsors (SR/JI/PS)
 - b) Membership situation / Voting individual members / Membership Fees (EL/SR)
 - c) Treasurer's and Trustee's Report Financial aspects (SR)
 - d) External communication (CB) / Visibility - Web (JB)
4. Perspectives 2023 and Proposals
5. Miscellaneous

General Assembly

NOTE: The official GA presentation is part of the protocol (power point document)

1. Welcome

The president welcomes all members and prospects of the Swiss Metabolomics Society and starts the meeting on time. The president reminds the GA that the zoom session will be recorded. The GA accepted the recording.

2. Acceptance of the Agenda 2022 and minutes of the GA 2021

The agenda is confirmed by the assembly (**Unanimity**) and approved the GA minutes 2021 (**Unanimity**).

3. Reports and communications

3a. President's communication / 8th Annual & School / Sponsors

The president thanks all board members for their work. The current board is elected for two years, their term will end with the next GA end 2023. Latest by then, new board members are highly welcome, and needed.

The president summarizes briefly SMS and SMS member activities 2022. He highlighted the participation of many SMS members at the Metabolomics 2022 Conference Valencia, as well as

the excellent conference talks of our board member JI and SMS member Nicola Zamboni. With two travel grants the SMS supported the participation of two students from the SMS member labs. A delegation of the SMS board was present at the IMS affiliates meeting. All in all, Metabolomics 2022 was deemed as a successful international conference attracting scientist from all over the world, and the presence and the contribution of SMS and its members were very well noted by the international community. The only unpleasant aspect of the conference was many participants were struck by COVID-19.

As part of the president's communication, board member JI gave her feedback of the SMS Annual conference (98 attendees) and the "After meeting" school (25 attendees), the yearly highlights of the SMS activities. She was happy to host the events at Lausanne and was very thankful to the speakers and teachers, including nationally and internationally recognized researchers (Oscar Yanes, Martin Giera, Fabien Jourdan, Masoodi Mojgan, Julien Boccard, etc.) and young researchers from SMS member labs.

SR thanked all sponsors for their important support. Responsible for the successful attraction and management of sponsors is board member and Vice-President PS. The latter reported that 6 standing commercial sponsors (Agilent, Sciex, Bruker, Shimadzu, Thermo Fisher, Waters) and a new commercial sponsor (Merck) donated 2022. PS mentioned further the successful subsidy applications at SNF and Fondation pour l'Université de Lausanne for the Annual conference and After meeting school.

3b. Membership situation (EL/SR)

The membership figures have been presented by EL. The number of members increased 2022 from 145 to 163. In detail, there are 88 individual memberships, 8 institutional Memberships (59 individuals) and 6 Company Memberships (16 individuals). Recently Merck joined SMS as a 7th Company Member (as communicated by PS during the GA, no individuals communicated yet). It has to be noted that only 1/3 of the individual members has pay the fee for 2022. The list of members has been accepted by the general assembly as well as the fact than no modification of the fees was proposed. As a reminder, the proposal for the 2022 fees is:

Individuals 30 CHF // « Active » Sponsoring members: 1000 CHF for Company/Association
« Regular » Sponsoring members
500 CHF Private entities // 300 CHF University / Academic laboratory

Membership situation, List and Fees: Unanimity

3c. Treasurer's and Trustee's Report Financial aspects – (SR, in the name of DT)

The financial report was presented by the president in the name of David Tonoli (excused). The society relies on three pillars of members: individual memberships, institutional memberships (academia) and company sponsors. The society is financially healthy. The financial report has been audited and confirmed to be correct. The financial auditors (Jean-Christophe Probst – Florence Mehl) were warmly owed by SR for their support. The president announced the retirement of the current auditors and is asking the GA for volunteers or suggestions of persons who may take the vacant roles. No person was volunteering or suggested during the GA.

Financial report: Unanimity

3d. External communication (CB) / Visibility - Web (JB)

JB stated that the web site is the key communication tool of the SMS. A website was renewed, all content and tools were recapped and adjusted. The website, as the most important communication tool of the society, is continuously evolving. The expertise map is growing, currently it lists 22 groups, members and non-members. As already communicated at GA 2021, all metabolomics groups (independent of membership status) are welcome to join the expertise

map. Continued projects are posting of job offers or congress announcements. JB raised security concerns and suggest investing more for the maintenance and safety of the SMS website. It was agreed that the board will discuss the proposition and decide/propose measures.

CB and JZ confirmed that the website is the core pillar of SMS communication, The reported on the additional communication activities through social media. Twitter SMS has 1168 followers (about 300 more than 2021) and LinkedIn counts 1028 followers and 960 connections (about 3 times more than 2021). Although some concerns were raised by CB and JZ (reputation of Twitter especially), they proposed to continue the activities on social media in the current form and channels, and to discuss options within the board.

Communication reports: Unanimity

4. Perspectives 2023, Proposals and 5. Miscellaneous

SR points to the Gordon Research Conference 2023 (March 12 – 17) in Italy. The conference will focus on “Metabolomics and Human Health”.

SR introduces the initiative “Swiss Cross - National School” of SMS member Nicola Zamboni (NZ) and proposed warmly, together with all board members, to join and support this initiative. NZ summarized the ideas behind the initiative and the goals like:

- There is a need in CH for more regular metabolomics meetings / courses, he recognized a lot of interest
- We (SMS members, metabolomics labs) can it better, there is a capacity to organize more and regular (short) meetings and (short) courses
- Switzerland is small, it's easy to travel and reach most of the metabolomics labs from any point in Switzerland in reasonable time
- More young scientists should be reached and involved in current metabolomics research, knowledge and information exchange, brought together with the leading experts within Switzerland

NZ presents two actions / opportunities to join:

1. “Swiss-metabolomics@slack”
An open space, already created. This should promote easy exchange and on time exchange of any information concerning metabolomics research and activities within Switzerland. Is considered to be and stay local, i.e. Switzerland related. Join and spread the link <http://tinyurl.com/swiss-meta-slack>
2. “Continuous training (aka “school across the year”)
One day each month (4 to 6 hours), driven by demand, varied topics and levels depending on needs.
Coordination by slack (see above). Currently the collection of ideas is ongoing (possible locations, topics, people, information channels, etc.), the goal is to define a program with mentors (hosts) and defined procedures (registration, implementation, support, etc.).

NZ proposes to join a pilot activity starting December 2022 – Summer 2023. Interested people should check at slack #training, add ideas or sending DM to NZ. NZ will consolidate the answers and set up a poll. 1st day is planned to take place in December at ETH (hosted by NZ).

SR thanked NZ for the explanations, actions taken and invitations. EL will send the information / invitation and the links by e-mail to all SMS members.

SR added some closing remarks. The next Annual SMS Conference and School will be outlined and organized early 2023. The split between Annual Meeting/School and GA will be continued, as well as the zoom format for the GA.

No comments or additional points were raised by the GA attendees.

End of General Assembly: 13:24