



2014 - 2016

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Vice-Président -
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Dr. François Beauthier

Secrétaire - Secretaris
Dr. Wim Develter

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Dr. Raphael Denooz

SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE DE MÉDECINE LÉGALE DE BELGIQUE

KONINKLIJK BELGISCH GENOOTSCHAP VOOR GERECHTELIJKE GENEESKUNDE

General Assembly KBGGG - SRMLB
Saturday 23/01/16

Program

1. **Welcome words and speech of the President**
2. **Modification status by the secretary**
3. **Communication by the vice-president**
4. **Salary and account by the treasurer**
5. **(new) Membership:**
 - **Candidates :**
 - Marine Deville
 - dr. Nathalie Dubois
 - Prof. dr. Kristof Stoven
 - Prof. dr. Eva Cuypers
 - **Effective:**
 - Prof. dr. B. Bekaert
 - Dr. S. Froidmont
 - Dr. A. Tamsin
6. **Honorary members:**
 - Prof. dr. em. JP Beauthier
 - Prof. dr. em. Ph. Lefèvre
7. **Scientific presentation:** dr. A. Tamsin Postmortem Microbiology
8. **Debate:** Recent law modifications in DNA and Toxicology
9. **Varia**

Report

The meeting starts with the official announcement of excused absent members: Prof. C. Scharlier, M. A. Capron, M E. Devalck and Dr. A. Tamsin.

Opening and welcome by the president after a nice coffee. His speech resumes the recent political and judicial changes/decisions related to forensic sciences , the actions of the board members and contacts with politicians and justice. He welcomes the new candidates anchoring the future of the society but effort has to be made to strengthen the contacts with the older members.

Driven by a blind will to economize and neglecting all aspects of the quality and professionalism of the forensic expert, there is a current political and justicial tendency to separate and isolate each forensic discipline losing the added value of interdisciplinarity. As a professional interdisciplinary society we must, now more than

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ever, realize that “ l’union fait la force ”. Given the actual changes and the prediction of a forensic “ annus horribilis “ this general meeting will be devoted to the present problematic changes.

The secretary reports about the final publication of the modified status and the encountered administrative difficulties. In the future status changes will be easier to be accomplished. The publication of the status can be found on the website.

The law proposal of non-suspicious death is ongoing. The board had several contacts with collaborators of the federal government and re-created an extended bureau (gathering academic tutors in forensic medicine; exp. Prof. W. Jacobs and Prof. Ph. Boxho). The main issue is, as expected, the funding of this law proposal. In the upcoming weeks several meetings are planned to discuss this topic.

The reports of our monthly meetings are available for inspection during the GA. They don’t include the progression meetings which are considered as informal meetings.

A code of internal rules, as is stated in the status of the Society but has until now never been made, will be created this year.

The vice-president’s report illustrates the new and successful formula of the Journal Club, held on the 13/11/15 in Namur. All charges were paid by the sponsor and the feedback of the participants was positive. The question rose whether third parties as the police and other non-member organizations should be present/asked at our meetings. Depending on the topic of the Journal Club this will be evaluated by the board.

The annual and former DVI-meeting in Lyon and the first Belgian DVI-training course financed by CePol are briefly reported.

The treasurer gives a schematic review of the bookkeeping and an overview of the status of the membership fees of all members. The former existing 3 accounts were reduced to 1 account. A new account book was presented to all members. The members who didn’t pay their fees will be contacted by registered letter. The society is financially in good health.

The bookkeeping was evaluated by two external members: Prof. dr. W. Jacobs and Prof. dr. P. Boxho, who rejected the bookkeeping. This rejection was based on the intransparent bookkeeping of the former treasurer. After the GA a constructive discussion took place between the involved and responsible members. Several suggestions were made and will be discussed in the board in the upcoming weeks.

The new members, Marine Deville, Nathalie Dubois, Kristof Stoven and Eva Cuypers are presented following our published status; their CV is read by one of their respective godfathers. After a short deliberation in absence of the candidate members all postulants were unanimous accepted. All present members congratulate the new effective members; Prof. dr. B. Bekaert, Dr. S. Froidmont and Dr. A. Tamsin.

The past president, Prof. dr. em. JP. Beauchier, the secretary Prof. Ph. Lefèvre and the treasurer E. De Valck are honored for their efforts and achievements.

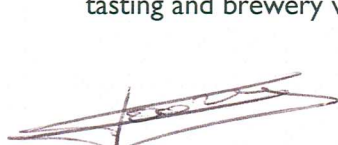
Due to an urgent duty call Dr. A. Tamsin couldn't make it on time to give her presentation on the wonderful world of Postmortem Microbiology. We are looking forward to hear her on the upcoming meeting of the society.

A round table discussion, animated by a previous lecture of Prof. dr. W. Jacobs, dr. R. Denooz and the experiences of Prof. dr. P. Boxho and Prof. em. Renaud, highlights the actual horrible nightmare of forensic DNA-labs in Belgium and the restricting financial measurements that also affect the other forensic disciplines as the Toxicology labs.

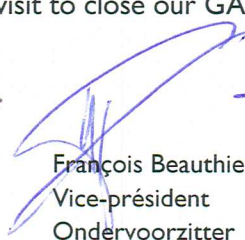
During this round table discussion three hot topics were commented:

- NICC has incontrovertibly a dubious dual position. The director seems to act as an advisor for the minister of Justice and the NICC seems to pursue a monopoly position as independent forensic expert / center in all fields (except forensic medicine, for now). → **Action:** After discussion with the members there has been decided to invite the director and staff of the NICC on a special GA meeting.
- Past political decisions regarding the financial economizing in forensic sciences were in collaboration with the NICC. These measures were taken without any contact with the existing professional forensic societies. → **Action:** After discussion with the members there has been decided to set up a meeting with our board and the Minister of Justice to ask him about upcoming measurements that implicate our professional lives.
- The lack of respect and recognition / acknowledgement by Justice and politicians is an ongoing issue. Previous media contacts have never had a constructive result. → **Action:** Suggestion was made to have a media communication highlighting the necessity and extra value of our profession instead of a financial based massage.

This heavy debate demanded an ancient narcotic which was given during the beer-tasting and brewery visit to close our GA.



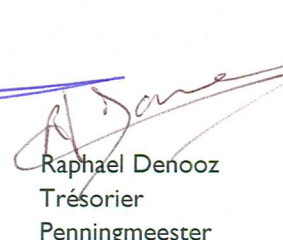
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