

General Assembly and Members Meeting, Barcelona, Friday 17 June 2022

Report



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General Assembly

SAFE President, Harriet Proios, opened the first face-to-face General Assembly since the start of her tenure in November 2020.

The General Assembly approved the following motions:

- Minutes of General Assembly June 2021
- Board members (re)elected:
 - Chris Macey (Ireland) - as Treasurer
 - Marina Charalambous (Cyprus) - as Secretary
- New board members:
 - Jan Konig (Czech Republic)
 - Dorina Dobrova (Bulgaria)
 - Marianne Tangen (Norway)
- 2021 Annual Accounts
- 2022 Budget
- New power of attorney
- Removal of a member – France AVC



Director General, Arlene Wilkie, reviewed the key achievements of the year and shared plans for 2022.



In addition, Harriet announced that the Board had appointed two new Honorary members to SAFE – Grethe Lunde and Jon Barrick, as a thank you to all the hard work and support they have given to SAFE during the time on the Board.

The date of next General Assembly will be in June 2023 – exact date to be decided.

Member's Meeting

Following the General Assembly, we held our members meeting which was opened by special guest speakers from Barcelona - Dr Sonia Abilleira, former Director of the Stroke Programme in Catalonia and Xavier Trias, President Fundacio Ictus, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Catalan Institute of Health, and ex-Mayor of Barcelona.



Harriet said: 'We are proud to be here in Barcelona to celebrate with Fundacio Ictus of 15 years of fantastic work and all they have done to help stroke survivors and their families in Catalonia.'



More than 50 representatives from stroke support organisations in 25 countries came together for the first time in over two years.

The meeting gave us the opportunity to tell our members about our work and our achievements over the last five years. Members heard about how we are developing our future strategy and gave them the chance to feed into the development of our detailed plans via strategy workshops, led by the SAFE Board, where we focussed on three key priority areas: Strengthening SSO's; Prevention (primary and secondary) and awareness raising of stroke; Making stroke a national/European healthcare and research priority.

Life After Stroke

Invited speaker Professor Avril Drummond, Chair of the European Life After Stroke Forum Scientific Committee shared developments on life after stroke.

She confirmed that:



- Long-term research data on management and care is limited, not robust, collected in unsystematic way and is patchy and anecdotal
- Stroke survivors are ill-prepared for the transition from rehabilitation
- Life after stroke is not necessarily the same as rehabilitation
- There are marked variations within and between countries.

It is vital that there is a focus and emphasis on life after stroke. The scientific committee and SAFE have been working to shine a spotlight on this hugely neglected area, running successful webinars over the last couple of years on different aspects of living with stroke.

The next online European Life After Stroke Forum event is on 9 November 2022 and the first face-to-face conference will be in Barcelona on 10 March 2023. These events are for health professionals with an interest in stroke including allied health professionals, researchers and students, along with stroke survivors, their families and carers.

Visit www.elasf.org for more details.

Fast Heroes – saving the world one grandparent at a time



Harriet Proios spoke about the Fast Heroes campaign. This award-winning project aims to improve the awareness of stroke symptoms amongst children and to give them the knowledge and confidence to call an ambulance when they appear. The programme is promoted in schools leveraging children's enthusiasm for learning and sharing, encouraging them to spread the knowledge to the rest of the family, particularly their grandparents.

Worldwide, 4,202 parents have completed the programme, increasing their knowledge of three stroke symptoms from 48% to 83%.

Networking time

After lunch, the meeting divided into four groups to discuss key topics, each group was facilitated by a SAFE board member. This was an opportunity to discuss and share issues and challenges faced over the last couple of years as well as think of ways in which SAFE could support them going forward.

