

COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

E. Dall'Ara, President
D. Pahr, Vice-President
M. Conti, Secretary-General
A. Carlier, Treasurer

COUNCIL MEMBERS

P. Thurner, Educational and Deputy Awards Committee
M. Mengoni, Deputy Treasurer and Sponsorship
P. Varga, Meetings and External Affairs Committee
E. R. Romo, Diversity-inclusion and Membership Committee
S. Loerakker, Webportal and Working Groups Committee
B. Innocenti, Communications Committee

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European Society of Biomechanics



Minutes of the European Society of Biomechanics General Assembly Zurich – 8 July 2025

Meeting Chairman: Enrico Dall'Ara, President
Meeting Secretary: Michele Conti, Secretary-General

[LINK to Slides](#)

1. Welcome by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General, Michele Conti, welcomed all participants attending the General Assembly (GA).

Ninety participants attended the GA. The GA meeting started at 17:45 at Audi Max (ETH).

a. Approval of the previous GA minutes

The Secretary-General asked for approval of the minutes of the previous GA, held in Edinburgh, on 2/7/2024. The minutes were sent to members via e-mail by [the June 2025 Newsletter](#). No comments received. The minutes were approved.

b. Matters arising

The proposed agenda was approved, without any request for additional matters to be discussed.

2. Council reports

2.1 Report from the Secretary General

The Secretary General, **Michele Conti**, welcomed the participants and reported on the society's membership update.

Since the last General Assembly, **237 new members** have joined the **European Society of Biomechanics**, including **99 active members**, **137 student members**, and **1 corporate member**.

The list of new members was circulated to the membership on **25 June 2025** via the ESB newsletter.

The Secretary General requested a **block ratification of all new members**, which was approved by the General Assembly.

2.2 Presidential Address

The President, **Enrico Dall'Ara**, addressed the General Assembly and highlighted key moments of the ESB year.

He commemorated **Pasquale Calderale** and **John O'Connor**, both founding and long-standing contributors to the Society, recalling their pivotal roles in the development of biomechanics and the ESB.

The General Assembly observed **one minute of silence** in their memory.

The President then recalled the upcoming milestones for the Society, including the celebration of the **30th ESB Congress** and preparations for the **50th anniversary of**

the **ESB in 2026**, to be marked in conjunction with WCB26.

He also outlined several strategic updates, including the launch of ESB Working Groups, ongoing diversity and inclusion initiatives, and developments related to ESB's collaboration framework within international biomechanics societies.

The President proposed the appointment of **two Honorary Members** for 2025:

- **Prof. Anita Ignatius**, for her outstanding contributions to bone biology, fracture healing, biomechanics, and long-standing service to the ESB;
- **Prof. Ralph Müller**, for his seminal work in experimental and computational biomechanics, high-resolution imaging, and his extensive service to the ESB, including roles as Council Member, Vice-President, President, and recipient of the ESB Huiskes Medal.

Both nominations were submitted to the General Assembly and **approved by formal vote**.

Finally, the President expressed special thanks to **Prof. David Mitton**, Past President of the ESB, acknowledging his years of dedicated service to the Society. He was presented with an **ESB plaque** in recognition of his contribution.

2.3 Report from the Treasurer

The Treasurer, **Aurélie Carlier**, presented the **financial status of the Society**.

As of **31 December 2024**, the total assets of the ESB amounted to **€265,825.33**, showing an increase compared to the previous year.

The detailed financial report for 2024 was submitted to the auditors on **9 March 2025** and subsequently approved by **Harry van Lenthe** and **Luca Cristofolini**.

The Treasurer then presented the **budget projections for 2025**, including continued investment in awards, training events, working groups, and new initiatives, with an estimated **negative balance of €24,200**, consistent with the Society's strategy to reinvest resources into member-focused activities.

2.4 Welcome from the Vice-President: Report on Awards

Dieter Pahr presented an update on the activities of the Awards Committee, focusing on recent developments and future actions.

He informed the General Assembly about **upcoming changes to the ESB awards structure**, including updates to the **Clinical Biomechanics Award** and the **Perren Award**, aimed at improving clarity, relevance, and alignment with the evolving scope of the Society.

Dieter Pahr also announced the establishment of an **internal Awards Working Group**, created to support the continuous evaluation and optimization of the award framework and evaluation procedures.

Finally, he provided an outlook toward **WCB26**, explaining that a **parallel award application system** will be implemented starting in **September**, in coordination with the World Congress of Biomechanics, to ensure a smooth and transparent management of award applications across societies.

2.5 Reports from the Committees

2.5.1 Early Career Committee

Philipp Thurner reported on behalf of the Early Career Committee, noting the **official name change** (formerly Education and Student Committee) approved by the Council in January 2025.

He presented the committee composition for **2024–2025** and **2025–2027**, acknowledged outgoing members, and summarized key activities, including webinars, the Meet-the-PI session, Student Night, and the Early Career Poster Award.

2.5.2 Diversity, Inclusion and Membership Committee

Esther Reina Romo presented an overview of ESB membership demographics, highlighting that membership is **higher than pre-COVID levels**, with members from **61 countries worldwide** and strong diversity driven by the student body.

She reported on mentoring activities, with **more than 50 active mentor–mentee pairs**, the continuation of the Inclusion Participation Fund, and the introduction of a **Diversity Award** (not assigned in 2025 due to lack of eligible applications).

2.5.3 Webportal and Working Groups Committee

Sandra Loerakker reported on Perspective Talks at ESB25 (**70 submissions, 33 accepted across 23 tracks**) and introduced the **new ESB Working Groups**.

Following a call reviewed by the Council, two Working Groups were approved:

- *Virtual Twins of Human Organ Systems*
- *Musculoskeletal Spine Modelling*

2.5.4 Communications Committee

Bernardo Innocenti reported on communication activities, including the distribution of ESB newsletters since ESB24, increased visibility of website news, and ongoing efforts to promote open positions and society initiatives.

2.5.5 Meetings and External Affairs Committee

Peter Varga reported on ESB-endorsed meetings, outlining requirements, financial support mechanisms, and benefits for ESB members.

He also provided updates on upcoming congresses, including **ESB27 in Berlin (2027)** and the forthcoming **call for bids for ESB2029**.

3. Share your ideas – Real time Survey

During the General Assembly, a real-time interactive survey was conducted using Wooclap to gather feedback from the members present.

Regarding **ESB Social Media**, members were asked whether, following the opening of an ESB account on Bluesky, the existing X account should be closed. A clear majority of respondents expressed support for this option, with **77% voting in favour of closing the X account**, while **23% voted against**.

With respect to **ESB Webinars**, members were asked whether they had attended an ESB webinar since the previous General Assembly. **33% of respondents** indicated that they had attended at least one webinar. Among those who had not attended, **39% cited lack of time** as the main reason, **24% reported that they were not aware of the webinars**, and **4% indicated that the topics were not sufficiently interesting**.

Finally, concerning **ESB Congresses and the MedTech (CSV) registration**, members were asked whether they would be interested in this registration option. The majority of respondents (**89%**) indicated that they **did not know what this type of registration is**, while **8% stated they were not interested**, and only **3% expressed interest**.

The results of the survey were discussed during the meeting and will be considered by the Council in future reflections and potential follow-up actions.

4. Matters arising

Two interventions from members of the General Assembly were raised and discussed:

1. **Use of the Society's cash surplus**

A question was raised regarding how the existing cash surplus of the Society is being used.

It was clarified that the ESB is already investing resources through several ongoing initiatives, including **awards, mobility grants, training events, support for Working Groups**, and other member-oriented activities. These actions are aligned with the Society's strategy to reinvest resources for the benefit of the community.

2. **Management of fees and income from courses and events**

A second question concerned the management of registration fees and income related to courses and similar activities.

It was explained that these aspects are closely linked to **congress and event organisation** and therefore need to be evaluated **on a case-by-case basis**, taking into account the **organizational complexity, financial structure, and specific context** of each event.

No further matters were raised.

6. Closure

The SG thanked all members for their active participation and constructive contributions to the General Assembly.

As no further matters arose, the General Assembly was formally closed at 18.30.

Signed



Enrico Dall'Ara,
President



Michele Conti
Secretary-General

Date: Friday, 19/09/2025