




ANNUAL REPORT 2008

This report was approved at the annual council meeting, October 19, 2009 at the Department Animals in Science and Society University Utrecht, by


prof. Berend Olivier, PhD
president of the Foundation



Bart A Ellenbroek, PhD
treasurer



prof. Frauke Ohl, PhD
council member



Joop S de Graaf, PhD
secretary



Introduction and Background

The present generation of pharmacologists, highly proficient in the molecular approaches to drug discovery but hardly if at all educated in the classical, more holistic biosciences, nevertheless faces the challenge to put their discoveries in the context of complex disease, if only to investigate the imminent wave of transgenic animals. The necessary knowledge is still existent with experts all over the world. They responded enthusiastically to the invitation of the European Summer School for Whole Animal Pharmacology to contribute to their courses. A pilot course on behavioural pharmacology in August 2004 was followed by a second course in June 2005. The experience gained in these two courses encouraged the foundation to continue. The name ESSWAP is now well established and participants to the courses in June 2006 and June 2008 came from all over the world.

Educative Strategies and Principles

ESSWAP offers its courses specifically to bio-scientists who want to acquire the knowledge and necessary skills for the good conduct of whole animal pharmacological experiments and to expand their understanding of applied pharmacology for a sound extrapolation to clinical pharmacology. The courses offer extensive seminars lasting one hour and a half with ample time for intermittent questions and in-depth discussions, presented by prominent investigators to a limited number of participants in the presence of three or more fellow advisers.

The participants and the scientific advisers are provided a “carefree” environment.

Introductory seminars deal with the basics of pharmacological experimentation, including experimental set up, control strategies, and statistics. They are followed by seminars on specific areas of applied pharmacology, and a day of pharmacological experiment demonstrations with student participation followed by student presentations. Evening seminars are included to offer insight on research policies and the course concludes with a summing-up session and an evaluation session.

While the set-up of the courses has improved over the years, the educative principles of ESSWAP’s initiative have remained the same throughout. They form the core value of a worldwide reputation.

ESSWAP Foundation Council

Members of the foundation council are prof Berend Olivier PhD, president, Bart Ellenbroek PhD, treasurer, and Joop S de Graaf PhD, secretary and study director. Prof Frauke Ohl PhD joined the council February 27, 2008.

Council meetings and conferences

The annual meeting took place January 18th in the presence of mr Bert Schreurs, financial adviser.

The council met also on October 17th to evaluate the course and discuss plans for the future.

Intensive and frequent contacts were kept by e-mail correspondence, by bilateral telephone conversations and by telephone conferences.

Organizing Committee and Logistics Assistance

- The organizing committee consisted essentially of the four council members.
- The director got invaluable assistance from Mrs Til Rijnierse, logistics officer to the Foundation. The director met occasionally with Mrs Rijnierse at her home office, and corresponded by e-mail and over the phone. Mrs Rijnierse took care of the logistics of the course, dealt with Organon cq Schering Plough officers, travel companies and hotel officials, and realised an essentially uneventful organisation.
- The animal demo experiments were carried out at prof. Ohl's Department of Laboratory Animal Sciences, Utrecht University, with the assistance of Marijke Laarakker, Amber Salomons, Susanne Kirchhoff and Saskia Arndt and under the supervision of Pim Rooymans, PhD, education officer.

Scientific Committee

In the scientific committee participated the four board members and Alma Gower PhD. The majority of the decisions were based on frequent contacts by e-mail correspondence, bilateral telephone conversations and telephone conferences between the director and the respective committee-members.

ESSWAP course Behavioural Pharmacology 2008

The European Summer School for Whole Animal Pharmacology organized its fourth course on behavioural pharmacology, June 15–20, 2008. The organization enjoyed the hospitality of Schering Plough, the new parent company of Organon in Oss, the Netherlands. Schering Plough provided the seminar rooms, lunches and dinners for all participants and contributors, and audiovisual equipment.

Publicity

The website www.esswap.org was regularly updated by webmaster Jos Vecht. The leaflet file developed in 2006 was newly designed with Jos' help, and distributed in two successive mailings to the secretaries of pharmacological societies and to a selected list of relations with the request to download the file, print a few copies and post them on information boards and pile them on the lab's coffee table.

The campaign proved highly successful, the course being full around mid March. Some applications had to be turned down for lack of qualifications.

Participation

The course was attended by 12 participants from the Netherlands (3), Germany (3), France, Spain, Portugal, the USA, People's Republic of China and Malaysia. Nine participants came from pharmaceutical companies and 3 were academic scientists. Ten participants payed the full tuition fees and two were admitted at no charge.

Seminars were delivered by 15 experts from the Netherlands, Belgium, France, the UK, and Ireland.

Printed and Audiovisual Documentation

Documentation folders were printed by the printshop of Schering Plough and assembled under the supervision of logistics officer Mrs Til Rijnierse.

Final versions of the seminar presentations were made available on a CD-ROM and a separate DVD-ROM was made of the video material presented during the course. The media disks were produced completely by the foundation. Copies were sent to all participants and speakers and to selected relations. Third parties can purchase the disks at a price of € 250.

Evaluation

From an educational and scientific point of view, the course was highly successful. Students as well as speakers were positive about the course, its format and its strategy. An overview, including the student evaluation, is available on the website www.esswap.org. All speakers of 2008 intend to participate in the fifth course in 2009.

Thanks to the outstanding assistance of our logistics officer Mrs Rijnierse, and the enthusiastic assistance of prof Ohl's team, the organisation ran virtually without any problem.

Schering Plough were pleased with the positive outcome and are proud that Organon and Schering Plough have helped the ESSWAP initiative to grow into a self-supporting organisation. Even so, they feel that the changed situation, including the fact that CNS research is no longer carried out in Oss, demands to gradually end the collaboration. They agreed to support one more course and asked to look for an other place to organize the ESSWAP courses after 2009. Fortunately, Prof Ohl announced that her department is pleased to become the new home for ESSWAP.

Plans for 2009

- A fifth course is scheduled for 2009, June 14-19. On the basis of suggestions from participants and faculty staff, the logistic schedule was adapted. The introductory Monday is to integrate seminars on Ethics of Animal Husbandry, Experimental Design and Statistics and a Statistics Workshop
- It is to be expected that more academic and less industrial scientists will be going to participate in the 2009 course. The budget for 2009 (addendum) expects a negative result. The council intends to use a substantial part of the money earned in 2008 to cover these losses.

- Tuition fees for industrial participants were raised to € 2200. Academics will be asked to contribute € 550 or more.
- If possible, the intention is to also fund one or more scientific projects. A modest start was already made to produce a hands-on manual for the conduct of the Irwin test.
- Part of the funds may also be used to support participants coming from third-world countries.
- The director and Schering Plough agreed to collaborate once more on a fifth course, on the condition that ESSWAP now pays itself for most of the logistics. Schering Plough will only provide the daily seminar facilities.
- Presently, most if not all of the administrative work for the foundation is being done by the study director. Plans are to gradually transfer (parts of) the administration to prof Ohl's department.

Finances

A Balance Sheet and a Profit & Loss Account over 2008 are attached to this report. The expert assistance of Mr Bert Schreurs is gratefully acknowledged.

The Profit & Loss Account includes a comparison with the year 2006, in view of the fact that no course was held in 2007. Additionally, the report contains a comparison of the budget and the actual costs of 2008. Income from participation fees was higher than anticipated as the ratio of industrial to academic scientists was more favourable than in earlier years. Expenses for website and office management were much less than originally planned and so were travel and accommodation costs, publicity expenses, catering and transportation (public transport rather than hired vans). Unforeseen expenses came from legal advice on copyright matters and fee waivers for two academics associated with Utrecht University. In total, the 2008 course has been very successful financially.

Some of the items at the income side of the profit and loss account represent virtual cash flow. Schering Plough contributed sponsoring in kind by providing conference facilities and logistics support, accounted for at the income side as "Sponsoring". Similarly, the demo experiments sponsored by the Department of Laboratory Animal Sciences, Utrecht University, represent virtual costs. Donations in cash are represented as "Subsidies".

This presentation is to present a more realistic cost structure. Even so, hiring the facilities at a commercial basis might have about tripled the expenses. Likewise, management, teaching and coaching were done at no cost, but would have amounted to some tens of thousands of euros when translated into realistic fees or wages.

Taking all into account, a commercial course of similar quality would have cost about three times the actual expenses of 15 k€.

**ESSWAP Foundation
Financial Report 2008**

BALANCE SHEET DECEMBER 31, 2008

	31 Dec 2008	31 Dec 2007		31 Dec 2008	31 Dec 2007
Bank Account	€ 18.964	€ 8.862	Loans	€ 200	€ 200
Laptop	€ -	€ 525	Retained Earnings	€ 9.187	€ 10.775
			Current Year	€ 9.577	€ (1.588)
	<u>€ 18.964</u>	<u>€ 9.387</u>		<u>€ 18.964</u>	<u>€ 9.387</u>

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PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

	Income				Expenses		
	2006	2007	2008		2006	2007	2008
Tuition Fees	€ 17.000		€ 20.775	Operational Costs			
Subsidy Schering Plough			€ 3.562	Website, Office	€ 2.179	€ 697	€ 827
Subsidy UU			€ 118	Travel & Accomodation	€ 2.221	€ -	€ 859
Revenues DVD		€ 275	€ 500	Subscriptions	€ 21	€ 22	€ 36
Consultation Fees	€ 6.000			Logistics Officer	€ 2.710	€ 258	€ 2.529
				DVD production	€ 1.995	€ -	€ 978
				Publicity Campaign	€ 714	€ -	€ 619
				Waivers and repayments	€ 2.000	€ 360	€ 1.000
				Depreciation	€ 526	€ 526	€ 525
				Copyrights			€ 1.208
				Logistics			
Sponsoring Organon	€ 6.000			Lunches/Dinners ^a	€ 4.646		€ 4.706
Sponsoring Schering Plough			€ 2.000	Transportation	€ 300		€ 264
Sponsoring RUN	€ 2.900			Conference Facilities ^b	€ 2.000		€ 2.776
Sponsoring UU			€ 2.900	Documentation ^a	€ 1.000		€ 1.000
				Demonstrations ^c	€ 2.900		€ 2.900
Interest income			€ 339	Leisure excursion	€ 190		€ 390
					€ 23.102	€ 1.055	
				Net Income	€ 8.498	€ (1.588)	€ 9.577
					€ 31.900	€ 275	€ 30.194
	€ 31.900	€ 275	€ 30.194				

^a: sponsored by Oraanon / Schering Plough
^b: partially sponsored by Oraanon / Schering Plough
^c: sponsored by RUN (2006) or UU (2008)

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BUDGET and ACTUAL 2008

Income

Expenses

	budget	actual
Tuition Fees*	€ 16.000	€ 20.775
Consultation & Administration fees	€ 500	
DVD revenues		€ 500
Interest income		€ 339
Subsidies	€ 4.000	€ 3.680
Sponsoring Schering Plough	€ 2.000	€ 2.000
Sponsoring UU	€ 3.000	€ 2.900
	€ 25.500	€ 30.194

Operational Costs

	budget	actual
Website, Office	€ 2.500	€ 827
Travel & Accomodation	€ 2.500	€ 859
Subscriptions	€ 100	€ 36
Logistics Officer	€ 3.000	€ 2.529
DVD production	€ 500	€ 978
Publicity Campaign	€ 1.500	€ 619
Depreciation	€ 500	€ 525
Copyrights		€ 1.208
Waivers		€ 1.000
	€ 10.600	€ 8.581

Logistics

	budget	actual
Lunches/Dinners	€ 6.000	€ 4.706
Transportation	€ 1.000	€ 264
Conference Facilities	€ 2.000	€ 2.776
Documentation	€ 1.500	€ 1.000
Demonstrations	€ 3.000	€ 2.900
Leisure	€ 400	€ 390
	€ 13.900	€ 12.036

Net Income

	€ 1.000	€ 9.577
	€ 25.500	€ 30.194

# of participants	12	12
# of full fees € 2000	10	10
# of academics (rate € 500)	2	2