DRAFT Minutes for International Society for Animal Genetics General Business Meeting

June 22, 2026, Hybrid meeting via Zoom and on-site, Perugia, Italy.

Approximately 50 in attendance (range 42-51 throughout the call).

In Attendance for the Executive Committee: Christ Tuggle (president), Rebecca Bellone (secretary), Klaus Wimmers (treasurer), Leslie Lyons, Richard Crooijmans, Josue Chinchilla-Vargas, and Emiliano Lasagna (Ex-Officio).

Also in Attendance was Dr. Göran Andersson as EIC of the Journal.

Key:
EC= Executive Committee; OEC = Officers of the Executive Committee; SC= Standing Committee; CT = Comparison Test; GBM= General Business meeting; ISAG (or Society) = International Society for Animal Genetics; IFAG (or Foundation)= International Foundation for Animal Genetics; AGE= Animal Genetics; WB = Wiley Blackwell; LOC=Local Organizing Committee. EIC=Editor in Chief

Tuggle called meeting to order at 5:03 PM CEST on Monday, June 22, 2026.

Tuggle provided welcome and details on EC and LOC members in attendance.

Approval of minutes of the 2025 General Business Meeting (July 25, 2025). Minutes can be found here. Tuggle asks for comments on minutes from previous meeting. Mo objections to approving the minutes. Minutes approved unanimously as presented by voice vote.

Bellone presents Secretary's report.

Bellone provides overview of IFAG and ISAG Executive committee outlined below. Notes all terms are four-year terms that can be reappointed once with the exception of early career scientist whose term is being amended in revised bylaws being discussed on this call.

Currently serving IFAG and ISAG Executive Committee.

President (4-year term)

Christopher Tuggle; serving second term on EC, 2023-2027

Treasurer (4-year term)

Klaus Wimmers: serving second term 2025-2029

Secretary (4-year term)

Rebecca Bellone; serving first term 2025-2029

Executive Committee Members (4-year term)

Leslie Lyons; serving first term 2023-2027

Richard Crooijmanns; serving first term 2023-2027

Romi Pena; serving first term 2025-2029

Early Career Scientist Representative (ECS) (2-year term)

Josue Chinchilla-Vargas, serving first term 2025-2027

Elections will take place in 2027 for the following positions.

<u>Standing for re-election:</u>

Leslie Lyons, member; first term ends 2027

Richard Crooijmans, member; first term ends 2027

Josué Chinchilla-Vargas, ECS; first term ends 2027

<u>Open Positions:</u>

President; first term 2027-2031

Bellone provides overview of IFAG and ISAG Board activities.

- Annual IFAG Board Meeting via Zoom on 25 Nov 2025.
    - Constitutional review and amendments, ISAG Conference Bid Submission, Wiley APC Agreement, Publication Trends, and ISAG awards were discussed.
    - Met with the LOC and PCO on 18, Mar 2026 via Zoom contract and conference planning.
- ISAG Executive Committee have had eight scheduled meetings via Zoom (5 Oct, 6 Nov, 8 Dec,2025 and 7 Jan, 18 Feb, 25 Mar, 15 Apr, 20 May 2026).
    - conference planning, Society awards, Comparison Testing issues, society memberships, and amendments to the constitution.
    - Dr. Emiliano Lasagna, attended these meetings to discuss conference planning and other members from the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) also attended depending on logistics discussed.

Bellone provides details on conference preparations for 2027 with 2029 location also being determined.

- All IFAG board and EC meetings handled to some extent the planning of ISAG 2027 in Perugia Italy.

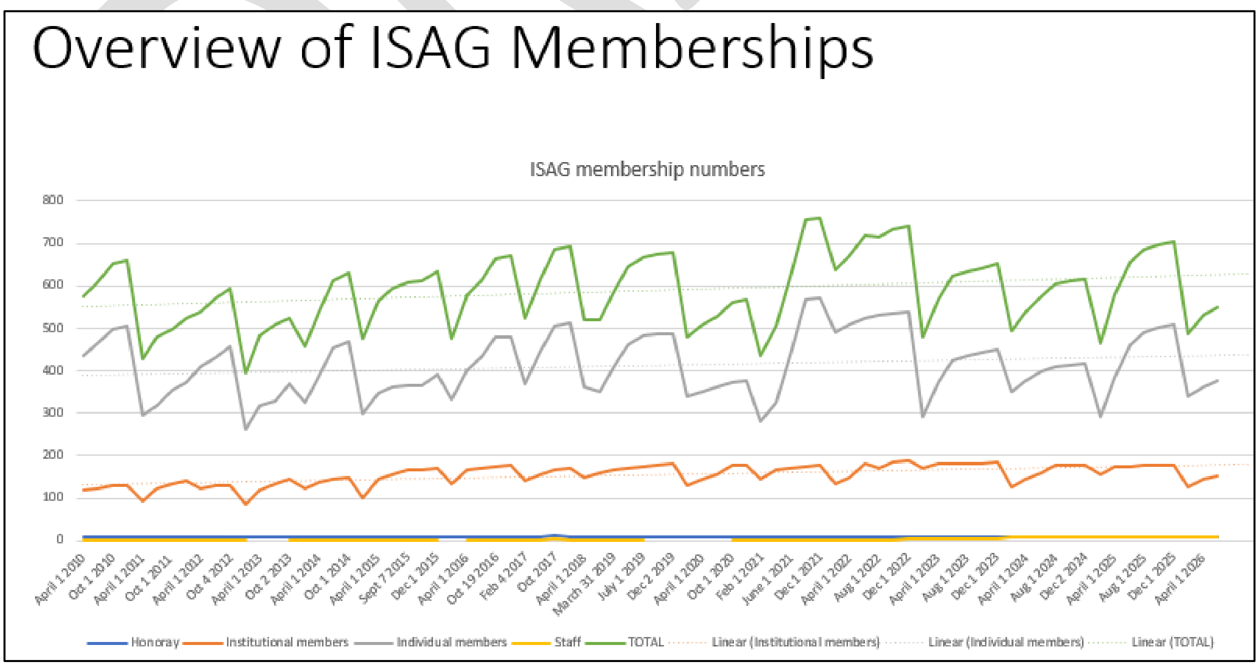
- lodging, financials, location of posters, banquet meal charges, and overall conference schedule
- The local organizing committee has identified a professional organizer (PO), and a formal agreement for the conference was negotiated and signed in Spring 2026.
- The site visit meeting is occurring now.

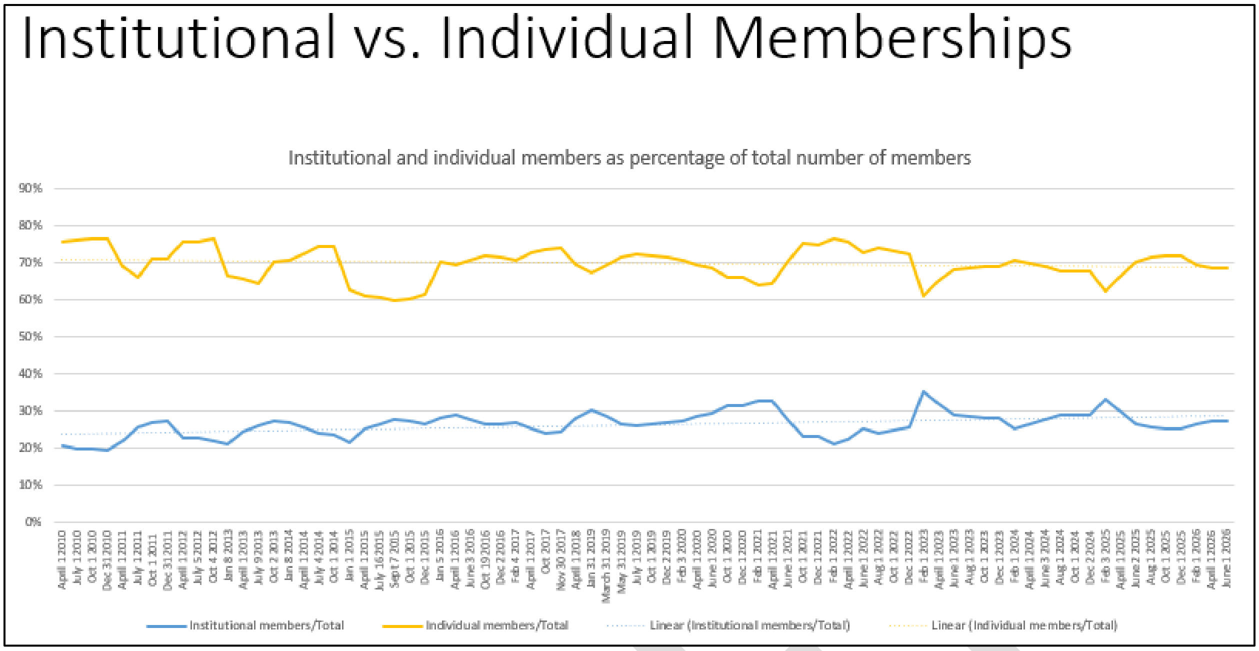
- 2029 Conference Application
    - Azores, Portugal
    - Lexington, Kentucky, USA
    - Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

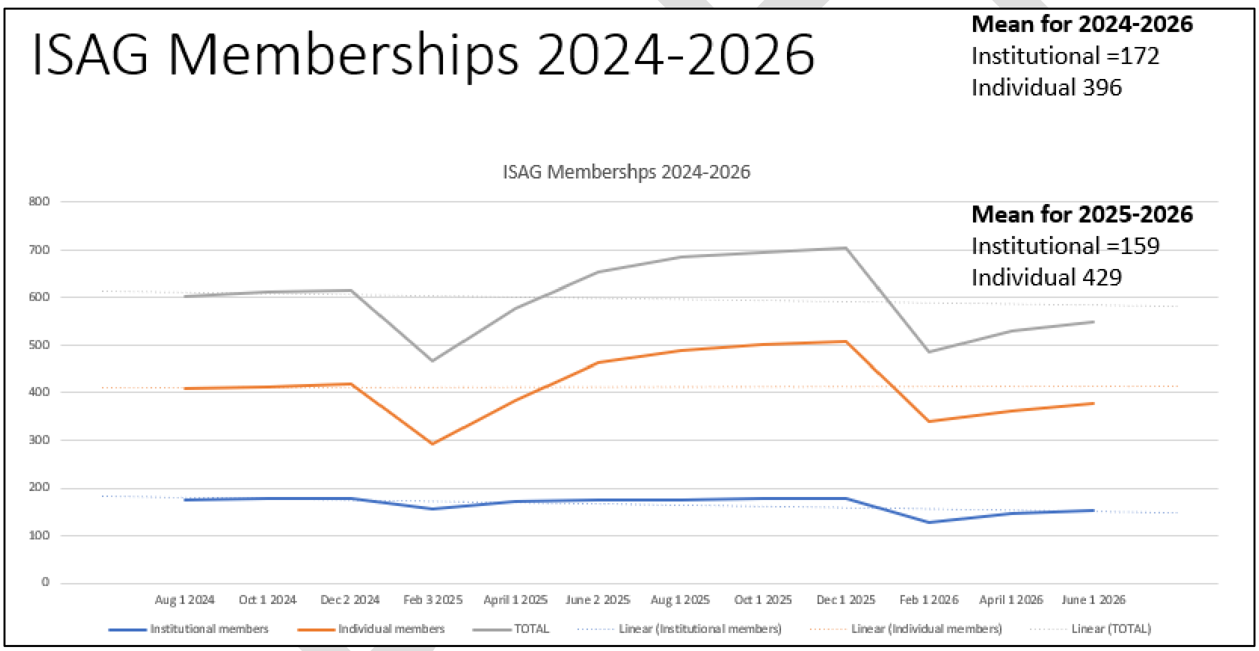
Animal Genetics Journal updates

- Dr. Göran Andersson was appointed as Editor-in Chief for Animal Genetics effective September 1, 2025.
- Dr. Jessica Petersen was appointed as Associate Editor, to fill the vacant position when Goran was moved to EIC.
- A digital publisher’s meeting was held 21 April, 2026. Discussions about marketing, Open Access, and APC Pricing took place during this meeting.

Bellone provides overview of ISAG membership with membership remaining consistent overtime. Individual memberships make up 70 percent and institutional is 30% with membership fluctuation based on conference years.







Bellone provides CT update on appeals and ad hoc committee created to review appeals with recommendations made to EC. Committee made up of Jeremy Holzner, Dr. Leslie Lyons, Dr. Romi Pena, Dr. Leanne Van de Goor, and Dr. Rebecca Bellone.

- 3 appeals received. One cattle- SNP-quality of one additional sample. Decision: sample removed and recalculate concordance. Two goat –STR quality of samples issue. Decision: two labs who reported issues with quality of samples would not receive official ranking for this CT and ranking from previous CT would be extended until the next CT.

Bellone provided update to changes to CT rules that were posted on the ISAG website in March 2026 and discussed with the duty labs in an on-line meeting.

- Standardize number of samples (22) for each CT (including at least 1/2 controls used in the last CT)
- Required shipping documentation is the responsibility of the applicant
- Integrity analysis by Duty lab prior to shipment is required
- Integrity analysis by participant highly recommended.
- Updates to appeal process to include ad hoc committee
- ISAG CT should not be marketed as official accreditation.
- Meeting with Duty labs occurred on March 19, 2026 most duty labs present.

Off cycle CT for first official Horse SNP CT.

- At request of industry approved by both Equine Genetics and Parentage Testing Standardization Committee and EC.
- On-going
    - Deadline to submit results June 30th, 2026
    - Anticipated completion August 1, 2026
- 28 labs applied – 2 withdrew

Comparison Test (CT) 2026/2027

- Applications now open and due July 15, 2026
    - Please ensure you review the critical duty lab notes for shipping and receiving samples for each CT found on the ISAG website.

Lyons noted backup panel for Cats SNP that will not be ranked. Panel to be added to reporting form and added to committee area of website.

Klaus Wimmers presents Treasurer’s report.

- 2024 numbers are complete but 2025 numbers are still preliminary.
- Assets and equities have increased consistently.
- Net results of investments have been healthy in 2024 and 2025.
- Higher expenses for FASS in conference years.
- Accounting costs increased due to change in banks.
- Slight profit over last two years.

ISAG Balance sheets

31/12/24
Audit report, Schuiteman Audit & Assurance B.V.,
Dec 11, 2025

31/12/25
Draft Annual Report, Schuiteman Audit & Assurance B.V.,
June 16, 2026

	Dec,202 [Euro]	Dec,202 [Euro]	Dec,2023 [Euro]	Dec,2024 [Euro]	Dec,2025 [Euro]
ASSETS					
current assets					
other accounts receivable	225,224	368,283	362,156	464,959	485,969
securities	639,482	575,722	630,764	643,908	685,341
cash and cash equivalents	22,972	28,6766	21,117	28,784	27,656
TOTAL ASSETS	887,678	972,681	**1,014,03**	**1,137,65**	**1,198,96**
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES					
equity					
appropriated research reserve	60,000	60,000			
other reserves	731,430	801,487	930,854	1,031,42	1,123,41
appropriated fund Dr. Yoshiko Suzuki	1,876	1,876			
Sum	793,306	863,363	**930,854**	**1,031,42**	**1,123,41**
Current liabilities					
trade creditors	6,118	1,915	1,211		
other liabilities	88,254	107,403	81,972	106,230	75,556
other accruals					
Sum	94,372	109,318	**83,183**	**106,230**	**75,566**
Balance	887,678	972,681	**1,014,03**	**1,137,65**	**1,198,96**

- Resources controlled by ISAG (cash, investments, receivables)
- ISAG's net wealth after all obligations are deducted
- Obligations ISAG still has to pay or fulfill

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Profit and loss Account

31/12/24
Audit report, Schuiteman Audit & Assurance B.V.,
Dec 11, 2025

31/12/25
Draft Annual Report, Schuiteman Audit & Assurance B.V.,
June 16, 2026

	2021 [Euro]	2022 [Euro]	**2023 [Euro]**	**2024 [Euro]**	**2025 [Euro]**
INCOME					
membership fees	95,075	101,621	95,810	88,584	95,307
gift from foundation	19,000	54,847	-		25,000
net results investments	41,575	-51,434	42,442	45,268	50,833
SUM	155,650	105,034	**138,252**	**133,852**	**171,140**
EXPENSES					
executive committee	5,304	16,752	7,666	10,948	36,166
FASS	11,163	9,678	21,116	17,182	26,024
audit costs	4,573	4,755	5,696	3,246	5,882
insurance	726	726	709	653	653
accounting costs	2,605	2,252	1,875	335	3,581
other general expenses	2,114	814	856	921	985
Plenary Invited speakers			23,248		
Poster & Suzuki awards, workshop keynotes			9,595		5,920
STRV					
SUM expenses	26,485	34,977	**70,761**	**33,285**	**79,151**
TOTAL Profit	129,165	70,057	**67,491**	**100,567**	**91,989**

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	2021 [Euro]	2022 [Euro]	2023 [Euro]	2024 [Euro]	2025 [Euro]	forecast 2026[Euro]
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TOTAL Profit	129,165	70,057	**67,491**	**100,567**	**91,989**	**45,000**

Remarks, News and further plans

- The financial situation of the ISAG remains very good. The assets continue to grow slightly.
- 75% of our capital invested in fixed-rate bonds and 25% in stocks:
- The primary goal is to maintain the value of the entire portfolio while minimizing risks.
- The transition of Animal Genetics to an open access journal has been postponed at Wiley's request. The switch to full open access will lead to a loss of income, at least temporarily.

Motion from the Executive Committee that The General Members Meeting approves the audited financial statements of ISAG for the financial year ended 31 December 2024.

The General Members Meeting grants discharge to the Treasurer and the financial administrator for the management of the Society's finances during the financial year ended **31 December 2024**, based on the audited financial statements and information presented to the Meeting.

Motion passes with 40 in favor and none opposed (vote was taken using zoom poll)

Change in Financial Administrator

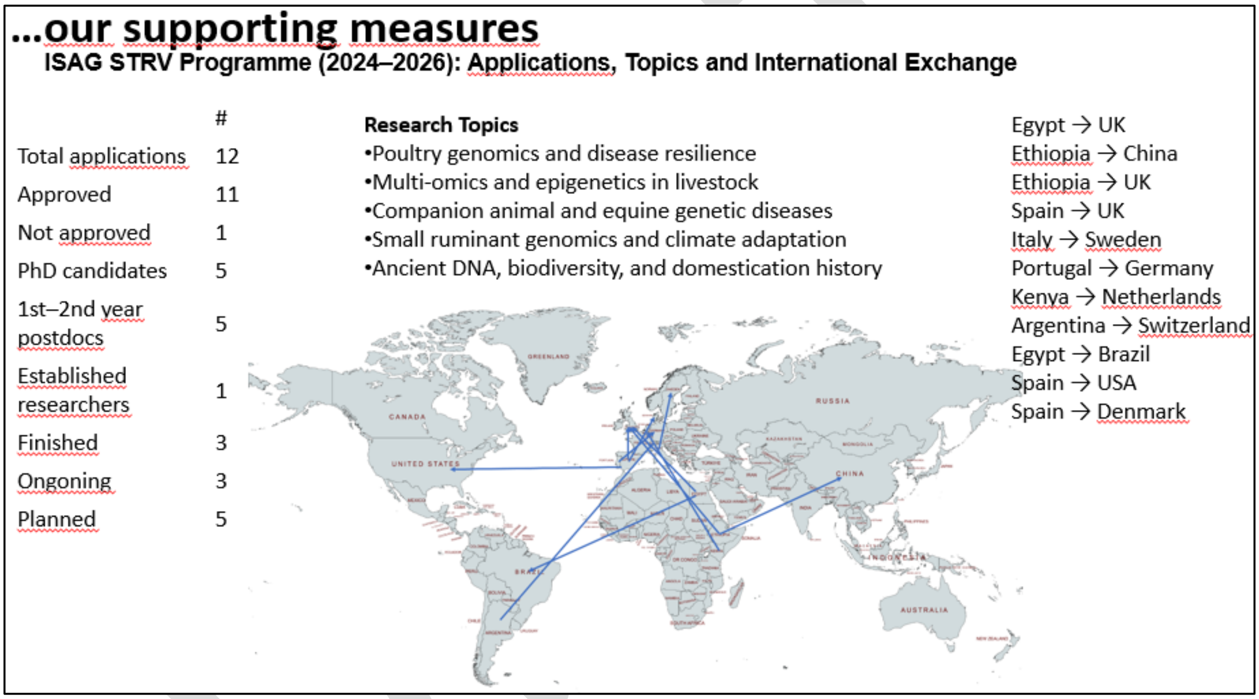
- Izak Vermeij has taken over the role of Financial Administrator from Anke Förster.
- ISAG's Dutch correspondence address will be transferred from Leanne van de Goor to Izak and registered accordingly with the Chamber of Commerce.

- Our sincere thanks to:
    - Anke Förster for her tremendous dedication and outstanding work,
    - Leanne van de Goor for providing the Dutch correspondence address, and
    - Izak Vermeij for taking on the role of Financial Administrator.

Change in financial administrator to Izak Vermeij taking over for Anke Forster. Vermeji has Dutch address so correspondence address will change from Leanne van de Goor Vermeij.

Wimmers provide support on STRV program.

- 12 applications with 11 approved



Bursaries updates provided.

- ISAG 2023 conference (N=150): 235,000$
- ISAG 2025 conference (N=50): 132,500$
- ISAG 2027 conference (N=50): 125,000$

ISAG will assume financial responsibility specifically for measures that support scientific excellence and knowledge exchange at ISAG conferences, with a particular emphasis on early-career development. These measures include:

- Bursaries for early-career researchers,
- Financial support for invited plenary and workshop speakers,

- Grants for STRVs

AGE updates provided.

- ISAG Member APC Discount
- Full APC Waiver for Bursary Abstracts
- Full APC Waiver for STRV projects

ISAG Constitutional Changes.

Why are we updating the Statutes/Why are amendments needed?

- Current Statutes date from an earlier period and no longer fully reflect current practice.
- Several provisions are unclear or outdated.
- Financial reporting requirements need to align with modern accounting standards.

The amendments are targeted and do **not** change the mission or governance structure of ISAG.

- Audit changes needed because financial analysis of external entities such as Wiley is not possible.
- Changes in Membership.
- Changes in EC Continuity.
- Voting rights clarification.

Current Statutes – Article 15.5

- "Article 15,5: Regarding the fairness of the documents referred to in the previous paragraph, an opinion from a certified public accountant must be submitted to the General business Meeting."
- Summary of Allowed Reporting (Current):
    - Audit report (ISA 700): ☑ Yes *
    - Review report (ISRE 2400/2410): ✗ No
    - Compilation report: ✗ No

*A full audit requires auditors to examine not only ISAG's records but also the control systems of external organizations (Wiley, FASS, Fedex).

Proposed Amendment – Article 15.5

- 15.6 Regarding the fairness of the documents referred to in paragraph 3, either a review report or, if deemed appropriate by the Executive Committee, a compilation report, prepared by a certified public accountant in accordance with internationally recognized standards, shall be submitted to the General Members Meeting."

- Summary of allowed reporting after amendment:
    - Audit report (ISA 700): ☑ Permitted (optional)
    - **Review report (ISRE 2400/2410): ☑ Accepted**
    - Compilation report: ☑ Accepted

What does that mean:

Audit Report: "In our opinion" = positive assurance

- The auditor expressly confirms that the financial statements do not contain any material misstatements
- Review Report: "Nothing has come to our attention" = negative assurance
- The auditor has not found any material issues

Compilation report: just a compilation of figures, not a "judgement"

Membership Admission (Article 4)

– Clarification

Current Statutes:

- Membership formally approved by the Executive Committee.

Proposed Statutes:

- Membership based on registration and payment of membership fees.
- Executive Committee retains the right to refuse membership in exceptional cases.

Why?

- Reflects the membership process already used by ISAG.
- Reduces unnecessary administration.
- Maintains appropriate oversight.
- Exceptional cases were explained as

Executive Committee Continuity (Article 9 & 9a)

Improving Continuity and Knowledge Transfer

- Clarifies retirement by rotation of Executive Committee members.

- Allows reappointment of the Early Career Scientist Representative for one additional term.
- Introduces advisory Past Officer roles for former President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- Formalizes transition support from outgoing officers
- Ensures continuity is not dependent on informal personal arrangements

Important

- Past Officers have **no voting rights**.
- Past Officers have **no representation rights**.
- Purpose is continuity and transfer of institutional knowledge.

Voting Rights Clarification (Article 17)

Voting Rights

- Voting rights linked to active membership and payment of membership fees.
- Executive Committee may establish a record date for voting eligibility.

Why?

- Greater transparency.
- Avoids uncertainty regarding voter eligibility.
- Standard practice in many organizations.

Question from membership on clarifying extreme circumstances for removing a member. It was noted that it would be used in such circumstances as conflict of interest or for someone who intends to harm the organization. An appeal process would be in place to review any such actions.

Editorial and Terminology Updates

Additional Updates

- Improved wording and consistency throughout the Statutes.
- Updated terminology.
- No substantive changes to the objectives or governance structure of ISAG.

Key message

☑ Mission unchanged
☑ Governance structure unchanged
☑ Membership rights unchanged
☑ Modernized and clarified Statutes

What do these amendments achieve?

- Align the Statutes with current practice.
- Modernize financial reporting requirements.
- Improve continuity within the Executive Committee.
- Clarify membership and voting procedures.
- Maintain transparency and good governance.

The Executive Committee unanimously recommends approval.

> Moton made that The General Members Meeting approves the amended ISAG Statutes as circulated with the meeting documents to be effective immediately.
>
> The amended Article 15 on financial reporting and external assurance shall apply to all financial statements not yet approved by the General Members Meeting, including the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025.
>
> Motion approved with 40 votes in favor with none opposing (poll voting using Zoom)

Next steps now that statutes are approved.

1. **Preparation of Amendments to the Statutes by the ISAG Board/Executive Committee**
   – Draft the exact wording of the proposed amendment(s) ☑
2. **Convene General Business Meeting (GBM)**
   – Send invitation stating that a statute amendment will be discussed and voted on
   – Timing requirement: **14 days prior to the GBM** ☑
3. **Vote at the General Members Meeting**
   – Amendment must be approved by an **absolute majority [**☑]
4. **Execute Notarial Deed- Since it was approved this is the next step.**
   – The amendment must be recorded by **notarial deed in the Netherlands**
   – The amendment becomes **legally valid only after notarization**

Editor's Report provided by Dr. Göran Andersson

7 excellent academic editor that work with Andersson that cover all topics submitted to AG.

Minor increase in impact factor going to 2.2.

Large number of good manuscripts being submitted. Quality is improving and 99 manuscripts in progress with 50% under revision and 50% under review.

Must pay more attention to use of AI and machine learning but most submitted are not using AI in any way we can detect.

72% of published manuscripts are research, 16% are short comm. Brief reports 6%, brief reviews 6%. Efforts to increase number of review articles.

Mikko asked about transition to OA and why it has been delayed, Tuggle and Andersson noted Wiley is in favor and has a history of these transitions but they often reduce submissions due to cost increase. Since there was already a drop, worry was it may accelerate that decline. It would also reduce journal profit. Recent increase in impact factor and more submission should assist in this transition.

Question in chat was current cost. Journal is hybrid currently and costs can vary depending on institutional agreements with Wiley but stated online as “If the Open Access option is selected, submissions will be subject to an APC if accepted and published in the journal: $3,750 USD / £2,500 GBP / €3,120 EUR.”

Tuggle noted that members of society get discount of 50%.

Question on breakdown of species but Andersson did not have those details at the moment but will provide in his report. Production animals are the majority but also companion animals and increase in non-typical domestic animals such a fish/aquaculture and wild species.

Wily considers waiving of APCs for those with financial difficulty and if there are examples of that not occurring the society should be informed. Authors should try requesting such relief.

Dr. Jessica Petersen notes companion animals are not listed in AGE Scope and could be worthwhile revising the scope. Bellone with add this to next EC agenda.

ISAG 2027 Perugia Italy Update

Conference Overview provided by Emiliano Lasagna

- Lasagna provided overview of Perugia as town full of history and multiple universities.
- Program under development
- Brief introductory video played with overview of Perugia. Tuggle requested video for website.

Workshop scheduling update provided by Tuggle.

- Information from chairs and reports to establish length of workshops starting this fall. Meeting will be scheduled with workshop chairs.

New Society Awards Under Development by Adhoc Committee. Update provided by Tuggle.

- New awards proposed and being considered by EC and adhoc committee.
- ISAG has few awards but vibrant conference. Building links to journal with conference would be win-win and has worked for other societies.
- New awards/revisions to current awards proposed but not yet approved. Awards would be announced at the conference and create strong speaker content and increased publications.
    - The Suzuki Award Paper. Currently the Suzuki is a monetary award for Best Conference Poster. We propose to support the awardee to submit a paper on that poster to Animal Genetics with no cost, and have the paper badged in the published paper as the Suzuki awardee paper.
    - Most Cited Paper Plenary Talk. We propose to identify the Most Cited research paper for a specific year in Animal Genetics and invite them to give a Plenary talk at next ISAG conference, with travel support. *We could also consider offering the paper written the opportunity to write an Invited Review on the topic of the Most Cited paper. (Need to discuss with Göran.)
    - Standing Committee Resource paper. For ISAG Standing Committees, chairs could apply for a free APC article describing a new community resource coming out of recent committee work. *Examples could be new typing resources from Comparison Workshops, or policy papers out of committees such as ISAG-FAO.
    - Early Career Research Impact Award. To recognize global research impact within 5 years of attaining terminal doctoral degree (last degree if DVM-PHD for example)
    - Mid-Career Research Impact Award. To recognize global research impact within 12 years of attaining terminal doctoral degree (last degree if DVM-PHD for example)
- Add free publication badged with Suzuki award in journal.
- Most cited paper offered a plenary talk at conference.
- Standing committee resource paper. Encourage committees developing resources to submit for publication and could provide resources to publish that.
- Drafts for early career impact award and mid-career research impact award. Currently only offer awards for those near the end of their careers but these would provide visibility to those in other points in their careers. Determining if link to journal, conference, or monetary award. Still being determined.
- Vargas encouraged membership on topics of resource papers and to be creative with those.

Other Business

- Survey information provided to membership by email in early January 2026 but will be posted to website as well for those that may have missed it.
- Question on 2029 location. No venue determined as of now but hope to be accomplished by year end but normal announcement occurs just preceding upcoming conference.
- No other business was brought forth by membership
- Tuggle provides brief details of their current site visit in Perugia and hopes everyone will attend Conference in 2027.

Tuggle adjourns meeting at 6:27 pm CEST on Monday, June 22, 2026.