

EUROPEAN EYE BANK ASSOCIATION

Membership Survey 2009



Introduction:

The European Eye Bank Association (EEBA) is a technical-scientific organization comprising individual members from over 80 eye banks throughout Europe and beyond. Founded in 1989 with the simple objective of sharing information on eye banking, EEBA is today the leading pan-national association in Europe dedicated to eye banking (tissues and cells for treatment of eye diseases) and an authoritative reference point for eye banks which work according to quality standards.

EEBA establishes and maintains an agreed set of medical and technical standards, promotes the collection of data on eye bank activities and processes, provides opportunities for the discussion of all aspects of eye banking practice including eye donor selection and procurement, relevant research and development, education and training in eye banking, and maintains linkage with national and international corneal transplant communities and relevant bodies.

The recent introduction of a more structured and focused Committee, a permanent Secretariat and the development of a web-site has enabled the Association to establish closer links and collaborative activities with key regulatory bodies, and provide a more constant exchange of clinical, scientific and technical ideas and best practice with fellow professionals by means of its annual meetings, the EEBA Directory, newsletter and website.

Survey aim:

The objective of the survey is to give EEBA members an opportunity to voice their opinions on the activities and services provided by the Association, and to give constructive input needed to plan for the future.

As EEBA is reliant on the support, dedication, spirit and strength of its membership, each individual member is encouraged to give their own views on what they believe EEBA could/should be doing for them as eye bankers. The relevance and utility of EEBA to its membership is vital if the Association is to maintain/enhance its reputation and effectiveness, and this will only be possible if the Association is actively willing to consult and subsequently respond to the expressed needs and wishes of its members.

Members are also invited to circulate this survey to fellow colleagues who aren't EEBA members (who obviously won't fill out the first part of the survey which asks members to provide anonymous "personal" data) as it would be helpful to understand the thoughts and motivations of those who aren't attracted to joining or don't wish to be associated to EEBA.

The results of this survey will be used by the EEBA Committee to help develop and formalise a strategy for the future, and will form part of their audit of the Association's strengths and weaknesses and potential opportunities and threats (SWOT analysis). In addition, the results will be presented and debated at the forthcoming EEBA Business Meeting in Sitges/Barcelona (<http://www.eeba2010.eu/>).

Who are our members?

Gender:

female

male

Age:

- < 25 years
- 25-30
- 30-40
- 40-50
- 50-60
- > 60

Occupation:

Health System (public or private)

- clinician
- technician
- scientist
- other (please specify:)

University

- undergraduate
- graduate student
- PhD
- staff
- scientist

Other

- other (please specify:)

I have been a member of EEBA since

Interaction amongst the membership:

The main mechanisms for interaction amongst the EEBA membership are our annual meetings, the Annual Directory, newsletter and web site.

The Annual Meeting:

Traditionally the EEBA Annual Meeting has been held in January and organised by a single Eye Bank, or group of banks, who take the responsibility of organising and financing the event. The EEBA Committee, is aware that there are positive and negative aspects to this arrangement, and is therefore open to exploring alternative modes and dates for this meeting. In addition, the Committee is conscious that the standard format of our meetings may need revising and updating:

What time of the year would you prefer the meeting to be held? (please check one)

- maintain the present arrangements [i.e. meetings held on a Friday and Saturday during the month of January];
- maintain the meeting in January, but reduce/increase the duration of the meeting to days;
- I would prefer the meeting to be held during the month of and to last for days.

Which mode of meeting would you prefer? (please check one)

- EEBA only meetings organised by individual eye bank(s);
- maintain the EEBA only meeting, but have the meeting organised “centrally” or directly by the EEBA Secretariat;
- organise joint meetings with closely associated organizations (in the spirit of collaboration and mutual interests.

I would prefer these joint meetings be with (please check one or more):

- European Association of Tissue Banks (EATB);
- European Association for Vision and Eye Research (EVER);
- European Transplant Coordinators Organization (ETCO);
- European Society for Organ Transplantation (ESOT)
- other (please specify)

- alternate between EEBA only meetings and joint meetings with other organizations;

Other suggestions about mode or venue of meetings:

What meeting format would you prefer? (please check one)

- maintain the current format of oral and poster presentations, with a workshop for technicians;
- maintain the current format, with the addition of a clinicians-only session and training sessions for other sub-groups (parallel with the technicians’ workshop);
- alternate between meetings devoted entirely to scientific/technical presentations and meetings focused entirely on specific training sessions for technicians, scientists, clinicians and other sub-groups;

Other suggestions about the format/content of meetings:

The EEBA Directory:

I generally find the EEBA Directory a useful tool for consulting statistical information on European eye banking activities and eye banking facilities;

I am happy with the present

frequency (1x/yr)

format

contents

If not happy with the EEBA Directory, I would prefer to see the Directory:

expanded to include data on

other suggestions

The Newsletter:

I generally read the EEBA newsletter

I am happy with the present

frequency (1x/yr)

format

contents

If not happy with the EEBA Newsletter, I would prefer to see the newsletter:

expanded to include updates on related meetings

distributed electronically

email

web-based

other suggestions

The Web Site (<http://www.europeaneyebanks.org>)

I have never used the EEBA web site

but now that I know about it I will

even though I know about it, I still won't

What web-based services would you like to see the EEBA providing for you?

directory of EEBA members

links to other eye banking/ophthalmologic/transplantation sites and upcoming meetings

others?

What other services should the EEBA provide its membership?

Remember -- all involve increased costs and demands on volunteers.

a regularly published scientific journal

occasional "special" publications with specific themes

suggestions for themes

formal "sub-set" groups (e.g. Technicians, Clinicians, Scientists, Others

)

other services, please specify

)

What disciplinary group, not currently attracted to the EEBA, might complement the existing membership?

Why the EEBA?

Here we would like to explore two key issues: 1-What do you envision the role of the EEBA to be and; 2- How well is the EEBA filling this role?

Please check off the small box if you believe that the EEBA is adequately performing the functions below. Then use the larger box to rank each from (1)=most important to (n)=least important, in terms of what you envision the role of the EEBA to be.

to provide European eye bankers with a forum for the presentation of clinical, scientific and technical results through the organization and sponsorship of annual meetings;

to provide European eye bankers with a forum for interaction, discussion and training through the organization and sponsorship of annual meetings;

to foster communication amongst the eye banking community through the publication of newsletters and/or web-based materials;

to be a focal point for collaboration and interaction with other national and international scientific organizations;

to provide a resource base of information for patients and health workers and others interested in eye banking and to provide support and encouragement new entrants into eye banking and ophthalmology;

to promote and support causes of interest to the European eye banking community through discussions with Members of Parliament and others in a position to influence legislative or departmental directions;

Other

The Bottom Line:

What can the EEBA be doing to better serve your needs and in doing so also attract new members:

Thank you for your collaboration