

European Biophysical Societies' Association

Charity Registration No. 1059024

www.ebsa.org



Biophysics in Europe

Meeting of the EBSA Executive Committee

IBIS hotel, Montpellier, France, January 26, 2013, 9.00-19.00

Present: László Mátyus (LM, President), Manuel Prieto (MP, Vice President), Antoinette Killian (AK, Secretary), Anthony Watts (AW, Managing Editor of EBJ), Cathy Royer (CR, member), Tony Wilkinson (TW, co-opted member), Yves Engelborghs (YE, member), Manuela Pereira (MPe, co-opted member)

Apologies: Alberto Diaspro (AD, Past President), Ilpo Vattulainen (IV, co-opted member), Erick Dufourc (ED, co-opted member) José Carrascosa (JC, member), Helmut Grubmüller (HG, member)

Agenda:

1. Welcome and apologies

LM welcomed the members and thanked CR for hosting the meeting. Apologies were received from AD, IV, ED, JC and HG.

2. Minutes of the last meeting of the EC (AK)

The minutes were approved. Matters arising from the minutes:

2. AW has sent invitations for lunch during the Congress to the Presidents of the National Societies and received a number of positive responses. Lunch is proposed on Sunday, July 14th, inbetween sessions, before the General Assembly on Monday 15th.

4. EBJ: Encyclopedia is now available both in print and online. LM will write to Gordon Roberts to thank him and to invite him to Lisbon for launching the Encyclopedia. The online version will be up for revision soon.

5. LM has translated the contract with the organizing company of the Congress and sent it to HG. This could be placed on the EBSA website (password protected). AK has mailed AD for a final report on the Congress in Genoa, including finances, but has not received a response yet.

11. The EBSA website is ready for uploading documents, including those that need password protection. The rules for sponsoring were adapted. AK needs to make lists of meetings and persons that have been supported over the last few years (**action AK**).

3. Report of the Treasurer (TW)

- The audit for the year ending 31 March 2012, has been completed and approved and is now available on the charities website.

- EBSA had a large income in 2012, due to signing of the contract with Springer. The financial position remains healthy. Only ~7% of EBSA's income over the last 5 years comes from subscriptions. If EBJ income would stop, subscriptions would need to go up, and meetings would need to be even.

- Not all countries have paid their dues. TW will send a reminder to the Societies and will take the opportunity to emphasize the benefits from being affiliated to EBSA (**action TW**).

- The EC thanked TW for keeping careful accounts of the finances.

4. Report of the secretary (AK)

AK reported on applications that had come in. No meetings are supported in 2013 because of the EBSA Congress. CR has taken over the responsibility for dealing with applications for working visits and bursaries for attending congresses and workshops.

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5. Report on European Biophysics Journal progress (AW)

- In general all goes well.
- A new editor has been found for Australia: Frances Separovic.
- A problem has appeared with a paper on which not all authors agree. To prevent this in future a change in policy is considered in which agreement of all authors is required with submission.
- The impact factor is rather low, but many submissions are coming in with more higher quality papers.

6. Progress report on the 9th European Congress in Lisbon (MPr, MPe)

- The webpage is ready, registration opens on Monday. Chairs of sessions will get access to submitted abstracts.
- All plenary speakers have confirmed. From the symposium 55 out of 72 have confirmed. To secure attendance of speakers it is decided that registration fees will be waived and that in addition all speakers receive 150 Euro's (all EC members voted in favor). MPr and MPe will send a letter, in which the speakers will be encouraged to waiver the support if it is not essential, so it may be used to increase the number of bursaries for students from countries in need, or to help support students from their own lab (**action MPr/Mpe**)
- AW suggests to get in touch with "Instruct" to propose using the Congress as platform to have a meeting
- Sponsoring: sofar 13.200 Euro has been secured, but more is expected. Options include to have a booth or to sponsor a specific lecture or symposium.
- Poster prizes: With registration a box can be ticked to compete for the poster prize. The Biophysical Society will contribute to the poster prizes. Half of the prizes will go to bursaries to attend the BS meeting, the other half of the prizes will consist of (partial) reimbursement for the meeting.
- Registration fees: these are in several categories, taking into account membership of Biophysical Societies.
- Abstracts: need to be approved and selected for oral presentation by the (co)chairs. Approval by one of the chairs is sufficient. Selection of abstracts for oral presentation will have to take place within 3 days after the deadline. The (co)chairs will be notified in advance of the dates.
- Bursaries: a small committee of EC members will select the bursaries. MPe and MPr will e-mail to EC members for their help in due time. The number if bursaries will be the same as in Budapest (60). Bursaries are preferably paid in-kind, e.g. waiver of registration and accomodation in student hostel. Portuguese students cannot receive a grant, but those acting as helper will have their registration fee waived.
- 3 satelitte meetings are scheduled:
 1. Armindo Salvador 1-12 July, Coimbra: summer school on "Principles-oriented systems biology".
Comments of the EC: 2 weeks is long for a satellite meeting, the requested funding is large (18.600 Euro), no experiments are involved, just modeling analysis. The EC proposes to include an experimental perspective and to reduce meeting to one week prior to Congress, and not to exceed typical EBSA funding amounts for satellite meetings between 2 en 10 kEuro's. EBSA will offer 100 Euro's bursary extra for each student who has also received a bursary for the Congress.
 2. Anthony Watts and Horst Vogel, 10-13 July, Sesimbra: Bionanotchnology- recent advantages- The website has been set up and 5000 dollar sponsoring has been secured from IUPAB. Many of the speakers attend the Congress. With free registration including lunch and coffee etc. for students and post-docs attending the Congress (only hotel costs and evening meals to be paid), the expected shortage will be less than 10 kEuro. EBSA will cover the remaining amount and if a profit is made, this will be made available to the Congress.
 3. EMBL alumni meeting in Lisbon, July 18th. No funding is requested for this meeting.
- The option is discussed to have another satellite meeting on lipid/protein interactions just after the Congress, to be organized by MPr/AK/ED/Felix Goni, but it will be difficult to organize this in such a short time.

7. EBSA Awards (EBSA Young Investigators Medal, Avanti Polar Lipids Award) (AK)

- Avanti Prize: the EC unanimously voted for Felix Goni as winner.
- Young Investigator's medal: YE will chair a selection committee and approach EC members.

8. Committee vacancies (LM, AK)

- The EC can have 10 members and 4 co-opted members. Outgoing members will be: AD, YE (but retired), CR, AK (secretary) and MF. Co-opted members are: ED, MPe, IV, TW
- New composition: LM (new Past President), MPri (new President), AW (managing editor of EBJ) and HG (new Vice President) will stay on. The EC supports (re)-election of TW as treasurer and of JC as member in charge of European affairs. The EC endorses John Seddon as secretary. This would leave 2 new members and up to 4 co-opted members for election. Those running for EC will make a half page statement and introduce themselves for 2 minutes.

9. Future Congresses

- 2015 Dresden (HG). HG has sent a presentation with financial details. The EC is concerned about the costs of the organization which seem to have gone from 50 to 130 kEuro's. LM will give feedback to HG (**action LM**).

- 2017 Edinburgh (AW). The location has been secured.

10. Member Societies and subscriptions (TW)

There were no new member societies. EBSA should try to get new members. TW will check IUPAB website for countries that are not yet on EBSA (**action TW, see also point 3**).

11. Report of ISE activities (JC)

JC has prepared a short report that is briefly discussed.

12. EIB (AW)

The discussion on the European Institute of Biophysics will be postponed till the Congress in Lisbon when Michael Ferenczi will be there to further explain the ideas.

13. IUPAB (CR)

- National Societies are asked to propose speakers for the 2014 IUPAB meeting in Australia. AW suggests previous EBSA medal winners. Other suggestions are made.

- IUPAB wants more emphasis on applications of biophysics. A good start might be to approach companies that exhibit at the meeting and provide links to their websites on the IUPAB website as examples of successful companies based on principles of biophysics.

- EBSA has 3 votes for the council of IUPAB. Those that bring out a vote on behalf of EBSA should be primed on who to vote on.

14. Rules for EBSA support and EBSA website (AK/CR/LM)

The EBSA website has been adapted. Suggestions for changes on the website can be made to LM. All applications will go through CR. A rule could be installed that requirements should include affiliation to a national biophysical society. Also, applicants cannot be supported by a national society at the same time.

15. EBSA newsgroup (IV)

The member societies can be informed that their members can participate in the newsgroup. The newsgroup will have to be moderated. A letter will go out to the National Societies to attend them to the IUPAB newsletter, and then the National Societies can inform their members about the EBSA newsgroup. Progress should be discussed in Lisbon. AW will check whether IV is interested in being re-co-opted. In principle a new co-opted member may be able to run the newsgroup, but a problem may be that it is on the Finnish website.

16. EBSA schools and Biophysics Courses (ED/MPr/Mpe)

- The 2012 Arcachon EBSA school, organized by ED and MPr was again a success, but the future is not clear. It is a popular meeting, but quite expensive (2500 Euro EBSA support).

Future schools that are planned:

- 2014 Croatia. The first meeting organized by Tom Vuletic in 2012 was a success and the institute is keen to support another meeting. The EBSA contribution was relatively low (5000 Euro) and EBSA will be happy to continue support.

- Possibly 2016 Lisbon. This will be discussed again at the EC meetings in Lisbon during the Congress.

17. Any other business

AW suggests to honor MF at the Congress, e.g. with a "distinguished service award". The EC is in favor.

18. Dates of next meetings in Lisbon

MPr and MPe will send mails for a proposal.