



## Minutes of the meeting of the EBSA Executive Committee

Location: ICCD Maritim Hotel, Dresden, Germany, Saturday February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014, 9.00 – 18.00

**Present:** Manuel Prieto (President), Helmut Grubmüller (President-Elect), László Mátyus (Past President), John Seddon (Secretary), Tony Wilkinson (Treasurer), Anthony Watts (Managing Editor EBJ), José Carrascosa (ISE representative), Pavol Miskovsky, Andre Mantagne, Ilpo Vattulainen (Newsgroup manager), Manuela Pereira (co-opted member).

**Observer:** Petra Keller.

### 1. Welcome and Apologies (MPr)

Manuel welcomed the committee and reported that Apologies were received from Cathy Royer (co-opted member). He informed the EC that a buffet lunch would be served at 12 noon, similar to what will be served to participants at the Dresden Congress in 2015, followed by a tour of the Congress Centre.

Tony Watts suggested EBSA should set up a hidden part of the website that would permit documents such as templates for awards, information for Congress organizers, etc to be archived and accessible to EBSA EC members.

**Action:** Tony Watts to send details to Laszlo

Ilpo reported that EBSA Newsgroup emails had been sent out in Sept 2013 and Jan 2014, and there are now 496 members of the Newsgroup. This number could be increased by emailing the National Societies. Tony suggested that attendees at the Dresden Congress should automatically join unless they tick a box to opt out.

It was noted that Cathy has been co-opted to look after bursaries, even though it is difficult for her to attend the EC meetings.

### 2. Minutes of the last two meetings of the EC in Lisbon (JMS)

EC Minutes from July 2013, Lisbon were approved with minor corrections noted.

### 3. Minutes of the General Assembly in Lisbon (JMS)

General Assembly Minutes from July 2013, Lisbon were approved.

Tony Watts confirmed that the Springer contract has been renewed until 2018, and will need to be renegotiated in mid-2016 – early 2017. This will be the responsibility of Tony's successor as Managing Editor of EBJ, although Tony is happy to be involved. He confirmed that EBSA is now 29 years old.

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#### 4. Minutes of the EBSA President's meeting in Lisbon (JMS)

The General Assembly Minutes from July 2013, Lisbon were approved.

#### 5. Report of the Honorary Treasurer (TW)

Tony Wilkinson reported that EBSA is in good financial health, and reminded the EC that it is registered in the UK as a charity. The EC formally speaking have financial liability, but trustee indemnity insurance is in place. Tony Wilkinson will re-examine our investment strategy and this will be discussed further at the July 2014 EC meeting. Our subscription of €4,500 to IUPAB is due soon. A number of member societies are behind with their subscriptions to EBSA. Some societies (by agreement of the EC) are non-paying members, but other non-paying members are not. TW will send out a further reminder in the next few weeks, and he suggested that we keep track of which countries have received bursaries, and warn them they will be ineligible for support if they have not paid their subscriptions.

Concern was raised that all knowledge of EBSA finances now resides solely with a single individual (the Treasurer), and it was agreed that TW should share all relevant info concerning Treasurer's actions with the Secretary (JMS).

**Action:** Tony Wilkinson

#### 6. Report on European Biophysics Journal (AW)

Tony Watts reported that submissions have gone down recently from 300 to 200. He also reported that a published paper on circular dichroism was subsequently retracted by the Editor, after extensive investigations proved it to be highly suspect. Springer have not put any pressure on EBJ to become Open Access. They have a new Open Access journal (SpringerPlus) and are suggesting that rejected papers from EBJ be forwarded to there.

EBSA and EBJ have their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2014. Manuel will say some words about this at the Dresden Congress, possibly before the EBSA Medal Lecture. Springer have asked whether any special activities are planned. It was suggested that a Special Issue of EBJ could be appropriate. This could take the form of republishing key highly cited papers along with commentaries, short perspectives, or methodology papers. Helmut stated that he is not keen on journal special issues.

**Action:** Tony Watts to discuss with Springer

The paper from Michael Sixt based on his EBSA prize lecture in Lisbon has still not been received by EBJ.

Tony suggested that the Avanti Award lecture given in Lisbon by Felix Goni should be put on the EBSA website.

**Action:** Manuela Pereira to send recording to Laszlo

It was noted that IUPAB has recently launched 'Biophysical Reviews', together with Springer, and that the intension is that this might be an extra source of funding for IUPAB (currently, subscriptions make up the majority of their income).

Tony noted that he has been Editor of EBJ for 15 years, and it is time for a replacement. It was agreed that the best mechanism would be for Tony to make soundings to see if a suitable replacement can be identified.

**Action:** Tony Watts

## 7. Final Report on EBSA 2013 Congress, Lisbon (MPr/MP)

A detailed report on the 2013 EBSA Congress in Lisbon was presented by Manuela Pereira. The feedback has been very good, and everything worked out well. The accounts are now closed and the final financial transfer to EBSA has been made.

The EC records its thanks to Manuela, Manuel and all of their team for organizing such a successful Congress. Helmut Grubmuller would like to add his thanks for providing much useful information which has been invaluable for his team in organizing the Dresden EBSA Congress.

## 8. Encyclopedia of Biophysics (MPr)

Gordon Roberts has agreed to continue as Editor-in-Chief. Manuel asked whether EBSA has received royalties from Springer. Tony Watts has subsequently checked with Springer, with the following information:

The EC agreed to go ahead with the new edition of the Encyclopedia. It was noted that there are some striking omissions, such as muscle physiology, which should be included in the new edition. It was suggested that we should ask Springer whether the royalty paid to EBSA can be increased.

**Action:** John Seddon to reply to Sabine Schwarz, Springer

## 9. IUPAB Congress, Brisbane, August 3 – 7, 2014 (MPr)

It was agreed that the three EBSA votes at IUPAB 2014 will be cast by three out of the following: Tony Watts, John Seddon, Jose Carrascosa and/or Ilpo Vattulainen.

The info on the Dresden Congress should be sent to IUPAB along with the photo taken of the EBSA Executive Committee.

**Action:** Petra / Helmut

The new IUPAB Newsletter has just arrived.

**Action:** Tony Watts to circulate to EC

## 10. EBSA 2015 Awards (EBSA Young Investigators Medal, Avanti Polar Lipids Award) (JMS)

Each national Society can nominate up to 2 candidates for the Young Investigators' Medal and Prize, with nominations being sent to the EBSA Secretary.

The Avanti Award is by personal (not self) nomination, with nominations being sent to the EBSA President.

The closing dates for both awards is 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014.

We will wait until we see the list of nominated candidates before setting up a Selection Panel from the EC members.

The national societies should be reminded to nominate suitable candidates.

**Action:** John Seddon

## 11. Requests for EBSA support, and support agreed for 2014 (JMS)

A request from Prof Tibor Hianik, Bratislava, for support for RBC 2014 (6<sup>th</sup> Regional Biophysics Conference), 15 – 20 May 2014, Smolenice Castle, Slovakia was agreed: *up to €600 for a named EBSA Lecturer, and up to €1,500 in total for student bursaries;*

A request from Dr Ioan Turcu, Cluj-Napoca, Romania for support for IC-ANMBES (3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Analytical and Nanoanalytical Methods for Biomedical and Environmental Sciences, 13 – 15 June 2014, University of Brasov, Romania) was agreed: *up to €1,000 in total for student bursaries;*

A request from Dr. David Clarke, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, UK for support for a 2.5 day Workshop on 'Lasers for Life', to be held at the Royal Society London in May-June 2014 was declined;

A request from Manuela Pereira for support for EBEC2014 (18th European Bioenergetics Conference), to be held in Lisbon 12-18 July 2014 was agreed: *up to €600 for a named EBSA Lecturer, and up to €2,000 in total for student bursaries;*

A request from Tony Watts for support for bursaries for students from disadvantaged regions to attend the Biennial British Biophysical Society Congress in Warwick, 9 – 11 July 2014 was agreed: *up to €2,000 in total for student bursaries;*

**Action:** John Seddon to inform the above of the outcomes

Leiden Workshop (3-7 Feb 2014) on 'Form and Function of Protein of Protein Nanoscales' (Wouter Roos): support of up to €800 for a named EBSA Lecturer, and up to €1,600 in total for student bursaries has already been agreed;

Lausanne 2014 CECAM Workshop on Allostery ([www.cecarn.org](http://www.cecarn.org)) 30 Sept – 3 Oct 2014 (Alessandro Pandini): support of up to €1,600 in total for student bursaries has already been agreed;

XIVth International Congress of Biophysics of the Spanish Biophysical Society (SBE), to be held in Alcalá de Henares (Madrid), 11-13 June 2014 (Juan Gómez-Fernández): support of up to €800 for a named EBSA Lecturer, and up to €1,600 in total for four student bursaries has already been agreed;

EMBO / FEBS Lecture course on 'Channels and Transporters (Michael Pusch), Erice, Sicily, 11 – 15 May 2014: support of up to €1,600 in total for student bursaries has already been agreed;

International congress on Cell membranes and Oxidative stress, Isparta, Turkey, 9 – 12 September 2014 (AC Uguz): support of up to €800 for a named EBSA lecture, to be given by Dr Johanna Lanner, Karolinska Institute, and student travel bursaries up to a total of €800, with the amount per bursary to be decided by the organizers, has already been agreed;

Working visit for Dr A. C. Uguz (Suleyman Demirel University, Turkey) to University Hospital, Leipzig: support of €488 has already been agreed.

## 12. Future EBSA Schools / Biophysics Courses (MPr)

The Lacanau Membranes Course planned for June 2014 with €25K of agreed EBSA funding, has been cancelled by Erick Dufourc as of January 2014. It has previously been held twice, with roughly 40 – 50 participants. Although it may be necessary to cancel it this year, one option could be to move it to September 2014 to a different venue (Montpellier, Alicante, Lisbon, Sesimbra and Barcelona were discussed as possibilities), with a different organizer (Pierre-Emmanuel Milhiert, a previous speaker and in Montpellier, was suggested by Tony Watts). Another option could be to incorporate it into the proposed 2016 Portuguese European Biophysics Course, tentatively planned for July or September 2016.

**Action:** Tony Watts to contact Erick Dufourc again, and Pierre-Emmanuel Milhiert to discuss alternative plans

The 12<sup>th</sup> Greta Pifat Mrzljak International School of Biophysics will take place in Primosten, Croatia (Tomislav Vuletic, Chair) from 27<sup>th</sup> Sept – 6<sup>th</sup> Oct 2014, with 20 lecturers and 80-90 students. €5,000 support from EBSA for students was previously approved.

A proposal to hold an 8-day Portuguese European Biophysics Course in July or September 2016 in Oliras, Lisbon was presented by Manuela Pereira. There would be 16 lectures and 80 students. It would cost €33K to run. The topics should be decided by the EBSA EC. This proposal was in principle approved by the EC, with the issue of whether it would contain the Membranes course, or other topics, to be discussed at a later date.

### **13. 2015 EBSA Congress, Dresden (HG)**

A 'test lunch' was sampled by the EC at ICCD, and the unanimous view was that it was suitable for the Congress.

A tour of ICCD was conducted by Anne Meyer, and all spaces were found to be perfectly satisfactory for the Congress.

The EC Committee thanks Anne Mayer and Mr Herrmann from KIT for their help with the arrangements for our visit to Dresden and the ICCD.

Helmut Grubmuller gave an overview of the current planning for the Congress. The student rooms will be priced at €30 - €40 if possible. The Local Organizing Committee has met twice. The Scientific Committee (Chair: Hermann Gaub) has 32 members, including the EBSA EC. The 24 Symposia have been agreed, and an attempt has been made to achieve a rough balance in terms of the anticipated numbers of Abstracts that will be submitted for each Symposium.

There will be 9 Plenary Lectures: Opening, EBSA Young Investigators' Award, Avanti Award, and 6 selected. There have been 75 nominations, and the Scientific Committee has reduced this to a shortlist of 18 names. Symposium Chairs will also be chosen from this list.

The EC will act as Symposium Chairs. Each Symposium will have a German and an International Chair, who will organize 2-3 Invited Talks, and select 2-3 Orals from the submitted Abstracts.

There will be a Satellite Meeting on Cell and Developmental Biophysics before the main Congress, and Tony Watts plans to organize a 2-Day Student Satellite Meeting.

The possibility of ministers attending the opening was discussed, and it was felt that this should be kept short, and that it was unlikely that Angela Merkel would agree to come.

This will be the 10<sup>th</sup> Congress of EBSA, and the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary should be announced either at the Opening Ceremony or at the Banquet.

John Seddon asked whether there were any plans to organize a concert of classical music, previously done in London and in Genova.

Registration will open in October 2014, with the deadline for Abstract submission being 15<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

Oral presentations selection should be done by 1<sup>st</sup> May; Springer needs 6 weeks to prepare the Congress booklet. All people selected for Orals should also present a Poster.

Selection of EBSA bursaries should be done by 15<sup>th</sup> April.

The Registration Fee, including the Congress Banquet, will be €390 (€220 for students).

The sponsorship target is €70K.

## 14. 2017 EBSA /IUPAB Congress, Edinburgh (AW)

The UK Institute of Physics (IOP) will organize the joint Congress without any charge.

Advertising material for the 2017 Congress should be taken along to the 2014 IUPAB Congress in Brisbane, and to the 2015 EBSA Congress in Dresden.

Advertising material for the 2015 EBSA Congress should be taken along to the 2014 IUPAB Congress in Brisbane.

**Action:** Helmut / Petra to provide material to Tony Watts / John Seddon

The meeting of the EBSA EC scheduled for January 2016 should be held in Edinburgh.

## 15. Future EBSA Congress (2019)

**Finland:** Ilpo confirmed that Finland will make a bid to host the 2019 Congress, and gave a brief presentation of the facilities at Tampere. Another possible venue would be Helsinki.

**Spain:** A recent meeting of the SBE confirmed their intention to make a bid, with proposals from Bilbao, Madrid and Granada having been discussed, the latter being most advanced.

**Action:** John Seddon to inform Juan Gomez-Fernandez that the formal bid should be presented at the EBSA GA in Dresden in 2015.

**Turkey:** Manuel Prieto attended the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Turkish Biophysical Society in Trabzon, which had 100 – 150 participants. Although he felt it would be good for EBSA to go to Turkey, the meeting was held only in Turkish. They should be informed that they are unlikely to succeed in a bid to host an EBSA Congress for the time being.

**Action:** John Seddon / Tony Watts to draft a letter for Manuel Prieto.

## 16. Member Societies and subscriptions (TW)

Lithuania joined EBSA in 2013.

Tony Wilkinson is chasing those National Societies that are behind with their subscriptions.

## 17. Report of ISE activities (JC)

Jose Carrascosa reported that ISE has been very active in 2013, although its budget is quite limited. A paper on Open Access and its financial implications for learned societies, has been produced and will be discussed at the ISE General Assembly in Leuven on 7<sup>th</sup> February. EBSA contributes €1,000 per year to ISE, plus the costs for Jose to attend ISE meetings. Jose gave the following summary of ISE activities:

g) Campaign "No-Cuts-on-Research.EU"

ISE launched a campaign ([www.no-cuts-on-research.eu](http://www.no-cuts-on-research.eu)) to influence decisions on the EU budget and to prevent significant cuts on the EU research budget. A

letter from 50 Nobel Laureates and Fields Medallists to the heads of state or government was followed by an online petition. Both were delivered in a meeting to the three EU presidents Barroso, Schulz and van Rompuy.

In 2013, the collection of signatures to support the EU research budget continued, finally reaching 154'300 researchers and concerned citizens. Several meetings were organized to make politicians aware of the situation.

The list of signatories was used as a basis for the "no-cuts-on-research.eu"-mailing list, which is intended as a channel to inform Europe's researchers about the most important updates about upcoming campaigns and activities for European research a few times per year. A first mailing was sent out in May 2013 with financial support from Euroscience; a sustainable mailing list system is under development.

## b) Research Assessment.

At a meeting of the American Society for Cell Biology (ASCB) in December 2012, a new initiative was born to denounce the over-reliance on the journal impact factor for research assessment and to make a strong statement to strengthen values of research assessment ("San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment, DORA; <http://am.ascb.org/dora/>). ISE helped with the promotion of the initiative in Europe and successfully encouraged 7rganized7ons and institutions to sign the declaration.

## c) Imbalances of Research Investment in Europe

In Horizon 2020, the budget for activities that aim at reducing imbalances in Europe is very limited. A much stronger impact can be expected from the so-called structural funds, i.e. funds in the realm of EU regional policy that were in the past in many cases left unspent and/or not used for research for various reasons. Structural funds are managed by national and/or regional authorities, which limits the possibilities of central intervention. The conclusion from the last ISE General Assembly was that a suitable approach to promote research funding through structural funds could be a conference to bring together the research community with managers of structural funds to raise awareness and share good practices. In May 2013, Wolfgang Eppenschwandtner was invited to join the international advisory board of the Lithuanian EU presidency conference, entitled "Invest in Researchers – Better training and careers using new funding opportunities" (Vilnius, 14–15 November 2013). ISE contributed with the identification of speakers, with the preparation of sessions, and with the promotion of the conference.

## d) Scientific Visa

A revision of the so-called "scientific visa" directive is currently under negotiation between the European Parliament and the Council. The Commission proposal suggests several improvements (in line with the ISE advice paper on scientific visa from Aug 2012). While the European Parliament is very supportive of the proposals, several EU member states have reservations. The Executive Coordinator met with representatives from Council and Parliament to find out more about the background and timeline regarding the revision of the scientific visa directive.

## e) Open Access

An ISE policy paper drafted by the ISE Open Access working group (chaired by Michele Garfinkel) focuses on the revenues that learned societies generate from publishing activities and lists society activities at least partially funded with publication revenues. On 5 April 2013, the European Physical Society organized a workshop that led to a position paper that was supported by some of the ISE societies. Meetings took place with representatives of the European Commission and Science Europe. On 30 October 2013, Michele Garfinkel (EMBO) participated for ISE at the European Meeting of the Global Research Council in the session on Open Access.

The paper was finalized with input from all ISE members in December 2013 and January 2014, and the draft has been sent to all members of the EB of EBSA for comments and suggestions.

## f) Participation at meetings and expert groups, Conferences and stakeholder meetings

Among the most important events in 2013 were:

- Invest in Researchers, EU Presidency conference, 14-15 November, 2013, Vilnius. Wolfgang Eppenschwandtner was member of the international advisory board and speaker.
- Maastricht for Research, 16 October 2013, Brussels; Wolfgang Eppenschwandtner was asked to comment on the manifesto "Maastricht for Research" and participated in the breakfast meeting on the following day,
- Raising Researchers' Voices – opinions on jobs, careers and rights, 21-22 November 2013, Brussels; Wolfgang Eppenschwandtner presented the activities of ISE.
- Horizons for Social Sciences and Humanities, EU Presidency conference, 23-24 September, Vilnius
- European Meeting of the Global Research Council, 30 October 2013, Paris

## Meetings 8rganized by ISE and by ISE members

- European Physical Society Open Access workshop, 6 April 2013, Strasbourg
- Two ISE sessions at the European Education Research Conference, 12 September 2013, Istanbul; one session on open access and scientific publications (Michele Garfinkel) and one on science advocacy (Wolfgang Eppenschwandtner)
- The future of the European Research Council: A meeting between the new ERC president Jean-Pierre Bourguignon and ISE representatives took place on 1 December 2013.

## Advisory groups

- Marie Curie: ISE was invited to send representatives to attend three meetings to advise on the further development of the Marie Curie programme; Wolfgang Eppenschwandtner, Andrea Hutterer (EMBO), Ioanna Psalti (EGS) and Thierry Zeyen (EGS) represented ISE.
- Wolfgang Eppenschwandtner was appointed as a member of the International Advisory Group of the EU-Presidency conference "Invest in Researchers", 14-15 November, 2013, Vilnius (see above)

## g) ISE Members, Administration and Governance

In 2013, ISE welcomed two new members: European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA) and European Society for Gene and Cell Therapy (ESGCT). The executive coordinator has met with representatives of many European organizations to keep the ISE visibility high.

The first term of employment for the ISE Executive Coordinator ends on 13/06/2014. Following positive responses from the ISE management board in May/June 2013, a contract for the term 14/6/2014-13/6/2017 was offered to Wolfgang Eppenschwandtner and signed in September 2013.

The next ISE General Assembly will be in Leuven, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Jose L. Carrascosa will participate on behalf of EBSA.

## **18. EBSA Website (LM) and Newsgroup (IV)**

The need for minor improvements to the website was noted.

The conditions for the Young Investigator Award should be changed from 'under 40 years old' to 'normally within 12 years of award of PhD'.

A photo of the 2013 Avanti Award winner in Lisbon, Felix Goni, should appear on the website

**Action:** Manuela Pereira to send a photo of Felix in Lisbon to Laszlo Matyus. Ilpo Vattulainen reported that the EBSA Newsgroup is being circulated monthly.

## **19. Any other business**

It was agreed that we would postpone discussing the co-opting of two further EC members until our next EC meeting in July 2014.

A Bursary Panel for Dresden should be set up at the same EC meeting.

The San Francisco Declaration should be discussed in detail at the next EC meeting.

## **20. Date of next EC meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the EC will be in Finland (either Helsinki or Tampere) on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2014.

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