

Minutes of the meeting of the EBSA Executive Committee

Location: Hotel Scandic Simonkenttä, Helsinki, Finland, Saturday July 5th, 2014, 9.00 – 18.00



Present: Manuel Prieto (MPr), Helmut Grubmüller (HG), László Mátyus (LM), John Seddon (JMS), Tony Wilkinson (TW), Anthony Watts (AW), Jose Carrascosa, morning only (JC), Ilpo Vattulainen (IV), Pavol Miskovsky (PM), André Matagne (AM).

1. Welcome and Apologies (MPr)

Manuel welcomed the Committee and reported that Apologies were received from Manuela Pereira (co-opted member) and from Cathy Royer (co-opted member).

2. Minutes of the last meeting of the EC in Dresden (JMS)

The action agreed in February to set up a hidden part of the EBSA website that would permit documents such as templates for awards, information for Congress organizers, etc to be archived and accessible to EBSA EC members is still pending.

Action: Tony Watts to send details to Laszlo

It was agreed that Tony Wilkinson will provide the spreadsheet of EBSA transactions to John Seddon, as EBSA Secretary, after each EC meeting, and copies of the Annual EBSA Accounts.

Action: Tony Wilkinson

The Avanti Award lecture given in Lisbon by Felix Goni, and his photo, should be put on the EBSA website.

Action: Manuel to remind Manuela Pereira to send recording and photo to Laszlo

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Tony Watts requested that some of the agreed support for bursaries for the British Biophysical Society Congress in Warwick, 9 – 11 July 2014 be used to support an EBSA Lecture, and this was agreed.

Action: Tony Watts to inform the conference organisers

The EC Minutes from 1st February 2014, Dresden were approved.

3. Report of the Treasurer (TW)

Copies of the EBSA Accounts to 31st March 2014 were provided to the EC. Tony summarized the Treasurer's report as follows:

EBSA's most recent Annual Return to the UK Charities Commission was submitted on 18th December 2013.

The balance at 30th June 2014 was €285,686. For the year up to 1st April 2014, income was €120,953 and expenditure was €139,270.

Revenue of €90,034 came from Springer-Verlag for publication of the *European Biophysics Journal*. It is offset in part by EBSA's payment for Editorial Expenses for the Journal of £31,142.

This year's Committee expenses were €9,001.

EBSA has contributed a net €64,000 to meetings / bursaries this year.

4. Report of ISE activities and European Biophysical Facilities Network (JC)

Jose proved the following summary of ISE activities:

The ISE held its General Assembly in Leuven on February 7th and Jose participated on behalf of EBSA. ISE membership has increased slightly last year; presently there are 19 members and 10 observers. Open access was a main topic of discussion in the Assembly. A decision was taken to produce a document describing the most important issues to be taken into account by stakeholders. The document was circulated for several weeks after the Assembly and finally agreed upon the ISE members. A final Report (Learned Societies, Academic Publishing and Transition to Open Access) was released on the 10th April 2014.

The Assembly decided to set up working groups on Research Assessment and Science 2.0 (use of new communication technologies). Those interested to participate should contact the ISE Gen. Secretary.

EU elections. An ISE delegation participated in debates organized by candidates at the European Parliament. Once appointed, the new Minister for Education should be invited to the Dresden 2015 Congress.

Action: Jose

ISE new Presidency. Replacement of Maria Leptin in the near future is under negotiation.

ISE has participated in several EU meetings and Expert Groups: Euroscience Open Forum 2014; European Education Research Conference; Future of the ERC; Study Group on Marie-Curie Programs; International Advisory Group for the EU Presidency Conference on Invest in Researchers.

European Biophysical Facilities Network (MPr) – Core for Life (<http://www.coreforlife.eu/>)

These are not for new facilities, but for networks such as the Structural Biology Research Infrastructure 'Instruct' (Dave Stuart, Oxford). Jose: Instruct has got into difficulties and is under heavy pressure as some countries (eg, Germany) have not supported it. Jose: There will be an internal meeting next week to discuss how to run the Instruct programme. Tony Watts: Instruct is a bit different from other ESFRI programmes as it doesn't involve just a single piece of instrumentation. MRC is the only UK agency that subscribes to Instruct. Jose: Spain supports Instruct, but only for 3 years at a time. Tony Watts: ESFRI programmes are meant to last for 20 years. Pavol: Horizon 2020 does have a budget for ESFRI infrastructure networks. Jose: this is for access applications; Instruct cannot itself apply to Horizon 2020. JMS: Will the XFEL facilities planned engage with Instruct? Tony Watts: Most ESFRI programmes have to go through the legal framework ERIC (European Research Infrastructure Consortium) and be paid by national governments. We should learn from these problems before engaging.

Tony Watts reminded the EC that Mike Ferenczi some time ago had suggested setting up a virtual Biophysics Institute. However, this would require permanent staff, and EBSA has always resisted this.

It was agreed that Manuel will draft a plan for a Biophysics Network, and see whether a Biophysics Institute on 'Molecular and Cell Biophysics' makes sense. He is on the Physics/Maths/Chemistry Committee of Science Europe. He has received a request for further information from them. They are interested in holding a Satellite meeting to the EBSA Dresden Congress in 2015. Their next committee meeting is October.

Action: Manuel to circulate a draft document to the EC

5. 2019 EBSA Congress (MPr)

Formal bids to host the 2019 EBSA Congress will be presented at the GA at the EBSA Dresden Congress in 2015. The final decision rests with the EBSA EC.

Finland: Ilpo stated that they will be making a bid to hold the 2019 Congress either in Tampere or in Helsinki. Tampere is the preferred option as it is cheaper, has excellent facilities, and the key members of the organizing team are based there. Tony Watts: cost will be an issue, and securing regional sponsorship will be important. Ilpo: Tampere can be reached by plane or hourly train (80 minutes) from Helsinki. Helmut offered to send information on the Dresden bid to Ilpo to help in preparing the bid.

Action: Helmut

Spain: Jose presented a bid to hold the 2019 Congress in Complutense University, Madrid (Chair: Jesus Perez-Gil). Madrid is a well-connected hub, with strong connections to South America, and is a strong centre for Biophysics. The venue has a 1,000-seater lecture theatre. Costs can be kept low, there is no need to reserve much in advance, and cheap student residences will be available in July (€25 - €30 per night). The budget is estimated as €230,000 based upon 1,000 participants (€195,000 registrations, and €35,000 sponsorship / support). Student registration is estimated as €150, and Full (EBSA members) registration as €300. Satellites are planned in Bilbao (Membranes) and Granada (Protein Folding).

Laszlo: what is the VAT situation? Jose: the organizing company is vat-able, but Complutense is vat-free.

Laszlo commented that the estimate of €48,000 for the Reception / lunches and coffees seems to be too low.

Helmut: what is the break-even point? This needs to be estimated, but is likely to be around 800 participants.

Helmut: Under European law, contracting out Congress organization should be put out to tender.

Action: Jose circulate PDF of presentation

Turkey: Manuel has written to the Turkish Society, explaining that until they can demonstrate that their National Meetings are held in English, EBSA cannot consider them as candidates. He encouraged them to apply again in future.

6. Report on European Biophysics Journal (AW)

A replacement Managing Editor is being considered for EBJ. It is expected they would serve for 5 – 10 years. HG asked whether this would be too big a burden, but AW replied that with admin support and a willingness to take it on, it should be manageable. The final decision will be taken by the EBSA Publication Committee (MPr, AW, TW). Handover is expected to be completed by 2017. The new incumbent will join the EBSA EC at an appropriate point in time. AW is happy to continue as Editor of EBJ during the extended handover period.

Paul Janmey has been the longest standing Editor of EBJ (19 years), covering muscle. He is an Associate editor of Soft Matter and will be standing down from EBJ. Mike Ferenczi has been invited to replace him. LM suggested Professor Miklos Nyitrai (miklos.nyitrai@aok.pte.hu) of the University of Pecs as an excellent alternative. The other current Editors are David Cafiso (University of Virginia), Frances Separovic (University of Melbourne) and Thomas Pomorski (University of Copenhagen). One more member is needed. (Added later: Mike Ferenzci had accepted the position of Editor, but another one could be accommodated to spread the load).

A controversial CD paper published in EBJ has been retracted by the Managing Editor. There is a new initiative for biological standards led by the CD community.

EBJ is in good shape, with 240-250 published papers expected in 2014. However, bad news is that the revenue from Springer to EBSA is going to fall substantially. Springer currently guarantees €60,000 so long as revenues do not fall below €200,000. However, EBJ revenue has fallen to €168,000, so the guaranteed amount is going to fall. AW suggested €48,000, but Springer propose to reduce it to €35,000, and will only guarantee this amount from Jan 2015. AW is trying to get details on subscriptions to understand why the revenue has fallen. EBSA is locked in to a contract with Springer until 2017, although after that EBSA could investigate whether a better deal could be obtained from other publishers. AW is happy to help with renegotiating the contract in 2016.

Action: Tony Watts to circulate email from Springer with details

7. Encyclopedia of Biophysics (MPr)

It was noted that some topics were missing from the 1st Edition and should be included in the 2nd edition. The royalty was too low and should be negotiated upwards. AW confirmed that Gordon Roberts has been negotiating with Springer. Three new Section Editors are needed, who will be paid €500 and have free online access. AW has agreed to become Co-Editor with Gordon. Springer wants to give a lump sum to EBSA from which the Editors and Section Editors will be paid. AW will ask Springer to combine EBJ and the Encyclopedia revenues in working out how much they are due to pay EBSA in royalties.

Action: Tony Watts to contact Gordon Roberts to get details of the Springer offer.

Action: Tony Watts to discuss with Springer either by Skype (with Tony Wilkinson and Helmut joining), or in person when he visits Heidelberg.

8. Requests for EBSA support, and support agreed (JMS)

It was agreed that Work Visit support should be provided retrospectively, or at least after the travel ticket has been purchased.

Petra Kellers asked about the level of EBSA support for Satellites for EBSA 2015, and JMS informed her as follows: EBSA provides up to €5,000, according to bids made and perceived need. Registration at Satellites should be free for all Congress participants. Up to around 60 EBSA bursaries may be awarded for attendance at the Congress. There are 5 Satellites planned for Dresden. Petra should ask them to make bids for support, then the EBSA EC will decide by email on the allocation of funds.

Action: Petra Kellers / Helmut

Bruno Kieffer requested support for a Practical School on 'Advanced Isotopic Labelling Methods for Biological NMR', to be held in the Grenoble Institute of Structural Biology from 26-30 January 2015. This is ineligible for support as it takes place in 2015 so it was decided to decline.

Velia Minicozzi requested support for an International School of Pure and Applied Biophysics, on 'Theoretical and Computational Approaches to Biophysics', be held in January 2015. This was already declined as it is scheduled for 2015.

Bernd Reif requested support for the 5th European School on 'Biological Solid-State NMR', Munich, 16 – 21 Nov 2014. We already agreed to provide €600 to support an EBSA lecturer and €2000 for student bursaries, and CR has informed Bernd.

Dr Marija Raguz requested support for the First Adriatic Symposium on Biophysical Approaches in Biomedical Studies, Split, August 24-29, 2014. We already agreed to provide up to €1600 for student bursaries, and JMS informed Marija.

Andre Matagne requested support for a symposium of the Belgian National Committee for Biophysics, 'Modern Biophysical Techniques for the Life Sciences', 20-21 October 2014, Brussels. We already agreed to provide €800 for student bursaries, and JMS informed Andre.

Carlo Musio requested support for "Pore-Forming Toxins: *a meeting in memory of Gianfranco Menestrina*", an international workshop organized by SIBPA, to take place from August 28 - 30, 2014, Trento, Italy. We already agreed to provide €600 to support an EBSA lecturer and €1500 for student bursaries, and CR informed Carlo.

Federica Migliardi, University of Messina, requested €1,900 support for a working visit to Nicolas Bayan, Universite de Paris Sud, from 9 June – 3 August 2014. We declined to support this, and CR wrote to her explaining that we prefer to focus on supporting working visits by less experienced scientists.

Ivana Nikic (Institute of Physics, Zagreb) has been awarded €800 as a travel bursary to visit the lab of Peter Hinterdorfer, Linz from 17/06/2014-15/07/2014.

Sonia Vazquez Sanchez (Complutense Madrid) has been awarded €1200 as a travel bursary to visit the lab of Sergei Garcia-Manyes, King's College London, from 07/07/2014 – 14/09/2014.

The support provided to Juan Gomez-Fernandez for the SBE Congress held in Alcalá de Henares, 11-13 June, was used as follows: EBSA Lecturer: Jiri Damborsky, Brno, Czech Republic; Bursaries: Balaceanu (Germany), Dantas (Portugal), Baczyński (Poland), Simoes (Portugal).

The support provided to Manuela Pereira for EBEC2014 was used as follows: EBSA Lecturer: Hartmut Michel, Frankfurt; Bursaries: M Antoniel, Italy ; K Gieczewska, Poland; A Misak, Slovak Republic ; M Moussaoui, France; H Sargsyan, Armenia; V Zakharova, Russia.

3 student bursaries were awarded to Aiste Bitinaite, Lithuania, Anze Rogelj, Slovenia, and Nawel Majri Omrani, France, to attend IC-ANMBES (3rd International Conference on Analytical and Nanoanalytical Methods for Biomedical and Environmental Sciences), 13 – 15 June 2014, University of Brasov, Romania.

A working visit for Dr A. C. Uguz (Suleyman Demirel University, Turkey) to University Hospital, Leipzig with EBSA support of €488 took place from 1 – 8 Feb 2014, and a one-page report on the visit has been received.

- 9. EBSA 2015 Awards (EBSA Young Investigators Medal, Avanti Polar Lipids Award) (JMS)**
Closing date for both awards is 31st December 2014. The national societies have been reminded to nominate suitable candidates. JMS will remind them again in September.

Action: John

AW will nominate a candidate for the Avanti Award.

Action: Tony Watts

- 10. IUPAB Congress, Brisbane, August 3 – 7, 2014 (MPr)**

The voting members at the IUPAB General Assembly will be three from JMS, JC and A.N. Other. [Note added later: the actual voting delegates at the IUPAB GA were John Seddon, Tommy Nylander (Lund), and Peter Judge (Oxford)].

There are currently approximately >900 registered participants for the congress.

- 11. EBSA Schools / Biophysics Courses (MPr / AW)**

The Membranes and Lipid-Protein Interactions Course will take place at La Grande Motte, France from 8-12 Sept 2014. The local organizer is Jean-Pierre Milhot. EBSA support of €25,000 has been agreed. There are 30 people currently registered; the maximum is 60. The closing deadline is 1st August. Travel to a limit of €300 will be paid to Invited Speakers.

The proposed 2016 Portuguese Course is awaiting further input from Manuela Pereira. It will be discussed at the next EBSA EC. One possibility would be to merge it with the 2016 EBSA Membranes School.

Action: Manuel

- 12. 2015 EBSA Congress, Dresden (HG)**

HG gave a Powerpoint presentation on the preparations for the Dresden Congress, Saturday 18th – Wednesday 22nd July 2015. The Plenary speakers are confirmed; some symposia Chair are still to be assigned; there are six Satellite meetings planned. The Chairs should send their choice of 4 Speakers to HG by the end of July. Session Chairs cannot choose themselves to speak in their session, and no one can be an Invited Speaker at two successive EBSA Congresses. AW suggested there could be a session on

the Biophysics of GPCRs, and one on Molecular Machines (as part of a COST programme). A Computational Satellite, organized by Mark Samson, Oxford, is another possibility.

Registration will open by October. It was noted that the 'New and Notable' session is currently timetabled against 'Membranes and Vesicles'; and Protein Folding', and it would be better if it is stand-alone.

The first meeting of the EBSA EC should be timetabled for the Saturday evening, The EBSA GA at 6pm on Monday evening, and the second EBSA EC meeting at lunchtime on the Tuesday.

It was agreed that a Bursary Panel should be set up, consisting of Cathy Royer (Chair), Andre Matagne, Laszlo Matyus, and John Seddon. Requests for Bursaries should be directed to Petra Kellers, who will distribute them at the appropriate moment to the Panel. Up to 60 bursaries will be available, consisting of free Registration and free accommodation (no travel or any other costs will be paid). Applicants must not have received an EBSA bursary before.

It was agreed that the Poster Prizes will be open to everybody who presents a Poster, not just junior participants.

Action: Helmut to send round his Powerpoint presentation

13. 2017 EBSA /IUPAB Congress, Edinburgh (AW)

The 11th EBSA / 19th IUPAB Congress (www.iupab2017.org) will take place in Edinburgh, UK from 16th – 20th July 2017, organised by the British Biophysical Society (BBS) and the UK IOP Biological Physics Group. There will be a desk at the Brisbane Congress with handouts and posters, and Claire Garland will represent the IOP there.

The IUPAB contract has been drafted, and a revised version has been sent to Gordon Roberts, the IUPAB President, for his approval. It was noted that IOP are very effective in raising sponsorship.

It is planned that the Registration Fee will cover the banquet, to be held in Dynamic Earth. Four Plenaries will be chosen and travel paid for by IUPAB, and five by the hosts (BBS and IOP).

Accommodation and Registration for the IUPAB Council and the EBSA EC will be covered from the Congress budget, although travel will not be covered.

It was noted that IUPAB made a loss from the 2011 Beijing Congress. They will expect that the funds they make available for the 2017 Congress will a loan, to be returned after the Congress. They made available €50,000 towards the 2005 Montpellier Congress. It was agreed that EBSA should make a loan available to AW for ongoing costs with organising the 2017 Congress, and that IUPAB should be asked to match this sum. AW can come back to the EBSA EC to request an additional loan, should the funds provided be insufficient, and should have executive powers to negotiate the contract as best fits.

Action: Tony Watts

There will be 60 EBSA bursaries (Registration plus student accommodation) available, and IUPAB will give out a number of (variable value, depending on need) bursaries.

14. Member Societies, subscriptions and investment strategy (TW)

Since 1st April, 2013, we have received €10,560 in subscription payments.

A number of national societies have outstanding subscriptions, and it was agreed that EC members would attempt to make contact as follows :

Norway
Greece
Netherlands and Bulgaria
Slovenia and Serbia

Action: Manuel Prieto and Tony Watts
Action: Tony Watts
Action: John Seddon
Action: Andre Matagne

TW highlighted the low interest we are currently receiving on our reserves. Moving funds between Euros and sterling to maximize interest payments is potentially risky due to fluctuations in exchange rate. It was felt that it was best to take no action for the time being, but to monitor the situation.

15. EBSA to sign the DORA (<http://am.ascb.org/dora/>) statement? (MPr)

It was agreed that JMS will sign the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment on behalf of EBSA.

Action: John

16. EBSA Website (LM) and Newsgroup (IV)

Cathy Royer has noted that the EBSA website is a little confusing as to the procedure to be followed in applying for bursary or visit support.

Action: John to ask her what changes she would like made.

Ilpo reported that there are 540 members registered for the Newsgroup. A list from Georg Pabst (Austria) has recently been added.

Action: Tony Watts to send BBS mailing list to Ilpo

Action: Helmut to check whether German Society list can be sent to Ilpo

AW suggested that there should be a tickbox on the Dresden Registration page where people can indicate if they do not wish to be added to the EBSA Newsgroup.

Action: Helmut/Petra to add tickbox to registration page for Dresden

17. Any other business

It was agreed that Manuela Pereira should remain co-opted on the EC, to look after Workshops, as well as Cathy Royer, to look after Bursaries. If the European Biophysical Facilities Network goes ahead, it will be necessary to co-opt a further person, and Rob Gilbert would be a good possibility. AW should be formally elected as EBSA President-Elect at the EBSA GA in Dresden in July 2015. The new editor of EBJ should be an Observer in Dresden, and at some point should be co-opted to the EC as future EBJ Managing Editor.

18. Date of next EC meeting

Offers were made to hold the next EC meeting in Bratislava, Debrecen or Liege. Possible dates identified were 17th, 24th or 31st January 2015.

Action: John send round Doodle Poll for place and date