



Meeting of the EBSA Executive Committee, Kosiče

Location: University of P. J. Safarik, Kosiče, Saturday 9th June: 09.30 – 14.00

Present: Anthony Watts (President), Jesús Pérez-Gil (Vice President), Helmut Grubmüller (Past President), John Seddon (Secretary), Tony Wilkinson (Treasurer), José Carrascosa (ISE), André Matagne (Bursaries), Pavol Miškovsky, László Mátyus (co-opted: EBSA Webmaster),

Minutes

1. Welcome and Apologies (AW)

Tony Watts welcomed the Committee and reported that Apologies were received from Rob Gilbert (EBJ), Mauro dalla Serra (IUPAB cross-representative), Jacqueline Cherfils, Ilpo Vattulainen (co-opted: EBSA Newsgroup), and Pierre Emmanuel Milhiet (co-opted: EBSA Workshops Coordinator). He thanked Pavol for his kind hospitality. The Agenda was accepted.

2. Minutes of the EC in Venice (JMS)

The Minutes were accepted, following minor corrections, which were noted.

Item 4: Helmut to circulate his Powerpoint presentation from the Presidents' meeting;

Item 5: The Slovenian Society have now paid their subscription up to 2020;

Item 5: Pavol to try again to speak with Martin Hof about the possibility of the Czech Society joining EBSA.

Item 14: Helmut reported that the EBSA-supported Les Houches Workshop on Protein Dynamics was a great success, and that EBSA was prominently acknowledged.

Action: Helmut to circulate Powerpoint file from Presidents' meeting;

Action: Pavol to contact Martin Hof about the Czech Society joining EBSA;

Action: John to send the Edited version of the Approved Minutes to Laszlo to put up on the EBSA Website.

3. Treasurer's report (TW)

Tony Wilkinson reported that the financial position of EBSA is healthy. He reminded the EC that there are three accounts held with Barclays bank. The overall balance at 31st March 2018 was Euro 209,487 (£183,760), slightly down by Euro 17,970 on the previous year. The income was Euro 107,966, against Expenditure of Euro 125,936. Tony Watts pointed out that deposits in UK banks are only guaranteed up to £75,000 in

President	Prof. Anthony Watts, Biochemistry Department, Oxford University, South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3QU, UK. ☎ +44 1865 613219, fax +44 1865 613201, ✉ anthony.watts@bioch.ox.ac.uk
Vice President	Prof. Jesús Pérez Gil, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Complutense, C/ José Antonio Novais 12, 28040 Madrid, Spain. ☎ +34 91 394 4439, fax: +34 91 394 4672, ✉ jperezgi@uclm.es
Past President	Prof. Helmut Grubmüller, Max-Planck Institut für biophysikalische Chemie,, Theoretical and computational Biophysics, Am Fassberg 11, 37077 Göttingen, Germany. ☎ +49 551 201 2301, fax: +49 551 201 2302, ✉ hgrubmu@gwdg.de
Secretary	Prof. John M. Seddon, Department of Chemistry, Imperial College London, Exhibition Road, London SW7 2AZ, UK. ☎ +44 20 75945797, ✉ j.seddon@imperial.ac.uk
Treasurer	Prof. Anthony Wilkinson, Structural Biology Laboratory, Department of Chemistry, University of York, Biosciences Building, York, YO10 5YW, UK. ☎ +44 1904 328261, fax: +44 1904 328266, ✉ ajw@ysbl.york.ac.uk

the event of the bank collapsing. He suggested that the EBSA funds could be split between Barclays and the NS&I bank. The National Insurance numbers of two EBSA officers will be needed in order to open an account with them.

Action: Publication Committee (AW / AWilk / RG) to check with Springer what the total payments are for this coming year.

The EC thanked Tony Wilkinson for his Treasurer's report.

4. Report on European Biophysics Journal (AW for RG)

A brief report from Rob Gilbert was tabled. Tony reported that two more Special Issues of EBJ are pending.

5. Encyclopedia of Biophysics, 2nd Edition (AW)

Tony Watts reported that preparations for the online 2nd Edition are well underway, and reminded the EC that 25% of new entries (revised or brand new) are needed before the new Edition will be published online. After that date, it will still be possible for authors to continue to revise and update their entries.

6. EBSA 2019 Awards (EBSA Young Investigators Medal, Avanti/EBSA Award) (JMS)

John will write to the EBSA Presidents in September to remind them of the deadline of 31st December 2018 for both Awards, and that nominations are individual for the Avanti Award (to the EBSA President), and from National Societies for the Young Investigator's Award (one nomination per Society, sent to the EBSA Secretary). Selection Panels will be set up at the next EC meeting in Jan 2019, once we see which countries are represented in the nominations.

Action: John to write to EBSA Presidents in September.

7. Future EBSA Congresses (AW)

2019 Congress in Madrid (Jesús Pérez Gil)

Jesús reminded the EC that the Congress will be held jointly with IUPAP (Section C6), and that discussions have been going smoothly.

It was suggested that the EBSA and IUPAP members should be merged into a single list. It was also suggested that all EBSA EC members should be on the Scientific Committee (as was the case in previous EBSA Congresses). The EBSA EC members are available to serve as Session Chairs, where appropriate. Tony Watts suggested that ideally, for each session, one Chair should be either from the EBSA or the IUPAP Committees, plus one local Spanish Chair. Chairs and Co-Chairs jointly select the talks in their session from a list and suggestions supplied by Jesús (to ensure geographical and gender balance and to keep overall view of the programme development – Jesús to take executive control of the programme), although the Scientific Committee should be asked to ratify and approve the final programme. Jesús confirmed that IUPAP has chosen 8 out of the 24 available Sessions, leaving 16 Sessions for EBSA. He asked whether it was acceptable to use members of the Scientific Committee as Chairs where appropriate, and Tony Watts confirmed that this was the case – the EBSA committee is there to help and support when needed, not to direct the programme.

Action: Jesús to confirm details of the Organizing and Scientific Committees, as well as the Session Chairs and Co-Chairs.

Jesús confirmed that details of the 6 Plenary Speakers are already up on the Congress website; Tony Watts suggested that the 6 photos should all appear at the same time (currently, only 3 appear at any one time).

Action: Jesús.

The American Biophysical Society Lecturer will be Eva Morales.

Jesús confirmed that there will be a Young Scientists' Meeting at El-Escorial just before the EBSA Congress (provisional dates: 18-19 July), run by Complutense University, and organized by him and Tony Watts. There are some issues that need to be sorted out in terms of whether it will be compulsory for attendees to also attend the EBSA Congress.

Action: Jesús and Tony Watts to discuss the way forward, off-line.

Jesús informed the EC that Complutense University will organize the Congress Banquet in a garden location, on either the Monday or Tuesday evening. There will also be a concert planned.

Jesús wrote to all EBSA Presidents for suggestions in relation to the Congress, but got relatively few responses. However, there are now a total of 166 suggested names to act as Chairs / Co-Chairs, many of the names being Spanish or Portuguese.

Jesús informed the EC that of the 24 Sessions, two were sponsored sessions. There was a discussion about whether a meeting of the Cost Action ARBRE should be one of the Sessions, or a Satellite. After email consultation with Rob it was confirmed that it should be a session within the main Congress.

During a discussion of Registration Fees, it was confirmed that EBSA EC members (and IUPAP Committee members) will not pay any Registration Fee, irrespective of whether or not they serve as Session Chairs. Their travel and accommodation will be covered by EBSA (or IUPAP), as in previous congresses.

Action: Jesús to contact Tony Watts / Helmut / Laszlo / John for advice on any outstanding issues.

The organizers of the Bilbao Satellite scheduled for 25-26 July 2019 have requested that the agreed support from EBSA of €2,500 be increased to €4,000. However, Tony Watts suggested that it would be best to stay with the standard amount of €2,500 and for the organizers to charge a modest Registration Fee (say, €100). John suggested that they could ask IUPAB to support a named lecture.

Jesús confirmed that slots would be timetabled in the main Congress for the EBSA Avanti and Young Investigator Prizewinners' lectures. He also mentioned that talks for the prizewinners of the Spanish / Portuguese Societies will also be incorporated in the programme.

Jesús informed the EC that he has already applied to IUPAB for €15,000 of support, and is actively seeking support from other potential sponsors. Tony Watts mentioned that there are a number of conditions attached to IUPAB support, and that in the past, the funding can only be used to support students – this may change and needs to be checked.

The conference organizer is the Spanish company *Pacifico*. Jesús confirmed that no deposit was needed, and that the contract includes insurance cover of €1M against acts of "Force Majeure".

Andre' mentioned that EBSA will provide 60 student bursaries, which should be announced on the congress website, and that the Bursary Panel should be set up at the next EC meeting.

Action: Jesus to liaise with Andre'.

2021 EBSA Congress: Vienna

We need to co-opt the Congress Chair, Elena Pohl, onto the EBSA EC.

Action: Tony Watts to invite Elena Pohl to join the EBSA EC.

2023 / 2025 / 2027 EBSA Congresses

It is too early for serious planning, but the following possibilities were flagged up:

- Denmark – Copenhagen (Daniel Otzen)?
- Sweden - Stockholm (Erik Lindahl)?
- Poland – Warsaw? (suggested by Laszlo)
- Slovakia – Bratislava? (suggested by Pavol for 2025 or 2027).

8. EBSA participation in Euroscience (JC)

José confirmed that EBSA has withdrawn from ISE and has stopped paying its subscription.

José wrote to Peter Tindemans, Secretary-General of Euroscience, expressing an interest in EBSA joining Euroscience. Corporate membership would cost €1,500 per year (the same as our previous subscription to ISE), and would cover 1 full, plus 14 ordinary members. José will meet with Peter on 13th July at the Euroscience Forum in Toulouse from 9th – 14th July. It was noted that the following organisations are members of Euroscience: EMBL, CERN, ESA, Elsevier, and the ESF.

Tony Watts noted that Euroscience is a powerful organization, and asked whether they can help us raise the profile of biophysics in a European Science Forum.

José will advise us by the next meeting of the EC to confirm that we are withdrawing from ISE, and will recommend whether we should join Euroscience.

Action: José to send round a link to the July Toulouse Euroscience meeting.

[Note added later: <https://www.esof.eu/en/programme.html>]

The EC gave thanks to José for his sterling work with ISE and Euroscience.

9. EBSA Website (LM) and Newsgroup

There was nothing to report on these items.

10. IUPAB (JMS)

A request was received from Juan Gomez Fernandez for items for the next IUPAB News issue. A copy of the current Newsletter was circulated to the EC.

The 2020 IUPAB Congress is being moved from Rio de Janeiro to Faz do Iguacu.

Tony Watts mentioned that IUPAB are restructuring their constitution following the election of a new executive committee in July 2017.

11. Student Bursaries (AM)

So far in 2018 there has only been a single request for a bursary, and this was agreed.

12. Requests for EBSA support and reports (tabled for PEM)

The following requests for support were agreed:

- Baltic Regional Biophysical Meeting (Saulius Satkauskas), Kaunas, Lithuania, 4-5 October 2018. €3,200 for 4 European speakers.
- EMBO Workshop on Challenges for Magnetic Resonance in Life Sciences (Giacomo Parigi). Grosseto, 27 May – 1 June 2018. 2 bursaries (the students should apply directly to EBSA).
- Regional Biophysics Workshop on Mechanobiology (Pavle Andjus), Kotor, 6-8 October 2018. €1,600 for 4 bursaries.
- 'Physics of Cells' EMBO Workshop (Rhoda Hawkins), Harrogate, 3-7 September 2018. €800 for 2 bursaries.
- COST action Congress on Advances in Brillouin Light Scattering (Silvia Caponi), Perugia, 12 -14 September 2018. Support 2 EBSA sponsored European lecturers working in the field of biophysics to a value of €500 each, and they should be identified in the programme as EBSA sponsored.
- School on Modern Problems in Biophysics (Sinerik Ayrapetyan), Armenia, August 6-8, 2018. €1600 for 4 student bursaries.
- Biophysics Workshop on Generation and Control of Forces in Cells (David Sept), Stockholm, 11 – 29 June 2018. €1600 for 4 student bursaries.

The following request was declined, as it was deemed to be insufficiently international:

- International School of Biophysics "Imaging for Biomedical Applications" organized by the Romanian Society of Pure and Applied Biophysics (Mihailescu), Bucharest, 5-7 Sept 2018.

Helmut flagged up that he plans to apply for support for the International School of Physics, Erice, 2020. This School mainly covers Biophysical Simulation and Theory, and is well attended from the US. It has been run for some time by Gregory Voth, Chicago, who has also previously provided some of the funding for it. Helmut asked whether EBSA could consider sponsoring 4 European speakers, plus 2 student bursaries.

Action: Helmut to submit application to EBSA.

13. EBSA Course in Biophysics, Montpellier, 10th – 15th June 2018

IUPAB provided sponsorship of €7,250 + 5 k€ of local sponsorship. Tony Watts suggested that, since this course had been running for 12 years now, we should review whether this course should continue.

Action: John to put on Agenda for next EC meeting.

14. Member Societies (AW)

André attended the IC-ANMBES 2018 Conference in Brasov, Romania from 23-25 May 2018, sponsored by EBSA. There were approximately 110 participants, and a number of international speakers. Tony Watts wondered whether it could be expanded into a larger regional meeting and noted that they have little interaction with Bulgaria or the Balkans. Tony Wilkinson asked whether the Romanian Society is engaged with the EBSA Congress, and André confirmed that it is, and that they are keen to expand, Hungary being the most obvious connection.

Action: Tony Watts to explore possibilities with the Romanian Society.

Tony Wilkinson stated that the Ukrainian Society is a key Society to engage with, and Tony Watts confirmed that there has already been correspondence with them.

An invitation was received from the Turkish Society for someone from the EBSA EC to attend their October meeting. However, Christian Eggeling will be attending, so we will ask him to report back to Tony Watts.

Action: Tony Watts to liaise with Christian Eggeling.

The Lithuanian Society (Saulius Satkauskas and Daumantas Matulis) has invited Tony Watts to give a Plenary Lecture at the Lithuanian Biochemical Society meeting, 26-29 June. They are keen to run a Biophysics meeting in October (they have asked EBSA for support), to include Latvian and Estonian biophysicists, and plan to discuss with them and with Tony the merits of setting up a Baltic States Biophysical Society (not including Poland). It was noted that they are quite active internationally, regularly attending the Biophysical Society Meetings in the US.

Note: The Lithuanian Biophysical Society is already a member of EBSA, and paid its subscription for 2015 and 2016.

André noted that the Polish Society is active within ARBRE, and Tony Wilkinson confirmed that it is a paid up member of EBSA to 2017.

Action: Tony Watts to accept invitation from Lithuanian Biochemical Society (June 2018).

15. Any other business (AW)

Membership of the EBSA EC

As already noted, Elena Pohl should be Co-opted onto the EC;

There is the possibility of Co-opting an additional member to the EC.

Helmut will leave the EBSA EC in July 2019, and André, John and Pavol come to the end of their normal terms of office. Tony Watts will have individual discussions with EC members about the future make-up of the EC.

Action: Tony to investigate.

Action: John to put on the Agenda for the next EC meeting.

John warned the EC to be vigilant as Scammers have been trying to access EBSA funds by pretending to be the Chairman.

Tony asked whether EBSA should do anything for Biophysics week, which will next take place in March 2019. Helmut mentioned that the MPI Göttingen has a Biophysics Day, and Jesus confirmed that the Spanish Society will organize activities in this week.

The EC gave its thanks to Tony Wilkinson for attending a Meeting in Toulouse and giving a tribute to Michel Kochoyan, who was Chair of the 5th EBSA / 15th IUPAB Congress in Montpellier in 2005.

16. Date and location of next EC meeting

Helmut offered to host the next EBSA EC meeting at the Max-Planck-Institut für biophysikalische Chemie, Göttingen, on a date between December 2018 and February 2019, to be decided by Doodle Poll.

Action: Helmut and John to coordinate.

It was suggested that the EC meeting in Jan 2020 should be held in Vienna (the July 2019 meeting will be held during the EBSA Congress).

The EBSA EC gave its sincere thanks to Pavol and to Ms Zuzana Pauliny for their splendid organization of the EC meeting in Kosiče.