



## Meeting of the EBSA Executive Committee,

Location: Palazzo Loredan, Venice, Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2018: 09.30- 16.15

Dinner: 20.30, Restaurant Alle Corone;

Dinner guests of EBSA: Prof and Mrs Giuliano Colombetti, and Prof Giorgio Giacometti.

**Present:** Anthony Watts (President), Jesús Pérez-Gil (Vice President), Helmut Grubmüller (Past President), John Seddon (Secretary), Rob Gilbert (EBJ), José Carrascosa (ISE), André Matagne (Bursaries), Mauro Dalla Serra (IUPAB cross-representative), Jacqueline Cherfils, Pavol Miškovský, László Mátyus (co-opted: EBSA Webmaster), Ilpo Vattulainen (co-opted: EBSA Newsgroup).

## Minutes

### 1. Welcome and Apologies (AW)

Tony Watts welcomed the EBSA EC and rereported that Apologies were received from Tony Wilkinson (Treasurer), and Pierre Emmanuel Milhiet (co-opted: EBSA Workshops Coordinator). He thanked Mauro Dalla Serra on behalf of the EC for all his hard work in arranging the Venice meeting of the EC. The Agenda was accepted.

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

Both sets of Minutes were accepted subject to minor corrections, which were noted.

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

It was agreed that the Draft Minutes of the General Assembly can be provisionally accepted and put up on the EBSA website for the time being, with the proviso that the Minutes need to be formally approved at the next EBSA GA in Madrid in July 2019.

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

John Seddon reported that 23 National Societies had representatives at the Presidents' Meeting. The Minutes were accepted.

**Action:** Helmut to send his Powerpoint presentation to John, for circulation around the EBSA EC.

**Action:** John to correct the 4 sets of Minutes and send them to Laszlo, along with the most recent rules for Co-option of EC members, for the EBSA website.

### 5. Treasurer's report (JMS for TW)

A brief Treasurer's Report was tabled and presented by John in Tony's Wilkinson's absence. The current balance of the EBSA accounts at 26<sup>th</sup> January 2018 was €247,911, corresponding to £217,466. This is an increase on the balance at 31st March 2017, and means that EBSA is in a financially healthy position. Tony asked whether the EBSA reserves

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are actually too large, and whether we should be putting a larger amount of our financial resources into supporting biophysics.

In terms of Subscriptions, Norway has not paid since before 2013, and is deemed to have left EBSA for the time being. Otherwise the picture has improved substantially. Laszlo will check the missing 2017 subscription of Slovenia, which may have been an oversight. The Czech Republic is not a member of EBSA, and we would like to encourage them to join.

**Action:** Laszlo to check with the Slovenian Society;

**Action:** Pavol to investigate with Martin Hof the possibility of the Czech Republic joining EBSA.

## 6. Report on EBSA /IUPAB Congress, Edinburgh 2017 (AW)

One Poster Award was given out for each of the Congress sessions, and this was a very satisfactory state of affairs. Tony mentioned that finalizing the Congress accounts has proved rather slow at the IOP end, but he hopes it will be concluded by the next EBSA EC meeting.

## 7. Report on European Biophysics Journal (RG)

There was a lengthy and wide-ranging discussion of matters concerning EBJ. Rob reported that there have been 19 submissions so far in 2018. In 2017 there were 203 submissions, which was slightly less than in 2016. Of concern is the low number of submissions from Europe and the US. He emphasized that although the IF has dropped recently to a rather low value of 1.47, there are advantages to publishing in EBJ, such as the lack of page charges, and the high-quality format of the journal. The journal acceptance rate is around 50%. A new type of article, 'Technical primers' is being introduced. Meeting Reports are a good way of increasing the journal impact factor. A number of Special Issues are in preparation, such as the AUC (analytical ultracentrifugation) Satellite meeting in Glasgow in 2017, the RBC (Regional Biophysics) meeting in Ljubljana in 2018, and an Issue dedicated to Manfred Eigen.

Jacqueline asked how we could better advertise the advantages of EBJ, and Andre' suggested sending a one-page advert for EBJ to the EBSA EC, who could then send it to their National Societies for circulation. Laszlo mentioned that there is a disconnect between the actual quality of EBJ, and its low IF. He suggested widening the scope of the journal, for example by accepting papers with a clinical flavor. Helmut pointed out that although the number of papers published has not changed much, nonetheless the IF has decreased. Jose' stated that EBJ needs to be above a certain IF threshold before many people will choose to publish in it. Pavol mentioned that some University budgets depend upon staff publishing in top quartile, or second top quartile ranking journals. Rob commented that Springer is interested in seeing increases both in the IF, and the number of submissions. Jacqueline wondered whether one problem was low quality Titles and Abstracts from some non-native English speakers. However, Rob already deals with this as and when necessary. Ilpo remarked that young researchers are obsessed with IFs, and whether this could be improved by publishing more reviews. Tony pointed out that IUPAB are doing exactly this with Biophysics Reviews (although it actually lacks an IF). Ilpo mentioned as a possible model the 2-page Perspectives published by ACS on emerging fields. Tony confirmed that this leads to very high IFs. Jesus mentioned that he had been an Editor of Chemistry and Physics of Lipids for many Years, and his experience is that Special Issues and News and Views articles do help to improve the journal's IF. Tony asked whether pairs of people from the EBJ Editorial Board could be tasked with generating Special Issues? He suggested including an EBJ flyer in the Conference bag at the next EBSA Congress in Madrid. Helmut added that a rotating slide in the lecture theatres, advertising the journal, will also be useful. Tony mentioned that other publishers have expressed interest in publishing EBJ. Laszlo suggested writing to all the Poster Prize winners, encouraging them to publish their work in EBJ. Tony

commented that it can be difficult to enforce that award winners write an article for EBJ. He further mentioned that articles in EBJ have a relatively long 'shelf-life', and that this is not reflected in the IF. He wondered whether the drop in the IF of EBJ has been due to some change in the way that the IF is calculated.

## 8. **Encyclopedia of Biophysics, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (AW)**

The title is now the 'Nature-Springer Encyclopedia of Biophysics', and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition is well underway. The Editors are Tony Watts and Gordon Roberts. A minimum of 25% of the material should be new or revised, and this target has already been met. The intended completion date was November 2017, but this has been put back, partly due to ill health of Gordon. The existing online version of the Encyclopedia has in excess of 100,000 downloads per year. EBSA receives little revenue, but considerable kudos, from the Encyclopedia. Wiley had planned to publish a similar Encyclopedia, but this has not materialized. Cell Press were also planning one, edited by Ed Engelman, but the status of this project is unclear.

## 9. **EBSA Young Investigator's Medal, and the Avanti/EBSA Award (JMS)**

John reminded the EC that the 2017 Young Investigator Award went to Dr. Philipp Kukura (Oxford), and the 2017 Avanti / EBSA Award went to Prof. Jean-Marie Ruyschaert (Brussels).

The deadline for nominations for the 2019 Awards will be 31st December 2019, and we will need to set up Selection Panels from the EC. John will write to all the EBSA Presidents inviting nominations from the National Societies for the Young Investigator's Medal, and reminding them that candidates for the Avanti/EBSA Award is by individual nomination.

## 10. **Future EBSA Congresses (AW)**

### **2019 Congress in Madrid**

Jesús Pérez Gil confirmed that the 12<sup>th</sup> EBSA Congress will be held jointly with the ICPB section of IUPAP. The dates are: Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2019, in the Madrid Congress Centre. The web domain [www.EBSA2019.org](http://www.EBSA2019.org) has been purchased (cost in the region of 50 Euro) to be used for the Congress website. It is possible that the ICPB will wish to do the same, rather than use the EBSA Congress website. In this case, the two domains should be linked (but not mirrored, as this causes problems with search engines).

**Action:** Jesus to try to purchase, on behalf of EBSA, the corresponding domains for 2021, 2023 and 2025, for future EBSA Congresses

### *Organising Committee*

The following names were suggested for IUPAP: Juan Manuel Parrondo (Madrid) and Saul Ares (Madrid).

There will be 12 members in total, with Jesus as chair.

A direct dialogue with IUPAP Council will be needed, and Helmut can advise on this.

A key issue which needs to be resolved is how much of the Congress will be decided by IUPAP.

The venue will be changed from Complutense University, due to the larger number of participants anticipated for the joint EBSA / IUPAP Congress.

Tony Watts asked whether hotel rooms had already been booked. Students will be able to stay on the University Campus.

## *Scientific committee*

A list of 10 suggested names has been sent by IUPAP. Tony Watts suggested that Ramin Golestanian (Chair of ICBP) would be a good choice as a Co-Chair. Given that he has moved from Oxford to Göttingen, it will be easy for Helmut to have a word with him about this.

Laszlo suggested that the entire EBSA EC should be members of the Scientific Committee, and this was agreed.

Helmut noted that there is no problem with having a large Scientific Committee.

**Action:** Helmut to sound out Ramin Golestanian

In terms of the balance between IUPAP and EBSA, it was felt that this should be either 33/67 or 25/75. It was suggested that the 9 Plenaries should be split 6-7 / 2-3, and the 24 Symposia 6-8 / 16-18.

Tony Watts pointed out that assigning suitable Chairs and Co-Chairs is crucial, and Jesus commented that the Plenaries are also crucial. Various potential candidates for Plenaries were discussed, including Stefan Hell, Randy Schekman, Jennifer Lippincott-Schwartz, Julio Fernandez, Eva Nogales and Gregory Voth.

The number of ICBP attendees at Rio de Janeiro was very low at 300, whereas in China it was 800.

In Madrid 2019, we may expect roughly 1,000 – 1,200 EBSA participants, and 500-600 IUPAP participants (at best).

**Action:** Jesus to speak with Ramin to agree the split of responsibilities

Tony Watts pointed out that there was more than one simulation session in Edinburgh 2017, and this was a very popular topic. Ilpo agreed, and felt that there should be a simulation Plenary.

24 Symposia are planned, and the full list will be needed within the next two months. It was noted that 'Protein Structure and Function' appeared to be missing from the preliminary list. Other possible topics are 'Channels', 'Microscopy', and 'Membrane Protein Structure'. Tony Watts noted that it is not necessary to include the term 'Biophysics' in the titles of Symposia.

**Action:** Jesus to ask IUPAP for suggestions for Symposia

Jesus confirmed that the estimated budget is €575,000, assuming 1,000 paying and 250 non-paying participants, waiving the Registration Fees for Chairs and Invited Speakers (96), and hiring 250 Poster panels. Tony Watts suggested making a flat contribution to Plenary speakers (\$1,500 if coming from the US), and to give out Student Bursaries in the form of Registration and Accommodation, with no money changing hands.

The planned Registration Fees are:

€590 – Early;

€710 – Late;

€300 – Student Early (the EC suggest reducing this to €295);

€450 – Student Late.

It is not yet clear whether Registration will include the cost of the Banquet – this will depend on the amount of sponsorship raised.

Insurance indemnity is already in place.

Exhibitors will only come for 2 days, setting up on Sunday, taking down on Wednesday.

86 sponsors have been contacted so far. Helmut offered to send Jesus a list of sponsors from the Dresden 2015 Congress. It will be good to find sponsorship for Poster prizes for each Symposium.

**Action:** Helmut send Jesus list of sponsors from Dresden 2015

The issue of sharing benefits with IUPAP will need to be resolved. Tony Watts asked whether they will provide to same proportion of underwriting as EBSA.

A Satellite is planned in Bilbao on 'Proteo-Lipid Nanostructures', from 25-27 July, co-organized with the French and Portuguese Societies (Chair: Vadim Frolov). A contribution of €2,500 from EBSA was agreed.

## 2021 EBSA Congress

Bids had been presented at the EBSA GA in Edinburgh by Elena Pohl (Vienna) and Elisha Haas (Jerusalem) and the merits of the two locations were discussed at some length. Both bids were felt to be strong, from countries where excellent biophysics research is done. However, a large majority of the EC had concerns that the number of attendees in Jerusalem might be too low, and so Vienna was selected as the venue for 2021.

The EC is keen to help promote Biophysics in the Eastern Mediterranean region, and it would welcome the organization of a smaller regional meeting, or an EBSA School in the area, and would be happy to provide some financial support.

## 2023 EBSA Congress

Potential interest has been expressed by Finland (Ilpo Vattulainen), Denmark (Daniel Otzen), and Sweden (Erik Lindahl) in hosting a future EBSA Congress. In line with EBSA's policy of moving the Congress around different geographical areas, we would welcome a bid from Scandinavia, with a presentation of the bid at the EBSA General Assembly in Madrid. This could be a joint bid from the Finnish, Swedish and Danish Societies, with the most likely venue being Copenhagen.

Other possibilities for future bids include:

- Poland and the Baltic States;
- The Balkan States;
- Slovakia / Czech Republic.

## 11. Report of ISE activities (JC)

Jose' gave some background to ISE, reporting that FEBS and EMBO have both removed their support. In consequence, there has been essentially no ISE activity in 2017. ISE is progressively merging with the much larger organization Euroscience (they are both now housed in the same building in Strasbourg). Euroscience membership is free for personal members, although there is also a Premium, paying membership. For EBSA, the most suitable would be Corporate membership, which would cost the same as our existing subscription to ISE. The ISE General assembly will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February. Following advice from Jose', the EC decided to withdraw from ISE with immediate effect, then consider joining Euroscience in 2019, once the usefulness for EBSA is clearer. The EC thanked Jose' for all his hard work over the years with ISE.

**Action:** Jose' to attend the Euroscience Forum (9 -14 July), if possible.

## 12. EBSA Website (LM) and Newsgroup (IV)

Laszlo informed the EC that there were 1,600 visitors to the EBSA website in the period Oct – Dec 2017. The nationalities of the most frequent visitors were UK (10%), Germany

(8%), USA (8%), Italy and India.

Ilpo reported that the EBSA Newsgroup has 1,500 members, with a further 600-700 names still to be added.

### 13. Student Bursaries (AM)

A summary table of working visit requests in 2017, and outcomes, was reported by Andre'.

### 14. Requests for EBSA support and reports (JMS for PEM)

Andre' pointed out that the EBSA EC had previously agreed a procedure to be followed in dealing with requests for support for meetings, and he suggested that it should be implemented. This was agreed by the EC.

**Action:** Andre' to remind Pierre-Emmanuel of the agreed procedure to be followed.

The following requests for funding were agreed:

International Conference Analytical and Nanoanalytical Methods for Biomedical and Environmental Sciences, "IC-ANMBES 2018"	Monica Florescu	Brassov, Romania	May 23-25, 2018	2,000 agreed	
EMBO Workshop on Challenges for Magnetic Resonance in Life Sciences	Parigi	Florentina	27 May - 1 June 2018	Two 400 Euro Bursaries – candidates to apply directly to EBSA	
AMPERE Biological Solid-State NMR School	Matthias Ernst	Zurich	21.-26.10.2018	2,400 agreed	
International Workshop on Biological Membranes: Tiny Lipids with Grand Functions	Ilpo Vattulainen	Helsinki	19-22 August, 2018	2,400 agreed	
7th Oxidative Stress, Calcium Signaling and TRP Channel World Congress	Mustafa Naziroglu	Isparta Univ	20-23 April, 2018	1,600 to be used for 4 Bursaries	
Regional Biophysics Conference 2016	Janez Štrancar	Ljubljana Univ	16-20 May, 2018	2,400 to be used for 6 bursaries	
EBSA Membrane	PE Milhiet	CBS, Montpellier	11-15 June, 2018	< 25,000 agreed	

biophysics				
Les Houches Workshop on Protein Dynamics	Martin Weik	Les Houches	27 May – June 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2018	2,400 agreed

Rob suggested that it would be a good idea to review the EBSA Membrane Biophysics School, as 2018 will be the sixth time it will have been running.

**Action:** John to inform Pierre-Emmanuel of the funding decisions;

**Action:** Pierre-Emmanuel to inform the organizers of the EBSA funding decisions, including the agreed paragraph on the procedure to be followed.

**Action:** Pierre-Emmanuel to report on the Membrane Biophysics School at the next EBSA EC.

It was also agreed that EBSA will support a Young Person's Workshop (Organiser: Tony Watts) as a Satellite to the 2019 Madrid Congress (costing to follow; this Workshop was successfully run both in Dresden in 2015, and in Edinburgh in 2017).

## 15. Member Societies (AW)

- The Swiss Society (Marcus Thelen) is now known as 'Molecular & Cellular Biosciences of Life Sciences Switzerland (LS2)';
- Ukraine (Alex Zholos) is a Full member and no action is required at present;
- Egypt (Heba Mohammed Fahmy and Fadel Ali) is a Full member, but has not paid its subscription for many years (ever?) – Tony will contact them to see if they are able to pay;
- The Lithuanian Society is keen to promote activity in the Baltic region, and Tony will interact with them to encourage and facilitate this;
- The Norwegian Society (Magnus Borstad Lilledahl) should decide itself how it wishes to proceed;
- More than 45 biophysicists in Ireland are interested in setting up a Society and a meeting is planned in 2018 Ireland (Peter Crowley);
- Greece (Antonios Kolocouros) is keen to start a Society but no action from EBSA is needed at present.

**Action:** Tony to write to Egyptian Society to see if they are able to pay their EBSA subscription.

**Action:** Tony to contact the Lithuanian Society to encourage them to set up a Baltic regional activity.

**Action:** Tony to write to Peter Crowley offering Ireland Associate membership of EBSA and encouraging them to consider holding future joint meetings with the British and French Societies.

Rob asked whether Arbre could join EBSA? John suggested that Associate Membership could be appropriate. Helmut pointed out that there is nothing in the EBSA Constitution which restricts membership to National Societies. John suggested that there is however an informal sense that EBSA's role is primarily to represent National Societies.

## 16. Any other business

Mauro / Rob and Andre' reported that the Arbre Satellite in Edinburgh was very successful.

17. **Date and location of next EC meeting:** Kosice, Slovakia; date to be decided by Doodle Poll

**Action:** John Seddon