



Meeting of the EBSA Executive Committee

Saturday 19th January 2019: Location: Historische Sternwarte, Göttingen

Present: Anthony Watts (President), Jesús Pérez-Gil (Vice President), Helmut Grubmüller (Past President), Elena Pohl (future President-Elect), John Seddon (Secretary), José Carrascosa (ISE), André Matagne (Bursaries), László Mátyus (co-opted: EBSA Webmaster), Rob Gilbert (EBJ), Mauro dalla Serra (IUPAB cross-representative), Jacqueline Cherfils, Ilpo Vattulainen (co-opted: EBSA Newsgroup), Pierre Emmanuel Milhiet (co-opted: EBSA Workshops Coordinator).

Minutes

1. Welcome and Apologies (AW)

Tony Watts welcomed the Committee and reported that Apologies were received from Tony Wilkinson and Pavol Miškovský. He gave thanks to Petra Kellers for a splendid job of organizing the meeting. On behalf of the EC, he extended a warm welcome to Elena Pohl, Vienna, who will become the EBSA President-Elect in Madrid in July 2019. After a round of introductions, he noted that we will need to think about new EC members. He also pointed out that the EBSA Indemnity insurance only covers the UK members of the EC. He proposed that we change the constitution such that the EBSA Trustees are only those members who are from the UK.

2. Minutes of the EC in Kosice (JMS)

In relation to the Action for Pavol to check with Martin Hof about the status of the Czech Society, Laszlo has spoken with colleagues in Prague and it appears that the Czech Society is no longer supported by its National Academy. It is possible that their subscription to IUPAB is no longer being covered.

Tony noted that he expects Israel to pay 3-4 years' subscription soon.

Helmut plans to apply for support for the International School of Physics, Erice, 2020.

Christian Eggeling was unable to attend the October 2018 meeting of the Turkish Society, so there was no one there representing EBSA.

Tony Watts gave a Plenary Lecture at the Lithuanian Biochemical society meeting in June 2018. They are forming a Baltic States Biophysics group, together with Latvia and Estonia. It was agreed that Latvia and Estonia should be proposed at the Madrid GA to be admitted as Full members of EBSA, without requiring them to pay the normal subscription (Lithuania is already a paying full member of EBSA).

The Minutes were accepted by the EC. John should send the previous Edited EC Minutes to Laszlo to put up in the Documents section of the EBSA website.

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3. Treasurer's report (AW)

Tony Watts gave a summary of the Treasurer's report in Tony Wilkinson's absence.

In terms of member societies, he suggested that Norway should be ineligible to vote or request support until they start paying their subscription. He noted that Greece are hoping to form a Biophysics Society and stated that we should encourage them to join EBSA. There may be critical mass in Ireland to form a new Society. Tony has been in discussions with Peter Crowley about the possibility of holding a joint meeting with the British Biophysical Society in 2020. Rob noted that the EBJ has an Editor from Ireland, and there is a Irish member of ARBRE. He will forward details to Tony and John. Laszlo mentioned the possibility of a Bulgarian Biophysics Society, and Tony suggested that Boris Tenchov would be a good contact. Laszlo will investigate.

Tony mentioned that the accounting procedures for the EBSA accounts are changing.

The overall picture with the EBSA finances is still positive, although the funds have fallen by some €31K, due to a relatively large amount of support funding being given out.

The €62K annual income from Springer has recently been paid.

Meeting sponsorship of approx. £90K was secured for the Edinburgh 2017 Congress. John asked whether the final accounts from this Congress were ready. Tony replied that the IoP had not yet finalized them, but there should be a net surplus of approximately £35K, which will be divided between the sponsoring societies. Tony plans to report on this in Madrid in July.

Laszlo reminded the EC that the Minutes from the Edinburgh GA of 2017 need to be formally accepted at the GA in Madrid.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted by the EC.

4. Report on European Biophysics Journal (RG)

The Springer contract for the EBJ is due for renewal in 2010, and takes 18 – 24 months to negotiate.

He reminded the EC that the Publication Committee consists of the Managing Editor of EBJ, the EBSA President, and the EBSA Treasurer.

The Impact Factor of EBJ was 1.935 in 2017 (5-year average 1.637).

Springer is happy with the journal, which is regarded as strong (IF is not the only metric they use). It has a high rejection rate of 55%, and is much less expensive than Biophysical Journal.

There are many submissions from China, India, Iran and South America, some of which are rather weak.

Rob would like to see more simulation papers submitted, and would like to see networks like ARBRE publishing in EBJ.

For 2017, the top ten full-text requests ranged from 1,895 to 822 in number. The top one is by Antoinette Killian, based on her Avanti Award lecture. Iva Tolic has published a review based on her Young Investigator Award lecture. Reviews tend to be highly cited.

There were 8 Issues of EBJ in 2018 (2 Special Issues, for Manfred Eigen's 90th birthday, and for the AUC 2017 Satellite to the 2017 EBSA Congress).

There will be forthcoming Special Issues based upon RBC2018, and the Protein-Lipid Nanostructures Satellite in Bilbao to the Madrid 2019 EBSA Congress (Abstracts for this Satellite will be included in the main Congress Abstract volume).

Laszlo noted that the next RBC meeting will be in Hungary, and will also have a Special Issue of EBJ. Rob will supply a template to Laszlo. Tony noted that EBSA is keen to promote regional groups, and Laszlo replied that RBC is very successful.

Rob noted that meeting reports count for the IF of the journal.

Rob reported the following new handling editors: Dirk Gillespie, Rainer Boeckmann, Mauro dalla Serra, Daumantas Michilis, and Antonio Benedetto. He also noted that Frances Separovic will retire in 2019, to be replaced by Megan O'Mara from Canberra.

Jesus asked whether more Special Issues are need, which Rob confirmed, and Jesus suggested that perhaps Session Chairs from the Madrid Congress could organize special Issues of 8 – 10 papers based on their sessions.

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

Tony stated that royalties of €4K - €5K come to EBSA each year from the Encyclopedia. There are many hundreds of thousands of downloads per year.

For the new Edition to be valid, at least 25% of the material should be new. Of 619 contributions, 215 are revisions, and 298 are overdue. The 2nd edition should be signed off soon.

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

Young Investigator Award (€2,000). Nominations were received from:

Egypt, France, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Spain and the UK.

The Selection Panel was agreed as: Ilpo (Chair), Elena, Andre, and Pavol.

Avanti / EBSA Award (\$3,000).

Two nominations were received, from France and Germany.

The Selection Panel was agreed as: Laszlo (Chair), Elena, and Rob.

Tony will organize the Medals and Certificates, and will make the presentations to the winners in Madrid. Tony Wilkinson should pay the prize money, and reclaim the funds from Avanti for the Avanti/EBSA Award.

Photos of the presentations will be needed, and Laszlo will check whether he has photos of the presentations from the Edinburgh 2017 Congress.

7. **Future EBSA Congresses (AW)**

2019 Congress: Madrid (Jesús Pérez Gil)

Jesus reported that the Programme is mainly filled.

The First EC meeting will be scheduled from 15.00 – 17.00 on Saturday 20th July.

The Congress opening will be at 17.30, with the Greg Winter Plenary at 18.00.

[Note added later: Tony suggests that we should hold a dinner on the Saturday evening for the EBSA EC, Greg Winter, and perhaps the EBSA Award winners.]

On Sunday 21st, the Avanti lecture will be scheduled at 15.45, and the Young Investigator lecture at 16.30.

The EBSA President's meeting will be held from 13.00 – 15.00 on Monday 22nd.

The EBSA General Assembly will be held from 19.00 – 20.00 on Tuesday 23rd, followed by a dinner for the Organizing Committee, the EBSA EC, and the Plenary Speakers.

The 2nd EBSA EC will be scheduled for 13.00 – 15.00 on Wednesday 24th.

The Congress Dinner will be held at 21.00 on Wednesday evening, at the University Botanic Gardens. The cost will be €25 - €30, but Invited Speakers will not pay. Sponsors should also be invited.

COST Actions: there will be an ARBRE session and possibly a GPCR one (Tony Watts to check).

Altogether there will be 8 Plenaries, 56 Chairs, and 84 Speakers (of which 56 have confirmed, 23 are pending, and 5 are lacking). Particularly problematic is the session on Liquid-Liquid Phase Separation (Chair: Dimova), for which all invited speakers have declined. It may be necessary to scrap this session. It could be worthwhile seeking advice from Tom McLeish (York University), who works in this area.

Current deadlines:

Bursaries – 15th March;
Abstract submission – 20th January to 20th March (or 27th);
Oral selection – 4th April;
Presenters' registration deadline – 15th April.

John will write to the EBSA Presidents, giving details of the Congress along with the deadlines.

There will be 60 EBSA Bursaries, which will cover Registration and Accommodation (value in the range €500 - €600).

The Bursary Panel will consist of: Andre (Chair), Jacqueline, Mauro and John.

EI Escorial EBSA Summer School

Tony reported that this will run from the afternoon of 17th July until midday on Saturday 20th July. There will be 50-60 students, and a number of lecturers, including Tony, Jesus, Manuel Prieto, and John. The website is linked to the main Congress webpage. Tony has applied to IUPAB for €4,500 support. The Registration Fee should be very low, in the region of €50 - €80, including accommodation.

2021 EBSA Congress: Vienna (Elena Pohl)

Elena stated that the Organizing Committee met in Vienna on 7th December 2018, and she confirmed that the dates of the Congress will be Sunday 25th July – Wednesday 28th July 2021. The Vienna Convention Bureau would provide €13- €15K in support, but would charge €100K for organizing the Congress. The EC felt this was too high, and asked that Elena obtain quotes from other companies. Helmut advised that it is better to use a company than a university to organize the Congress. Tony suggested using a National Society or Academy if possible, as these should be cheaper.

The preferred venue is the Hofburg in the Centre of Vienna, and this was provisionally approved by the EC.

The Registration Fees are provisionally planned as being €640 (€410 for students), based on a 4-day meeting, or €500 (€320 for students), based on a 3.5 day meeting. The break-even point is estimated to be 1,000 participants. Tony advised that it will be best to go for a 4-day meeting, and that the organizers should try to keep the costs down.

2023 and 2025 EBSA Congresses

It was agreed that John will write to the EBSA Presidents, inviting bids for the 2023 / 2025 Congresses, to be presented at the EBSA GA in Madrid.

8. EBSA Course in Membranes, Montpellier (PEM)

Pierre-Emmanuel has organized and run this course 3 times, and would like to stop. It was agreed that it should be renewed and revised, and change location. The likely date would be summer 2020. Helmut wondered whether we could join forces with the Croatian school. Jesus suggested that the membranes group in Bilbao would be interested in running it, and it was agreed that Tony would contact the Bilbao group to check whether they are willing to express an interest.

The EC expressed its thanks to Pierre-Emmanuel for his fantastic work in running the Course over the last 6 years.

9. EBSA participation in Euroscience (JC)

Jose reported that ISE weakened 2 years ago due to financial constraints, but is now recovering. Euroscience is much larger than ISE, with many activities. His advice is that we resume paying a subscription to ISE. It was agreed that Jose will attend the Spring meeting of ISE, and then we will make a decision at the EC meeting in Madrid. As Jose is standing down from the EC, we will need to find a replacement for him to cover ISE / Euroscience.

The EC expressed its thanks to Jose for all the hard work he has done for EBSA over the years.

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

Laszlo reported that all is well with the EBSA website. Tony requested that Laszlo report at a future meeting on the website traffic.

Ilpo reported that there are now roughly 2,000 members on the Newsgroup mailing list.

11. IUPAB (MDS)

Mauro noted that IUPAB is becoming more collaborative, and he reminded the EC that EBSA is a full member, with 3 votes.

12. Student Bursaries (AM)

There were 4 student bursaries awarded in 2018, to a total amount of €3,210. The EC expressed its thanks to Andre for looking after EBSA bursaries in a highly professional way.

13. Requests for EBSA support and reports (PEM)

Support of €2K was agreed for the Bilbao Satellite meeting.

Jesus was encouraged to ask the Spanish Chairs to see whether more Satellites can be organized.

14. Member Societies (AW)

Nothing additional to note.

15. Any other business (AW)

Pavol and Jose will both leave the EC in July. The EBSA constitution allows for 6 Officers, and up to 11 members, of whom up to 5 can be co-opted. It was agreed that Helmut would approach Claudia Steinem to see if she is willing to be nominated for the EC. It was agreed that Andre will be co-opted to continue in charge of Bursaries, and that John will be put forward again as Secretary. Tony will investigate whether Manuela Pereira might be willing to be nominated for the EC. It was also agreed that it would be desirable to have an Eastern European candidate.

Tony reiterated that liability insurance costs EBSA £1,300 per year, but only covers the UK Trustees. He proposed changing the EBSA Constitution so that the EC elects the Trustees, and this is then ratified at the General Assembly. Currently the entire EC make up the Trustees.

16. Date and location of next EC meetings:

Saturday 20th and Wednesday 24th July, Madrid.

The January 2020 EC meeting will be held in Vienna, hosted by Elena Pohl.
