



## Minutes of the 16<sup>th</sup> EBSA General Assembly

Room Paris, Madrid Congress Centre, 19.00 – 20.00, Tuesday 23rd July 2019

*The Executive Committee:* Anthony Watts (President), Jesús Pérez-Gil (Vice President), Helmut Grubmüller (Past President), Elena Pohl (co-opted: organiser of the 2021 EBSA Congress), Tony Wilkinson (Treasurer), John Seddon (Secretary), Rob Gilbert (EBJ), José Carrascosa (ISE), André Matagne (Bursaries), Mauro dalla Serra (IUPAB cross-representative), Jacqueline Cherfils, László Mátyus (co-opted: EBSA Webmaster), Ilpo Vattulainen (co-opted: EBSA Newsgroup), Pierre-Emmanuel Milhiet (co-opted: EBSA Workshops Coordinator).

*Representatives of the National Societies:* Austria (Thomas Stockner), Belgium (Robert Charly), Croatia (Tom Vuletic), Finland (Thomas Nyholm), France (Matthieu Chavent), Germany (Claudia Steinem), Israel (Elisha Haas), Italy (Silvia Caponi), Lithuania (Saulius Satkauskas), Portugal (Nuno Santos), Romania (Ioan Turcu), Russian Federation (Oleg Batishchev), Serbia (Ksenija Radotić), Slovenia (Janez Strancar), Sweden (Maria Sunnerhagen), Switzerland (Bruno Correia), Turkey (Beky Kan), UK (Peter Judge).

### 1. Welcome

The General Assembly was opened by the President of EBSA, Prof. Anthony Watts, who welcomed all present.

### 2. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was adopted by a unanimous show of hands.

### 3. Minutes from the General Assembly meeting in Edinburgh in 2017

The Minutes were approved unanimously by the Assembly. They will be published on the EBSA website after approval by the EC.

### 4. Report of the President, including Secretary's report

Tony Watts reported on EBSA activities since 2017, and gave a brief verbal report on the 11<sup>th</sup> EBSA Congress held in Edinburgh in 2017.

The EBSA Executive Committee has met four times since the 2017 Congress, in Venice (Jan 2018), Kosice (June 2018), Göttingen (Jan 2019), and Madrid (July 2019).

The Springer-Nature contract for the European Biophysics Journal (for which EBSA holds the copyright) runs until 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021; this provides the bulk of EBSA's income, but the amount EBSA receives is reducing, due to changes in the publishing world.

EBSA only provides support for other congresses, visiting fellowships, bursaries and workshops in alternate years when there is no EBSA Congress.

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It also provides support for Biophysics Schools, and will consider applications for support of scientific visits to other laboratories (the rules are on the EBSA website).

The 5th EBSA Membranes Workshop was held in La Grande Motte, Southern France in June 2018; the local organiser was Pierre-Emmanuel Milhiet.

EBSA is an adhering member of IUPAB with full 3-vote rights.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Avanti Polar Lipids / EBSA Prize, with a monetary value of US\$3,000, has been awarded for the fourth time in 2019, to Prof. Bruno Antonny, France.

The 10<sup>th</sup> EBSA Young Investigator's Medal and Prize for 2019, with a monetary value of €2,000 has been awarded to Dr. Pere Roca-Cusachs, Spain.

The EBSA Newsgroup is expanding. National Societies should inform their members and encourage them to enroll – details on the EBSA web site.

The report of the President and the Secretary was approved unanimously.

## 5. Treasurer's report

Tony Wilkinson provided a report on EBSA finances. EBSA is a registered charity in the UK (Charity No. 1059024). EBSA revenues are not subject to UK taxation. The Accounts of the Association are audited in accordance with the rules of the Charities Commission by Messrs. Sam Rogoff & Co., Chartered Accountants, of 167-169 Great Portland Street, London, W1W 5PF. Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 are being prepared by Sam Rogoff & Co., and will be filed with the Charity Commission. Copies will be published on the Association's website: <http://www.ebsa.org>.

EBSA's most recent Return to the UK Charities Commission can be viewed at <http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/registerhomepage.aspx> and typing the Charity Registration Number 1059024 into the Search Box.

For the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019, the income was €79,859 (of which €67,584 came from Springer-Nature), and the expenditure was €126,447. The current balance is €228,187. EBSA contributions to activities such as Schools, Workshops, Conferences and Bursaries came to €86,306.

The EBSA subscription statuses of the National Societies for the period 2012-2018 was reviewed. Norway is missing all years of payment. The subscription is €2 per member. For any National Society that is struggling to pay their subscription, EBSA will consider reducing or waiving it and retain membership as an Associate Society.

The report of the Treasurer was approved unanimously.

## 6. Report from the Managing Editor of the European Biophysics Journal (RG)

Rob Gilbert gave a brief report on the current position of the European Biophysics Journal. The Impact Factor has risen in 2018-2019. A number of popular Special Issues have been published.

## 7. Modification of the Statutes (Vote on proposal by EBSA Executive Committee to change the trustees of EBSA)

Approval was requested from the General Assembly to modify the EBSA constitution to change the Trustees of EBSA from the entire Executive Committee, to only the UK-based Officers, in order to ensure liability insurance cover, which is only valid within the UK. This request was approved.

## 8. Election of members of the EBSA Executive Committee

Voting is by secret ballot.

The Executive Committee after the General Assembly consists of:

- Jesus Perez-Gil, Spain, EBSA President, EBSA Officer
- Tony Watts, UK, ex-officio Past President
- Rob Gilbert, UK, Managing Editor of the European Biophysics Journal, ex-officio

According to the EBSA rules voting at the General Assembly was conducted with one vote for each National Society and one vote for each Member of the Executive Committee.

Voting took place for nominations of the following officers and members:

### ***Nominations for Officers:***

The Executive Committee proposed election of:

- Elena Pohl, Austria, as Vice President, 2021 EBSA Congress Organiser in Vienna

The Executive Committee proposed re-election of:

- Tony Wilkinson, UK, as Treasurer, EBSA Officer
- John Seddon, UK, as Secretary, EBSA Officer
- André Matagne, Belgium, as ordinary member
- Jacqueline Cherfils, France, as ordinary member
- Mauro Dalla Serra, Italy, as ordinary member

New candidates, nominated by their National Biophysical Societies, were:

- Dejan Žikić, Serbia
- Sarah Koester, Germany
- Nuno C. Santos, Portugal

Before the election took place, the new candidates or their representatives gave brief introductions and explained to the General Assembly how their election will further the aims of EBSA.

There were a total of six Ordinary Member positions available.

All Officers and Ordinary Members were elected by a majority of the votes cast (32).

## 9. New Member Societies

An application to join EBSA from the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria, Section of Biochemistry, Biophysics and Molecular Biology was approved unanimously.

<https://www.febs.org/our-members/the-bulgarian-biochemical-biophysical-and-molecular-biology-society/>

## 10. Next EBSA Congress: Vienna 2021

Prof. Elena Pohl gave a brief presentation to the General Assembly of the plans for the 2021 Congress in Vienna.

## 11. Future EBSA Congresses

Short presentations to the General Assembly of bids for the 2023 Congress were made by:

- Israel (Prof. Elisha Haas)
- Serbia (Prof. Pavle Andjus)

## 12. Any Other Business and Closing remarks

Prof. Anthony Watts thanked everyone present for their contributions, and formally handed over the EBSA Presidency to Prof. Jesús Pérez-Gil.