

## Meeting of the EBSA Executive Committee, Hamburg

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024. Location: HARBOR, Building 610.

### Present:

Maria Sunnerhagen (President); Elena Pohl (Past President); Mauro Dalla Serra (Vice President); John M Seddon (Secretary); Tony Wilkinson (Treasurer); Rob Gilbert (EBJ); Coralie Bompard; Aitziber López Cortajarena; Arwen Pearson; Nuno Santos; László Mátyus (co-opted: EBSA Webmaster); Helmut Grubmüller (co-opted: future congresses); Pierre-Emmanuel Milhiet (co-opted: EBSA Workshops Coordinator); Anthony Watts (co-opted, IUPAB).

*Guest (Agenda item 18):* Roland Netz (EBSA Co-Chair of IUPAB/EBSA 2027 Congress)

## Draft Edited Minutes

### 1. Welcome and Apologies (MS)

Maria welcomed the Committee and noted that Apologies were received from Tony Watts and Dejan Žikic. The Agenda of the meeting was approved. Arwen and her Assistant Elena Kornilova were thanked for making all the arrangements for the EC meeting and the facilities visit.

### 2. Minutes of the EC meetings on 31 July and 4 August 2023 (JMS)

Minutes for both EC meetings were read and, with minor and small corrections, approved.

Related to these minutes and in view of the upcoming EBSA-2027 meeting in Berlin, Helmut informed that he has suggested to Tony Watts (incoming IUPAB President) that Ingrid Tesmer and Charlotte Utrecht would be suitable German candidates for election to the IUPAB Council.

The Minutes for the January 2023 EC meeting, and the EC meetings from Stockholm, approved at the General Assembly in Stockholm, will be put on the EBSA website.

**Action:** John to send Laszlo the corrected and approved EC Minutes from 21 Jan 2023, 31 July 2023 and 4 August 2023, to be published on the EBSA website.

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

The Minutes of the 2021 General Assembly, approved at the General Assembly in Stockholm in 2023, were also approved by the EC and can now be published on the EBSA website.

**Action:** Laszlo to publish the Minutes of the 2021 General Assembly on the EBSA website.

It was noted that the 2023 General Assembly approved a revision to the EBSA Constitution and Rules, "to suspend membership of any National Society that is more than three years behind in paying its EBSA subscription".

**Action:** John to send Laszlo the revised EBSA Constitution and Rules, for him to put up on the EBSA website.

### 4. EBSA Presidents' meeting in Stockholm – for info (EP)

The contents of the President's report on EBSA as presented by Elena in Stockholm was briefly reviewed, and considered by the EC to be an excellent presentation of EBSA activities. As such, it was agreed that it should go on the EBSA website after some minor editing by Elena.

**Action:** Elena to do minor editing of her President's report and send to Laszlo to put on the EBSA website.

Elena suggested also sending the slides of her President's report to the EBSA Presidents, and to the Newsgroup members.

**Action:** Elena to send her edited President's report to John and Arwen to send to the EBSA Presidents, and Newsgroup, respectively.

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

The Annual Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2023 have been audited and approved by our accountants. Tony presented a summary of EBSA's financial position. At 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024, the overall balance was €189,540 (£164,817), which is healthy. He reminded the EC that the balance fluctuates, as large credits and debits occur at various points in the year. The income (€84,884) and expenditure (€88,887) for the year are close to being in balance. The next payment of approximately €80,000 from Springer is expected in April. Out of this sum are paid the EBJ Editorial expenses of up to €20,000. Subscription income amounted to €6,439, and Committee expenses of €6,586 were incurred at the Stockholm Congress (significant accommodation costs and all registration costs were covered by the Congress organisers). Contributions of €61,400 to meetings and bursaries were made this year, most of which

was €50,000 to the EBSA 2023 Congress. The bulk of the last sum is expected to be returned to EBSA from the Stockholm Congress surplus (see **11** below).

The Treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

Tony highlighted the subscription status of all the member societies, and he noted that Romania has not paid since 2021, and are in danger of suspension from EBSA.

**Action:** Tony Wilkinson to write to the Romanian society to warn them that they will be suspended if they don't pay by the end of 2024.

**Action:** Maria to speak with Wouter Roos, Groningen, to find out what the situation is with the Netherlands.

Tony mentioned that the EBSA Trustees are each year asked more and more questions by the Charity Commissioners. Maria stated that we now have a proposed Ethical Code of Conduct that can be reported to them (see **15** below). Arwen offered to become a Trustee, and this was agreed.

**Action:** Tony to inform the Charity Commissioners that Arwen is a new Trustee.

## 6. EBJ (RG)

Rob highlighted the new European Biophysics Journal Prizes. In an Editorial article in the current issue of EBJ (Volume 52, Issue 8, No 2023), he reviews the two EBJ Prizes at EBSA 2023: "Peptide-based pore formation" and "cell membrane deformation". The Prize Panel was Rob, Elena and Nuno. They assessed all EBJ papers from 2020 and 2021. They will do this again for the EBSA 2025 Rome Congress, assessing papers from 2022 and 2023.

Elena commented that the Prizes had not been well-publicized, and they should be highlighted on the EBSA website. Nuno suggested circulating info on the 2023 Journal Prizes via the EBSA Newsgroup.

**Action:** Laszlo to publicize the 2023 EBJ Journal Prizes on the EBSA website, using the two Prize certificates which can be obtained from Rob, together with a link to the EBJ Editorial article.

**Action:** Arwen to circulate info on 2023 Journal Prizes once the Newsgroup is working again.

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Rob informed the EC that there was an upwards trend in submissions to EBJ in 2020, which may have been Covid-related, and which has subsequently gone down somewhat. The Springer agreement states that there are supposed to be a minimum of 80 articles published per year, but this target has not been reached in 2022 (50 articles) or 2023 (63 articles). The journal is quite dependent on Special Issues, such as AUC 2019. Rob stated that the EBJ impact factor is currently 2.0. Pierre-Emmanuel asked if we should encourage reviews. Rob confirmed that a number of these have already been published in EBJ, and that 'technical primers' are also encouraged.

The EBJ website has been updated, but is still not very attractive. However, Springer will not allow it to be redesigned.

Rob explained how he, Aitziber and Maria used the EBSA-2023 evaluation to search for new contributors to the journal. Based on this he has reviewed and revamped the EBJ Editorial Board, and he summarised the new list of Board members. Sadly, EBJ has now lost its Editorial Board member in Australia. Springer have carried out a review of the new Editorial Board, as required by ISI.

Rob wrote to 149 Corresponding Authors from Biophysical Journal papers, inviting them to consider EBJ. He has contacted various people to encourage them to submit to Special Issues. He stressed the importance of Special issues, and asked the EC to keep in mind to suggest people.

The EC suggested that Rob should send a follow-up letter to responders to the EBSA-2023 inquiry that showed an interest to submit to EBJ. Similarly to the EBSA-2023 poster winners, since it is good for young scientists' CVs to have received an invitation to submit an article. Ron Clarke (current IUPAB secretary-general) could be approached to suggest Australian EBJ Editorial Board member(s).

**Action:** Rob to send a follow-up letter to potential authors to invite submissions, and to contact Ron Clarke to ask for advice about engaging with the Australian biophysics community.

**Action:** Maria to send a list of EBSA-2023 Poster Prize winners and Prize Lecturers to Rob for an EBJ submission invite.

Nuno suggested that we could invite each congress that we sponsor to contribute to a Special Issue (or a half one). Aitziber mentioned that the Spanish Society was approached by another publisher, wanting to publish the forthcoming joint Spanish / French / Portuguese meeting.

The EC unanimously agreed that meetings supported by EBSA should be invited to publish a Special Issue (or similar) in EBJ.

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**Action:** Pierre-Emmanuel to coordinate inviting organizers of congresses sponsored by EBSA to contribute to a Special Issue in EBJ, and put into the instructions for sponsoring that such a contribution is expected.

**Action:** Rob to put together a suitable draft invitation letter, and send to Nuno, Pierre-Emmanuel and Aitziber for comments / editing.

Rob informed the EC that Meran Lloyd Owen has left Springer and has been replaced by Stephanie Dether (in a temporary capacity). He further asks the EC to note that although the EBJ contract with Springer still has 3 years to run, we need to start reflecting on its possible continuation.

Aitziber presented how Protein Society works together with Wiley to enhance the impact of their journal Protein Science (from 2.4 to 8). To build up a database of potential contributors, they ask Wiley to look for papers they publish in their other journals which could have been published in Protein Science, not too driven by impact factors. They list the number of citations of each paper. The PS then draws up a master list which is discussed by the PS Council, and high-listed authors receive an invitation to submit a paper to the annual special issue "Tools for Protein Science". Ideas and invitations are collected and shared over a year. As articles are accepted they are published as virtual papers, and then go into the annual special issue.

The EC expressed their warmest thanks to Rob for all his hard work on EBJ. Rob confirmed that he is happy with the general direction of travel of EBJ at the moment.

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

Tony was not present to give an update on the Encyclopedia.

John mentioned that he and Tony are writing an updated history of EBSA for its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary (1984-2024), for publication in EBJ this year. They have so far been unable to establish who was EBSA President between 1987 and 1990.

## 8. **EBSA Website (LM) and Newsgroup (AP)**

### **EBSA website**

Maria noted that the EBSA website is not very interactive. She is conscious that we do not have an administrator to look after it, but asked what we want the website to do for EBSA?

Laszlo confirmed that there are approx. 20,000 visitors per year, of whom many are new. 3 pages are visited per person on average. Maria

asked which pages they tend to visit, but Laszlo stated that this information is not readily to hand. He stated that most visitors are from Germany, then from the USA. He is not convinced that new formats would bring any improvement. He feels that the most useful thing is the info on congresses, whether or not EBSA-supported. Listing EBSA Prizes is also useful. He noted that making changes to the map of member Societies is a lot of work and should be avoided if possible. The email addresses of the EC have been removed from the website, although those of John (Secretary), Pierre-Emmanuel (Sponsorship), and Nuno (Bursaries) are still available. John noted that spam emails requesting help, claiming to come from the EBSA President (and also from the President of IUPAB), are received from time to time, and should be ignored.

The EC discussed whether Facebook or Twitter / X could be used to spread information about EBSA ongoing activities but concluded that this would be a lot of work to maintain. It was agreed that it is important to update relevant information about EBSA timely continuously, which to some degree can be achieved on the current EBSA website.

Arwen asked whether we could set up a 'Young Biophysicists Group'; such a group could help with social media. Arwen stated that they should

- have a representative on the EC
- be given the opportunity to organize a half-day session at the EBSA Congress.

Nuno explained that the Portuguese Society has set up such a group, and that they look after social media. Nuno explained that they set it up by asking each Committee member to nominate one young person. A nominated person could be offered free participation in the Rome Congress. It was noted that this needs discussion with Mauro (as Chair of the Rome Congress), and also may impact the pre-Congress Summer School. The EC suggested to engage with the Portuguese / Spanish / French meeting as a first step, and to proceed from there.

Arwen's proposal to ask a Young Biophysicist Group to help with social media was approved unanimously by the EC.

**Action:** Mauro, Arwen and Nuno to work towards setting up an EBSA Young Biophysicists Group, with a progress report in the next EC meeting.

**Action:** John to look into whether EBSA Rules need to be modified to include a Young Biophysicist Group representative in the EC, and, if so, take appropriate steps to have it approved by the General Assembly in Rome 2025.

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PEM suggested that we could ask the Young Scientists Group to produce a new logo for EBSA. Maria proposed asking them what their view is of the logo. Rob feels we should keep the logo, but redraw it in a more modern way, and that a professional should be employed to do this.

**Action:** Pierre-Emmanuel, Rob and Laszlo to commission a new EBSA logo, for discussion at the next EC meeting.

**Action:** Pierre-Emmanuel to send a higher resolution EBSA logo to Laszlo and John, for use until a new logo is available.

## **EBSA Newsgroup**

Arwen is now in charge of the EBSA Newsgroup. Everything is now technically set up at Universität Hamburg to run the Newsgroup from there, and she is waiting for Ilpo to send over all the relevant membership data.

**Action:** Arwen to send a reminder to Ilpo to send her all the membership data for the EBSA Newsgroup.

## **9. Requests for EBSA support and reports and discussion of plans for future EBSA Schools / Biophysics Courses (PEM)**

Pierre-Emmanuel summarized the requests for sponsorship, and these were agreed as follows:

- Spanish/Port/France San Sebastian: €4,000 previously agreed;
- Sinaia Summer School, Bucharest: €1,500;
- Forces in cells, Stockholm: not supported;
- EJTEMM, Debrecen: €1,500;
- Biophysics Workshop Kotor: not supported;
- Biophysics Festival, Covilhã: €1,000.

**Action:** Pierre-Emmanuel and Mauro to engage with the Biophysics Festival organizers to encourage them to connect with the Rome Congress.

**Action:** Pierre-Emmanuel to write to Prof Andjus, explaining why funding was not approved.

## **10. Student Bursaries (NS)**

Nuno presented new text for the online application form for an EBSA Bursary for a working visit, as well as the Rules. This was approved after minor modification to the wording.

**Action:** John to send the approved versions of the Bursary form and Rules to Laszlo and Nuno.

## 11. Report on EBSA 2023 Congress in Stockholm (MS)

Maria gave a Powerpoint presentation on the 2023 EBSA Congress in Stockholm. There were 1,042 participants, of whom 821 were paying and 221 were non-paying (speakers, session chairs, EC members). The revenue was SEK6,462,800, and the costs were SEK5,374,292, giving a surplus of SEK1,088,588 (approximately €96,000). In addition to the main Congress, there were four Satellite meetings and a pre-Congress Summer School.

**Action:** Maria to send John her Powerpoint presentation on the 2023 EBSA Congress.

**Pre-Congress Summer School:** there were 65 students, of whom only 6 or 7 were EBSA Bursary awardees. Despite lots of voluntary efforts and free facilities offered by Stockholm University, the School made a loss of approx €6,000 (or approx €3,000 after the agreed contribution of €3,000 from EBSA, which is still to come). The traditional EBSA Summer School concept has served the congresses well over many years and the evaluations are good. However, it is difficult to continue the present two-day format budgetwise. Increasing the fee would make it even less accessible to financially sensitive Bursary awardees, and two days of lectures were quite tiring for the students with a full congress to follow. Furthermore, in Stockholm, the number of students that wished to attend was much larger than could be accommodated (for 65 places, the registration had to pre-close at 200 highly qualified applications). Maria concluded that she and her EBSA-2023 co-chairs strongly suggest that EBSA student support should be directed to budgetwise sustainable activities, be inclusive to the increasing number of students and postdocs in the congress, and meet their needs.

Mauro feels that a 'Young Persons' session in some form could be a good replacement. He is not in favour of organizing a pre-Congress Summer School, as it is too much work and too expensive. Maria proposed that EBSA should give €3,000 to Young Biophysicists for dedicated activities (organizing a scientific session, a lunch, a dinner...). Suggestions from the EC included Speaker/student lunches, Science career session, meeting meeting of the Young Biophysicists / Bursary Awardees with the EBJ Editors, organizing a scientific session, and engaging an emerging EBSA Young Biophysicist group.

Taken all this into consideration, the EC unanimously agreed that Mauro should not be required to organize a pre-Congress summer school in



Rome. Instead, Mauro's team is asked to propose alternatives based on total support from EBSA at the level of €3,000.

**Action:** Mauro to arrange a round-table lunch for EBSA Bursary students with Plenary Speakers during the Rome Congress.

**Action:** Mauro to present an alternative activity to the Summer School for Young Biophysicists at the next EC meeting.

Nuno stated that he has received 40 Bursary reports, which was a reasonable number. He has sent a summary document to Mauro, listing positive and negative aspects, as well as suggestions for changes in future events, highlighted in the reports.

## 12. Discussion points from the EBSA-2023 evaluation (MS)

Maria summarised the take-home messages from the evaluation. Average ratings for science, talks, sessions and social program were >>4 on a 5-degree scale, which was an excellent outcome. Issues needing attention were the lunches and coffees and the Poster session which both landed on an average 3. MKON were fairly happy with the lunches' rating, which was considered quite good for a large congress where cold food needs to be served. Negative Poster ratings were largely due to crowding, in turn caused by the larger than expected number of Posters presented (around 650) and the large number of poster session attendees during the mid-day sessions. Advantages and disadvantages with poster sessions during lunch/evening were discussed. Maria suggested that going forward, with increasing number of students and thereby poster presentations, there should be a dedicated Working Group set up to look after Posters (eg, in Rome 2025). Information on which were the most popular scientific sessions has been sent to Mauro to feed into the planning for the Rome Congress.

It was noted that award lectures have been the tradition at EBSA congresses and if/how more such lectures could/should be accommodated. Maria proposed that we should introduce 1 – 2 new EBSA Awards for 2025. Possible areas could include protein or cell biophysics, and an example of a possible sponsor mentioned was BioNTech. The Awards should contain the company names, and should be a long-term commitment. Aitziber mentioned that the senior Award of the Spanish Society is sponsored by Bruker. This will need to be reviewed in the next EC meeting.

**Action:** All EC members to suggest names of contacts in companies, sending full contact details to John, for forwarding the list to Maria.

**Action:** Maria, as EBSA President, to email round companies as potential sponsors, using a text drafted by Arwen.

Maria thanked EBSA for giving the Swedish groups and Societies the opportunity to host the EBSA Congress.

John proposed to Minute thanks from the EBSA EC to Maria and her team for organizing a fantastic congress, and this was enthusiastically endorsed by the EC.

### 13. Long-term collaboration with Protein Society (MS)

Preamble: "the Protein Society wishes to continue to collaborate in EBSA congresses as a long-term engagement, by sponsoring EBSA congresses by 15-20 000 Euro and be actively involved and take responsibility in the planning. In Stockholm, this was a win-win and helped us to reach out to biophysics speakers & participants in wider and novel contexts. Pros & cons should be discussed here before we return to them on this."

Maria stressed that this is a big commitment – does the EC support this?

Mauro stated that they already have four protein sessions planned for the Rome 2025 EBSA Congress, and he is positive about involving the Protein Society. Maria stated that for maximum synergy, a Protein Society member should be included in the EBSA-2025 scientific committee. She also said that EBSA has a lot to learn from the Protein Society in catering to the needs of PhD student/PostDoc attendees, who form a majority of their congress attendees.

Maria asked whether we should proceed and write down a Letter of Intent for the relationship with the Protein Society. This was approved by the EC.

**Action:** Maria to write a Letter of Intent for the collaboration between EBSA and the Protein Society, to be made available to the Protein Society to discuss at their next EC meeting at the end of February.

### 14. Proposal for ARBRE to become a full member of EBSA (PEM)

Pierre-Emmanuel informed the EC that there is nothing in EBSA's Rules that prevents ARBRE, which is not a National Society, from becoming a full member of EBSA.

**Action:** Maria to write to ARBRE (with help from Arwen in drafting the letter), setting down the Rules and Subscription fees that will be due (€2 per member per year), and inviting them to formally apply.

The application from ARBRE will need to be Approved at the EBSA General Assembly in Rome in 2025.

**Action:** John to revise the Rules and Constitution of EBSA, replacing 'National' with 'Member' as appropriate.

Pierre-Emanuel asked how many members ARBRE currently has, and was informed that it is approximately 50. Rob wondered whether MOSBRI or even INSTRUCT could join EBSA, but Maria replied that infrastructure groups are not eligible.

## 15. Ethical Code of Conduct for EBSA (CB)

Maria explained that this is important to help deal with problems that may arise during EBSA meetings. We sent Coralie the Biophysical Society's Ethical Code (with permission from Jennifer Pesanelli), and asked her to prepare a short document, and only covering conduct at meetings.

Coralie presented a one-page Ethics Code, and reviewed the necessity for EBSA to have such a code at hand. Following minor revisions to the wording agreed by the EC, the Code was approved unanimously.

**Action:** John to circulate the agreed version of the EBSA Ethical Code of Conduct to the EC, and Laszlo should put it up on the EBSA website.

The EC thanked Coralie for her excellent work on preparing this Code.

## 16. IUPAB/ISC report (AW)

In Tony Watts' absence, John presented his IUPAB report for him.

Tony has invited EBSA to attend the mixer / get-together with the IUPAB Council at 18.00 – 19.30 at the Biophysical Society Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, on Sunday 11th February. Aitziber confirmed that Jesus will be there, and is happy to represent EBSA at the get-together.

**Action:** John to inform Tony Watts that Jesus will be at the BPS Meeting, and he is happy to represent EBSA at the IUPAB Council get-together.

## 17. Planning for 15<sup>th</sup> EBSA Congress, Rome, 2025 (MDS)

Mauro gave an overview of the planning for the Rome 2025 Congress (30 June – 4 July). The organizing agency is Sistema Congressi srl, and the venue will be La Sapienza University. The rooms available are as follows:

Aula Magna: 900 seats;  
Maths: 360 seats;  
Physics: 300 seats;  
Chemistry: 400 seats;  
Gipsoteca: space for >600 Posters  
T1 and T2: 500 and 600 m<sup>2</sup>.

The exhibitors will be in the lunch rooms T1 and T2.

There will be 7 Plenaries and 28 Parallel Sessions.

There are currently 34 Sessions, with preliminary titles.

The website is already live at <https://www.ebsa2025.org/home>

The EC applauds Mauro and the Rome task force for excellent progress with the venue and is looking forward to the next update.

**Action:** Mauro to present an overall EBSA-2025 budget together with scientific and practical planning progress at the June EBSA EC.

## 18. Future EBSA Congresses (MS)

### 2027 Congress

Roland Netz, Free University Berlin attended for this Agenda item. As he will become Vice-President of EBSA in July 2025, it was agreed that he will be Co-opted onto the EC at the January 2025 EC meeting.

He gave a presentation on the planning for the 23rd IUPAB / 16<sup>th</sup> EBSA Joint Congress, 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> October 2027, Berlin. (The original dates of 10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> October have been moved back a week by the venue). The conference is being organised under the auspices of IUPAB, EBSA, and the German Society of Biophysics (DGfB e.V.). The Chair is Klaus Gerwert, Bochum, and Roland is the EBSA Co-Chair. The venue is the Hub27 Congress Centre in Berlin. The June 2026 EC meeting will be held in Berlin so that EC members can visit the Congress Centre. Digital attendance will be possible, but not digital presentation. The webpage of the Congress will not be activated until the IUPAB Congress in Kyoto in summer 2024, to minimise interference with the Rome 2025 EBSA Congress.

A Local Organizing Committee in Berlin has been set up, with 6 members. In addition, a group of student helpers will be recruited.

Helmut took the opportunity to ask Maria to thank the Stockholm students for their fantastic help with running the Stockholm EBSA Congress.

1,400 participants are anticipated, with a total cost of €1,007,000 for the Congress. This includes €350K for the venue and €370K for the catering. The Organizing agency is KUKM, who are highly experienced in organizing large conferences. They will take the full risk, and their maximum fee will be €140,000. They will actively help with finding sponsorship, and there is plan for sponsored lectures.

Maria commented that it might be that more than 50% of the participants are students. Helmut stated that we must ensure that the company doesn't suddenly increase the Registration Fee. Roland replied that they couldn't do this without consulting them. Arwen asked about the availability of cheap accommodation, and Roland replied that there are many budget hotels, particularly in the eastern part of Berlin. Arwen recommended making block bookings now. Maria commented that students feel safer when there are lots of them staying in the same place. Arwen suggested that a weekly travel pass should be included in the student registration fee.

Maria mentioned that EBSA is forming close links with the Protein Society, which we would like to continue beyond 2025. Roland is happy to pursue this, but he needs names and contacts.

**Action:** Aitziber to send Roland the names and contact details of the key contacts within the Protein Society.

Points raised by the EC included:

- that the sessions to be organized by the Protein Society should be fully integrated with the other sessions within the Congress.
- that EBSA has just adopted an Ethical Code of Conduct for meetings, and that this should apply to the 2027 Congress.
- that it is usual to have 4 or 5 Satellite meetings just before or just after the Congress. These are independent, but associated to the Congress. The organizers of the Satellites can apply to EBSA for some support, typically in the range of €1K to €2.5K.

The upcoming revision of the pre-Congress Summer Schools into a Young Biophysicist event was revisited (see **11** above). Roland asked whether this would be during the meeting, and Nuno stated that it could be just before. Maria suggested that the students might meet on the Sunday before the Congress. Roland explained that this could not be at the Congress venue, but could probably be at the Free University. The EC confirmed that EBSA will contribute €3,000 to such an activity, but that an additional participant fee could be asked for to cover costs (< €150).

John noted that the EC has been invited to come to Berlin in June 2026, hosted by Roland, and will then have an opportunity to visit the Congress venue.

Thanks to Roland from the EC for agreeing to act as the EBSA-2027 Chair were Minuted.

## 2029 Congress

Maria stated that we should invite bids to host the 2029 EBSA Congress, and these should be presented at the EBSA General Assembly during the 2025 Rome Congress. We should allow the possibility of regional combined bids from multiple societies. John will be writing to the EBSA Presidents in the autumn, and will inform them of this. Maria will make the Stockholm bid available to help people with putting together bids.

Laszlo stated that Hungary is willing to bid for 2029. Helmut commented that it would be good to go east. Coralie raised the possibility of a French/ Belgian bid, possibly to host the Congress in Ghent. Maria mentioned that the Lithuanian Biophysical society has expressed interest in hosting a congress.

**Action:** John to write to the member societies in October, encouraging them to bid to host the 2029 EBSA Congress. Bids should be presented at the General Assembly in Rome in 2025. He will send a copy of the Stockholm 2023 bid to act as a template. Bids could come from single societies, or be a combined bid from a number of societies in a region.

**Action:** Maria will make the Stockholm bid available to John.

## 19. Extended contact surfaces with member societies (MS)

Maria explained that she would like to see closer links between the EC and the EBSA member societies, and that she would like to spread this responsibility around the EC. Coralie offered to prepare an online Excel spreadsheet and a draft letter for sending to National Societies, and members of the EC can add in those countries they have contacts with. Arwen suggested that we make contact with our member societies, especially those who do not have representation on the EC, to ask if they need any information, and to tell them that we can act as a contact point for them.

**Action:** Coralie to prepare an online Excel spreadsheet and draft a letter to extend contact surfaces; John to share the letter with the EC to use for contacting member societies.

## 20. Any other business (MS)

John proposed the potential replacement of Tony Wilkinson as EBSA Treasurer by Professor Mark Wallace, King's College London, who is currently Treasurer of the UK Institute of Physics Biological Physics group. This suggestion was enthusiastically received by the EC. It was agreed that John would ask Mark to provide a two-page CV, to circulate round the EC, with a view to the EC proposing him as Treasurer to the General Assembly during the Rome EBSA Congress in summer 2025.

The EC invites Mark to attend the January 2025 EC meeting.

## 21. Next EC meetings

- The date of the next EC meeting was confirmed as Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2024, in Debrecen, Hungary, hosted by Laszlo.
- The location of the January 2025 EC meeting was confirmed as being Oxford (hosted by Tony Watts and Rob Gilbert), with likely dates being either the 11<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Arwen is going to check whether Cosener's House would be available on these two dates.
- The two June 2025 EC meetings will be held in Rome during the EBSA Congress.
- The location of the Jan 2026 EC meeting has not yet been decided, but possibilities are Lille, Montpellier, or Lisbon.
- The June 2026 EC meeting will be held in Berlin, hosted by Roland Netz.

**Action:** Arwen to check the availability of Cosener's House on 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Jan 2025.

The meeting closed at 17.00.

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## Sub-Meeting of EBSA Trustees (AW, TW, RG and JMS)

The Trustees (TW, RG and JMS) met after the EC meeting. EC member Arwen Pearson was invited to become an EBSA Trustee, and she

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accepted this responsibility. Tony Wilkinson explained to the other Trustees the expectations of the Charity Commission with regard to EBSA Policies and Procedures. The Trustees were satisfied that everything is in order with the administration of EBSA and with the management of its funds.

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