



## Minutes of the Meeting of the EBSA Executive Committee

Location: Hotel Crown Plaza, Liege, Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> Jan 2015: 9.00 – 18.00

**Present:** Manuel Prieto, Helmut Grubmüller, László Mátyus, John Seddon, Tony Wilkinson, Anthony Watts, Jose Carrascosa, Ilpo Vattulainen, André Matagne and Manuela Pereira (co-opted member).

### 1. Welcome and Apologies (MPr)

Manuel welcomed the Committee and Dr Rob Gilbert (Oxford), and reported that Apologies were received from Pavol Miskovsky and Cathy Royer (co-opted member).

### 2. Minutes of the last meeting of the EC in Helsinki (JMS)

The Minutes were accepted subject to minor corrections which were noted.

### 3. Report of the Treasurer, and Investments (TW)

The overall balance at 21<sup>st</sup> January 2015 was €277,877, down slightly on the previous 3 years. Income was €62k and expenditure was €102k.

Tony Watts commented that Springer revenue has fallen below €200k and they therefore wanted to reduce the income to EBSA to €35k. In the end they have agreed a sum of €60k to include EBJ editorial expenditure of €40k, leaving €20k net to EBSA. However, the editorial expenditure may only be €18k, in which case €42k will come to EBSA.

Tony Wilkinson commented that the EBSA Executive Committee expenses have drifted upwards slightly, but are justified.

Subscriptions have brought in €2,514 this year. The subscription of €2 per member has not changed for 20 years.

€71k was provided in support for meetings / laboratory visits by scientists.

There is currently no suitable place for depositing our funds to earn significant interest.

Tony Watts suggested it would be useful if Tony Wilkinson could add a line giving the Expenses as a percentage of the financial holdings.

A number of national societies are behind with their subscriptions and need to be chased. Any single year gaps ((Israel, Finland) will be written off. Their members should be ineligible for EBSA bursaries apart from special cases such as Armenia.

**Action:** John (Netherlands, Bulgaria); Tony Watts (Greece, Switzerland); Ilpo (Denmark); Manuel (Norway); André (Slovenia).

### 4. Report of ISE activities, European Biophysical Facilities Network and Science 2.0 document (JC)

José presented a 2-page ISE report 'Science 2.0 – challenges and suggestions' in response to consultation by the European Commission 'Science 2.0: Science in Transition'. This ISE report highlighted the problems with what happens to content that researchers submit to online platforms. Private companies dominate social media and

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<b>President</b>	Prof. Manuel Prieto, Centro Quimica-Fisica Molecular, IST, Av. Rovisco Pais, 1049 001 Lisboa, Portugal. ☎ +351 21 841 9219, fax: +351 21 846 4455, ✉ <a href="mailto:prieto@alfa.ist.utl.pt">prieto@alfa.ist.utl.pt</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	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, ✉ <a href="mailto:hgrubmu@gwdg.de">hgrubmu@gwdg.de</a>
<b>Past President</b>	Prof. László Mátyus, Department of Biophysics and Cell Biology, University of Debrecen, Nagyerdei krt. 98, H-4032 Debrecen, Hungary. ☎ +36 52 412623, fax: +36 52 412623, ✉ <a href="mailto:lmatyus@med.unideb.hu">lmatyus@med.unideb.hu</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Prof. John M. Seddon, Department of Chemistry, Imperial College London, London SW7 2AZ, UK. ☎ +44 20 75945797, fax: +31 30 2533969, ✉ <a href="mailto:j.seddon@imperial.ac.uk">j.seddon@imperial.ac.uk</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	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, ✉ <a href="mailto:ajw@ysbl.york.ac.uk">ajw@ysbl.york.ac.uk</a>

other ways of distributing scientific data. Sensitive information is a problem. ISE released a document on Open Access in mid-2014.

Juncker has proposed a new investment plan for European science which would remove some funds from Horizon 2020. ISE has stated that there should be no cuts in science funding, and in particular none to either the ERC or Maria Curie schemes. As of yesterday the EC has announced that it plans to remove €2.7B from Horizon 2020, including €221M from ERC and €544M from the excellent science budget. ISE plans to launch a movement to collect signatures to send in protest against these cuts.

There is a strong link between ISE and the association 'Euroscience'. There is some concern that the European Commission is creating scientific associations using a top-down approach rather than working through learned societies. An example is 'Voice of Researchers'. Euroscience is protesting about this, with support from ISE. There was a Euroscience Open Forum held in Copenhagen in 2014.

The ISE General Assembly will be held in Leuven on February 17<sup>th</sup> 2015. EBSA supports the nomination of Ann Glover as the new President of ISE.

**Action:** José to sign the ISE constitution on behalf of EBSA at the ISE General Assembly

José described the European Biophysical Facilities Network (ARBRE). It consists of many labs across Europe with facilities (NMR, AFM, etc) for characterization of biomolecular systems, which are available to members of the Network. It has no specific funding and needs to be self-sustaining. It has close links with INSTRUCT. The Webmaster of ARBRE is Dr Rob Gilbert, Oxford. There will be an ARBRE Satellite meeting in Dresden in July. The EC is keen to explore setting up a formal connection between EBSA and ARBRE, and Patrick England should be invited to the 1<sup>st</sup> EBSA EC meeting in Dresden to talk to the EC for 10-15 minutes about ARBRE. ARBRE can advertise itself at the Dresden Congress. José proposed that ARBRE should coordinate its activities with ESFRI and other large European infrastructure groups.

The EC expressed its thanks to José for all his hard work with ISE on behalf of EBSA.

**Action:** Manuel to invite Patrick to attend the 1<sup>st</sup> EBSA meeting in Dresden (14.30 on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July).

## 5. 2019 EBSA Congress (MPr)

Ilpo confirmed that Finland will be making a bid to host the 2019 EBSA Congress, but it is not yet decided whether the venue will be Tampere or Helsinki. José confirmed that Spain will also be making a bid, for Madrid (Complutense University), Chaired by Prof. Jesus Perez-Gil. Helmut asked whether selecting for 2019 or 2021 would disadvantage either bid. If not, the EC could in principle choose one site for 2019 and the other for 2021. We expect Finland and Spain to present their bids at the GA in Dresden.

We need to solicit bids from the national societies, 4 months ahead of the EBSA GA, for future EBSA congresses after 2017. They need to inform the EBSA Secretary 2 months before the GA if they wish to present a bid at the GA, or indeed wish to bring up any other issues. The location of future EBSA Congresses is not voted on at the GA, but is chosen by the EBSA EC. Manuel attended the Trabzon meeting of the Turkish Society, and found that it was in English, and was not mainstream biophysics. He later wrote to their President expressing these concerns in the context of any future bid by the Turkish Society to host an EBSA Congress, and received a reply from him. They are unlikely to make a bid for the time being.

## 6. Report on European Biophysics Journal (AW)

It is now 15 years that Tony Watts has been Editor of EBJ. He reported that there were only 212 submissions last year, and this was down substantially on the previous year. There is a Special Issue from the Brisbane IUPAB Congress pending. Some changes to the Editors are pending, for example Dirk Gillespie, USA. The Springer marketing was

weak at Brisbane, although otherwise generally effective. Tony highlighted some disciplinary issues with papers that had to be dealt with; a paper on circular dichroism was eventually withdrawn.

EBJ and some of the Editorial Board will meet in Dresden at 13.00 on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July in Seminar room 5 (organized by Sabine Schwarz and Stefanie Dether, Springer).

It is planned that Rob Gilbert will take over as Editor of EBJ, to be completed by the end of 2015. He will then start to turn over the Editorial Board.

Laszlo suggested broadening the scope of the journal to try to bring in more papers, and Tony Watts agreed with this. Helmut suggested that Methods papers should be encouraged, and Tony also agreed with this and confirmed that it is already happening and encouraged.

## **7. Encyclopedia of Biophysics (MPr)**

Tony Watts and Gordon Roberts will be joint Editors, although it was noted that Gordon is still unwell following a bad fall in July 2014. Section Editors will need to be appointed (many of the previous Editors may be willing to continue). Some new sections are needed and these need to be determined. Some entries need expanding and/or updating, and some new entries will be needed. The revenue due to EBSA (a few hundred euros) will come as a lump sum. Tony has a sabbatical year coming up, so this will hopefully give him time for the task ahead.

## **8. Requests for EBSA support, and support agreed (JMS)**

- A request from Tony Watts for support of €11,000 for a pre-congress, Networking satellite workshop to the EBSA Congress was agreed by the EBSA EC. Title: 'Spectroscopies in Biology', Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2015 in Hotel Sportwelt Radeberg. This will be a free workshop for eligible students and already has €4,000 support from IUPAB.
- A request from Patrick England for support of €1,500 for a Satellite to the EBSA Congress was previously agreed by the EC. Title: '3rd Meeting of ARBRE (Association of Resources for Biophysical Research in Europe)', Friday 17<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2015 in Dresden; anticipated number of participants: 60-80.
- A request from Zoya Ignatova for support of €5,600 for a Satellite to the EBSA Congress was agreed by the EC. Title: 'Translational Control of Ribosomes', 12 noon on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> – 12 noon on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2015; Dresden, venue to be confirmed; number of participants: 70 maximum.
- A request from Jochen Guck and Stephan Grill for support of €4,700 for a joint Satellite to the EBSA Congress was agreed by the EC. Title: 'Cell Mechanics and Active Matter', Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2015; Center for Regenerative Therapies, Dresden; number of participants: 50 - 70.
- A request from Bernard Vandebunder (Lille) and Johnny Stiban (BirZeit) for support of €25,560 for a Palestinian Multidisciplinary Network for the Study of Biological Systems, Kick off meeting to be held 17-20 April 2015 at the University of BirZeit was declined, since it takes place in 2015. They should be encouraged to send more details and to apply for some support for activities in 2016. Laszlo pointed out that Palestine is not currently a member of EBSA.
- A request for support from Marc-André Delsuc for a Symposium on Chemical Complexity & Biology, Strasbourg, 19-20 January 2015 was declined as it is not eligible for support this year.
- A request for support from Francesco Tadini-Buoninsegni for the 4th International Workshop on "Expression, Structure and Function of Membrane Proteins"

(<http://www.membraneproteins.unifi.it/>), to be held in Florence (Italy) from June 28 to July 2, 2015 was declined as it is not eligible for support this year.

**Action:** JMS to inform the various people of the outcomes.

- A tabled request from Ana Filipa Guedes (Portugal) for €3,000 for a 13-week working visit to the lab of Prof Robert Ariens, Leeds was declined as it was felt that the area was not really mainstream biophysics.

**Action:** Cathy to inform her of the outcome.

- A report was received from Gyozo Garab on the Workshop on 'Ultrafast Processes in Photosynthesis', held in Szeged from 18 – 21 Oct 2014. There were 105 participants.

## 9. EBSA 2015 Awards (EBSA Young Investigators Medal, Avanti Polar Lipids Award) (JMS)

The closing date for both awards was 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014. The selection panels finalised their choices during the EC meeting.

For the Avanti Award, it was considered that the more senior candidates (Antoinette Killian and Jen-Marie Ruyschaert) were the most appropriate, and the jury unanimously recommended that the Award should go to Professor Antoinette Killian, Utrecht. This was accepted by the EC.

**Action:** Manuel to provide feedback to the nominators.

For the Young Investigators Award, 4 candidates (Iva Tolić, Tuomas Knowles, Sjors Scheres and Martin Högboom) were selected as front runners out of the 16 candidates, and following discussion amongst the jury, the unanimous choice was Iva Tolić.

**Action:** Manuel to inform Iva Tolić and remind her she must submit an article to EBJ.

**Action:** John to inform the unsuccessful nominators.

It was agreed that we will change the rules for the Young Investigators Award, stressing that it is for independent research, normally within 12 years from PhD, allowing each society only one nomination, and specifying what should be included in the application.

**Action:** Ilpo to rephrase the rules.

**Action:** Manuela/Ilpo to provide a template of the application form.

## 10. IUPAB Congress, Brisbane, August 3 – 7, 2014 (MPr)

Manuel reported that the Congress made a modest profit of AUS\$18K from a budget of AUS\$600K, compared to Beijing, 2011, which made a loss of €45K. There were 650 participants. The most recent IUPAB Newsletter has been received

**Action:** Tony Watts circulated a pdf version of the IUPAB Newsletter during the meeting.

IUPAB has supported 6 Advanced Schools.

Tony Watts informed the EC that the British Biophysical Society has dropped down from a 3-vote to a 2-vote member of IUPAB.

## 11. Report on Membranes and Lipid-Protein Interactions Course (MPr)

The 3rd EBSA Membranes Workshop was held in La Grande Motte, 8-12 Sept 2014, with EBSA support of €25,000 (a small refund was expected of ~€5,000), and was extremely successful and very well organized. The EC wishes to thank and congratulate Pierre-Emmanuel Milhiet. It was agreed that he should be offered free registration and hotel accommodation in Dresden for the EBSA Congress.

**Action:** Manuel to write to Pierre-Emmanuel.

## 12. Report on Croatian School, Primosten, October 2014 (MPr)

Helmut stated that the students attending were outstanding and that Tom Vuletic did a great job in organizing the School. The EC wishes to send Tom its thanks and congratulations. One thing that should be pointed out is that EBSA support was not mentioned in his report to IUPAB. For future schools, it would be good to engage some new, younger speakers.

**Action:** Tony Watts to write to Tom Vuletic.

## 13. Future EBSA Schools / Biophysics Courses (MPr / AW)

It was agreed that the Montpellier Membranes School should be continued, perhaps in September 2016.

**Action:** Manuel to invite Pierre-Emmanuel to organize.

Ilpo may plan to organize a membranes meeting around the same time

**Action:** Ilpo to advise the EBSA EC in Dresden as to any such plans.

Planning for the next Portuguese school is being postponed for now, due to some local uncertainties, and should be revisited next year.

Tom Vuletic should be encouraged to continue with the Croatian School.

**Action:** Manuel to write to Tom Vuletic to encourage him to continue.

## 14. 2015 EBSA Congress, Dresden (HG)

It was agreed that:

- The first meeting of the EC in Dresden will be at 14.30 on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July;
- The Societies' Presidents meeting will be held at 13.00 on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July;
- The EBSA General Assembly will be held from 19.00 – 20.30 on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July;
- The EBJ Editorial Board meeting will take place at 13.00 on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July;
- The second EBSA EC meeting will be at 13.00 on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July.

Rooms will be made available in the ICCD (Plenary Hall for the General Assembly).

Details of the General Assembly (GA) and the Societies' Presidents meetings need to be sent to the national societies 4 months before the Congress, and we need to ask who their voting representatives will be at the GA. The Agenda for the GA needs to be sent out 1 month before the Congress.

**Action:** John to contact national Societies' Presidents.

The Chair of the EBSA Young Investigator's Award lecture will be Manuel Prieto, and the Chair of the Avanti Award lecture will be Tony Watts.

The Plenary Speaker Chairs will be:

Christian Eggeling – Manuel Prieto;  
Gunnar von Heijne – Helmut Grubmüller;  
Marileen Dogterom – Jochen Guck (Dresden);  
Martin Fussenegger – László Mátyus;  
Raymond Goldstein – Ilpo Vattulainen;  
Angela M. Gronenborn – Christian Griessinger (Göttingen);  
Matthias Rief – André Matagne.

There are 65 accepted Invited Speakers, and 7 are pending.

There will be 6 or 7 Satellite meetings.

There is some potential for COST Satellites, one on Molecular Machines (Manuela Pereira to investigate), and one on GPCRs (Tony Watts to investigate).

**Action:** Manuela and Tony Watts to investigate.

A number of high-level German officials have been invited to attend the opening of the Congress. It was agreed that Carlos Moedas, EU Commissioner for Research, should also be invited.

**Action:** Manuel to invite Carlos Moedas.

The Congress Banquet will be held in the ICCD on the Terrace Level.

In terms of support for the Congress, €45K has been requested from the DFG, and industry support of €23K has so far been confirmed. Tony Watts will speak with Walt Shaw about support from Avanti.

**Action:** Tony Watts to speak with Walt Shaw about support from Avanti.

A Bursary Panel was previously set up consisting of Cathy Royer (Chair), John Seddon, László Mátyus and André Matagne. Applications will go to Cathy, who will distribute them around the Panel for assessment. There are 60 EBSA bursaries to be awarded, and these will consist of free Registration and free accommodation, but nothing else. The closing date is 15<sup>th</sup> Feb and national societies should be reminded of this deadline.

**Action:** John to remind national societies of Bursary deadline.

## 15. 2017 EBSA /IUPAB Congress, Edinburgh, 16-20 July 2017 (AW)

Tony Watts informed the EC that the Congress website is under construction at:

[www.iupab2017.org](http://www.iupab2017.org)

The British Biophysical Society (BBS) Committee will meet twice this year to discuss the 2017 Congress, and in Edinburgh in January 2016 will present the planned structure to the EBSA EC, as well as to representatives from IUPAB (Roberts, Rao, Morales, Cozzone and dos Remedios). Agreeing the terms of the contract with IUPAB is still proving problematic, but is moving towards resolution. IUPAB will pay for the travel for both their Council to attend and for their named Plenaries. The Institute of Physics (IoP), who will be organising the Congress, are happy if IUPAB pays a subvention of €25K to the Congress. Any profits will be shared 25% to each of the organizing bodies (IUPAB, EBSA, IOP and BBS).

**Action:** Tony Watts to determine the best dates (noon on Friday then all day Saturday) in January 2016 to meet in Edinburgh.

## 16. Member Societies and subscriptions (TW)

A request has been received from the Iranian Society of Biophysical Chemistry (ISOBC) to join EBSA. A small majority of the EC were in favour of allowing the request to be taken to the EBSA GA for a vote. Tony Watts would be happy to visit Tehran.

**Action:** John to inform the President, Prof. A. A. Moosavi-Movahedi.

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

It was pointed out that the links on the EBSA website to both the 2009 Genova Congress and the 2013 Lisbon Congress have been hacked.

**Action:** László to repair.

There is nothing to report about the Newsgroup, which now has 600 members.

## 18. Any other business

Helmut pointed out that we should solicit new members to the EC.

**Action:** John invite societies to propose new members, to be discussed at the GA.

## 19. Dates and times of next two EC meetings in Dresden:

14.30 on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July and 13.00 on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July.