



Minutes of the 15th General Assembly of EBSA

Fintry Auditorium, EICC, Edinburgh, 18th July 2017, 19.00-20.00

EBSA Executive Committee: Helmut Grubmüller (President); Anthony Watts (Vice President); Manuel Prieto (Past President); John Seddon (Secretary); Rob Gilbert (Managing editor of EBJ); José Carrascosa (member); André Matagne (member); Mauro Dalla Serra (member); Jacqueline Cherfils (member); Pavol Miškovský (member); László Mátyus (co-opted member); Jesus Perez-Gil (co-opted member); Ilpo Vattulainen (co-opted member); Pierre Emmanuel Milhiet (co-opted member).

Representatives of the National Societies:

Armenia: Naira Ayvazyan; Austria: Thomas Stockner; Belgium: Kris Pauwels; Croatia: Sanja Tomić; Czech Republic: Radek Sachl; Denmark: Daniel Otzen; Finland: Terhi Maula; France: Eric Dufourc; Germany: Claudia Steinem; Hungary: Imre Derényi; Israel: Elisha Haas; Italy: Paolo Bianchini; Lithuania: Saulius Satkauskas; Netherlands: Rienk van Grondelle; Portugal: Joana Cristo; Romania: Ioan Turcu; Russian Federation: Oleg Batishchev; Serbia: Pavle Andjus; Slovak Republic: Daniel Jancura; Slovenia: Gregor Anderluh; Spain: Antonio Ferrer-Montiel; Sweden: Lennart Nielson; Turkey: Devrim Oz Arslan; UK: Olwyn Byron.

1. Welcome

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

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was adopted by a unanimous show of hands.

3. Minutes from the 14th General Assembly meeting in Dresden in 2015

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

Helmut reported on EBSA activities since 2015, and gave a brief verbal report on the 10th EBSA Congress held in Dresden in 2015. There were 1,167 participants, compared to 835 at Lisbon in 2013.

The EBSA Executive Committee has met three times since the 2015 Congress, in Edinburgh (Jan 2016), Madrid (June 2016), and Debrecen (Jan 2017).

EBSA has supported a number of Meetings, to the total amount of €40,000 since 2015. Helmut reminded the Assembly that Meetings are not normally supported during the year of the EBSA Congress (apart from Congress Satellites), and encouraged members to apply for support in 2018.

There were four nominations for the Avanti Polar Lipids / EBSA Prize, with a monetary value of €3,000. It has been awarded for 2017 to Prof. Jean-Marie Ruyschaert, Brussels, Belgium.

There were nine nominations for the EBSA Young Investigator's Medal and Prize for 2017, with a monetary value of €2,000. It has been awarded to Dr. Phillip Kukura, Oxford, UK.

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

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Past President	Prof. Manuel Prieto, Centro Quimica-Fysica Molecular, IST, Av. Rovisco Pais, 1049 001 Lisboa, Portugal. ☎ +351 21 841 9219, fax: +351 21 846 4455, ✉ manuel.prieto@tecnico.ulisboa.pt
Secretary	Prof. John M. Seddon, Department of Chemistry, Imperial College London, Exhibition Road, London SW7 2AZ, UK. ☎ +44 20 75945797, ✉ j.seddon@imperial.ac.uk
Treasurer	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, ✉ ajw@ysbl.york.ac.uk

5. Treasurer's report

The Treasurer's report was summarized by John Seddon in Tony's Wilkinson's absence, and was Approved unanimously. Briefly, the Balance at 31st March 2017 was €228,276, which is a healthy position. Income was €96,942, against Expenditure of €78,276, for the financial year to 31/3/17. The Income is dominated by €74,410 from Springer, and €2,974 was received in Subscriptions. €40,200 was paid out in contributions to Meetings and in Bursaries, and EBSA EC Committee expenses were €12,101.

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

Rob Gilbert gave a brief report on EBJ, and emphasized that it accounts for some 95% of EBSA's revenue.

7. Modification of the Statutes (Vote on proposal by EBSA Executive Committee to introduce Associate Membership)

The EC requested approval from the General Assembly to modify the EBSA constitution to introduce Associate Membership of EBSA for National Biophysics Societies who wish to join EBSA but who may not qualify - normally requiring being geographically located within Europe - for ordinary membership. The proposal was approved unanimously.

8. Election of members of the EBSA Executive Committee (LM)

Laszlo Matyus explained the voting procedure and reminded the Assembly that voting is by secret ballot. There were a total of five ordinary member positions available. Only one representative member per adherent society of EBSA, as defined by the published list on www.ebsa.org at July 18th 2017, is permitted to vote. Each member of the Executive Committee also has one vote.

The Executive Committee after the General Assembly will consist of: Tony Watts, UK, EBSA President, EBSA Officer; Helmut Grubmüller, Germany, ex-officio Past President; Rob Gilbert, UK, Managing Editor of the European Biophysics Journal, ex-officio.

The Executive Committee proposed election of: Jesus Perez-Gil, Spain, as Vice President, 2019 EBSA Congress Organiser in Madrid.

The Executive Committee proposed re-election of: Tony Wilkinson, UK, as Treasurer, EBSA Officer; John Seddon, UK, as Secretary, EBSA Officer; José Carrascosa, Spain, as ordinary member; André Matagne, Belgium, as ordinary member; Pavol Miskovsky, Slovakia, as ordinary member; Jacqueline Cherfils, France, as ordinary member; Mauro Dalla Serra, Italy, as ordinary member.

A new candidate, nominated by his National Biophysical Society, was Dr. Dejan Žikić, Serbia. In his absence, a brief overview of his nomination was given by the President of the Serbian Society, Prof. Pavle Andjus.

All candidates were elected, apart from Dr. Dejan Žikić.

9. New Member Societies (HG)

The application to join EBSA as an Associate Member from ISOBC, the Iranian Society of Biophysical Chemistry was unanimously approved.

The Greek Biophysics Group (Prof. Antonios Kolocouros) has not yet formed a formal society, and the Executive Committee is helping them with this.

10. Next Congress: Madrid 2019

Prof. Jesús Pérez-Gil gave a brief update to the General Assembly on the plans for the 2019 Congress in Madrid. He confirmed the dates as Saturday 20th – Wednesday 24th July 2019. The theme of the Congress will be 'Biophysics for Life and Technology'. The

Organising and Scientific Committees are already in place. He mentioned the possibility that the Congress will be held jointly with IUPAP, and this would require moving the venue from Complutense University to a Congress Centre in Madrid.

11. Future EBSA Congresses

Prof. Elena Pohl gave a presentation to the General Assembly of a bid for the 2021 Congress to be held in Vienna, Austria. It is anticipated there would be 1,000 participants and the Registration Fee would be approx. €500 (€320 for students). The Congress Banquet would be held in the City Hall. She pointed out that 2021 is the 50th Anniversary of the 1st European Biophysics Congress, in Baden, Austria.

Prof. Elisha Haas gave a presentation to the General Assembly of a bid for the 2021 Congress to be held in Israel, in the ICC in central Jerusalem. It is anticipated there would be 800 participants and the Registration Fee would be approx. €450 (€300 for students). The Congress Organizer would be the company ORTRA.

12. Any Other Business and Closing Remarks (HG)

Helmut Grubmüller thanked everyone present for their contributions, and formally handed over the EBSA Presidency to Prof. Anthony Watts.
