



## Draft Minutes of the 18<sup>th</sup> EBSA General Assembly,

Stockholm University, Aula Magna A, 18.00 – 19.30, Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023

*The Executive Committee:* Elena Pohl (President); Maria Sunnerhagen (Vice President); Jesus Perez-Gil (Past President); John Seddon (Secretary); Tony Wilkinson (Treasurer); Rob Gilbert (EBJ); Nuno Santos (Bursaries); Ilpo Vattulainen (EBSA Newsgroup); Dejan Žikić; Mauro Dalla Serra (co-opted: 2025 EBSA Congress); 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).

*Guests (non-voting):* Roland Netz (EBSA Co-Chair of 2027 IUPAB / EBSA Congress); Chuck Sanders (President of Protein Society); Jennifer Pesanelli (Executive Officer, The Biophysical Society); Thorsten Wohland (Singapore Biophysical Society); Adriana Miele (President of ARBRE)

*Representatives of the National Societies:* Austria (Andreas Horner); Belgium (Julie Andries); Czech Republic (Jiří Kozelka); Denmark (Daniel Otzen); Finland (Sarah Butcher); France: Isabel Alves); Germany (Thomas Gutschmann); Greece (Efstratios Stratikos); Hungary (Lorand Kelemen); Italy (Velia Minicozzi); Lithuania (Daumantas Matulis); Norway (Pawel Sikorski); Poland (Marta Pacia); Portugal (Armindo Salvador); Romania: Monica Florescu); Slovak Republic (Michal Cagalinec); Spain (Aitziber López Cortajarena); Sweden (Wolfgang Knecht); Turkey (Erdinc Sezgin); United Kingdom (Syma Khalid); Iran (Non-voting): Ali Moosavi-Movahedi.

There were 34 voting delegates present, and Voting Slips were handed out to each of them.

### 1. Welcome (EP)

The General Assembly was opened by the President of EBSA, Professor Elena Pohl, who welcomed all present. She explained that Agenda items 2 – 5, 7 and 8 need to be Approved by a majority vote of those present, by a show of hands. Item 9, election of EC members, will be done using anonymous voting slips.

### 2. Adoption of the Agenda (EP)

The adoption of the Agenda was approved unanimously.

### 3. Minutes from the General Assembly meeting in Vienna in 2021 (EP/JMS)

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

### 4. Report of the President, including Secretary's report (EP/JMS)

#### **EBSA activities 2021-2023**

The Executive Committee met on the following dates:

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<b>President</b>	Prof. Elena Pohl, Unit for Physiology and Biophysics, University for Veterinary Medicine Vienna, Veterinaerplatz 1, A-1210 Vienna, Austria. ☎ +43 1 25077 4571, fax: +43 1 25077 4595, ✉ <a href="mailto:Elena.Pohl@vetmeduni.ac.at">Elena.Pohl@vetmeduni.ac.at</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	Prof. Maria Sunnerhagen, Department of Physics, Chemistry and Biology, IFM, Linköping University, SE-581 83 Linköping, Sweden. ☎ +46-13-28 66 82, ✉ <a href="mailto:maria.sunnerhagen@liu.se">maria.sunnerhagen@liu.se</a>
<b>Past President</b>	Prof. Jesús Pérez Gil, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Complutense, C/ José Antonio Novais 12, 28040 Madrid, Spain. ☎ +34 91 394 4439, fax: +34 91 394 4672, ✉ <a href="mailto:jperezgi@ucm.es">jperezgi@ucm.es</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Prof. John M. Seddon, Department of Chemistry, Imperial College London, Exhibition Road, London SW7 2AZ, UK. ☎ +44 20 75945797, ✉ <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>

- 28 July 2021 (Vienna and online);
- 22 Jan 2022 (via Zoom);
- 17 June 2022 (Stockholm);
- 20 January 2023 (Rome);
- 31 July 2023 (Stockholm).

EBSA provides support for the main EBSA congresses, related satellite meetings, travel bursaries and the Young Investigator Prize.

### *EBSA Prizes 2023*

- The Avanti Polar Lipids / EBSA Prize, with a monetary value of US\$3,000 and a Medal, went to Dimitrios Stamou (University of Copenhagen).
- The EBSA Young Investigator's Medal and Prize, with a monetary value of €2,000, went to Raya Sorkin (Tel Aviv University).

### *EBSA support*

EBSA provided support for the following congresses, workshops and Summer Schools:

- Iberian Biophysics Meeting, Bilbao, Spain, June 2022;
- Regional Biophysics Conference Meeting, Pecs, Hungary, August, 2022;
- Membranes Meeting, Leipzig, Germany, 2022;
- British Biophysical Society Meeting NUI Galway, Ireland, 2022;
- Bioanalytical Methods IC-ANMBES Romania, 2022;
- Nanoengineering for Mechanobiology, Genova, Italy, 2022;
- Macromolecular Structure-Function Meeting, Sweden, 2023;
- Free Energy Landscapes School, Erice, Italy, 2022;
- Fluorescence Markers Microscopy, Les Houches, France, 2022.

*EBSA provided support of between €400 and €2,500 for the following study visits:*

- Slovakia to Italy
- UK to Denmark x 2
- Spain to Germany
- Spain to Portugal
- Bulgaria to Portugal
- Greece to UK
- Italy to France
- Germany to Slovenia

### *EBSA Newsgroup*

The number of subscribers of the EBSA Newsgroup is currently about 1400. Ilpo Vattulainen has maintained the Newsgroup for over 10 years, and this responsibility is now being passed to Arwen Pearson (Hamburg, Germany). The Newsgroup and its database will be transferred to Universität Hamburg, Institute for Nanostructure and Solid State Physics.

### ***Report on the 13th EBSA Congress held in Vienna in 2021***

The Congress was held at Austria Center Vienna from 24 – 28 July 2021. There were 436 onsite participants and 262 online participants. There were 8 Plenaries, 2 Award speakers, 105 onsite speakers and 77 online speakers. EBSA awarded 60 Bursaries, and the Biophysical Society and Biophysics Austria awarded 15 and 3 Poster Prizes, respectively.

The President's report was approved unanimously.

## 5. Treasurer's report (TW)

- 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. For this purpose, we seek the authority of the Association to renew the appointment of our Chartered Accountants in London. These are Messrs. Sam Rogoff & Co., of 167-169 Great Portland Street, London, W1W 5PF, UK.
- Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2023 have been prepared for Sam Rogoff & Co., Chartered Accountants 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 <https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/> and typing the Charity Registration Number 1059024 into the Search Box.

The Balance in the accounts held with Barclays Bank plc at 31<sup>st</sup> March each year since 2018 was briefly reviewed, and fluctuated around €175K. For 2023 it was just below €200K.

The income by year since 2014 was briefly reviewed. For 2023 it was €84,000 from Springer, and €7,745 from Subscriptions.

The Subscription status of the National Societies as of July 2023 was reviewed: most societies are up to date.

Expenditure by year since 2017 was briefly reviewed. For 2023, this amounted to €13,113 (Committee expenses), €14,050 (Meetings support), and €4,274 (Miscellaneous).

EBSA contributions to biophysical activities since April 2021 were summarized:

### *EBSA Congress Contributions*

2021 Congress Vienna Bursaries €33,000  
2021 Congress Young Investigator Prize €2,000  
2021 Congress Instruct Satellite €1,800  
2021 Congress ARBRE Satellite €1,800  
2021 Congress Proton Transport Satellite €2,400  
2023 Congress Stockholm Sweden €25,000  
2023 Congress Stockholm Sweden Bursaries €25,000

### *Meetings*

Iberian Biophysics Meeting Bilbao Spain €2,400  
Regional Biophysics Conference Meeting Hungary €2,400  
Membrane Meeting Leipzig Germany €1,600  
British Biophy Soc Meeting NUI Galway Ireland €2,000  
Bioanalytical Methods IC-ANMBS 2022 Roumania €2,000  
Nanoeng for Mechanobiol conference in Italy €1,600  
Macromolecular Struct Func Meeting in Sweden €2,400  
Free Energy Landscapes School in Erice Italy €2,400  
Fluorescence Markers Microscopy Les Houches France €2,400

### *Travel / Visit Bursaries*

Slovakia to Italy €2,100  
UK to Denmark x 2 x €1,000  
Spain to Germany €2,400  
Spain to Portugal €1,000  
Bulgaria to Portugal €2,500  
Greece to UK €1,000  
Italy to France €400  
Germany to Slovenia €95

EBSA Congress Bursary recipients since 2013 were reviewed. There were 56 awarded for the 2023 Stockholm Congress, in line with usual practice.

The Treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

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

Rob Gilbert reviewed briefly EBJ as follows:

- **Submissions:** Articles, Biophysics Letters, Methods Papers, Technical Primers, Reviews...
- **Special Issues:** research network reports, meeting reports, topical themes: showcase biophysics where you are!
- **Editors and Advisory Editors:** helping to promote the journal and handle/review papers.

He stressed that by strengthening EBJ, this will support EBSA:



The winners of the new EBJ Prize 2023, Johanna Zemla and co-authors, EBJ **49**, 485-495 (2020), and Sarah F. Verbeek and co-authors, EBJ **50**, 127-142 (2021) were highlighted.

## 7. Revision of the EBSA Constitution and Rules of the Association (EP/JMS)

The Executive Committee proposes the following amendment: "To suspend membership of any National Society that is more than 3 years behind in paying its EBSA subscription".

This proposal was approved unanimously.

## 8. New Member Societies (EP / Adriana Miele, ARBRE President)

The EBSA Executive Committee is keen to explore the possibility of ARBRE becoming a full voting member of EBSA, and would like to ask the General Assembly to delegate authority to the Executive Committee to provisionally approve such membership, which will then be formally ratified at the EBSA General Assembly in Rome in 2025.

This proposal was approved, with one Abstention.

## 9. Election of members of the EBSA Executive Committee (EP/LM))

*The Executive Committee after the General Assembly will consist of:*

- Maria Sunnerhagen, EBSA President, EBSA Officer
- Elena Pohl, Austria, 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 was by secret ballot, in-person or online.

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

## **Nominations for Officers:**

*The Executive Committee proposed election of:*

- Mauro Dalla Serra, Italy, as Vice President, 2025 EBSA Congress Organizer in Rome, Italy.

*The Executive Committee proposed re-election of:*

- Tony Wilkinson, UK, as Treasurer, EBSA Officer
- John Seddon, UK, as Secretary, EBSA Officer
  
- Arwen Pearson, Germany, as ordinary member
- Nuno C. Santos, Portugal, as ordinary member
- Dejan Žikić, Serbia, as ordinary member

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

- Coralie Bompard, France, as ordinary member
- Aitziber López Cortajarena, Spain, as ordinary member

Before the election took place, the new candidates gave brief introductions (Pierre-Emmanuel Milhiet spoke on behalf of Coralie Bompard, in her absence), 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 more than 30 votes in favour, and not more than 3 Abstentions and/or votes against.

NOTE : Only one representative member per adherent society of EBSA, as defined by the published list on [www.ebsa.org](http://www.ebsa.org) at 31st July 2023, is permitted to vote. Each member of the EBSA Executive Committee also has one vote. It was noted that Co-opted members of the EC do not require election by the GA.

Professor Pohl thanked the retiring members of the Executive Committee: Jesus Perez-Gil (Spain), Ilpo Vattulainen (Finland), Sarah Köster (Germany), Jacqueline Cherfils (France), and Primoz Zihelr (Slovenia) for all their hard work and dedication.

## **10. Next EBSA Congress: Rome 2025**

The dates of the 2025 Congress in Rome (Chair: Prof. Mauro Dalla Serra) was confirmed for 30 June – 4 July 2025.

## **11. Future EBSA Congresses**

The dates of the 2027 IUPAB/EBSA Joint Congress in Berlin (EBSA Co-Chair: Professor Roland Netz) were confirmed as 17 – 21 October 2027.

## **12. Any Other Business**

None

## **13. Closing remarks (EP)**

Prof. Pohl gave thanks to László Mátyus for looking after the voting at the General Assembly, and formally handed over the Presidency of EBSA to Prof. Maria Sunnerhagen.