



Minutes of the meeting of the EBSA Executive Committee

Kenézy Villa, Debrecen, Friday/Saturday 20th-21st January 2017

Present: Helmut Grubmüller (President), Anthony Watts (Vice President), Manuel Prieto (past President), John Seddon (Secretary), Tony Wilkinson (Treasurer), Rob Gilbert (EBJ), André Matagne (Bursaries), Jacqueline Cherfils, Mauro Dalla Serra (IUPAB cross-representative), Pavol Miškovský, László Mátyus (co-opted: EBSA Webmaster), Pierre Emmanuel Milhiet (co-opted: EBSA Workshops Coordinator and Sponsorships), Jesus Perez-Gil (co-opted: organiser of the 2019 EBSA Congress, Ilpo Vattulainen (co-opted: EBSA Newsgroup).

1. Welcome and Apologies (HG)

Helmut asked that the Agenda be approved, welcomed the Executive Committee, and reported that Apologies were received from José Carrascosa (ISE).

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

The following actions were noted:

Martin Hof has stated that the possibility of the Czech Society joining EBSA will be discussed at the next meeting of their Committee

Action: Manuel to remind Martin.

Ilpo will resend the letter about the EBSA Newsgroup to John, who will forward it to the National Societies.

Action: Ilpo

Helmut attended the Polish Biophysical Society Congress in Ryn, 28 June – 1 July 2016, funded by EBSA. He had a positive impression. There were some 150-200 participants. Many of the talks were in English and some of them were strong. However, there does not seem to be much biophysics in Estonia. Tony Watts suggested that the Baltic States should be encouraged to group together.

Action: Helmut to send feedback to K. Bry, with suggestions.

Tony Watts mentioned that the next Spanish Society Meeting is in Seville in June 2017, just before the Edinburgh EBSA Congress. Jesus replied that he will take over as next President of the Spanish Society in June 2018 for 4 years. He noted that the Society is becoming rather strong, partly because of the Annual meetings. Tony pointed out that the British Society has its meetings in even years in July, and has smaller meetings at Easter or in the winter. Jesus stated that they can commit to moving the Spanish odd-year meetings to a different point in the year to avoid clashing with the EBSA Congress.

Rob has checked that Abstracts have little effect on the Impact Factor of EBJ.

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Pavol would like EBSA to endorse a School of Biophotonics he is organizing (no financial support sought), and it was agreed that he should send details to Helmut, Laszlo and John.

Action: Pavol to send details.

We are waiting for the Iranian Society to invite Tony Watts to attend their National Meeting.

Action: Helmut to write to the President of ISOBC, reminding him.

The Minutes were approved unanimously.

3. **EBSA Constitution (HG / JMS)**

An updated version, signed by the current President, Vice-President and Past-President should be produced for the EBSA website. Laszlo will draft a text in time for the next General Assembly, introducing Associate Membership. This will need to be sent to the National Societies one month before the GA.

4. **Treasurer's report (TW)**

Tony Wilkinson reported that EBSA's finances are in a healthy position, with an income last year of some €95,000 being offset against expenditure of €61,000, giving a surplus of some €34,000.

André proposed that we should not support Norwegians for Bursaries since they have not paid their subscription.

Action: André to write to the Norwegian Society President.

The Charity Commission return now requires answers about our policies on a range of issues, such as 'equality'. It was agreed that the Biochemical Society and the IOP should be consulted to see if they have proformas they could share with us.

Action: Tony Wilkinson, and cc Olwyn Byron and Jeremy Craven (BBS)

5. **Report on European Biophysics Journal (RG)**

The Springer draft agreement reduces the royalty from 38.5% of net revenue to 20%. Tony asked whether there is a signing fee (last time this was €45,000). Rob will ask Springer about this, and about the percentage. If signed, the contract will be backdated to 1st January 2017, and will run for 5 years. It was agreed that we will accept the Springer offer, even if they do not improve it.

Rob is looking into ways of speeding up publication in EBJ.

Manuel suggested more engagement with South American biophysicists.

The Advisory Editorial Board has been expanded, and there are some new Handling Editors (including Mauro).

EBJ published 210 papers in 2016.

6. **Encyclopedia of Biophysics, 2nd Edition (AW)**

Planning for the 2nd Edition is going very well. 25% of new material is required. Tony noted that EBSA does not get any royalties.

7. **2017 EBSA /IUPAB Congress, Edinburgh (AW)**

There are now 6 months to go till the EBSA Congress. The budget is to be set next week (26 Jan). This has been made more difficult by changes to Exchange rates, the weakening pound, and a higher rate of inflation (2%) than anticipated. The catering costs are not

yet known. The Registration site will go live at the end of January.

Eric Quineau is looking after the Abstract submissions again, and Springer will publish the Abstract book (for free) as a special issue of EBJ.

Some sponsors are already in place. For example Avanti will provide Conference bags, and Beckman have agreed to be a Silver sponsor.

The American Biophysical Society (BPS) is giving 12 x \$500 prizes (6 cash awards, and 6 memberships + Registration for the next BPS conference. The BPS Chief Executive will attend the Congress, and will select the BPS Prizewinners. Eligible students who wish to be considered for one of these Prizes have to tick a box on the EBSA Congress Registration form.

There will be additional Poster Prizes sponsored by Springer, and by Portland Press.

The Poster Prize judges will be: Tony Wilkinson (Chair), Rob Gilbert, Jesus Perez-Gil, José Carrascosa, Pierre-Emmanuel Milhiet, and Jacqueline Cherfils.

Neither Bruker nor Rigaku have so far agreed to provide any sponsorship, even though there will be Plenary lectures from 3 Nobel prize-winning crystallographers. More sponsors are needed (whisky tasting, Banquet). So far 14 Exhibitors have signed up.

The EBSA deadline for travel bursaries (up to 60 for European participants) is 24th Feb. It was agreed that the Bursary panel will consist of André (Chair), Jacqueline, Mauro and John.

IUPAB will award 50-60 travel Awards (participants from the rest of the world). [This number has been subsequently amended to 100 bursaries]

Tony Watts and Andrew Turberfield will separate the Bursary applications into EBSA and IUPAB groupings, and forward these to the respective Selection Panels.

Congress Programme

All 7 Plenary Speakers have accepted :

- Helmut Grubmüller (Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry, Germany)
- Terry Hwa (UCSD, USA)
- Robert J Lefkowitz (Nobel Laureate, Duke University, USA)
- Sheena Radford (University of Leeds, UK)
- Venki Ramakrishnan (Nobel Laureate, LMB Cambridge, UK)
- Petra Schwille (Munich, Germany)
- Sunney Xie (Harvard University, USA)

In addition it is likely that John Walker will also agree to give a Plenary.

101 out of the planned 102 Invited Speakers are signed up. All 34 of the UK, plus 34 non-UK Chairs are in place. The breakdown of Invited Speakers by country was shown to the EC, and as expected was dominated by the USA, the UK and Germany, but with a very large spread of countries. 67% are male and 33% female, which is a little below the optimum of ratio of 60/40.

The Congress opens on Sunday 16th July with a Public lecture by Jim Al-Khalili at 16.00, a Welcome Address at 16.45, and the Opening Plenary by Venki Ramakrishnan at 17.00.

There will be a dinner for the BBS Committee and Honorary Members that evening.

There will be a whisky tasting available for other participants on the same evening.

A Banquet and Ceilidh will be organized on the evening of Wednesday 19th July, and will be open to all participants and exhibitors.

Committee meetings and Assemblies during the Congress

The First EBSA EC meeting will be held on Sunday 16th July from 12.30-14.00 in room Harris 1, and lunch will be provided.

The President's meeting (Chair: Helmut) will be held on Monday 17th July from 13.00 - 14.30 in room Harris 1, and it was agreed that we will invite the EBSA Presidents, and keep it open to Presidents from other Societies who might wish to attend; lunch will be provided.

The IUPAB General Assembly is scheduled for Tuesday 18th July from 14.00 – 16.30.

The EBSA General Assembly will take place in the Sidlaw Auditorium on Tuesday 18th July from 19.00 – 20.00.

The Second EBSA EC meeting will be held in room Harris 1 on Thursday 20th July from 13.00-14.30, and lunch will be provided.

Action: John to invite EBSA Presidents to the President's meeting.

It was noted that EBSA provides 3 voting members to the IUPAB General Assembly, and it was agreed that these should be Rob Gilbert, Pierre-Emmanuel Milhiet, and Manuel Prieto (subject to availability), as well as voting representatives from each National society.

The IUPAB 2023 Congress is likely to be in either Scandinavia, Quebec City, or Istanbul.

The voting process at the EBSA General assembly will be organized by Laszlo. There will be a yellow voting card for each National Society, and one each for members of the EBSA EC.

The sequence of Agenda items will be as follows:

- a) Accept the Minutes of the last General Assembly;
- b) President's report and Secretary's report;
- c) Treasurer's report and EBJ Journal Managing Editor's report;
- d) Vote for the recommended change to the EBSA constitution;
- e) Voting for:
 - President Elect (Jesus Perez-Gil)
 - Secretary (John Seddon)
 - Treasurer (Tony Wilkinson)
 - Full members (Jacqueline Cherfils, Mauro Dalla Serra, Andre Matagne, Pavol Miskovsky)
 - Any nominees from the National Societies

Voting is not needed for the President, Past-President, EBJ Editor, and Co-opted members (who are selected by the EC).

The EC consists of up to ten Full members, the EBJ member, and up to five additional Co-opted members, all sixteen of whom have full voting rights.

The normal maximum length of continuous service for Full members is six years (three 2-year terms); Manuel Prieto is due to stand down from the EC this year.

Action: Letter from JMS to the Presidents, inviting any nominations for the EC

- f) Vote for Iran to become an Associate Member;
- g) Presentation of any bids to host the 2021 congress.

Satellite Meetings planned

- EBSA Young scientists networking satellite - "Biophysics in the 21st Century"
Location: Edinburgh
Dates: Thursday 13th – Sunday 16th July
Organizer: Anthony Watts, (UK)
- Biophysical Approaches to Protein folding and disease. (ARBRE)
Location: EICC, Edinburgh
Dates: Thursday 20th – Friday 21st July
Organizers: Mauro Dalla Serra (Italy), Patrick England (France), Rob Gilbert (UK), and André Matagne (Belgium)
- Quantitative Approaches to Antimicrobial Resistance
Location: EICC, Edinburgh
Dates: Thursday 20th – Friday 21st July
Organisers: Jamie Hobbs, Sheffield, UK and Rosalind Allen Edinburgh, UK
- Analytical Ultracentrifugation
Location: Glasgow
Dates: Sunday 23rd – Friday 28th July
Organizer: Olwyn Byron, Glasgow, UK
- Meeting on 3Rs
Location: Edinburgh?
Organizer: Cris dos Remedios
- The Interplay between Membrane Physics and Cell Biology.
Location: Durham?
Organizer: John Sanderson, Durham, UK

8. EBSA 2017 Awards (EBSA Young Investigators Medal, Avanti Award) (JMS)

The closing dates for both awards was 31st December 2016, and the following nominations were received by the deadline:

Young Investigator Award

Austrian: Dr. Alipasha Vaziri;
Belgian: Dr. Rouslan Efremov;
British: Dr. Philipp Kukura;
French: Dr. Sigrid Milles;
German: Dr. Jochen Hub;
Italian: Dr. Maria Grazia Ortore;
Serbian: Prof. Ivan Spasojević;
Spanish: Dr. Pere Roca-Cusachs;
Slovenian: Dr. Matjaz Humar.

Avanti Award

Belgian: Prof. Jean-Marie Ruysschaert;
Finnish: Prof. Peter Slotte;
French: Prof. Bruno Antonny;
Spanish: Prof. Juan Carmelo Gómez Fernández.

The Selection Panel for the Young Investigator Award was agreed as:
Ilpo Vattulainen (Chair), Pavol Miškovsky, and Manuel Prieto.

The Selection Panel for the Avanti Award was agreed as:
Helmut Grubmüller (Chair), Tony Watts, and László Mátyus.

9. Future EBSA Congresses (HG)

2019 Madrid Congress: the Webpage is nearly ready, and will open right after the Edinburgh Congress. The first meeting of the organising committee will be in Feb 2017, setting up the Scientific Committee. In terms of the dates of the Congress, there may be some issues with student exams spilling over into July, and this could cause some problems with rooms/student accommodation. The finalised dates will be presented at the Edinburgh Congress.

2021 Congress

Ilpo reported that the Finlandia Hall in Helsinki is going to be renovated (3-4 years timescale) and that Tampere is a bit remote, with poor transport connections. It was therefore agreed that Finland should be ruled out for the time being as a potential EBSA Congress location.

Manuel contacted Martin Hof to discuss the possibility of holding EBSA 2021 in Prague, and will Skype him later to discuss this in more detail.

Helmut suggested Stockholm as a possibility. Although it is very expensive, some funding might be available from foundations.

After further discussion, it was decided to try to attract 3 bids for EBSA 2021, with a fourth bid (Copenhagen) in reserve.

Location	Person to be contacted	Person doing the contacting
Prague	Martin Hof	Manuel Prieto
Vienna	Klaus Groschner / Georg Pabst	Tony Watts
Stockholm	Eric Lundahl	Ilpo Vattulainen
[Copenhagen]	Daniel Otzen	Tony Watts]

10. Report of ISE activities (JC)

José presented a detailed report on ISE activities.

Tony Watts asked whether EBSA gets value for money? It was agreed that we will discuss this in Edinburgh in July.

11. EBSA Website (LM) and Newsgroup (IV)

There was nothing specific to report. Tony Watts noted that we are not using social media. He stated that there will be an App for the Edinburgh Congress and people will be able to Tweet. Helmut agreed that an App will be useful, but was unsure about the value of Facebook, Instagram, Twitter in this context. Rob felt that Twitter could be useful for EBSA. Manuel suggested that young members could have their own organization within EBSA. Jesus stated that times are changing, and social networks are a good way of engaging with young people. He feels this will be increasingly important for National Societies and for EBSA Congresses. Helmut requested an Agenda Item for the Presidents meeting: 'The Use of Social Media in Promoting Biophysics and EBSA Congresses'. Ilpo agreed that it is important to engage young people, particularly PhD students. Jacqueline pointed out that whatever is put in place needs to be updated regularly to avoid staleness. Ilpo said this can be done in a thoughtful way, with a limited number of items. He pointed out that the Newsgroup now has over 1,000 members. Jacqueline suggested

adding a reference to the Facebook page. Helmut asked whether there is a Newsgroup Archive? Ilpo replied that there is, if people sign up for it – but few do. He asked whether the British Society sends round regular Newsgroups. Tony replied that it does not send round PFDs. Helmut suggested archiving on the EBSA Website. Ilpo stated that emails summarizing future meetings could be archived on the EBSA website, but Laszlo pointed out that if the meeting is relevant, details should already be there. Laszlo suggested putting a link on the website to the Newsletter Archive. Tony Watts pointed out that the British Society website looks different each time you log on.

12. Student Bursaries and working visits (AM)

€7,170 was paid out in 2016. André suggests changing the website wording to read: 'A report should be sent to the Chair of the Bursary Committee'. Tony Wilkinson suggested we should limit the amount paid out in a given year to €10,000. Helmut asked whether this would be done on a first-come-first-served basis. André replied yes, he replies quickly, (typically less than two weeks) and is happy with how it is working. André will chase people for their reports, which could go on the EBSA website. John suggested that we should list the recipients of working-visit funding on the website and Tony Wilkinson suggested that we include their country of origin and the visit destination. André and Pierre should be copied in to any correspondence between the Treasurer and the applicants.

André pointed out that the current situation with Bursaries is confusing – it is not clear whether they are allocated by André or by the organizers. He proposed that the organizers should have full control, and should afterwards send him copies of the application forms. This was approved by the EC.

Meetings for which Bursaries are available are flagged in the 'Meetings of Interest' section of the EBSA website.

Laszlo suggested that applicants for Bursaries should have to tick a box confirming that they have not had EBSA support in the previous 2 years.

As mentioned above in Section 7, there will be 60 EBSA bursaries available for European participants). The deadline is 24th Feb. It was agreed that the Bursary panel will consist of André (Chair), Jacqueline, Mauro and John, that there should be a slight bias towards poorer countries, but that no distinction should be made between male and female applicants. Applicants who received a Bursary for the Dresden congress will not be eligible.

13. Requests for EBSA support and reports (PEM)

Pierre-Emmanuel suggested that we should list conferences supported from May – April.

A request from Paolo Tammaro for support for a meeting in Erice in March 2017 was declined because it is in the year of the EBSA Congress.

The following EBSA Congress Satellites were approved:

- EBSA Young Scientists Networking Satellite - "Biophysics in the 21st Century" Edinburgh, 13th–16th July (Anthony Watts), €12,000 previously approved [see Item 9 of Minutes of January 2016 EC meeting in Edinburgh: 'A pre-Congress Satellite to be organized by Tony Watts was approved', and Item 7 of Minutes of June 2016 EC meeting: 'Tony Watt's Spectroscopy Workshop....will need €12K support from EBSA'].

- Biophysical Approaches to Protein folding and disease. (ARBRE) EICC, Edinburgh, 20th–21st July (Mauro Dalla Serra, Patrick England, Rob Gilbert, and André Matagne). €2,500 for speakers.
- Quantitative Approaches to Antimicrobial Resistance, EICC, Edinburgh, 20th – 21st July (Jamie Hobbs, Sheffield and Rosalind Allen Edinburgh). €3,000.
- Analytical Ultracentrifugation, Glasgow, 23rd–28th July (Olwyn Byron, Glasgow). €2,500.
- NMR-CCPN at St Andrews, 13-15th July, €2,500.

A tabled request for €2,400 support was approved (€800 for a Plenary lecture plus four bursaries of €400 each) for a meeting in 2018 on Membrane Morphology and Function, Arcachon, 2-5th May 2018 (Antonio Ferrer-Monteil, Spain).

Manuel reminded us about the Membrane School of Pierre-Emmanuel, which is next scheduled for September 2018.

Pierre-Emmanuel noted problems of clashing with the Croatian School, and the date of their next meeting needs to be checked.

14. Member Societies (JMS)

We plan to put the Iranian Society forward for Associate membership, and are waiting for their President to invite Tony Watts to attend their National Meeting.

Action: Helmut to write to the President of ISOBC.

15. Any other business

Biophysics Week will be from 6–10 March, and Tony Watts encouraged people to consider organizing activities.

Manuel asked what the Student Registration Fee will be for the Edinburgh Congress, and Tony Watts replied that it will be within the range of £250 - £300.

16. Date and location of next EC meetings

Harris Room, EICC, Edinburgh, EC1: Sunday 16th July, 12.30 -14.00;
EC2: Thursday 20th July, 13.00-14.30.

Helmut thanked László for his fantastic hospitality, and the meeting closed at 12.30.