

Meeting held on 6 September 2005 in Aix-les-Bains, France

Began: 17.40 pm. Ended: 18.30 pm.

Minutes by Angelika Rück

1. Introductory remarks

Jacques Piette, the President for the period 2003 - 2005, opened the meeting and welcomed all participants.

2. Strategy plans and summary of progress report for the period 2003 - 2005

Jacques Piette gave an overview of the strategy plan 2003-2005 and the progress made. The main points are listed below:

- a. Establishment of the official journal of ESP "Photochem. Photobiol. Sci (PPS)". The journal PPS already runs well, although all ESP members are strongly encouraged to promote the journal whenever possible. The impact factor is actually 1.8, which is very good.
- b. Promotional activities to increase ESP membership
A new website was developed by the Istituto di Informatica e Telematica, Pisa. The website is good. However, there is still room for improvements.
- c. Congress organisation. The organising committee for the ESP 2005 congress worked very well.
- d. Educational and funding opportunities for young scientists. This has been done in the form of workshops, exchange between research institutions and fellowships to attend congresses. This year (2005), all the money was spent on Fellowships mainly for young scientists to attend the ESP Congress in Aix-les-Bain.
- e. Dissemination of information. Dissemination of information should be now mainly done through the new website. This website should improve the dissemination of information among the members.
- f. Sponsorship and fund raising. Sponsorship and fund raising was not very successful and needs more effort in the future. Improvements are expected, as the new ESP website can be used as a platform for companies wishing to advertise.

3. Presentation of the members of the new executive committee (EC), 2005-2007

Francesco Lenci, the incoming President, presented the members of the new EC, with special congratulations to the President-Elect Kristian Berg:

Voting members: Jacques Piette (Past-President)
Francesco Lenci (President)
Kristian Berg (President-Elect)
Francesco Ghetti (Treasurer)
Angelika Rück (Secretary)
Neil Gibbs (Officer)
Thierry Doucki (Officer)

Non-voting members: Giulio Jori (Vice-Chairman, Ownership Board PPS)
Janet Bornman (PPS, Photobiology Section, Editor-in-Chief)
Rex Tyrrell (Auditor)
Paola Taroni (Auditor)

Representatives: Janet Dean, Jamie Humphrey (Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC))

4. **Main aims of the Strategy plans for 2005 - 2007**

President Francesco Lenci gave an overview of the main Strategy Plan 2005-2007:

The next congress will take place in Bath (England), with Rex Tyrrell as local organiser.

Regarding improvement of sponsorship, this task will be coordinated by the President-Elect Kristian Berg during the 2005-2007 period and further discussed during the meeting of the new executive committee. One of the most important aims for the future are fruitful negotiations with other Societies from Photobiology and Photochemistry. This point was demonstrated in detail by Janet Bornman (see below).

5. **Report of the status of Photochemical&Photobiological Sciences**

Janet Bornman reported on the present status of the journal PPS. Approximately 170 articles have been submitted in 8 month. 41% of the papers belonging to the field of photobiology were rejected and 59% of the papers with a photochemical background. The impact factor of the journal is high: 1.8. It has to be noted that special issues have a much lower rejection rate. The following special issues were published or are expected for the future:

Biological Photosensors, edited by Silvia Braslavski

Issue from the ESP 2003 congress, edited by Jacques Piette

Highlights from the 14th International Congress on Photobiology 2004, edited by Janet Bornman and Pill-Soon Song

Photosynthesis, edited by Peter Nixon and coming out 2006

Photodamage of the skin, edited by Franz Trautinger and coming out 2006

In their continuing efforts to promote and strengthen PPS, the members of the executive committee 2003-2005 recommended the agreement between ESP/EPA and KSP/AOSP for KSP/AOSP becoming affiliated with PPS. The agreement was finally accepted by all the voting members of the executive committee 2005-2007. The logos of AOSP and KSP will be added to the PPS cover. An Asian Editorial Office will be established from January 2006.

6. **Treasurer Report**

Francesco Ghetti informed the members about the high income from bonds and royalties. The treasure of ESP is now more than 300.000 €. The expenses which have been done were dedicated to training and education, to the ownership board of the journal and to the organisation of the congress. ESP membership will automatically include the electronic version of PPS; electronic plus hard copy is still offered as an option. 100 - 150 ESP members still want to receive a hard copy of PPS. Membership without receiving the journal is not possible.

Francesco Ghetti noticed a slightly decreasing number of memberships during the last years.

7. **Report of the chairman of the Education & Training Committee**

Denis Valenzano, Kristian Berg, Frank de Gruijl and Francesco Lenci as chairman were responsible for this task. There were 72 applications for the 300 € fellowships to attend the ESP congress 2005 and 40 fellowships were awarded. There were also three 1250 € fellowships awarded to attend the international Photobiology Congress 2004 in Korea. A 1600 € donation from Paul Donald Forbes was gratefully acknowledged. ASP recently established the Frederick Urbach Memorial Travel Award for ASP Associate Members to attend the ESP 2005 meeting.

8. **Preliminary report on the 11th ESP congress**

The Local Chairman of the congress, Jean Cadet made some preliminary remarks concerning the 11th ESP congress. So far, the congress has been running well and many delegates had already registered. Delegates came from different countries as Africa (4), North America (62), South America (7), Asia (26), Western Europe (260), Eastern Europe (42) and Oceania (8). The total number of registered persons was 420.

9. **12th ESP congress in 2007**

Francesco Lenci informed the audience about the decisions made with respect to the venue, which will be Bath in England. The organizing committee will consist of the 3 Presidents (Jacques Piette, Francesco Lenci, Kristian Berg), the Treasurer (Francesco Ghetti), the Chairman of the previous congress (Jean Cadet) and the Chairman of the local committee,

represented by Rex Tyrrell.

Rex Tyrrell presented a short overview of the facilities and surroundings of the venue. Bath is a UNESCO World Heritage City with a famous Georgian architecture and Roman Bath. The reception will be in the Roman Bath. Beautiful gardens are found in the surroundings of Bath. Every delegate can be accommodated in the Campus of the University, there is no need to go to an expensive hotel.

10. **Other matters**

The next International Congress of Photobiology (ICP) will take place in Düsseldorf in June 2009. During the ESP 2005 congress Herbert Hönigsmann was approached and informed that the European society wish to organize its own congress in 2009, independently of ICP, but that ESP will be as cooperative as possible with ICP organizers.

Tomas Moore invited people to attend the ASP congress, which will be held 8-12 July in Puerto Rico.

Francesco Lenci thanked all the delegates for coming and Jean Cadet and Francesco Ghetti for their efforts in organising the ESP 2005 congress. No other comments were made, and the meeting was closed.