

Meeting held on 8 September 2009 in Wroclaw, Poland

Minutes by Lesley Rhodes

1. K Berg (ESP President 2007-2009) opened the meeting.

A total of 55 members of the society were in attendance. Kristian Berg (President 2007-2009), Miguel Miranda (President 2009-2011), Francesco Lenci (Past President 2007-2009), Evelyne Sage (President-Elect 2009-2011), Francesco Ghetti (Treasurer), Angelika Rück (Secretary 2007-2009), Lesley Rhodes (Secretary 2009-2011), Norbert Lange (Officer 2009-2011), Paola Taroni (Officer 2007-2009), Piotr Ziolkowsky (Chairman Local Organising Committee ESP 2009), Giulio Jori (Auditor, Editor of Book Series), Jacques Piette (Chairman of PPS Ownership Board), Rex Tyrrell (PPS Editor-in-Chief, Photobiology Section), Sarah Ruthven (Managing Editor PPS) were present.

2. Strategy Plan: Summary of Progress Report 2007-2009.

K Berg summarised his Strategy Plan and the progress made. Full information is presented in a 6 page document also including terms of reference for elected members, workgroups and committees. Certain points are clarified and/or reiterated below.

2.1: Membership and promotional activities:

A new agreement with RSC has been established where the royalty has been reduced from 5 to 2%, but ESP does not any longer pay for the members' electronic version of the Journal PPS. This agreement provides the ESP with better flexibility with respect to the membership fee. New strategies are being developed to increase promotional activities for the society.

2.2: Strengthening the Society Journal, PPS, and the Book Series:

J Piette has been appointed as the new ESP Chair of the PPS Ownership Board for a period of 4 years.

2.3: Affiliation of the Asia and Oceania Society for Photobiology (ASOP) and the Korean Society of Photoscience (KSP) with owners of PPS:

Contact has now been established between these societies and an agreement has been signed, which will need to be renewed after 2010.

2.4: ESP Basic Photobiology Textbook:

It is proposed that the Society writes a book on basic photobiology, suitable for people commencing in photobiology from all directions of the field. Pursuit of these plans was supported by the attendant membership.

2.5: ESP Sponsorship Workgroup:

ESP Sponsorship Workgroup was established with co-ordination by A Rück (ESP Secretary 2007-2005), L Rhodes (ESP Officer 2007-2009) and P Ziolkowsky (Chairman of the ESP 2009 local organizing committee). Sponsorship was scarce in the current economic climate. It was recommended that this workgroup would continue and will step-up its activities.

2.6: Scientific Advisory Board (SAB):

Scientific Advisory Board had contributed significantly to establish the scientific programme for the ESP 2009 congress, and aimed to optimally integrate new topics in photobiology. The SAB also contributed to the programme for the ESP Photobiology School.

2.7: Relationship with other Photochemical and Photobiological Societies:

A further agreement has been signed between the ESP and ASP for joint reciprocal symposia, continuing on an alternate year basis. This year's ESP (2009) has also been organised in collaboration with the European Platform for Photodynamic Medicine (EPPM) conference and joint symposia with ESPD, EPA and the Photostability group have also been continued.

2.8: Photobiology School:

The 2010 Photobiology School is scheduled for 21st – 26th June 2010 in Brixen, South Tyrol, Italy. The University of Padua has premises there which it is able to provide at very economical cost. A programme has been devised of 3 ½ days of basic topics, followed by 1 ½ days of more specialised areas within the same fields as the basic topics. It is planned to be optimal as part of a PhD programme. If this is successful in terms of attendance and feedback, then it is planned that this would continue on an alternate year basis, during non-Congress years.

3. Results of the EC election and short presentation of members of the new EC (M Miranda (ESP President 2009-2011) and K Berg):

A number of nominations were received although later some of these had to be discarded; in future those making nominations should check that the nominee is both a member of the ESP and willing to take up the position if appointed. Ultimately, there were 2 standing nominations for President-Elect, 1 for Treasurer, 1 for Secretary, 4 for 2 positions as Officer and 2 for 2 positions as Auditor. A call for votes was made on 1st July 2009 with a deadline of 31st July 2009 which was extended to 11th August 2009. The results were as follows:

President-Elect – E Sage 51, A Young 42

Treasurer – F Ghetti 82

Secretary – L Rhodes 78

Officers – N Lange 50, A Rück 41, P Taroni 38, T Duki 35.

Auditors – J Cadet 76, G Jori 76

Thus E Sage takes position as President-Elect, F Ghetti as Treasurer, L Rhodes as Secretary, N Lange and A Rück as Officers and J Cadet and G Jori as Auditors.

4. Strategy Plans for 2009-2011 (M Miranda):

M Miranda has drafted a detailed strategy plan and this information appears on the website. Key points included a significant trend in declining membership; there are proposals to set up a Membership Workgroup to deal with this issue.

5. Report on the ESP's Journal Photochemical and Photobiological Sciences (PPS) (R Tyrrell, PPS Editor-in-Chief, Photobiology):

The membership should refer to the report prepared by Editor-in-Chief, R Tyrrell, which will appear on the ESP website. Key points were presented by R Tyrrell.

- The Journal is doing well with a current impact factor of 2.1.
- The Journal is still in a growth phase with manuscripts easily filling a complete issue each month and is also starting to become profitable.
- Scholar One has been launched as the primary site for submitting manuscripts. This is almost at the end of its transition phase and will make it easier to submit manuscripts.
- Approximately 100 manuscripts were submitted in 2009 so far, with 30% accepted.
- Handling time was 55 days in 2007, increasing to 66 days in 2008 but this reflects Professor Minuro's illness.
- PDT (incorporating all facets of topic) accounts for 25% of the manuscripts; this will be documented differently in future to include photosensitisation as a separate area.
- B Diffey, V Reeve and C Wan Lee are commencing as associate editors on the Journal and there are proposals for M Wainwright who also joined the board.

- P Soon Song resigned end of 2008 as Editor in Asia.

6. Report of the status of Comprehensive Book Series in Photochemical and Photobiological Sciences (G Jori, Auditor, Editor of Book Series):

A full report can be seen below. The book series editors are D Haeder and G Jori. Two books are produced annually and there are 10 books published so far. The basic Photobiology book is currently the topic of focus.

7. Treasurer Report (F Ghetti, Treasurer 2007-2009):

The Treasurer's report 2008-2009 will appear in full on the website.

- The ESP account is now 250K Euro, mainly held as bond and a minority banked.
- Declining membership is a concern with the total number in 2009 at 250 compared with 300 in 2007, 420 in 2005, 540 in 2003 and 660 in 2001. The co-incidence of the ESP and ICP meetings in Europe this summer has not helped and some recovery is anticipated in view of this. The Membership Workgroup will be established to investigate the reasons for this, which may include aspects related to the Journal and also that the Website is not credit card safe. Suggestions made included to give a 1 year free membership to invited speakers.

8. Report of the Chairman of the Education and Training Committee (M Miranda):

Four x 4 week fellowships were granted in 2008-09, each of 1500 - 2000 Euros to attend photobiology related meetings. Seven congress fellowships were granted of 300 – 800 Euros each for the purposes of visiting the ASP or other meetings including the IID, IUPAC. In 2008 an award of 600 Euros was also made for the ESP Lecturer in Brazil (A Young) and 500 Euros was granted for the best university graduation thesis in Photobiology presented in the last 2 years in Italian Universities. For the current Wroclaw 2009 congress, 25 persons received a waived registration fee and 150 Euros to assist with costs and the Young Investigator Award was bestowed jointly to C Flors and G Cosa from a total of 4 nominations.

9. Summary of the preliminary report on the 13th ESP congress (P Ziolkowsky):

It was reported that arrangements had gone according to plan, although more exhibitors were needed, and afternoon coffee had been abandoned due to costs. A fuller report will be forthcoming.

10. 13th ESP congress in 2011 (M Miranda & N Lange):

The next congress of the ESP, its 25th Anniversary since the founding meeting, will be held in Geneva, Switzerland. An attractive presentation was made by N Lange relating to various aspects of the venue and its surrounds. It was emphasised that good value as well as luxury accommodation will be available and that the city has excellent transport links and all manner of facilities, as well as excursions for partners of delegates.

11. Change in Article 3 of the Bylaws.

With reference to:

“The term of office in the Executive Committee is two years, beginning of January 1st after the election.”

This statement is in contrast to current practice and is suggested to be replaced by:

“The term of office in the Executive Committee is two years, beginning after the General Assembly that follows the election and no later than January 1st in the following year”

This was approved .

12. Other matters arising:

There were no matters arising.

COMPREHENSIVE SERIES IN PHOTOCHEMICAL AND PHOTOBIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

A book series promoted and organized by the European Society for Photobiology

Series Editor: Donat P. Häder and Giulio Jori

Update on Books published and sales as of September 1st, 2009

Photoreceptors and Light Signalling

Ed. A. Batschauer

RSC, Cambridge (2003), pp. 388, ISBN 0-85404-311-X

Sales: 262

UV Effects in Aquatic Organisms and Ecosystems

Ed. E.W. Helbling and H. Zagarese

RSC, Cambridge (2003), pp.575, ISBN 0-85404-301-2

Sales: 328

Photodynamic Therapy

Ed. T. Patrice

RSC, Cambridge (2003), pp. 384, ISBN 0-85404-306-3

Sales: 292

Lasers and Current Optical Techniques in Biology

Ed. G. Palumbo and R. Pratesi

RSC, Cambridge (2004), pp. 658, ISBN 0-85404-321-7

Sales: 287

From DNA Lesions to Mutations, Skin Cancer and Cell Death

Ed. E. Sage, R. Drouin and M. Rouabhia

RSC, Cambridge (2005), pp. 311, ISBN 0-85404-326-8

Sales: 321

Photodynamic Therapy with ALA – A Clinical Handbook

Ed. R. Pottier, B. Krammer, H. Stepp and R. Baumgartner

RSC, Cambridge (2006), pp. 276, ISBN 0-85404-341-1

Sales: 108

Flavins: Photochemistry and Photobiology

Ed. E. Silva and A.M. Edwards

RSC, Cambridge (2006), pp. 328, ISBN 0-85404-331-4

Sales: 263

Biophysical and Physiological Effects of Solar Radiation on Human Skin

Ed. P.U. Giacomoni

RSC, Cambridge (2007), pp. 341, ISBN 0-85404-289-0

Sales: 130

Primary Processes of Photosynthesis – Part 1

Ed. G. Renger

RSC, Cambridge (2008), pp. 474, ISBN 0-85404-369-9

Primary Processes of Photosynthesis – Part 2

Ed. G. Renger

RSC, Cambridge (2008), pp.570, ISBN 0-85404-236-4

Sales (2 books set): 162