



## *European Society for Photobiology*

### MINUTES OF THE 14TH ESP GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Geneva, Sunday September 4, 2011, 17:45-19:20

#### **In Attendance:**

#### **Executive Committee members:**

Miguel Miranda (President), Evelyne Sage (President-Elect), Kristian Berg (Past-President), Francesco Ghetti (Treasurer), Lesley Rhodes (Secretary), Norbert Lange (Officer), Angelika Rueck (Officer), David Russell (Officer).

Giulio Jori (Auditor, Editor, Book Series) Jacques Piette (Co-Chairman, PPS Ownership Board), Rex Tyrrell (PPS Editor-in-Chief, Photobiology).

Sara Ruthven (Royal Society of Chemistry)

#### **Approximately 60 further members of the ESP.**

#### **1) Introductory remarks: *Miguel Miranda, Giulio Jori***

Giulio Jori gave a verbal obituary to mark the recent death of Sergio Caffieri, who was Professor at the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Padova, and active member of the ESP and Secretary of the Italian Society for Photobiology for many years.

#### **2) Treasurer report: *Francesco Ghetti***

In 2009-2010 the main expenses were approximately €1,000 for congress organization, approximately €26,000 for education activities (including the ESP school), approximately €25,000 for the official journal PPS (including editorial office expenses and paper handling of the associate editors), approximately €15,000 for the society and congress website (including abstract handling for the 2009 congress).

#### **Detailed Finance Report – September 2011**

Income (K€)

	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Fees</b>	73,38	31,60	104,98
<b>Bonds</b>	2,33	46,74	49,07
<b>Congress</b>	30,62		30,62
<b>Royalties</b>	19,14	2,88	22,02
<b>Sponsorship</b>	0,59	1,85	2,44
<b>Reimbursements</b>	1,98		1,98
<b>TOTAL</b>	128,04	83,07	211,11

Expenditure (K€)

	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Congress</b>	49,03	1,74	50,77
<b>Education</b>		26,07	26,07
<b>Journal</b>	15,04	10,13	25,17
<b>Other meetings</b>		17,24	17,24
<b>Website</b>	14,35		14,35
<b>Bank expenses</b>	0,74	0,52	1,26
<b>Reimbursements</b>		0,60	0,60
<b>Other</b>	0,03		0,03
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>79,19</b>	<b>56,10</b>	<b>135,49</b>

ESP Treasure (K€)

	<b>Bank Account</b>	<b>Bonds</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>End 2009</b>	71,50	216,14	287,64
<b>End 2010</b>	98,28	168,51	266,79
<b>31 Aug 2011</b>	93,65	187,46	281,11

**Membership Report**

Membership had previously been oscillating with higher numbers in conference years, but overall there is now a 38% rise since 2008. Highest membership numbers are seen in UK, France, Norway, Germany, Italy, Spain and USA.

	<b>No journal</b>	<b>Hardcopy</b>	<b>Electroni c</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>2006</b>	23	50	179	252
<b>2007</b>	5	52	256	313
<b>2008</b>	5	42	171	218
<b>2009</b>	0	33	229	262
<b>2010</b>	0	31	242	273
<b>2011</b>	0	26	276	302

Members per country in 2011

GB	39	LT	7
FR	26	PL	7
NO	25	DK	6
DE	24	IE	6
IT	23	SK	6
ES	19	JP	5
US	19	PT	4
RU	18	NL	4
CH	12	AR	3
AT	9	BE	3
AU	8	TR	3
CA	7	BR	2

EG	2	GR	1
HU	2	IL	1
NZ	2	KR	1
BG	1	ZA	1
CL	1	SE	1
CN	1	UZ	1
CZ	1	TOTAL	302
GI	1		

3) **Auditor report: *Giulio Jori***

The Auditor confirms everything is in order for the period 2009-2011.

4) **Report of the Chairperson of the Education & Training Committee: *Evelyne Sage***

In the last term, the membership of this committee comprised Paola Taroni, Norbert Lange and Evelyne Sage.

The yearly budget of €12,000 mainly supported the Photobiology School in the non-Congress year 2010. In 2010, 19 applications were made for fellowships to attend the Photobiology School, and all were awarded. Seven applications were made for an ASP fellowship and of these two were awarded.

One fellowship was awarded for the IPA meeting in 2011, but it was not used and the sum has been reassigned to the awardee to attend the Geneva congress.

To attend the ESP Congress 2011, two out of the three applications made by advanced scientists were awarded, and 26 out of the 48 fellowship applications were awarded, among which 21 were to PhD students and 5 to post-docs (representing 57% and 45% acceptance, respectively) from 15 countries. The Young Investigator Award was granted to Scott Byrne (University of Sydney, Australia) from a total of 9 nominations.

5) **Report of the status of Photochemical & Photobiological Sciences: *Rex Tyrrell, Jacques Piette***

Jacques Piette is Chair of the Ownership Board, overseeing the two societies, i.e. RSC and ESP, publishing in PPS. Relationships between the two societies are good and the journal is solvent.

In 2010, the total number of manuscripts submitted was 167, comprising 130 full length manuscripts, 22 perspectives, 15 communications and 0 technical notes.

In 2011, from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 2<sup>nd</sup> August there have been: submissions – 114, acceptances – 35, rejections – 44, pending – 35.

The handling time shows little change at 61 days; following this it is 6-8 weeks for publication. The impact factor is 2.3. The Journal is well established and is aiming for an impact factor of 3.

**Recent (2010) and future themed issues**

Photodynamic therapy

Photofunctional proteins (part)  
 Visual pigments (part)

**Near Future**

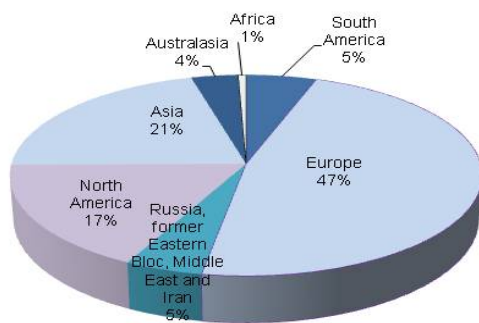
UVA

Kurt Schaffner birthday issue

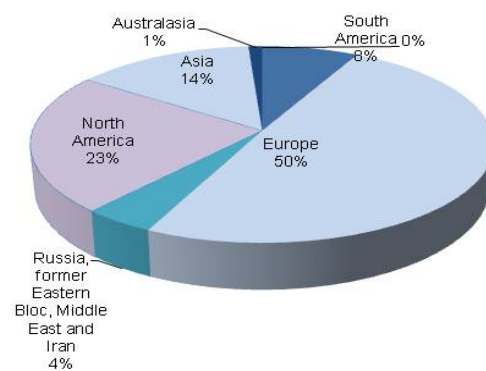
Surprises!

**Distribution of manuscripts by geographical location**

a) Manuscripts submitted (percentage of total manuscripts submitted by region)

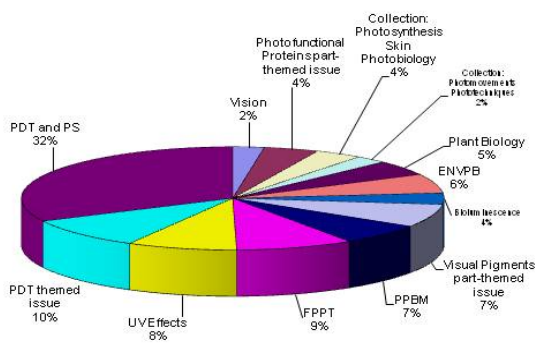


b) Percentage of total manuscripts accepted by region

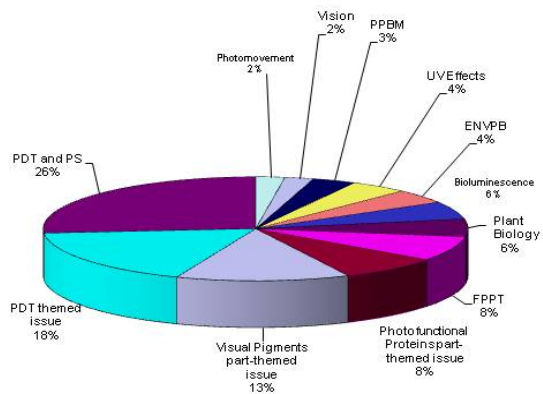


**Distribution of manuscripts by topic (2010)**

a) Manuscripts submitted



b) Manuscripts accepted



**Abbreviations:**

PDT & PS – Photodynamic Therapy and Photosensitization; PPBM – Photochemistry and Photophysics of Biomolecules; ENVPB – Environmental Photobiology; FPPT – Fluorescent Probes and Photophysical Techniques

6) **Report of the status of Comprehensive Series in Photochemical and Photobiological Sciences: *Giulio Jori***

DP Hader and G Jori are the current series editors.

In total there have been 14 volumes published, with 10 of these being since 2003 and therefore through the RSC:

ISBN	Pub year	Book title
9780854043019	2003	UV Effects in Aquatic Organisms and Ecosystems
9780854043064	2003	Photodynamic Therapy
9780854043118	2003	Photoreceptors and Light Signalling
9780854043217	2004	Lasers and Current Optical Techniques in Biology
9780854043262	2005	From DNA Photolesions to Mutations, Skin Cancer and Cell Death
9780854043316	2006	Flavins: Photochemistry and Photobiology
9780854043415	2006	Photodynamic Therapy with ALA: A Clinical Handbook
9780854042890	2007	Biophysical and Physiological Effects of Solar Radiation
9780854043644	2007	Primary Processes of Photosynthesis, Part I and II Box Set
9781849731447	2011	Photodynamic Inactivation of Microbial Pathogens

Between 116 and 304 books are sold of each volume. The most recent volume is Photodynamic Inactivation of Microbial Pathogens – Medical and Environmental Applications, edited by Michael Hamblin and Giulio Jori, with 46 books being sold in the first month of sale. Electronic books are also available in addition to these hard copies.

The two books which are in the pipeline will be edited by (a) Angelika Rueck on Diagnosis and Imaging in Medicine, (b) by Massimo Trotta on Environmental Application of Photobiology. Both titles are preliminary. A third book on Nanotechnologies in Photobiology is being planned by David Russell.

Sarah Ruthven is exploring whether the volumes may be cited on PubMed.

*Giulio Jori invites anyone with an interest in contributing chapters or new books to contact him.*

7) **Report on the ESP Photobiology School: *Kristian Berg***

The Photobiology School is held at the Bressanone site of the University of Padua in view of good prices. The course provides a good grounding in the main topics of Photobiology, and also some more specialised topics. It has been devised particularly to be suitable for PhD students, while senior scientists are also invited and the course can be particularly useful for those wishing to broaden their photobiology horizons. Two course certificates are provided, i) attendance certificate and ii) examination certificate for those opting to take the optional exam.

The inaugural School in June 2010 was a great success, with very positive feedback provided by attendees. There were 54 attendees from 16 countries.

The School is supported by the ESP such that the price to attendees is an economical €50 which includes all lectures, lunches and the official dinner. Accommodation has been arranged for €30-35 per night and attendees provide their own travel expenses.

8) **Summary of the preliminary report on the 14<sup>th</sup> ESP congress: *Norbert Lange***

There are 320 attendees at this Congress.

There have been challenges in view of the weak Euro, overall good revenue is anticipated from this Congress.

A fuller report will be available post-Congress.

9) **Strategic Plans – summary of progress report by the President: 2009-2011: *Miguel Miranda***

- Membership: it has fallen overall over several years, with fluctuations due to Congress and non-Congress years. However there are recent signs the membership has stabilised (in fact rising – see minutes point 2) and this may be attributable to the Photobiology School now occurring on alternate years to the Congress. There is further room for improvement in membership.
- The Journal is well established and is aiming for an impact factor of 3. It has currently moved from being the first journal in its field to the second journal, though the IF of the 2 journals is close.
- Congress attendance of 320 is higher than the last Congress. This is despite difficulties including the world financial crisis. This can be improved further.
- Sponsorship Workgroup: this newly initiated group has sparked a positive trend in sponsorship, mainly in the context of the Congress.
- Fellowships awarded by the Education and Training Committee remain a strength of the ESP.
- Inaugural Photobiology School 2010 was successful. The School is planned to continue on alternate years, the next being in 2012.
- Contact with other international societies is maintained.

10) **Results of the EC election and short presentation of members of the new EC: *Evelyne Sage***

A web based vote was held from July to 15<sup>th</sup> August for the purpose of electing the new Executive Committee.

165 members voted. The results are as follows:

President-Elect, "Rhodes", "Lesley", 87

President-Elect, "Taroni", "Paola", 68

Secretary, "Lange", "Norbert", 90

Secretary, "Vever-Bizet", "Christine", 56

Treasurer, "Ghetti", "Francesco", 161

Officers, "Nonell", "Santi", 65

Officers, "Russell", "David", 59

Officers, "Selbo", "Pål Kristian", 48

Officers, "Frochot", "Cécile", 43

Officers,"Hideg", "Eva",41  
Officers,"Patrice", "Thierry",29

Auditors,"Berg", "Kristian",140  
Auditors,"Golab", "Jakub",110

#### 11) **Main aims of the Strategic Plans for 2011-2013: *Evelyne Sage***

A presentation was given by the President 2011-2013, comprising aims, main issues, and immediate action.

**Aim of the Strategic Plans: define initiatives and commitments for the strategic development and efficient running of ESP and identify key areas requiring additional effort and immediate action**

Main issues:        Membership  
                         Congress 2013  
                         Strengthening the society journal, PPS and Book Series  
                         Education & Training Committee  
                         ESP Sponsorship Work Group  
                         Scientific Advisory board  
                         Relationships with other Photochem. / Photobiol. Societies  
                         Photobiology School

Immediate Actions:

Set a Membership Work Group  
Reinforce the Sponsorship Work Group  
Establish a new SAB  
Envisage new editors for the Book Series  
Improve Website (call to ESP members!)  
Photobiology School director nominated : K Berg

#### **Expected results:**

- Increase membership and sponsoring, allowing an increased action of E&T Committee among young photobiologists
- Improve external engagement of ESP including with industrial companies
- Promote Photobiology among young scientists, industry/EU/other appropriate bodies

*It was highlighted that membership is a key issue and that the Membership Workgroup would be co-ordinated by the President-Elect Lesley Rhodes.*

*The Sponsorship Workgroup would continue to develop under the co-ordination of the Secretary, Norbert Lange.*

*A Website Workgroup is shortly to be initiated and interested ESP members with website experience are invited to contact Evelyne Sage if interested to contribute to this work.*

#### 12) **15<sup>th</sup> ESP Congress in 2013: *Evelyne Sage, Jacques Piette***

The next ESP Congress will be held from August 31<sup>st</sup> – September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013, at the Palais des Congrès, Liege, Belgium, with the Local Organiser being Jacques Piette.

*A ppt presentation of the site, facilities and travel arrangements was made by Jacques Piette.*

It is the first time the ESP Congress will be held in Belgium. Liege is situated around 100Km east of Brussels and only 12Km from Maastricht, both of which have international airports with many connections. Liege has a population of 200,000, and the Congress venue is situated pleasantly alongside a river. A full range of budget to expensive hotels are located within a short walking distance.

13) **Any other matters**

There is no other business.

Lesley Rhodes  
Honorary Secretary, ESP 2009-11  
10th October 2011