

Meeting held on 5 September 2007 in Bath, UK

Began: 17²⁰ p.m. Ended: 18¹⁵ p.m.

Minutes by Angelika Rück

1. Introductory remarks

Francesco Lenci, the President for the period 2005-2007, opened the meeting and welcomed all participants. He thanked especially Rex Tyrrell and Helen Thame and the whole local organizing committee for efficiently handling the ESP 2007 congress.

2. Strategy plans and summary of progress report for the period 2005-2007

Francesco Lenci gave an overview of the strategy plan 2005-2007 and the progress made. He thanked the Editors and Associate Editors of the journal PPS; the impact factor is now over 2.4, which is the highest of all photochemistry and photobiology journals. The possible involvement of other Photochemistry and/or Photobiology Societies was discussed. Collaboration with ASP should improve in the future. Francesco Lenci expressed his personal and all ESP members' gratitude to the Education group components and its Chairman, Kristian Berg.

3. Report of the status of Photochemical & Photobiological Sciences

Janet Bornman's responsibility as Editor in Chief ended 2006. Since January 2007 Rex Tyrrell is holding this position. He reported on the present status of the journal PPS, underlining the high impact factor. Acceptance rate of submitted papers is actually 35 %. There are scientific fields which are not very well presented, for example PDT, which however improved this year. Following Rex Tyrrell, there is a need for more technical contributions. Appropriate persons will be identified and contacted. Suggestions to Rex Tyrrell from all ESP members are welcome.

4. Treasurer Report

The treasurer Francesco Ghetti informed the members about the income from bonds, royalties, membership fees, sponsorships, etc. The actual treasure of ESP is about 250.000 €. Income and payments are balanced. 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. Unfortunately membership went down in the last years.

5. Report of the chairman of the Education & Training Committee

Kristian Berg gave a precise report of the goals achieved, on fellowships for lab visits, fellowships to attend the congress, young investigator award, etc. He mentioned that 43 fellowships were given to researchers to attend the ESP 2007 congress and that for the Young Investigator Award Virginie Lhiaubet-Vallet was selected.

6. Presentation of the members of the new executive committee (EC), 2007-2009

Francesco Lenci, the past president warmly welcomed the new president Kristian Berg traditionally with a bottle of Champagne. Kristian Berg informed about the results of the elections and presented the members of the new EC. The election was web-based and only 6 votes out of 138 were by e-mail. The results of the election were:

President Elect: Miguel Miranda

Treasurer: Francesco Ghetti

Secretary: Angelika Rück

Officers: Paola Taroni and Lesley Rhodes

Auditors: Jean Cadet and Giulio Jori

7. Main aims of the Strategy plans for 2007 - 2009

President Kristian Berg gave an overview of the main Strategy Plan 2007-2009. In detail the following points were discussed:

- a) Membership and promotional activities: The aim is to find out why membership is going down.
- b) The next congress will take place in Wroclaw (Poland), with Piotr Ziolkowsky as local organiser.
- c) Strengthening the society journal, PPS. Possible involvement of other Photochemistry and/or Photobiology Societies. See point 2) and 3)
- d) Education and Training Committee: See point 5)
- e) Sponsorship Work Group: Matters to improve sponsoring for ESP in the future were discussed. A new sponsorship work group will be established, chaired by the Secretary Angelika Rück
- f) Establishing a Scientific Advisory Board (SAB): A SAB will be established to provide inputs and suggestions at large on all scientific matters where this is required for the Executive Committee and the Congress Organizing Committee to provide optimal services to the ESP members. One of main goals of establishing the SAB is to assure a high scientific quality of the ESP congress by providing the congress Organizing Committee with recommendations for plenary speakers, symposia topics, and chairpersons. However, the function of SAB is not restricted to the organization of the congress, but should also provide recommendations on other scientific matters when requested. The members of the SAB should together cover all the main scientific fields of interest to the members of ESP.
- g) Relationship with other Societies: The cooperation with EPA, AOSP/KSP and ASP will be continued. Also coordination of photobiology congresses concerning other societies is planned.
- h) Photobiology school: To establish a photobiology school will be considered. A questionnaire will be send out to the members of ESP. Comments from members on this topic are welcome. Please respond to Kristian Berg.

8. Preliminary report on the 12th ESP congress (the local chairman Rex Tyrrell)

Financial situation is very good for ESP, even fellowships were covered. The total number of registered delegates was 375.

9. 13th ESP congress in 2009

The next congress will take place in Wroclaw (Poland), with Piotr Ziolkowsky as local organiser. He presented the facilities and surroundings of the venue. Wroclaw is a beautiful old traditional city with an eventful past.

10. Other matters

Kristian Berg thanked all delegates for coming and Rex Tyrrell, Francesco Lenci for their efforts in organising the ESP 2007 congress. He also thanked Piotr Ziolkowsky for organizing the next congress. No other comments were made, and the meeting was closed.