



Meeting of the ESP Executive Committee in Pisa



Onwards and upwards: a new roadmap for the new term

On the 27th of January The ESP Executive Committee (EC) met in Pisa (Italy) to plan the activities for the biennium 2015-2017. A highly successful 2013-2015 term encouraged the committee to set ambitious goals for the next two years. Raising the profile of the ESP remains a priority, and the development of an **outreach plan** addressing all stakeholders was the *leitmotif* of the meeting. ESP members

are the body and the soul of the Society, and the EC discussed the introduction of new members' benefits in order to increase the cohort of ESP affiliates. Our website is an excellent springboard for communication from members and our interface with the public. It will be regularly updated and we hope that YOU can contribute to this, by contacting the [webmaster](#).

Social media, blogs and scientific press will be used to further the outreach of the Society. Our sponsorship workgroup presented a new sponsors' flyer and proposed approaches to strengthen the relationships of ESP with industry and to promote photobiology beyond academia and governmental institutions. The Education and Training Committee outlined the plans for future activities, including future editions of the Photobiology School in Brixen, and new calls for travel and exchange funding for young photobiologists. Last but not least, the partnership of the ESP with the Royal Society of Chemistry publisher remains strong with the growth of our journal (Photochemical and Photobiological Sciences) and the re-launch of to a very successful book series.

The EC meeting followed the meeting of the Congress Organising Committee (OC) which started the works for the next ESP congress (more on page 2).

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XVII ESP Congress

Pisa (Italy), September 5th-8th, 2017

As announced during the AGM held at the ESP Congress in Aveiro in 2015, the **XVII ESP Congress** will be held in **Pisa**, Italy. On January 26th the Congress OC convened to visit the conference venue (the [Palazzo dei Congressi in Pisa](#)) and define the dates for the Congress (**5th-8th of September 2017**). The organisation of the symposia absorbed most of the OC meeting: the members of our [Scientific Advisory Board](#) sent helpful suggestions and feedback on the topics covered in the previous Congress. On these bases, the OC planned 28 Symposia, broadly falling in 7 subfields of Photobiology:

Biophotonics, Molecular and cellular photobiology, PDT, Environmental photobiology, Plant photobiology, Photosensory biology, and Photodermatology. The invitation letters to the Symposia Chairpersons have been issued. A symposium on Photobiology in Industry, and possibly a workshop were also planned. As for many Italian cities, Pisa attracts many tourists every year, so hotels and restaurants will be easy to find. The OC booked the University student hall for the duration of the Congress to provide affordable accommodation for our junior delegates.

Organising Committee

Rex Tyrrell
ESP President

Lesley Rhodes
Past President

Santi Nonell
President Elect

Amparo Faustino
ESP XVI Local Organising Committee

Francesca Giuntini
ESP Secretary

Francesco Ghetti
Treasurer

[ESP XVII Local Organising Committee](#)

Francesco Lenci
Lucia Guidi
Giovanni Checcucci
Franco Fusi

Watch this space and the ESP website for updates!



Nancy, France
October 24-28, 2016



Update
POT.POD



IYL2015: the Year of Light and Light-Based Technologies

In 2015, a year-long and worldwide series of coordinated activities took place on national and international levels to promote in people of all ages and backgrounds the appreciation of the central role of light in science and culture. Some of our members were involved in the organization of events within the celebrations of IYL2015 at their home institutions.

Here is a report of what happened...

Lights on in Parma

In late October 2015 the University of Parma (Italy) held a special event in celebration of the IYL 2015. A rich calendar of events was organized to guide the visitors on a journey through the many roles that light plays in our lives, from Science to Technology, from Biology, to Art. A series of scientific conferences for the general public were delivered by outstanding speakers like Ernst Bamberg and Nobel laureate Martin Chalfie, to give overviews of the scientific fields where light is a key player including, of course, **photobiology**. An exhibition illustrating basic concepts and applications of light in science and technology was displayed side-by-side with an art exhibition on historical movie projectors and live performances of the shadow theatre. A photographic exhibition



entitled **"Pop Microscopy. Bridging Art and Science towards the Future"**, curated by Claudia and Alberto Diaspro, displayed images of biological material taken by eminent scientists, including 2014 Nobel laureates Stephen Hell, W.E. Moerner and E. Betzig. The exhibition was hosted at the Nikon Imaging Center located at Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia in Genova (Italy). In addition, laboratory classes were run, to give primary and secondary schools pupils the opportunity to perform experiments seldom included in school curricula. Measuring the speed of light, relating color to light absorption in materials, separating white light into its spectral components, or watching a plant grow under artificial light are but a few of the experiments that captivated the young audience, and, maybe, planted the seeds for photobiologists of the future.

Cristiano Viappiani

Meanwhile in Norway....

Pål Selbo on the "Health, Light, and Light-based Technologies" meeting in Oslo.

As part of the celebrations for the International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies, the Norwegian Society for Photobiology and Photomedicine (NSPP) arranged a public meeting with the title "Health, Light and Light-based Technologies", which was held in the "House of Literature" in Oslo on the 17th of September 2015. The meeting was sponsored by the Research Council of Norway and took place during the National Science Week 2015. The president of NSPP, Dr. *Pål K. Selbo*, introduced and chaired the meeting. Several exciting talks were presented: The solar physicist Dr. *Pål Brekke* from the Norwegian Space Centre gave a fascinating talk about the sun and how its energy affects biology and technology on the Earth and is the source of the

Northern Lights. Prof. *Kristian Berg* from the Norwegian Radium Hospital presented the preclinical and clinical status of the light-based intracellular drug delivery technology known as photochemical internalisation (PCI). The CSO of PhotoCure, *Inger Ferner Heglund*, described how patients with bladder cancer could be diagnosed with higher precision than white light cystoscopy using an optical agent (Hexvix) for blue light cystoscopy. Better tumor visibility and more complete removal results in decreased rates of tumor recurrence. Dr. *Ellen M. Bruzell* from Nordic Institute of Dental Materials and MSc. *Gunnar Vartdal*, Picterus, presented the use of light technology in diagnosis and treatment of jaundice in new-borns, with a focus on development of new solutions suited for use in developing



countries. Risks and benefits of in- and outdoor tanning were discussed by Dr. *Terje Christensen* from the Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority. Last, but not least, Dr. *Jan Henrik Wold*, Buskerud and Vestfold University College took us on a tour through light and darkness where he demonstrated a number of striking images of our impression of visible phenomena. Despite competition from other events during the National Science Week, the meeting was well attended and the audience, of which many asked good questions, returned home with exciting new knowledge of light and its very diverse applications.

Have you got a story to tell?

[Get in touch](#) if you would like to report about a photobiology event held/organized by your Institution. EyeOnESP is happy to hear from ESP members and spread the news!

School's in for Summer!

The biannual *rendez-vous* with the ESP School of Photobiology arrived: the 4th edition of the School was held in Brixen (Italy), under the patronage of the University of Padova, from the 20th to the 25th of June 2016. This year a cohort of 44 students engaged with a rich programme and... enjoyed a walk to the nearby Novacella Abbey in a glorious sunny afternoon!



Giulio Jori Fellowship

The EC, through the Education and Training Committee, is about to launch a new funding scheme to promote collaborative exchanges for young researchers with high potential for a career in photobiology. Calls for application will be issued annually, and a fellowship of up to 6000€ will be awarded to work in a laboratory abroad for a maximum of 3 months. This new scheme is named after **Giulio Jori**, as a tribute to his commitment to foster the professional development of young researchers. The ESP will pump-prime the award, and donations were already received to support this initiative. More information on the Giulio Jori Fellowship will soon be published on the ESP website.



If you wish to make a donation to the Giulio Jori Fellowship Fund, please [contact us](#)

Bring on the books!

In September 2015, **Evelyne Sage**, **Lesley Rhodes** and **Massimo Trotta** became the editors of the book series "Comprehensive Series in Photochemistry and Photobiology Sciences". Created in 2001, the series fulfills the need for a source of state-of-the-art information on the theory and applications of well-established and new fields of photobiology. 2016 has already seen the release of several volumes, namely "**Water Surface Photochemistry**" edited by P. Calza and D. Vione, and the two-volume book "**Applications of Singlet Oxygen**" edited by S. Nonell and C. Flors. The release of the book "**Photodynamic Medicine: from Bench to Clinic**", edited by H. Kostron, T. Hasan, and the late Giulio Jori, is imminent, and several perspective titles are on the way. Alongside the hardcopy edition, it is now possible to buy the electronic version of individual chapters. Thirteen books and 15 years after day one, the series is sporting a new team of editors and a flamboyant new cover design: we will see it populating the shelves (virtual or not) of photobiologists.

The man behind the camera

While the delegates at the XVI ESP Congress in Aveiro last September hopped from one session to the other to make the most of the rich schedule, one man somehow managed to be everywhere. Zé (José) M. G. Pereira, a freelance photographer from Aveiro, documented our Congress with countless excellent images. Zé was born in Coimbra in 1965, he has a degree in Geography and a passion for photography ever since he can remember. In 1991 Zé started working as a secondary school Geography teacher, but he kept on cultivating his interest in photography by attending workshops and courses with professional Portuguese photographers. In 2010 he taught on a professional course in Photography, and in 2014 he finally took the jump, giving up of his career as a schoolteacher to become a professional photographer. Zé describes the days of the ESP Congress as wonderful: not bad, considering he walked up to 18 km per day, according to his pedometer!



WWW-Welcome to the new website of the IUPB!

Visit the newly launched www.iuphotobiology.org to keep updated on our "sister Society"!

Congratulations to the first recipients of the ESP supplement to PhD!

During the AGM at the ESP Congress in Aveiro, the Education and Training Committee awarded the ESP supplement to PhD to the first of many (we are sure) next-generation photobiologists. The ESP supplement to the PhD was created last year by the ESP as a professional recognition of the skills gained in a field of high multidisciplinary character. The five awardees were:



Eliana, Maria Altaba and Ruben

Dr Maria Marin Altaba (University of East Anglia, UK)

Dr Eliana Alves (University of Aveiro, Portugal)

Dr Maria Garcia-Diaz (Ramon Llull University, Barcelona, Spain)

Dr Roberto Tangorra (University of Bari, Italy)

Dr Ruben Ruiz Gonzalez (Ramon Llull University, Barcelona, Spain)

They completed their PhD in a photobiology-related discipline and their work led to peer-reviewed articles.

If you are a PhD student or a supervisor, please check our website for the details of how to apply for this valuable supplement.

September 2015: the ESP goes social

We now have a **Facebook page**! Check it out and.... like us!!

Join our Facebook page to keep in touch with the ESP and to see the photos from the Congress.