



ESP General Assembly

19th ESP Congress, Virtual

September 2, 2021

EC Members:

Franz Trautinger (President), Santi Nonell (Past-President), Amparo Faustino (President-elect), Giorgia Miolo (Treasurer), Francesco Ghetti (Officer), Eva Hideg (Officer), Virginie Lhiaubet (Officer), Massimo Trotta (Officer).

Kristian Berg (Auditor), Vivienne Reeves (Auditor)

Chair

Franz Trautinger

Minutes

Francesca Giuntini

Agenda

1. Presentation of the 2021 Awards for Excellence in Photobiological Research: **Dietrich Averbeck** (*Eveline Sage*), **Tayyaba Hasan** (*Kristian Berg*), **Tadeusz Sarna** (*Miguel Miranda*)
2. Summary report on the 2019-21 term: Franz Trautinger
3. Treasurer's report: Giorgia Miolo
4. Auditors' report: Kristian Berg, Vivienne Reeve
5. Education & Training Committee report: Massimo Trotta
6. Photobiology School report: Kristian Berg, Santi Nonell
7. Photochemical & Photobiological Sciences report: Rex Tyrrell
8. ESP Comprehensive Book Series report: Massimo Trotta
9. Preliminary report on the 19th ESP Congress: Kristjan Plaetzer
10. Results of EC election & presentation of EC 2021-2023: Amparo Faustino
11. Venue of 20th ESP Congress 2023: Amparo Faustino
12. AOB

Minutes

Agenda item: Opening and Awards **Presenter:** *Franz Trautinger*

FT welcomes the attendees. This is his last task as president of the ESP but expresses intention of continuing to support the society.

Attendees should have received the agenda and the announcement.

First item on the agenda are the awards. Two awards: awards for Excellence in Photobiological Research and Young Investigators Award. Normally they are handed during dinner with real medals, but the situation forces us to present the awards online, and the medals are made, but only the picture can be shown.

Dieter Averback, Tayyaba Hasan, Tadeusz Sarna are EPB awardees

Evelyne Sage presents the award to Dieter Averback: thanks to the ESP for opportunity to present the medal. DA eulogy is presented (biographical sketch is presented, scientific achievements and contributions for the Society). DA cannot be with us online today, but he is delighted to receive this prize.

Kristian Berg presents the award to Tayyaba Hasan. KB happy for the opportunity to deliver this prize. TA eulogy is presented (biographical sketch, including scientific achievements h-index 57, awards, contribution to scientific societies like ASP, IPA, etc). TA is present and acknowledges

the award: truly honoured and surprised. Regrets that the meeting is not live but will continue engaging with ESP.

Miguel Angel Miranda presents the award to Tadeusz Sarna: MAM honoured to deliver the EPR prize to TS. Eulogy is read (commitment to society, bio sketch and scientific achievements). TS fully deserves the prize and MAM congratulates TS on the prize.

Ardemis Boghossian and Anne-Laure Bulin receive the Young Investigators Award.

Agenda item: President Report **Presenter:** *Franz Trautinger*

Discussion:

Thanks to everyone who collaborated and supported the society in the last two years. There are three items that FT would like to mention. Major event was the transition of our journal after RSC expressed intention of interrupting collaboration. Thanks to the publication workgroup for helping to find a new publisher, which was no trivial feat. More details will be provided in due time. The other event is that now ESP is legalised as a non-profit organisation in Austria. It will be necessary for the members in the audience (and others) to go through a ballot in the autumn to approve. Not major changes to the statute are needed but some are required for legalisation. Last important event was organisation of the congress: thanks to KP for make this possible and experience as much as we can our community in these challenging times. Delegates seem to be enjoying the event.

Agenda item: Treasurer report **Presenter:** *Giorgia Miolo*

Discussion:

GM thanks for the support received during her first two years as Treasurer. Income for 2019-2020 is shown: income comes through membership fees, royalties, sponsorships and donations, investments. Investment during pandemic were less lucrative.

Income itemised per year is shown.

Next, expenses are shown for 2019-2020 (itemised per year). Expenses arise from the maintenance of the website, the congress (both Barcelona and this one, as payments started in 2020). School is another item of expenses, but the 2021 was cancelled because of the pandemic. Minor spending for meeting (less travelling). Bank expenses and Education and Training Committee.

Next the overall situation is shown. The slide allows comparison between years: only minor fluctuations can be highlighted. GM: expresses gratitude to the previous Treasurer FGh. FT: all are indebted to FGh for his work

Question from the audience: is the Society investing in socially responsible funds? KB good questions; no answer can be given at this moment but this will be addressed and made transparent in the future for all members.

Agenda item: Membership **Presenter:** *Virginie Lhiaubet*

Discussion:

Membership report is given by VL. The number of members has decreased, next year we have 196 already. Next slide shows difference between students and affiliated members. We lost students: this can be explained by the cancellation of the school, travel fellowship etc.

VL invite all members to promote the ESP and attract new members and to encourage photobiology colleagues to join; the benefits of ESP membership are listed on the Society website.

Agenda item: Auditors report **Presenter:** Virginie Lhiaubet

Discussion:

KB: there have been two treasurers during this term. Auditors have divided the period over two years. Statements had to be translated because the bank is Italian, but all the accounts have been examined and Auditors have not found any irregularities, the books are in order and congratulate the Treasurers.

Agenda item: Education & Training Committee report **Presenter:** Massimo Trotta

Discussion:

MT states that leading the ETC is a very gratifying role to have: it allows interaction with students and excellent photobiologists of the future. Attributing YIA was challenging, 6 excellent candidates were nominated and the two that won are promising scientists in the field. They gave two excellent talks.

ESP also awards the ESP PhD Supplement. In this term there were 4 candidates and all received the supplement (**reads names**). All the candidates will receive their certificate. Members are reminded that this supplement to the PhD is to certify photobiological competencies.

Travel fellowships could not be awarded either. ESP decided to open to countries that are not interacting with the ESP and struggle to allow scientists to travel. These countries were asked to submit proposals and three were awarded.

ETC also awards the Giulio Jori Scholarship. Pictures of Giulio are in the stream of the conference. This year the scholarship was not opened because of the pandemic. There is a possibility to donate for this scholarship at the moment of membership renewal.

MT congratulates the YIA. FT: congratulates MT and the ETC. MT thanks the other members of the ETC (Celine Frochot, Cristiano Viappiani, Eva Hideg).

Agenda item: Photobiology School report **Presenter:** Santi Nonell

Discussion:

SN: school has to be cancelled in 2020 because of the pandemic. We will be back in 2022 in June in Brixen. KB founded the School and has run it so far.

School allows for interaction between students and faculty. School runs over 6 days and covers the topics shown on the slide (matching the areas presented in the congress). Some topics will be updated to include all the relevant areas of photobiology. After 5 editions the directorate is passed to SN. SN thanks KB for his vision and his leadership, which were instrumental for the success of the School. SN invites members to send ideas/comments for input for the school.

Agenda item: Report on Photochemical & Photobiological Sciences **Presenter:** Rex Tyrrell

Discussion:

RT: It is very gratifying to see the IF for last year increasing to 3.982. This is important for a specialty journal. Way of calculating IF has changed but even calculating the old way it would be over 3.7.

The publisher was changed, and the process is now complete. Two years ago we were looking at not having a publisher for PPS, but thanks to hard work, we now have one. Both Societies owning the journal created a workgroup to identify a new publisher. Springer proposed a very interesting contract, which was examined, approved and signed. In 2021 we published the first issue (transition done in October 2020).

Composition of the groups that worked on the transition is shown.

New contract: royalties are improved compared to RSC. The submission platform changed (ScholarOne to Editorial Manager). Level of administrative support is the same as RSC (which was good). Springer would like a target of 250 papers per year, which is a challenging target to reach. At the moment there are less submissions in the photochemistry area. This is due to the pandemic (many papers submitted were from Asia, which was hit by COVID worse than other parts of the world).

The ownership board needs to be redefined. The members of the editorial boards are shown. Two left and more joined to cover areas of expertise that had less representative in the editorial board. Numbers are shown for submission and acceptance. 233 submission in 2019 and 223 in 2020. Topics/areas are shown, which now coincide with the areas that we try to cover in the congresses. Half the papers published are from north America and Europe. One fifth from south America (good) and Asia.

A slide with topical collections is shown. in 2019 there were a few. In 2020 less but it was due to the transition to Springer Nature.

We have a few in the pipeline. RT encourages members to suggest topics for special collections. FT thanks RT for the work done on this.

Agenda item: *Comprehensive Series in Photochemical and Photobiological Sciences*

Presenter: Massimo Trotta

Discussion:

MT: 2020 was not the best year for books. One book was published in 2020. The books are now separated from the journal but this may change in the future.

As for the journal, MT encourages members to suggest book topics. MT thanks the other two people that collaborate for the books. Evelyne Sage and Lesley Rhodes. Two books are in the pipeline, one finished and the together at earlier stage but will be published at the end of the year. FT thanks the series editors for the strenuous work that guarantees the high quality of the books.

Agenda item: *Preliminary Report on the XIX Congress*

Presenter: Franz Trautinger
Kristjan Plaetzer

Discussion:

FT: success of the congress is largely down to the effort of KP.

KP: this congress is still ongoing. Shows a slide with number of contributions divided by type. Shows the participant number broken down by provenience. Even if the virtual setting could have

facilitated participation from far away, the difference in time zone may have made things challenging. Breakdown of the participants by provenience in Europe.

Some more numbers are shown, linked to the Whova account (platform that hosted the congress). Delegates seem to engage actively with the platform.

Show slide to thank sponsors. FT thanks the EC and the LOC for the support in the run up to this event.

Agenda item: Results of EC election & presentation of EC **Presenter** *Amparo Faustino*

Discussion:

On behalf of the EC and of the whole Society, AF thanks FT for all the hard work and great achievements during these challenging times and for the organisation of the ongoing Congress. AF shows the candidates to the elections (3 for President Elect, five for Officers, 2 for Auditors, 1 for Secretary and Treasurer). MT became the PE with >57% of preferences. AF congratulates MT and the other two candidates. Secretary and Treasurer were elected with more than 90% of votes, showing appreciation of members. Officers that got the position obtained more than 50% of votes. Auditors obtained high number of votes.

The composition of the new EC is as follows:

Amparo Faustino - President

Massimo Trotta - President elect

Franz Trautinger - Past President

Francesca Giuntini - Secretary

Giorgia Miolo - Treasurer

Francesco Ghetti - Officer

Pål Selbo - Officer

Virginie Lhaiubet-Vallet - Officer

Kristijan Plaetzer - Officer

Kristian Berg - Auditor

Vivienne Reeve - Auditor

Agenda item: Venue of the 20^h ESP Congress **Presenter:** *Amparo Faustino*

Discussion:

The venue for the next Congress is yet to be decided. Suggestions from the members are more than welcome. A suggestion to hold the next Congress in Salzburg is put forward by a member of the audience. This was already suggested but at the moment it is not being contemplated.

Agenda item: AOB

Discussion:

No further business, except sincere acknowledgements and appreciation for the work that the operators of the virtual platform did. This was instrumental for the success of the virtual event.
