

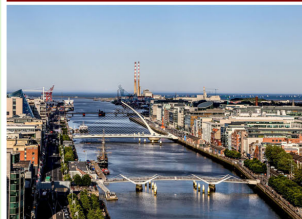
THE EUROPEAN PEPTIDE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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A Message from the Chairpersons of the 35th European Peptide Symposium 24th Polish Peptide Symposium Society News

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A Message from the Chairpersons of the
35th European Peptide Symposium
24th Polish Peptide Symposium
Society News

*Cover photo: Eagle view of Dublin
over the river Liffey*

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SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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A Message from the Chairpersons of the 35th European Peptide Symposium



Ireland is one of the recent member states of the European Peptide Society, joined in 2008, but have had a long tradition in the field of peptide science, with some evocative signs found in the Celtic mythology. The triquetra, one of the oldest Irish symbols, found for example in the book of Kells, a manuscript dating from approximately 800 AD, is a triple-looped leaf-like shape formed by one continuous line, representing various triplicities in the Celtic mythology. In 1867, this symbol was assigned a scientific significance, as part of the work of William Thomson (Lord Kelvin) on the structure of atoms as 'knotted vortex tubes of the ether'. In Kelvin's theory, the tri-symmetrical trefoil, a shape also evocative of the Irish shamrock, represented carbon, the fundamental atom of all molecules of life such as peptides. Although Kelvin's model of atoms was evidently supplanted by Dalton's one, his knot theory evolved in a branch of science applied in quantum field theory, the most advanced model of atoms.

Today, Ireland is also at the cutting edge of scientific research, positioned 10th in overall global scientific ranking according to Science Foundation Ireland, the Irish

national agency funding oriented basic and applied research. Over the past 40 years, Ireland became one of Europe's top innovation nations and has attracted numerous companies in hi-tech sectors, with, for example, 18 of the world's top 20 pharmaceutical companies having substantial operations in the country. Currently, the total life science sector in Ireland directly employs more than 50,000 people and exports over €45 billion annually. Biopharmaceuticals, including peptides, are well represented among these activities, with multiple academic groups (over 23), as well as the Agriculture and Food Development Authority working on the synthesis and biological applications of these biopolymers, and at least eight companies with significant investments and/or interest in peptide therapeutics.

This community of peptide scientists is looking forward to welcoming you in Dublin for the 35th European Peptide Symposium, 35EPS, on 26th–31st of August 2018. The symposium will be hosted at Dublin City University (DCU) located nearly half-way between Dublin airport and the City centre. The conference venue is the Helix DCU, which

has been recently awarded the title of Ireland's best purpose built event venue.

The conference programme will encompass several topics, including:

- amino acids and peptide synthesis;
- protein synthesis and semi-synthesis;
- peptides in chemical biology and therapeutics;
- structural and conformational studies;
- biologically active peptides;
- peptide mimetics;
- prodrugs, conjugates, targeting and uptake;
- peptide in proteomics and bioinformatics;
- nanotechnology, imaging and analytical techniques;
- peptide-based materials and catalysis;
- glycopeptides and lipopeptides;
- macromolecular assemblies;
- peptide biochemistry and biology.

Beside the scientific events and networking opportunities, the EPS 2018 can offer a unique delegate experience. Ireland is internationally recognised for its unparalleled hospitality and scenic beauty. Dublin, one of Europe's most vibrant and lively capital cities, is a popular city-break destination, appreciated for its famous history, culture, pubs, restaurants and shops, all concentrated within a latticework of historic streets. In culture for example, as the birthplace of William Butler Yeats, George

Bernard Shaw and Samuel Beckett, Dublin has produced three winners of the Nobel Prize for Literature. Other notable writers and playwrights from Dublin include Oscar Wilde, Jonathan Swift and the creator of Dracula, Bram Stoker. It is arguably most famous, however, as the town of James Joyce.

Welcome to Dublin, a place where science meets legends, history and hospitality.

Chandralal Hewage, University College Dublin (Chairman) and Co-Chairs Marc Devocelle, Royal College of Surgeons, Tia Keyes, Dublin City University, and Finbarr O'Harte, University of Ulster

Written by Marc Devocelle

CONFERENCE REPORT

24th Polish Peptide Symposium

Jastrzebia Góra, Poland

3–7 September 2017

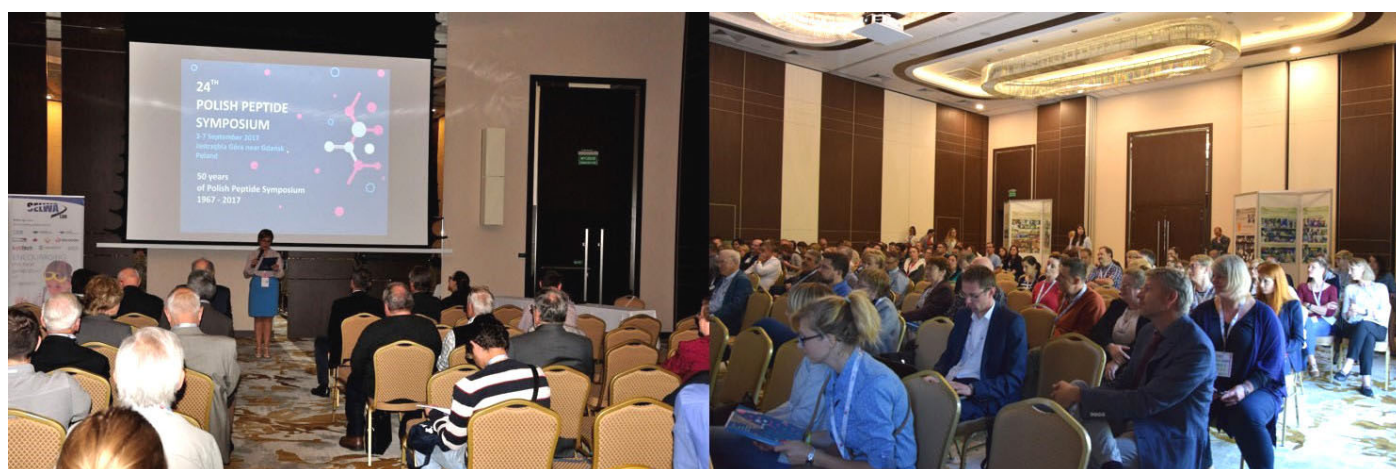
The 24th Polish Peptide Symposium was held in Jastrzebia Góra (the northernmost part of Poland), a beautiful village located by the seashore at the base of the Hel peninsula. The Symposium was organized by the Department of Biomedical Chemistry under the direction of Prof. Sylwia Rodziewicz-Motowidlo and was dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the first Polish Peptide Conference, organized by Prof. Gotfryd Kupryszewski in Gdansk in 1967. This year's symposium gathered about

200 peptide chemists, including many foreign visitors. Nearly half of the registered participants were PhD students. The official language of the symposium was English. The honorary guest of the Symposium was Prof. Maurice Manning (University of Toledo, Ohio), a world-class expert on vasopressin and oxytocin. Prof. Manning is the first chemist who obtained the title of doctor honoris causa of the Gdansk University (UG). Just before this year's Symposium, he celebrated the 30th anniversary of this event together

with his 80th birthday. On the first day of the symposium, Prof. Manning presented his view on *The Confluence of Chance Encounters, Collaborations, the Merrifield Solid Phase Method and Visiting Scientists in the Design and Synthesis of Oxytocin and Vasopressin Agonists and Antagonists*. The other distinguished guests were Prof. David Andreu, the president of the European Peptide Society, who greeted the symposium attendants with the presentation titled *Polish Peptide Society in Europe* and also gave a lecture



Group photo of 24th PPS participants.



Opening of the conference by Prof. Sylwia Rodziewicz-Motowidlo, the chair of the Organizing Committee.

during the conference, Anna Maria Papini (*University of Florence, Italy and University of Cergy-Pontoise, France*), Richard W. Farndale (*University of Cambridge, UK*), Chaim Gilon (*Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel*), Gilles Giuchard (*University of Bordeaux, France*), Roman Zubarev (*Karolinska Institutet, Sweden*). Hanna Mazur Marzec (*University of Gdansk, Poland*) and Igor Zhukov (*Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, and Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland*) who gave the plenary lectures opening the sessions. The first part of the symposium was dedicated to the history of peptide chemistry in Poland. During the session, representatives of Polish peptide centers in Gdansk

(Prof. Zbigniew Grzonka), Warsaw (Prof. Aleksandra Misicka-Kesik), Wroclaw (Prof. Pawel Kafarski and Prof. Zbigniew Szewczuk) and Łódź (Prof. Zbigniew Kaminski) presented the formation and development of peptide groups in these centers.

The scientifically, high esteemed symposium provided a stimulating four days of peptide science, covered by nine plenary lectures and thirty-two oral presentations divided into nine sessions. The symposium's scientific sessions were devoted mainly to enzyme studies, peptide immunotherapy, peptide/peptidomimetic structure and synthesis, modulation of proteasome activity, peptide ligands and foldamers.



Prof. Maurice Manning, honorary guest of the Symposium.



Professors Z. Grzonka, A. Misicka-Kesik, Z. Szewczuk, Z. Kaminski and P. Kafarski (from left to right) presenting the history of peptide science in Poland.



Discussions during coffee breaks and poster session.



Social events: Welcome grill party and Conference banquet.

The challenge for the attendants was considerable, if one includes the lectures, the display of over a hundred scientific posters of high scientific standards, and the exhibition of twenty-two leading European and multinational providers of instruments, accessories, reagents and services in peptide synthesis, separation techniques, analytical peptide chemistry, custom synthesis, and the promotion of peptide and protein science and technology.

During the conference, young researchers had the chance to present their work and win an award for the best posters in four various categories. Thanks to many benefactors, numerous competitions for young scientists could be organized and their efforts recognized. The winners were:

- Marta Cal (Georg-August University, Germany) – a young female scientist, who won a prize in the category for PostDoc in a competition sponsored by L'Oréal
- Anna Puszko (*University of Warsaw*) – a young female scientist, who won a prize in the category for PhD student in a competition sponsored by L'Oréal
- Justyna Sawicka (*University of Gdansk*) – who won a prize sponsored by Hydrolab held during Facebook voting and Michal Talma (Wroclaw University of Science and Technology) who won a distinction in that category
- Agata Chaberska (*Lodz University of Technology*) – who won the prize for presenting the most interesting interdisciplinary results involving peptides.

The competition was sponsored by the Vice-Rector of Education, dr hab. Anna Machnikowska, prof UG;

- Katarzyna Ozga (*Wroclaw University of Science and Technology*) – who won the prize for best poster sponsored by Peptideweb.com
- Mateusz Waliczek (*University of Wroclaw*) – who won the prize that acknowledges the PhD student with an outstanding impact in organic/peptide/peptidomimetic synthesis sponsored by Polpharma
- Wioletta Rut (*Wroclaw University of Science and Technology*) – who won the prize sponsored by Polygen for the best oral presentation.

Several young scientists were also awarded certificates of distinction for



Organizing Committee of 24th PPS.

outstanding presentations during the conference. In this group were Martyna Fularczyk, Natalia Karska and Sandra Skibiszewska (*University of Gdansk*), Magda Drewniak (*Wroclaw University of Science and Technology*), Halina Plóciennik (*Wroclaw University*) and Wojciech Lipinski (*Lódz University of Technology*).

Except for the scientific part of the symposium, the participants had a chance to take part in a grill welcome party, in an excursion to the Hel peninsula, in a basketball competition and to enjoy wonderful walks along the beach. On the last evening of the symposium, there was a banquet on

which the dances had no end.

Overall, the meeting was successful and received a very positive feedback thanks to the comprehensive and high-level scientific program, and the nice and friendly atmosphere among the participants.

We are very grateful to everyone who helped in the organization and realization of the 24th Polish Peptide Symposium, in particular, the University of Gdansk with all its' involved staff members (mainly from the Department of Biomedical Chemistry), the European Peptide Society, Pro-science company and Innovation Synergy Foundation (co-organizers of the symposium).

We would like to express our special gratitude to Mr. Mieczyslaw Struk, Marshal of the Pomorskie Voivodship and Prof. Jerzy Gwizdala, Rector of the University of Gdansk for the honorary patronage of the symposium.

Special thanks go to the sponsors of the symposium and their representatives, who nicely interacted with the participants during the coffee and lunch breaks. Without their generous financial support and wonderful relations in the organizing group, all this would not have been possible!

Contributed by Aleksandra S. Kolodziejczyk and Aneta Szymanska

Society News



European Peptide Society

No Profit Scientific Society
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Report on the Executive Committee Meeting, March 27, 2017, 10:00–12:30 h (part I), and on March 27, 2017, 14:45–18:00 h and March 28, 2017, 09:00–18:30 h (part II) (Florence, Italy)

Part I (Studio Gori, Via Ferrucci 203/C, 59100 Prato)

Participants: D. Andreu, A.M. Papini, P. Gomes, P. Gori, P. Bottani

Chair: D. Andreu

- a) Financial statements at 31/12/2016 (Accounts for the year of 2016);
- b) Auditor's certification of the Financial Statement for the Fiscal year ended on 31/12/2016;
- c) Budget of the European Peptide Society for the Fiscal year 2017.

1. Welcome

Both the president and Dr. Gori welcomed the participants and reminded them that the current Executive Committee (EC) is responsible for the approval of the financial statements of 2016 and the budget for 2017, both of which are to be presented to the General Assembly (GA) teleconference, which should take place by the end of May 2017.

2. Financial statement approval, audit for the fiscal year 2016 and budget for 2017

The following documents, added as annex to these Minutes (*for the Newsletter: this annex is added to the report of the General Assembly of May 2017*), were discussed:

3. General Assembly teleconference meeting 2017

The GA teleconference meeting was set for the 31st of May, 2017, at 10 a.m. (CET time) – 1st call, and 11 a.m. (CET time) – 2nd call.

4. Conversion of the Society into a Legally Recognized Nonprofit Organization

In discussing this matter, it was agreed that the Society has not enough dimension to be converted into Foundation, yet could be converted into a Legally Recognized Nonprofit Organization through relatively simple procedures, enabling EPS to have taxable revenues, receive donations and be eligible to receive 0.5% ("5 x 1000") of the Italian government taxing income. The matter was further discussed in Part II of the meeting.

Part II (University of Florence, Scientific Pole, via Ugo Schiff 6, Sesto Fiorentino)

March 27th 2017, 14:45–18:00h, and March 28th 2017, 09:00–18:30h

Participants: D. Andreu, A.M. Papini, N. Sewald, K. Rolka, P. Gomes

Chair: D. Andreu

1. Welcome and special thanks to the Treasurer (DA)

The President welcomed all participants and, on behalf of the EC, expressed their gratitude to Prof. Anna Maria Papini for her excellent hosting of the present EC meeting in Florence.

2. Rearrangement of the agenda (DA)

Due to late arrivals and other time constraints, it was agreed to amend the agenda, as proposed by the President and indicated in subsequent entries henceforth.

3. Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting in September 2016 (PG)

The minutes of the EC Meeting held in Leipzig, September 6th, 2016 were read and unanimously approved.

4. Revision of the Guidelines for EPS Symposium organizers (DA)

There was agreement that the guidelines for EPS symposium organizers (Annex IX of the EPS Bylaws) need to be formulated in more detail than the current version, to ensure a reasonable level of consistency between subsequent symposium editions. Issues considered to deserve special attention include:

- a) detailed protocols on all ESCOM-sponsored activities in EPS Symposia – it was agreed that a draft document to that extent would be prepared by the Scientific Affairs Officer (SAO);
- b) detailed description of organizer' responsibilities towards Award winners and to the EC;
- c) adequate arrangements (timeframe and logistics) for EPS-related events (EC, GA and ILC meetings) taking place during the Symposium;
- d) inclusion of the EPS President and SAO in the Scientific Committees of any forthcoming EPS Symposia;
- e) involvement (in person or via teleconference) of previous and next Symposium organizers in EC meetings timely scheduled to set organizational details for the next Symposium edition.

Following a brief analysis of the above issues, it was agreed that the Secretary and the President will prepare a revised version of Annex 9 embodying the above and other issues discussed during the EC meeting. This new version, plus the document mentioned in a) above to be prepared by the SAO, will be discussed and approved at the next ordinary GA meeting.

5. Mobility grants to Ph.D. students in Peptide Science (DA)

To preserve the non-profit status of the society, it was agreed that a part of the yearly revenues of the Society should be dedicated to mobility grants for Ph.D. students in peptide science, providing support for short (3 to 6-month) stays in external research groups. A draft of rules applicable to this initiative will be prepared by the SAO, circulated within the GA and approved at the next ordinary meeting.

6. Matters related with EC, GA and ILC meetings in September 2016 (DA)

The president gave a brief overview of the main issues raised during these meetings in Leipzig, September 8th, 2016. Of concern was the matter raised by several effective members (national representatives) about the need or not for a membership fee. It was agreed to discuss the matter in depth later in the session (see #12 below). There were no other outstanding matters arising from the above referred meetings.

7. Nonprofit status of the society and possible actions (DA)

Following the Treasurer and the President's feedback on the meeting at Studio Gori (Part I), regarding revision of the EPS nonprofit organization status, it was agreed to take the necessary steps for the EPS to be constituted as a Legally Recognized Non-profit Organization in Italy, with the fiscal benefits that might derive from it. The Treasurer was entrusted to follow the matter up in collaboration with Dr. Gori.

8. Treasurer's report (AMP)

The financial status of the EPS, namely, financial statement approval and audit for the fiscal year 2016, as well as budget for 2017, were explained in detail by the Treasurer. It was agreed that, as part of the "new EPS promotion activities" expenditure in the budget for 2017, the Society would invest not only on becoming a Legally Recognized Nonprofit Organization (see # 7 above) but also on registering its logotype at the EU Intellectual Property Office, this latter matter to be taken care of by the President.

Also agreed was that a revised version of the current contract with ESCOM might be drawn up, with the

possibility to include, among other issues, "ESCOM mobility grants" similar and complementary to those promoted directly by the Society (see #5 above). Both the President and the SAO agreed to further explore and pursue this possibility.

In view of all the above, it was agreed that the Treasurer should prepare an annex to the Budget for 2017, explaining foreseen expenditures with new EPS promotion activities, to be discussed and voted in the next ordinary GA meeting.

Also discussed at this point was that for both the Zervas and Bodanszky awards funding has been secured for the 2018 and future editions, thanks to contributions from Dr. Rao Makineni (until 2032) and BCN Peptides (until 2020 at least). In contrast, for the Rudinger Memorial Lecture, the Society's most prestigious award, funding is obtained through an unwritten, non-binding agreement with PolyPeptide Laboratories, typically enacted on dates rather close to (in 2016, one week before) the Symposium. The situation was judged undesirable and it was decided that steps toward securing time-reliable funding, from PolyPeptide or other donors, would be undertaken by the President.

9. Report of the Communications Officer (KR)

The report presented as most relevant points: (i) two newsletters published in 2016 and plans for a forthcoming one; (ii) efforts to obtain electronic versions of the Proceedings of all former Symposia, made available online on the Society's website; (iii) recruitment of a pool of seven writers publishing monthly Peptide Highlight on the EPS website, four articles so far appeared from such writers, and (iv) a recent overhaul of the website by Dr. Jaroslaw Ruczynski.

10. Report of the Scientific Affairs Officer (NS)

The SAO updated the EC on approved and pending requests for funding national or specialized meetings on Peptide Science. He also proposed to review the amount given to these events, in tune with their duration and with inflation. It was agreed that an amount of €500 should be allotted to only-one-day events, and the matter further discussed in the next GA. The SAO also discussed an unprecedented request for support of two single peptide-related sessions in a larger non-EPS related event; although these sessions did not qualify for funding as per EPS rules, it was agreed that the EPS could consider future funding peptide-related sessions chaired by EPS members, as part of larger events. Such a proposal will be elaborated by the SAO, to be presented and voted in the next ordinary GA meeting.

11. Management and pruning of the EPS members' database (PG)

It was decided that the Secretary should immediately start working on updating the members' database, by trying to reach members whose addresses bounced on EPS-wide e-mails. If the attempt proves fruitless, the Secretary will enlist assistance from the respective National Representatives and, should this fail too, removal from the EPS membership will result.

12. Discussion on membership fees white paper (DA)

The membership fees white paper prepared by the President was thoroughly analyzed. It was noted that no feedback to the white paper had been received from effective members advocating for membership fees at the 2016 GA. Contributions from former EPS officers and other effective members were integrated into a consensus-seeking version that was approved by the EC and will be

circulated within the GA shortly, then put up for a vote right before the next ordinary meeting on May 31st, 2017.

13. Sponsorship recruitment – incentives for sponsors and other initiatives

It was agreed that, as part of its mission, the Society should recruit sponsors to contribute to the organization of advanced training events for PhD students, such as Summer Schools or Workshops. The strategy to approach companies within this context was discussed, and it was agreed that both Treasurer and President should start making the first contacts with companies potentially receptive to this initiative.

14. Date, Agenda and Logistics for the next GA meeting in May 2017 (DA)

The President reminded that the next ordinary GA meeting will take place in Barcelona, on May 31st, 2017, and commissioned the Secretary with timely organization of all documents and himself with arrangements for the teleconference.

15. Date and location of the next Executive Committee meeting (DA, AMP)

The next EC meeting will be organized in Florence, in March 2018. It was agreed that Prof. Chandralal Hewage, organizer of the 35th EPS Symposium to be held in Dublin, August 2018, should be invited to participate.

16. Other matters

None.

D. Andreu, P. Gomes

March 2017



European Peptide Society

No Profit Scientific Society
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Report on the General Assembly (2nd Call) of the European Peptide Society of May 31, 2017

At 10:00 on May 31, 2017, in the premises of Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona Biomedical Research Park, Dr. Aiguader 88 08003 Barcelona, Spain, Profs. David Andreu, Anna Maria Papini and Paula Gomes, president, treasurer and secretary of European Peptide Society, respectively, have met in teleconference with national representatives of the Society and, after having signed the attendance sheet kept in the records of the Society, are called to deliberate on the following agenda:

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the last General Assembly
4. Report of the Communication Officer
5. Report of the Scientific Affairs Officer
6. Report of the Treasurer and approval of the following:
 - 6.1. Financial statements of the year ended on 31/12/2016, including the notes: related and consequent resolutions;
 - 6.2. Budget for the year 2017;
 - 6.3. Appointment of the Audit for the year 2017.

7. Report from the JPS Editor
8. Update on the 35th EPS Symposium
9. Nonprofit status of the society and actions thereof
10. Discussion and vote on membership fees white paper
11. Discussion on revised guidelines for EPS Symposium organizers, Annex 9 of the EPS Bylaws

In addition to those above, the following participants were connected via teleconference (audio and video), according to art. 8.9 of the Statutes of the Society as well as in the agenda of the meeting, using Adobe Connect:

Norbert SEWALD, Krzysztof ROLKA, Tamara PAJANOVA, Andreja JAKAS, Vaclav CEROVSKY, Knud JENSEN, Oliver SEITZ, Paolo ROVERO, Zbigniew SZEWCZUK, Miguel CASTANHO, Meritxell TEIXIDÓ, John HOWL.

Florine CAVELIER joined the meeting at 11:50.

Knud JENSEN left the meeting at 11:50.

Miguel CASTANHO left the meeting at 12:00.

Apologies for absence were received from Steven BALLEET, Gabor MEZÖ, Chandralal HEWAGE, Dirk RIJKERS, Vladislav DEIGIN, Mojka LUNDER, Helma WENNEMERS, Luis MORODER, Ulf DIEDERICHSEN.

The members connected *via* Adobe Connect confirmed the possibility to intervene in real time at the discussion, to be able to receive and transmit documents.

The President, assisted by the Secretary and the Treasurer, was in charge of running the Assembly. No scrutinizers were appointed, and those present were invited to verbally express their opinion.

The President, after noting the fact that the meeting was called as required in the Statutes and within the statutory time limits, asked if all the present members were aware of the agenda and if any had preliminary objections to it. As nobody intervened the President declared the session open and able to deliberate.

1. Welcome

The President welcomed all members present and thanked the Scientific Affairs Officer, Prof. Norbert Sewald, for hosting the teleconference meeting *via* Adobe Connect.

2. Apologies for absence

The Secretary transmitted the apologies for absence sent by Steven BALLE, Gabor MEZŐ, Chandralal HEWAGE, Dirk RIJKERS, Vladislav DEIGIN, Mojka LUNDER, Helma WENNEMERS, Luis MORODER, and Ulf DIEDERISCHEN.

3. Minutes of the last General Assembly

The President asked members present if they had any comments to make on the Minutes of the last General Assembly meeting, held in Leipzig, in September 2016. No comments were made, and the minutes were approved by unanimity.

4. Report of the Communication Officer

The President asked the Communication Officer (CO), Prof. Krzysztof Rolka, to add any relevant comments to what had already been reported in writing. The CO only commented that the most recent e-mail message sent to all EPS members (about 1700 members) was opened by 35% of the recipients, which may indicate that about 700 such members remain truly active. No other comments being made by any other members, the President added that the recent initiative of having a Pool of Writers contributing to the EPS website was successful in improving the Society's visibility and the number of visits to the website.

5. Report of the Scientific Affairs Officer

The President asked the Scientific Affairs Officer (SAO), Prof. Norbert Sewald, to add any relevant comments to what had already been reported in writing. The SAO commented that the funding usually given by the EPS to small meetings had not been revised for a number of years, and suggested that it could be improved. Specifically, he proposed that €500 are given to 1-day meetings, and €1000 to longer ones. The issue was also raised about the EPS contributing funding to peptide-focused sessions or sections of larger meetings. K. Jensen expressed agreement with both issues. O. Seitz also agreed and emphasized the need for the EPS to be appropriately acknowledged. The SAO indicated that the Scientific Affairs Committee would be looking at requests of this kind on a case-by-case basis.

6. Report of the Treasurer and approval of the following:

The President asked the Treasurer Prof. Anna Maria Papini to read: a) the report of the certification of the Legal Audit,

auditor of the financial statements that ends with the declaration that “the financial statements of the EUROPEAN PEPTIDE SOCIETY on 31/12/2016 corresponds to the accounting records kept by the Society, and to the results of carrying out the documentary facts”, and b) the financial statements of the year ended 31/12/2016 including the Notes: related and consequent resolutions, as reported in the document sent together with the Financial statements the day that the General Assembly was convened.

6.1. Financial statements of the year ended on 31/12/2016, including the notes: related and consequent resolutions. Afterwards the President asked if all present effective members were in possession of the financial statements and if there were questions from the assembly. As no questions were raised, the General Assembly considering the auditor’s certificate, unanimously deliberated to:

- (i) deposit the 2016 Auditor’s Report into the European Peptide Society archives;
- (ii) approve the financial statements for the fiscal year ended on 31/12/2016, in its capacity as balance sheet, income statement and notes, as presented by the Executive Committee, showing a positive result of Euro 20.252,75;
- (iii) devolve the positive return of the year closed on 31/12/2016 to the assets of the European Peptide Society, remembering the EPS commitment to promote peptide research among younger generations by establishing fellowships for mobility, by funding for organization of national congresses, and free registrations for the biannual EPS Symposium;

- (iv) attribute NO RESPONSIBILITY to the Executive Committee and to the Treasurer, for the facts and documents presented in the financial statements and into the report of the auditor.

6.2. Budget for the year 2017

The budget proposal previously approved by the Executive Committee on March 27, 2017 was unanimously approved by the General Assembly who had no questions and observations on the matter.

The Treasurer also discussed the fact that the non-profit status of the EPS makes it advisable that a balance between income and expense is reached yearly. In line with this, the current budget has included supporting funds of up to €15000 for activities promoting the mission of the Society, including mobility grants for young peptide scholars. In addition, the possibility of a Foundation which can attract donations from patrons in industry and elsewhere is considered worth exploring. The Treasurer is entrusted with analyzing this possibility, and will update the Society in due time.

6.3. Appointment of the Audit for the year 2017

Considering that all dealings between Studio “Paolo Gori – Studio Professionale Associato” and the EPS can now be conducted in English, the GA unanimously approved the appointment of Dr. Paolo Gori (Studio “Paolo Gori - Studio Professionale Associato with seat in Prato Via Ferrucci N° 203/C) as auditor for the year ending on 31/12/2017, as well as accounting, fiscal and society assistance and advice for the year 2017, and accepted the quotation.

7. Report from the JPS Editor

In the absence of the Editor-in-Chief, Prof. Paolo Rovero commented on the report of Prof. Moroder, previously circulated. His comments included the effort to raise the impact factor above 2.0, and Special Issues for 2017. The President mentioned that despite the opinionable matter of impact factors, there was a growing perception that the journal is doing well, and in this regard the Society was grateful to the Editor-in-Chief and Editorial Board for the fact that the revenues from the journal have benefited the Society.

8. Update on the 35th EPS Symposium

In the absence of Prof. Hewage, a Power Point presentation prepared by him was commented by the President.

9. Nonprofit status of the society and actions thereof

These issues have been dealt with in item 6.2.

10. Discussion and vote on membership fees white paper

The President asked if anyone had anything to add to the membership fees white paper that had been circulated before. As no comments were made, the President considered that the Assembly was ready to vote in either Option 1 or Option 2, as described in the white paper. Before the vote, the President asked the assembly if a “raised hand” or a “secret e-mail” vote was preferred, whereby the first option was agreed on by unanimity. After which members present were asked to vote in their preferred alternative. Voting was as follows:

OPTION 1 – 14 votes

OPTION 2 – 1 vote

BLANK VOTE – 1

Accordingly, OPTION 1 was preferred by the majority, and the President confirmed that the Society will abide by what applies from such option in the forthcoming years.

11. Discussion on revised guidelines for EPS Symposium organizers, Annex 9 of the EPS Bylaws

Prof. Norbert Sewald commented on the guidelines for interaction between EPS Symposium organizers and the ESCOM Foundation, which has demonstrated its commitment to support Peptide Science in Europe and elsewhere. Included in these guidelines are the activities so far sponsored by ESCOM Foundation, such as the Dr. Bert L. Schram Young Investigators’ Minisymposium, the ESCOM Young Investigator Awards (Dr. Bert L. Schram Awards), and the Dr. Bert L. Schram Networking Mixer. These initiatives are considered as highly desirable by the Executive Committee, which wants to make sure that they are properly developed in future editions of the Symposium.

The President also indicated that detailed guidelines for Symposium organizers (including the above ones regarding ESCOM) are under elaboration, and could not be finalized in time for the GA meeting, but will be circulated among GA members soon.

The Agenda being completed, and with no further interventions, the Assembly was dismissed at 12:30, with the present minutes approved by all those participating in the teleconference.

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Prof. Paula GOMES

The President

Prof. David ANDREU

Barcelona, 31st of May 2017.

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CALENDAR **of** Forthcoming Events

7TH AUSTRIAN PEPTIDE SYMPOSIUM

Van Swieten Symposium Hall, Wien,
Austria
7 December 2017
URL: [http://www.meduniwien.ac.at/
pharmakologie/ms/AustrianPeptide.html](http://www.meduniwien.ac.at/pharmakologie/ms/AustrianPeptide.html)

16TH IBERIAN PEPTIDE MEETING / 4TH CHEMBIO GROUP MEETING

Auditorium, Barcelona Biomedical
Research Park, Barcelona, Spain
5–7 February 2018
URL: [https://eventum.upf.edu/10279/
detail/16th-iberian-peptide-meeting-and-
4th-chembio-group-meeting-
barcelona.html](https://eventum.upf.edu/10279/detail/16th-iberian-peptide-meeting-and-4th-chembio-group-meeting-barcelona.html)

3RD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENZYMOLOGY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

London, UK
5–6 March 2018
URL:
<https://enzymology.conferenceseries.com/>

16TH NAPLES WORKSHOP ON BIOACTIVE PEPTIDES

Centro Congressi of University of Naples
“Federico II”, Naples, Italy
7–9 June 2018
URL: <http://peptidesnaplesworkshop.org/>

35TH EUROPEAN PEPTIDE SYMPOSIUM

The Helix Conference Centre, Dublin City
University, Dublin, Ireland
26–31 August 2018
URL: [http://www.eps2018.com/ehome/
index.php?eventid=256357&](http://www.eps2018.com/ehome/index.php?eventid=256357&)

10TH INTERNATIONAL PEPTIDE SYMPOSIUM AND 55TH JAPANESE PEPTIDE SYMPOSIUM

ROHM Theatre Kyoto, Kyoto, Japan
3–7 December, 2018
URL: <http://aeplan.co.jp/10thips/>