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36th EPS European Peptide Symposium
12th IPS International Peptide Symposium

Inside this issue:

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IN THIS ISSUE

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SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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A Message from the Chairpersons of the 36th European Peptide Symposium

Welcome

On behalf of the organizing committee, we invite you to join us at the 36th European and 12th International Peptide Symposium, to be held at Sitges (Barcelona), Spain, from August 30 to September 4, 2020.

The meeting, themed "From Peptides to the World", will be an ideal occasion for academia and industry scientists from all over the world to learn and discuss about the thriving field of peptide science, exchanging ideas, creating new alliances, meeting old – and making new – friends.

The 36EPS scientific committee has set out to assemble an exciting program with a broad range of topics covering, among others, advances in peptide chemistry and structure, bioactive peptides and their therapeutic applications, and peptide biomaterials, nanotechnology and delivery. In addition, associated satellite meetings and workshops will take place.

The conference venue be the Melià Sitges, a leading hotel and convention center with a 1200-seat auditorium and 4,000 square meters for commercial exhibition, poster sessions and coffee breaks, all within the pleasant setting of a 300-room establishment with outdoor pool, gardens and terraces overlooking the Mediterranean Sea.

Sitges, 40 km south of Barcelona and well-connected (every 30 min) by rail to Barcelona International Airport and Central Station, is a trendy resort with privileged location and mild Mediterranean climate favouring outdoor activities practically all year-round. Four kilometres of beach, fringed by a sea-front promenade dotted with artful colonial mansions facing the sea, provide a perfect excuse for strolling in this convivial town well-known for its open, inclusive, relaxed atmosphere.

The scientific and local organizing committees, supported by the EPS executive committee, are keen to make the 36EPS/12IPS a memorable, successful scientific event. Convinced that your presence will contribute to that, we look forward to meeting you in Sitges in 2020!

Very best wishes,

36EPS Symposium Chair

Dr. Meritxell Teixidó

Vice-Chairs:

Prof. D. Andreu

Prof. F. Albericio

Technical Secretariat:
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CONFERENCE REPORT

26th Dutch Peptide Symposium

Maastricht, The Netherlands

5 June 2018

The 26th Dutch Peptide Symposium was held in Maastricht at Hotel Crowne Plaza Maastricht in 5th of June 2018. The beautifully placed venue located on the Maas river hosted over 150 scientists from more than 15 different countries with organisation of Pepscan and Maastricht University. The conference program offered plenty of opportunities to listen to good science, and discuss the latest developments in academia and in industry with colleagues in the field. The official language of the congress conducted in English.

The symposium focused on 12 short oral abstract lectures from Dutch and international peptide researchers and industry participants, which were ranked and selected by our scientific committee. Moreover 25 scientists presented exciting novel results on their posters and the three best posters were awarded with Bert Schram awards.

We were specially honoured by the presence of Prof. James Link from Princeton University in US, who delivered the keynote lecture on the exciting topic of lasso peptides in a lecture entitled: Making and breaking peptide knots.

Special thank you to our sponsors, who helped us keeping the meeting for free for all attendees including good food and drinks. DPS18 would not be possible with the generous support of our sponsors. Please visit https://www.dutchpeptidesymposium.com for the impressions of the Dutch Peptide Symposium 2018.

Contributed by Pelin Karasu

Participants of the 26th Dutch Peptide Symposium (DPS 2018)

Participants of the 26th Dutch Peptide Symposium (DPS 2018)

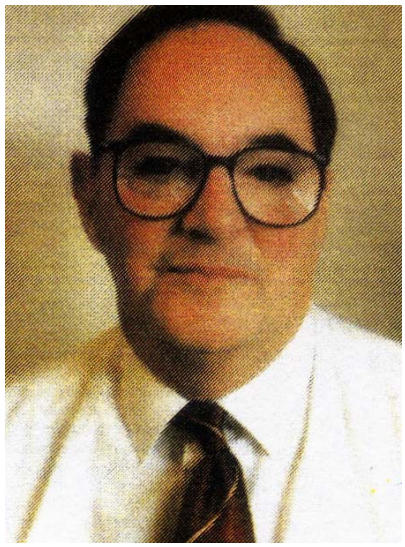
In Memoriam

Robert C. Sheppard
(1932–2019)

Robert (Bob) Sheppard, former Head of the Sub-Division of Peptide Chemistry at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge, UK, passed away at his home on 15th January 2019, aged 87. His legacy to peptide science is a substantial body of work on the development of novel solid supports and orthogonal Fmoc/t-butyl-based chemistry that enable solid phase peptide synthesis to be carried out under mild conditions. These were also adapted to novel automated instruments designed to operate under efficient continuous flow conditions. The chemical synthesis methods remain in widespread use today by both academia and industry.

Bob received a BA in Natural Sciences (Class I) from the University of Cambridge in 1953 and then a PhD under the supervision of Professor George Kenner on the "Studies in the degradation of peptides" in 1957. In the same year, he was a Salters' Company Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Harvard University under the direction of Professor R. B. Woodward where he focused on the synthesis of tetracyclic and pentacyclic triterpines. In 1958, he returned to the United Kingdom to work with Professor Kenner who had been appointed to the Department of Organic Chemistry, Liverpool University. Bob was appointed as a lecturer, senior lecturer, and then tutor. During this time, he made significant contributions to the Liverpool group's leading research including its isolation, primary structure elucidation, and chemical synthesis of the peptide hormone, gastrin.

In 1971, the then-chairman of Cambridge's MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Dr Max Perutz, made the far-reaching decision to establish a peptide chemistry laboratory with the goal of using chemical peptide synthesis, and in the longer term, protein synthesis, to contribute to the important protein folding problem upon which theoretical studies were already underway. The critically important roles that peptide synthesis was later to play in molecular biology was yet to be conceived. Bob was appointed Head of the new Sub-Division of Peptide Chemistry in the same year. The aim was to research and develop new methods for the partial and total synthesis of peptides and proteins. Together with his assembled research team that included Eric Atherton, Bob undertook a comprehensive assessment of the solid phase peptide synthesis methodology as brilliantly developed by R. B. Merrifield (who subsequently received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1984) a few years earlier to determine if improvements could be made and implemented to enhance its capabilities.[1] To address the issue of inadequate



solvation within the resin matrix that was recognized to contribute to failed peptide syntheses, it was hypothesized that the inherently polar peptides would be more compatible with, and better assembled upon, polar solid supports rather than the originally developed non-polar polystyrene-based supports. This led to the development of beaded polydimethylacrylamide which swelled far more in polar solvent medium such as dimethylformamide.[2] This support contributed to improved yields of several synthetic peptides including the opioid, β-endorphin. Importantly, Bob recognized that these modifications could be applied to the assembly of oligonucleotides which was subsequently developed within his team by Mike Gait.

It also soon became apparent to Bob that an inherent limitation of the Merrifield technique was the use of a range of differentially acid-labile protecting groups for the terminal amino group and side chain protection and for the linkage to the solid support, the latter requiring the use of highly corrosive liquid hydrogen fluoride and specialized handling apparatus for its cleavage. Together with Eric Atherton, he recognized the potential advantages for solid phase peptide synthesis to be conferred by a strategy that enabled a combination of both acid- and base-labile protecting groups. Critical to this was the adoption and use of the novel, recently developed amino acid amino-terminal protecting group, fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl (Fmoc) that was developed by Louis Carpino and which is cleaved by, typically, secondary amines such as piperidine. From this work, the Fmoc/t-butyl strategy emerged. This combination of Fmoc group and mild acid-labile t-butyl groups for side chain protection provided a system which was highly efficient, chemically mild, and truly orthogonal.[3,4] Importantly, it also subsequently facilitated the development of efficient and economical continuous flow methods and of real-time UV monitoring via the Fmoc chromophore of both acylation and deprotection reactions.[5] This technology was adopted in commercially available automated continuous flow peptide synthesizers from manufacturers such as LKB, MilliGen, and Protein Technologies. His extraordinarily productive laboratory also developed novel side chain protecting groups, active ester acylation chemistry, peptide-resin linkers, multiple peptide synthesis, composite solid supports, and improved fragment condensation coupling methods (for example, previous works[6-8]). All of these helped significantly advance the conduct of solid phase peptide synthesis to enable the acquisition of ever-larger peptides in generally greater yields and purity than previously possible.

The improved methods for solid phase peptide synthesis caused substantial worldwide interest, and the following period was enlivened by short visits from many notable or new peptide chemists. They each contributed to the research work of Bob's group during the few weeks or months that they stayed. All greatly enjoyed the vibrant, stimulating environment and camaraderie that Bob successfully created within his laboratory. Today, the Fmoc/t-butyl solid phase peptide synthesis methodology remains in widespread use throughout academia and industry and continues to have a major impact on many fields of science including medicine, immunology, and structural biology. This is testament to not only Merrifield's original, pioneering development but also Bob's outstanding refinements. The methods also formed the basis for the success of a local company, Cambridge Research Biochemicals (CRB), which was the first to offer Fmoc-amino acid derivatives and other reagents for commercial sale. In recognition of this, the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology and CRB jointly received the Queen's Award for Technological Achievement in 1989. The impact of Bob's significant, sustained contribution to solid phase peptide synthesis was further recognized by his receipt of the European Peptide Society's premier award, the Josef Rudinger Memorial Medal, in Braga, Portugal, in 1994.

After his official retirement in April 1992, Bob remained actively involved in the peptide community being both a co-opted member of the European Peptide Society Council and Treasurer of the European Peptide Society (both to 1998) as well as continuing to consult for industry. He was a loving and much-loved husband, father, and grandfather and is survived by his wife of nearly 60 years, Maureen, three children, and six grandchildren. Bob was a superb chemist with a great capacity to devise simple solutions to seemingly complex peptide chemistry questions and to foster the

development of positive outcomes by his team members. He was a wonderful mentor and friend to many and will be greatly missed by all who knew him and who had the great privilege and pleasure of working with him.

Contributed by Eric Atherton and John D. Wade

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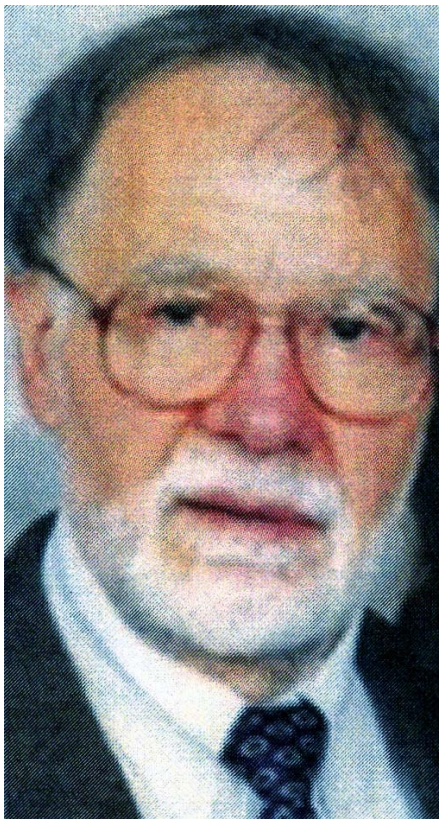
In Memoriam

Louis A. Carpino
(1927–2019)

Dr Louis A. Carpino (91) passed away at home in Amherst, MA on Friday, January 4, 2019. He was a Professor Emeritus of Organic Chemistry at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Dr L.A. Carpino was a pioneer in the development of amino-protecting groups and coupling reagents for use in the synthesis of biologically active materials such as pharmaceuticals, polynucleotides, PNAs, peptides, and small proteins. His first significant contribution was the development of the *tert*-butyloxycarbonyl (Boc) group as a protecting group for amino acids.[1] With its much greater acid lability than the benzyloxycarbonyl-(Z) protecting group, the Boc group facilitated the synthesis of peptides. The discovery of the Boc group enabled a new strategy in the synthesis of peptides. The Boc strategy combined the use of a Boc group as temporary N^{α}-amino-protecting group with the much more acid stable, permanent side-chain benzyl-based protecting groups. Boc amino acids are mostly crystalline, easily prepared using a number of synthetic methods, and stable even at room temperature. In general, activation and coupling of Boc amino acids to the N-terminus of growing peptides is carried out with no side reaction. Because of the rapid removal of Boc groups by TFA/DCM, HCl/dioxane or other acids, Boc amino acids were found to be particularly suited for the development of and the use in solid-phase peptide synthesis (SPPS) created by RB Merrifield in 1963.[2] Boc protection of amino acids has been highly successful in the syntheses of a limited number of proteins and is compatible with automated machines and for parallel synthesis of a large number of short peptides (on pins or in "tea bags").

Dr Carpino's next major accomplishment addressed a weak point in the use of Boc-protecting groups, especially in the presence of other acid labile-protecting groups. While the temporary Boc group can be removed under much milder conditions than the permanent groups, the latter groups are not completely stable following repeated Boc removals. Thus, partial side-chain deprotection during the synthesis of long peptides in SPPS may yield undesired side products and complex crude products. Moreover, the final deprotection of side-chain functionalities as well as cleavage of peptide from resin in the Boc strategy necessitates the use of harsh conditions, such as liquid hydrogen fluoride, which may lead to modification/degradation of the product by side reactions including aspartimide formation, N/O-shift, etc. Dr Carpino developed a completely orthogonal-protecting system using the 9-fluorenyl-



methoxycarbonyl (Fmoc) group.[3] The Fmoc-protecting group is removed rapidly and efficiently by proton abstraction via secondary amines, conditions that do not affect acid-labile *tert*-butyl–type-protecting groups placed on the side chains. Moreover, the Fmoc group is completely stable under the conditions used for removal of the resin linkers. Fmoc amino acids are generally easy to prepare in crystalline form and stable

during storage. Fmoc amino acids can be highly activated and efficiently coupled without side reactions, and their high ultraviolet (UV) absorption makes it possible to monitor their incorporation during the assembly of the peptide. By using the secondary amines such as piperidine to remove the Fmoc group, the dibenzofulvene formed is trapped on the spot, minimizing possible side reactions. The Fmoc-based SPPS is nowadays the method of choice for the chemical synthesis of peptides.

Dr Carpino developed a number of other protecting groups that have also found widespread application. The benzothiophenesulfone-2-methyloxy-carbonyl (Bsmoc)-protecting group is an example of a large new class of protecting groups that can be removed under the very mild conditions of Michael addition.[4] The 2,2,4,6,7-pentamethyldihydrobenzo-furan-5-sulfonyl group (Pbf) was develop-ed for side-chain protection of arginine and is easily removed by trifluoroacetic acid (TFA). Pbf can be used efficiently in the synthesis of arginine-containing peptides.[5] The icyclopropylmethyl (Dcpm) group is used in polypeptide syntheses when it is necessary to minimize peptide insolubility and aggregation.[6] In case of threonine/ serine-containing peptides, an alternative route to avoid aggregation problems involves the synthesis of the corresponding O-acyl-peptide isomers and subsequent rearrangement back to regular peptides after synthesis and purification.[7]

In addition to his seminal contributions around amino protecting groups, Dr Carpino developed several new types of coupling reagents based on acid halides and 1-hydroxy-7-azabenzotriazole that are far more efficient than classical reagents because of their speed, generality, and control of epimerization. Fmoc-amino acid fluorides have facilitated efficient SPPS of peptaibols, such as alamethicin, the synthesis of which was previously reported via a laborious solution-phase route.[8] The more reactive Fmoc-amino acid chlorides, although being less stable than the corresponding fluorides, enable the coupling of extremely hindered systems such as N-methyl-amino-iso-butyric acid to amino-iso-butyric acid.[9] Finally, uronium/guanidinium compounds of 1-hydroxy-7-azabenzotriazole (HOAT) are very efficient activation reagents,[10] although their recent use, especially in large-scale syntheses, has been limited for safety reasons.

Dr Carpino's contributions over a long and distinguished career have enabled synthetic peptide chemistry as it is widely practiced today. Dr Carpino never stopped thinking about the design of better coupling reagents. In fact, he was working on a new coupling reagent to address some of the safety issues with HOAT over the past year when he passed away.

Dr Carpino was born in Des Moines, Iowa, on December 13, 1927. He was a loving husband, father, and grandfather and is survived by his wife, Barbara, and six children. I got to know him as a great teacher, creative director who shared his ideas, attentive listener who showed respect for anyone, a quiet person who shunned the great arena but fostered intense scientific collaboration over many years. He touched the lives of many people — he will be missed.

Contributed by *Michael Beyermann*

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Society News

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Extract from the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, 25-26 March 2019 (Florence, Italy)

Part I (Room 59 – University of Florence, Piazza San Marco 4, Florence) 25/03/19, 3:30-7:30 pm

MINUTES

Participants: A.M. Papini, K. Rolka, N. Sewald, P. Gomes, M. Teixidó
Chair: A. M. Papini

1. Welcome, apologies and nomination of the Chair of the meeting

A. M. Papini welcomed all participants and informed that the President, D. Andreu, sent his apologies for not being able to attend the meeting, due to unexpected personal issues. In view of this, A. M. Papini was unanimously nominated as the Chair of this meeting.

2. Approval of the minutes of the last EC meeting

The minutes of the last EC meeting, held in Dublin, on the 28th of August 2018, were unanimously approved (Annex A).

3. Report from the organizers of the forthcoming 36th European Peptide Symposium and 12th International Peptide Symposium

Meritxell Teixidó, organizer of the forthcoming 36th EPS/12th IPS, briefed the EC regarding the preliminary programme and arrangements for the Symposium, which will be held in Sitges, Barcelona, from the 30th of August to the 4th of September 2020.

Several issues were discussed, namely:

a) ***publication of abstracts in a special issue of Journal of Peptide Society:*** the EPS will put Meritxell Teixidó with Wiley representatives, in order to manage this issue;

b) ***EPS Proceedings***: it was noticed that the number of submissions to the Proceedings of the EPS has been steadily decreasing, and that this publication might require some re-

thinking; it was agreed that the organizers of the next two Symposia (36th and 37th EPS) would discuss this issue and report back their impressions to the EC;

c) ***EPS Booth***: the organizer was reminded that one booth should be reserved for the EPS at no cost, and that Wiley should be contacted regarding their own booth; Meritxell Teixidó suggested that this issue should be inserted in the Checklist for organizers included in Annex 9 of the EPS Bylaws, which the EC members consensually agreed to propose to the General Assembly, on their forthcoming meeting;

d) ***Invited lectures***: Meritxell Teixidó proposed to have 25 invited ("long") lectures and 23 regular ("short") oral communications selected from submitted abstracts; it was also considered that 12 of the 25 invited speakers would be invited by the organizers, and at the same time asked to participate in the Scientific Committee, being in charge of selecting the other 13 invited speakers, and the 23 regular oral communications;

e) ***Registration fees***: provisional registration fees were presented, which will include registration, coffee breaks, lunches, Welcome Reception and Gala Dinner.

4. **Information from the organizers of the forthcoming 37th European Peptide Symposium and 14th International Peptide Symposium**

Anna Maria Papini, organizer of the forthcoming 37th EPS/14th IPS, briefed the EC regarding some of the ideas that are being putting forward regarding the scientific and social programme of this forthcoming meeting, to be held in Florence, from the 28th of August to the 2nd of September 2022.

5. **Report of the Communications Officer (K. Rolka)**

The Communication Officer gave a detailed explanation of each of the items in his report for the period of September 2018 to February 2019 (Annex B). Most relevant issues in this report were (i) publication of one Newsletter in December 2018 (ii) five contributions received from the EPS "Pool of Writers"; and (iii) updates on the EPS Website.

6. **Report of the Scientific Affairs Officer (N. Sewald)**

The Scientific Affairs Officer briefed the other members regarding his report for the past 12 months (Annex C), highlighting the following aspects: (i) support was approved for three regional meetings, namely, in France, Poland and the UK; (ii) three other applications for funding small meetings had to be denied, either because submissions were made after the deadline, or the organizers failed to provide information required; (iii) EPS mobility fellowships: no applications were received for the call ending on 30th of November 2018. The current call is open ending on 31st of May 2019. It was consensually agreed that calls should be made more visible through all possible channels, mainly the EPS Website, and that GA members could be asked to invite incoming research collaborators to immediately apply for EPS membership, in order to become eligible to apply for

a Mobility Grant within 12 months of joining the group. It was further deliberated that current two calls to apply for support to regional meetings and for mobility grants should be replaced by a continuously open call, and applicants should apply no later than three months prior to the event (regional meeting or student's mobility, whichever applies); this proposal will be presented by the Scientific Affairs Officer to the General Assembly on their forthcoming meeting and, if approved, Annexes 10 and 11 of the EPS Bylaws will be amended accordingly.

Finally, the Scientific Affairs Officer informed that there were members of the Scientific Affairs Committee whose mandates were about to expire, and that he would make the necessary arrangements to proceed with necessary re-appointments or new appointments, as established in point 18 and Annex 5 of the Society's Bylaws.

7. **Report of the Secretary (P. Gomes)**

The Secretary presented her report (Annex D), which focused on (i) current total number of EPS members; (ii) new members joining in 2019, with particular attention to those applying for membership after the 35th EPS Symposium; (iii) brief analysis of the questionnaires collected by the Young Testimonials in the EPS booth at the 35th EPS Symposium, and of their impact on new membership requests, and forthcoming Symposia.

The Secretary further informed that database pruning remained undone, as it requires considerable time and effort outside regular working hours. The Treasurer suggested that a "Young EPS Testimonial" (i.e., a young EPS member) could be recruited by the Secretary to take care of this task, in exchange of a free registration in the next edition of the EPS Symposium. This was consensually agreed, and it was established that the recruited "Young EPS Testimonial" should report back to the Secretary twice a year.

8. **Steven Cobb as temporary curator of the EPS twitter account (P. Gomes)**

The Secretary briefed the other EC members regarding Steven Cobb's proposal to be the curator of the EPS Twitter account for six months (Annex E). It was consensually approved to accept this proposal. The Secretary committed to report back to Steven Cobb, and ask him to contact the Scientific Affairs Officer to take care of transferring the rights on the existing EPS Twitter account.

9. **Young Testimonials for the 36th EPS Symposium (A. M. Papini)**

It was agreed that, following the positive experience from the 35th EPS Symposium, four Young Testimonials should be recruited to promote the Society in the EPS booth that will be set at the 36th EPS Symposium. It was considered that one should be chosen by the Symposium organizers, another one should be already experienced in this task, and a call should be opened for recruitment of the other two. The Communication Officer will include this call in the e-mail circular announcing the 36th EPS, to be sent to the entire EPS community. Selection will be timely taken care of by the Scientific Affairs Officer.

10. **Report of the Treasurer (A. M. Papini)**

Based on the Financial Statements of 2018 (Annex F) and Budget for 2019 (Annex G), the Treasurer informed about her next steps to prepare documents for approval by the General Assembly members at their forthcoming meeting. The Treasurer considered that, in view of the positive financial situation of the Society, additional budget could be given to actions for the promotion of the Society, and to support the participation of young peptide scientists in EPS-sponsored events, namely, EPS Symposia and regional meetings. In this connection, it was consensually agreed that the sum transferred by the Society to Symposium organizers (Annex 9 of the EPS Bylaws) should have a 20% increase whenever the EPS Symposium coincides with the International Peptide Symposium; this proposal will be put for voting by the General Assembly members on their forthcoming meeting and, if approved, added to the EPS Bylaws.

Finally, the Treasurer reminded EC members that, according to the current Statutes of the Society, their mandate will cease in December 2019, and it was agreed to ask for Dr. Gori's guidance regarding procedures to be adopted (see Part II).

11. **Other business**

The Communications Officer suggested that the Society could attract new members through the offer of promotional items (e.g., pens with the Society's logo) to participants in national/regional meetings sponsored by the EPS. After a brief discussion on the possible ways of attracting new members for the Society, it was agreed that one possible measure would be to organize a sweepstake among the pre-doctoral researchers joining the Society providing three free EPS Symposium registrations per year. It was also agreed that organizers of national symposia supported by the EPS should be encouraged to arrange for online application of EPS membership, and promotional material will be provided by the Communication Officer upon request. It was deliberated that the Scientific Affairs Officer will present this proposal to the General Assembly, on their forthcoming meeting.

As nothing else had to be deliberated, and no members asked to intervene, the meeting was closed at 7:15 pm. The present minutes were approved and signed as they stand.

March 25th, 2019

A. M. Papini, P. Gomes

Part II (Studio Dr. Gori, Via Ferrucci 203/C, 59100 Prato) 26/03/19, 11:30-12:30 h

Extract from the Minutes (full version on Annex I)

Participants: A.M. Papini, K. Rolka, N. Sewald, P. Gomes, M. Teixidó
Chair: A. M. Papini

1. **Welcome, apologies and appointment of the meeting chair**

Dr. Gori welcomed the participants and informed that, due to unexpected matters, the President of the EPS sent his apologies for not being able to participate in the meeting. As such, the Treasurer was appointed as the Chair for this meeting. Dr. Gori then reminded those who were present that the current Executive Committee is responsible for the approval of the financial statements of 2018 and the budget for 2019, both of which are to be presented for approval by the General Assembly members in their 2019 meeting.

2. **Approval of Financial Statements and Audit for the year ended at 31/12/2018 and of the Budget for the fiscal year 2019**

The following documents were briefly discussed with Drs. Gori and Bottani (for the Newsletter: this annex is added to the report of the General Assembly of May 2019), after which they were unanimously approved:

a) Financial statements at 31/12/2018 (accounts for the year of 2018);
b) Auditor's certification of the Financial Statement for the Fiscal year ended on 31/12/2018;
c) Budget of the European Peptide Society for the Fiscal year 2019.

3. **Call for the next General Assembly meeting**

Dr. Gori's reminded Executive Committee members that the General Assembly teleconference meeting has to be scheduled for no later than the 31st of May 2019. In view of this, it was agreed that the Secretary would contact the President of the Society and, together with the other Executive Committee members, set a convenient date for all of them. The provisional agenda for this meeting is shown on Annex I.

4. **Any other business**

Dr. Gori reminded that the current EC will terminate its second four-year mandate on the 31st of December 2019, having to stay in functions until the approval of the Financial Statements of 2019 and Budget for 2020 by the General Assembly, by the 31st of May 2020. EC members asked Dr. Gori about the procedures to be adopted for the election and nomination of the next Executive Committee members. Dr. Gori reminded that the seat of the Society has to be where the Society's Statutes have been registered, and the Treasurer is settled; although this may change as soon as the figure of "European Organization" (for the promotion of R&D) is definitely set in Italy, expectations are that this will not be accomplished before the end of 2020. In view of this,

and of the need to have enough time to (i) organize the election and nomination of a new Executive Committee, and (ii) promote a smooth transition from the ceasing to the elected Executive Committee members, Dr. Bottani suggested that it might be easier to schedule an extraordinary General Assembly meeting in order to discuss the possibility of amending the Society's Statutes to allow that Executive Committees can be reappointed for a third 4-year mandate. It was consensually agreed that a call for an Extraordinary General Assembly might be done in brief course, to discuss this issue.

Finally, EC members shared with Drs. Gori and Bottani their doubts regarding Data Protection Laws, as applied to the existing information on the EPS members' database. After being informed on the type of data at the database, and on the people having access to it, Dr. Bottani offered himself to gain further knowledge on this issue and report back to the Executive Committee.

As nothing else had to be deliberated, and no other participants asked to intervene, the meeting was closed at 12:30, and the respective minutes (Annex I, herein attached) were approved and signed as they stand.

European Peptide Society
No Profit Scientific Society
VIA F. FERRUCCI 203/C – 59100 PRATO (PO)
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EUROPEAN PEPTIDE SOCIETY

No Profit Scientific Society

Seat in VIA F. FERRUCCI 203/C - 59100 PRATO (PO)
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EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE EUROPEAN PEPTIDE SOCIETY of MAY 29, 2019

On May 29, 2019 at 09:40 in Barcelona (Spain) c/o Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona Biomedical Research Park, Dr. Aiguader 88 08003 Barcelona, are physically present the President, the Treasurer and the Secretary of the European Peptide Society, respectively, David ANDREU, Anna Maria PAPINI and Paula GOMES, whereas other members of the Executive Committee and national representatives participated via Adobe Connect, according to attendance sheet herein attached, to deliberate on the following agenda:

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the last General Assembly (Dublin, 2018): Annexes 1A and 1B
4. Report of the Communication Officer: Annex 2
5. Report of the Scientific Affairs Officer (Annex 3), including proposal of replacing the current two calls to apply for support to regional meetings and for mobility grants by a continuously open call, with applications accepted to up 3 months before the event
6. Report of the Treasurer and approval of the following:
   - 6.1. Financial statements of the year ended on 31/12/2018: Annex 4A
   - 6.2. Budget for the year 2019: Annex 4B
   - 6.3. reappointment of Dr. Gori as the Society's auditor
   - 6.4. Future directions in regard to the positive financial situation of the Society, including proposal of increasing the sum transferred by

the Society to Symposium organizers by 20% whenever the EPS Symposium coincides with the International Peptide Symposium

7. **Report from the JPS Editor**: Annex 5

8. **Other matters**

   8.1. Data protection laws: Annexes 6A and 6B
   8.2. National Representative for Sweden
   8.3. Any other business

In addition to the aforementioned participants, physically present, other GA members participated via teleconference, according to art. 8.9 of the Statutes of the Society as well as in the agenda of the meeting, using Adobe Connect, according to the attendance sheet herein attached.

Apologies for absence were received from Knud JENSEN and Gabor Mezö.

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.

All matters of the agenda, were thoroughly discussed, with the following deliberations:

Minutes of the last General Assembly (Dublin, 2018): unanimously approved
Report of the Communication Officer (K. Rolka): unanimously approved
Report of the Scientific Affairs Officer (N. Sewald): unanimously approved
Proposal to replacing current biannual calls for funding regional meetings and mobility grants by a continuously open call (N. Sewald): unanimously approved
Report of the Treasurer (A. M. Papini) **and approval of the following**:
Financial statements of the year ended on 31/12/2018: unanimously approved
Budget for the year 2019: unanimously approved
Re-appointment of Dr. Paolo Gori as the Society's fiscal auditor: unanimously approved
Proposal of increasing the sum transferred by the Society to Symposium organizers by 20% whenever the EPS Symposium coincides with the IPS: unanimously approved
Report from the JPS Editor (L. Moroder): unanimously approved
Document on EU-GDPR rules (Data Protection Law) to be distributed amongst EPS members (N. Sewald): unanimously approved

As nothing else had to be deliberated, and no members asked to intervene, the meeting was closed at 11:10 pm. The present minutes were approved as they stand.

The Secretary
Prof. Paula GOMES

The President,
Prof. David ANDREU

Barcelona, 29th of May 2019

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CALENDAR of Forthcoming Events

13TH AUSTRALIAN PEPTIDE CONFERENCE
Port Douglas, Queensland, Australia,
8–13 September 2019
URL: https://apc2019.org/

25TH POLISH PEPTIDE SYMPOSIUM
Wojanów, Poland
8–12 September 2019
URL: https://25pps.pl/

PEPTIDE THERAPEUTICS FORUM 2019
Basel, Switzerland
10–11 September 2019
URL: https://www.basellife.org/2019/basel-life-structure/innovation-forums/scientific-programme/peptide-therapeutics.html

IOPC (INTERNATIONAL OLIGONUCLEOTIDES AND PEPTIDES CONFERENCE)
Milan, Italy
17–18 September 2019
URL: https://www.iopc-tks.com/

17TH IBERIAN PEPTIDE MEETING
Madrid, Spain
5–7 February 2020
URL: http:// http://epi2020.iqfr.csic.es/

36TH EUROPEAN PEPTIDE SYMPOSIUM AND 12TH INTERNATIONAL PEPTIDE SYMPOSIUM
Sitges, Spain
12 August – 4 September 2020
URL: http://www.eps2020.com/general-information/