

THE EUROPEAN PEPTIDE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



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Michael Przybylski (1948 – 2023)

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Cover photo: Nobel Prize winner Professor Morten Meldal

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SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

2022 Nobel Prize in Chemistry awarded to Morten Meldal



The Nobel Committee for Chemistry has awarded the 2022 Nobel Prize in Chemistry jointly to Carolyn R. Bertozzi, Morten Meldal, K. Barry Sharpless “for the development of click chemistry and biorthogonal chemistry”! Congratulations to all three! I would also like to congratulate Morten Meldal's former PhD student Christian W. Tornøe who contributed much to Morten's early work in this field.

Morten Meldal is a very well recognized member of the international peptide community. He has received some of the most prestigious awards in peptide science, including the Vincent du Vigneaud Award by the American Peptide Society in 2011, the Ralph F. Hirschmann Award by the American Chemical Society in 2009, and the Leonidas Zervas Award by the European Peptide Society in 1996. He also co-organized the 31st European Peptide Symposium in Copenhagen in 2010, together with Thomas Hoeg-Jensen and myself.

Morten was born in Denmark in 1954 and studied chemical engineering at the Technical University of Denmark, where he received his M.Sc. degree in 1981. Morten then worked on his PhD thesis in carbohydrate chemistry under the supervision of Associate

Professor Klaus Bock. Morten stayed at DTU for a postdoc, until he moved to the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology to work with Robert C. Sheppard* (1932–2019) on new methods for Fmoc-solid phase peptide synthesis (SPPS). This was a key step in Morten's transition towards peptide science. There he worked with Eric Atherton, John D. Wade, Alex Eberle and other peptide scientists who would go on to have distinguished careers on their own. Morten's research included the use of Dhbt-OH as a new auxiliary nucleophile for amide bond formation in Fmoc-SPPS.

Morten returned to Denmark in 1986, this time to the Department of Chemistry at the University of Copenhagen. Here he established a strong, independent research program centered around Fmoc-SPPS, in collaboration with Associate Professor Arne Holm. When Klaus Bock became Head of the Chemistry Department (in Danish, Kemisk Afdeling) at the Carlsberg Laboratory, he asked Morten to establish his research group there.

On a personal note, I should add that in 1988 I had just started on my MSc project the University of Copenhagen under Morten's

*J.D. Wade, J.H. Jones, The life and work of Robert (Bob) C. Sheppard, *J. Pept. Sci.*, 27, e3369, 2021. doi: [10.1002/psc.3369](https://doi.org/10.1002/psc.3369).



supervision. Morten kindly asked me to move to the Carlsberg Laboratory with him. I became his first PhD student at the Carlsberg Laboratory. My PhD project centered around new methods for glycopeptide synthesis by SPPS.

Morten stayed at the Carlsberg Laboratory until 2011. At the Carlsberg Laboratory at that time, Morten had excellent and very supporting conditions for his research. With no teaching obligations, good funding, and with Klaus Bock to manage the department and later also the Carlsberg Research Center, Morten could focus on his science. At the Carlsberg Laboratory, Morten eventually established his Center for Solid Phase Organic Combinatorial Chemistry, where he and his coworkers developed an automated instrument for SPPS, the PEGA resin, assays for analysis of protease activity, to mention just a few. As a student there in 1988–1992, I can testify to that this was a very stimulating and productive scientific environment. At the Carlsberg Laboratory I worked next to Morten in the laboratory. Morten is a very skilled experimentalist, and it was a great experience to learn from him.

Morten's research focused on new methods for SPPS, catalysis and enzymology, molecular recognition, polymer chemistry, as well as peptide and protein chemistry in general. He then turned his attention to combinatorial chemistry, in particular one-bead-one-compound libraries and many variations of this concept.

Morten's most impactful research was together with his then PhD student Christian W. Tornøe. They developed the Cu(I) catalyzed regiospecific formation of 1,2,3-triazoles by cycloaddition of terminal alkynes and azides.[†] The reaction that we now know under the acronym, CuAAC, was specifically developed for use with peptides and carbohydrates. This highly selective and highly efficient reaction is now an essential tool in many disciplines. Alkyne-azide couplings and other highly efficient and orthogonal reactions have clearly changed chemistry, biochemistry, and many other areas of research.

In 2011 Morten accepted an offer to move to the Department of Chemistry, University of Copenhagen in 2011, shortly after the 31st European Peptide Symposium in Copenhagen. Morten became director of the Nano-Science Center at the University of Copenhagen, until the University of Copenhagen funded his Center for Evolutionary Chemical Biology in 2013. Here he continued and expanded his research on new synthetic methodologies and screening strategies of biologically active molecules. This included the Cu(I) catalyzed alkyne-azide coupling of two protein fragments to form an active enzyme (termed split-click protein chemistry).[‡] Key collaborators there were Frederik Diness and Sanne Schoffelen.

Privately, Morten is married to Phaedria Marie St. Hilaire. They have a son who has just started studying chemistry at the University

[†]C. W. Tornøe, C. Christensen, M. Meldal, *J. Org. Chem.*, 2002, 67, 3,057–3,064.

[‡]C. Kofoed, S. Riesenber, J. Smolkova, M. Meldal, S. Schoffelen, *Bioconjugate Chem.*, 2019, 30, 1,169–1,174.



of Copenhagen. In addition, Morten has a daughter from a previous marriage. Morten enjoys many things in life, in particular playing music on one of his guitars, which he builds himself, or on drums.

On a personal note, the Department of Chemistry holds an annual event, called 'Nobel Crystal Ball', where selected professors are asked

to predict who would win a Nobel Prize in Chemistry. Back in 2014, I predicted that Morten Meldal was a strong candidate for a Nobel prize.[§] My colleagues were mildly bemused at that time.

Contributed by Knud J. Jensen.

[§]<https://lnkd.in/e2xHykUx>

4th meeting of the Italian Peptide Society

Naples, Italy, 15 June 2022



The 4th Meeting of the Italian Peptide Society (ItPS) was held on June 15, 2022 in Naples, Centro Congressi (Sala A) of the University of Naples "Federico II", Via Partenope, 36. The Organizing Committee comprised Antonella Accardo, Daniela Marasco, Giancarlo Morelli (University of Napoli, Federico II) and Michele Saviano (National Research Council [CNR]-IC, Caserta). The Scientific Committee of ItPS Meeting, comprising Marta De Zotti (University of Padua), Mariano Venanzi (University di Rome, Tor Vergata), Alessandro Gori (CNR Milan), Walter Cabri (University of Bologna) oversaw the conference program. The conference had an attendance of seventy Italian scientists, working in academia, research centers and companies with the addition of two foreign guests prof Helma Wennemers (ETH, Zürich) and Ronald T. Raines (MIT-USA). Overall, 30 senior scientists, 27 post-docs and 13 PhD students participated at the conference.



Participants of the 4th Meeting of the Italian Peptide Society.

The program comprised 20 oral presentations, which were grouped in sessions focused on Peptides: i) Peptides as therapeutics; ii) Peptides for cell targeting and biosensing; iii) Peptides conformation and therapy and iv) Peptides supramolecular materials and nanostructures. Among young researchers (<35 years old), a competition for the best presentation was held. The book of abstract can be downloaded at the following link: <https://sites.google.com/view/4itps>.

At the beginning of the Meeting, on behalf of ItPS, the new President of the Society Maria Luisa Mangoni acknowledged her predecessor Giancarlo Morelli for his consistent commitment made over the years of his mandate in favor of the Society.



Thanksgiving ceremony: Maria Luisa Mangoni and Giancarlo Morelli.

During the conference, Maria Luisa Mangoni, Claudio Toniolo and Marta De Zotti presented the Scoffone Award 2022, which commemorates the contributions of Ernesto Scoffone to peptide chemistry and the foundation of the peptide community in Italy. Based on the proposal of the scientific committee that was unanimously accepted by all ItPS members, the award was attributed to Helma Wennemers (ETH Zurich) for her valuable contribution to peptide chemistry, at international level. She gave a lecture entitled: "Asymmetric Catalysis with Peptides". ItPS community congratulated her for this accomplishment, as further sign of her successful career.



2022 Scoffone award ceremony: Maria Luisa Mangoni and Helma Wennemers.

In the concluding remarks, Maria Luisa Mangoni and Daniela Marasco highlighted the joy and importance for returning to a face-to-face Meeting after COVID-19 pandemics of 2020. They underscored the community pride for the high technical-scientific level of presentations

and for the high-profile research work of young scientists, so promising for the future of peptide science in Italy. Taking into account the opinion expressed by the Scientific Committee, they conferred “the Highlighted Presentation Award” to Demetra Giuri (University of Bologna) for the quality of her scientific research and for brilliant presentation entitled “Peptides for the preparation of smart supramolecular gels”. Dr Giuri will be outlined in the special issue of Journal of Peptide science dedicated to the 17th Naples Workshop on Bioactive Peptides and will be invited by the editors to contribute to this special volume.



The Highlighted Presentation Award of the 4th ItPS Congress: Maria Luisa Mangoni, Daniela Marasco and Demetra Giuri.

Contributed by Daniela Marasco and Maria Luisa Mangoni.

EPS NEWSLETTER CONTENTS**22nd GFPP - 5th BPGM**

Peptides and Proteins without frontiers

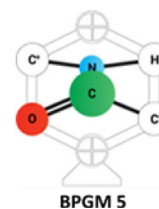
Port-Leucate, France 29 May – 3 June 2022

The 22nd meeting of the French Peptides and Proteins Group (GFPP) and 5th Belgian Peptide Group Meeting (BPGM) joint meeting was held in Port Leucate. This little town in South of France has certainly not known such an arrival of renewed scientists for many decades. The Rives des Corbières conference center was an ideal

location to share new discovery and research in the field of peptides and proteins. From all the participants point of view the congress was successful, not only because of the high quality of the different talks (especially worldwide renown invited speakers) but also thanks to the many exchanges opportunities taking place during breaks, meals, poster sessions, ... after this so long period of virtual events, a result of the COVID pandemic



*GFPP22 and BPGM5
Joint Meeting on Peptides and Proteins*



Group photo of the congress attendees.



Opening of 22nd GFPP - 5th BPGM, French-Belgian Joint Meeting by Co-chairs S. Cantel and S. Ballet.



Inaugural conference by S. Müller, France.

This conference followed earlier meetings that have taken place all around France every two years since 1978: the GFPP symposium series is among the longest-running peptide events in Europe. This so special meeting, themed “Peptides and Proteins

without Frontiers”, brought together for the first time the Belgian and French communities in the field, insuring without any doubt this great success.

We performed a rich program of plenary speakers, spanning cutting-edge topics in the peptide and protein science fields. Moreover, this event gave additional opportunities to academic and industrial scientists to exchange through a special Biotechnology session, followed by a round table discussion.

This symposium had a high attendance: it brought together 206 attendees, including 30% foreign visitors among which 50% were from Belgium. English was the official language of this special edition. Almost 40% of the registered participants were PhD students and post-doctoral researchers. Keeping with tradition, the GFPP executive board awarded fellowships to many young researchers (30) in order to give them the opportunity to present and discuss their research work with their peers in the peptide and protein research community. Industrial partners were also present and they represent almost twenty percent of the audience. The total cost of this is as expected around 120 000 euros.

The Scientific Committee was composed of the elected members of the GFPP and the BPGM executive board, while the local organizing committee was co-chaired by Dr. Sonia Cantel from the IBMM, Montpellier, Dr. Nicolas Inguibert from the CRIOBE, UAR 3274 Perpignan, Dr. Steven Ballet from OCRG, Vrije Universiteit, Brussel, and Dr. Annemieke Madder from Universiteit Gent, Gent.

The Symposium started with an outstanding inaugural conference given by **Sylviane Müller** (University of Strasbourg, France) on peptides used against inflammatory diseases. Her talk was illustrated through the example of Lupuzor, a phosphopeptide currently in clinical trial against lupus. Invited lectures covered a wide range of hot topics in contemporary peptide and protein science, including presentations by **Marcus Muttenthaler** (Brisbane University, Australia) on peptides expressed in the gastrointestinal tract as an



Session Biotech Synthelis, Medincell, Enzytag, Enterome, Genepep



Poster session.

inspiration source for the development of new therapeutic peptides resistant to the gut environment and able to treat gastrointestinal disorders, **Lidia Feliu** (University of Girona, Spain) on the use of bifunctional peptide to fight against plant pest, **Ashraf Brik** (Schulich Faculty of chemistry, Israel) on transition metals in peptide and protein synthesis, **Marc Vendrell** (University of Edinburgh, Scotland) on fluorescent activatable peptides for medical imaging, **Laurent Devel** (Université Paris Saclay, France) on activity-based probes targeting metallopeptidases, **Jean-Louis Banères** (IBMM, Université de Montpellier, France) on allosteric modulation of GPCR signaling, **Jan Tytgat** (University of Leuven, Belgium) on miniaturized peptide toxins in drug discovery, **Beat Fierz** (EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland) on proteins post-translational modifications of tubulin, **Paula Gomes** (University of Porto, Portugal) on peptide hybrids

conjugated to ionic liquid for the treatment of severe soft tissue and skin infections, **Colin Bonduelle** (Université de Bordeaux, France) on new polymers based on peptides, **Ludovic Maillard** (IBMM, Université de Montpellier, France) on new heterocyclic γ -peptide foldamers, **Gilles Guichard** (Université de Bordeaux, France) on foldamers as protein mimics, **José Martins** (University of Ghent, Belgium) on NMR use to determine the structure and linked it to biological activity and **Christine Cavazza** (Université de Grenoble, France) on artificial metalloenzymes for oxidation reactions. Full details on the program can be found at the website: <https://www.gfpp.fr/22e-gfpp-fr/>.

A break from the scientific program was offered to participants on Wednesday afternoon. Participants could choose between an excursion to the beautiful town of Collioure combined with a trip on a



P. Gomes, Portugal.



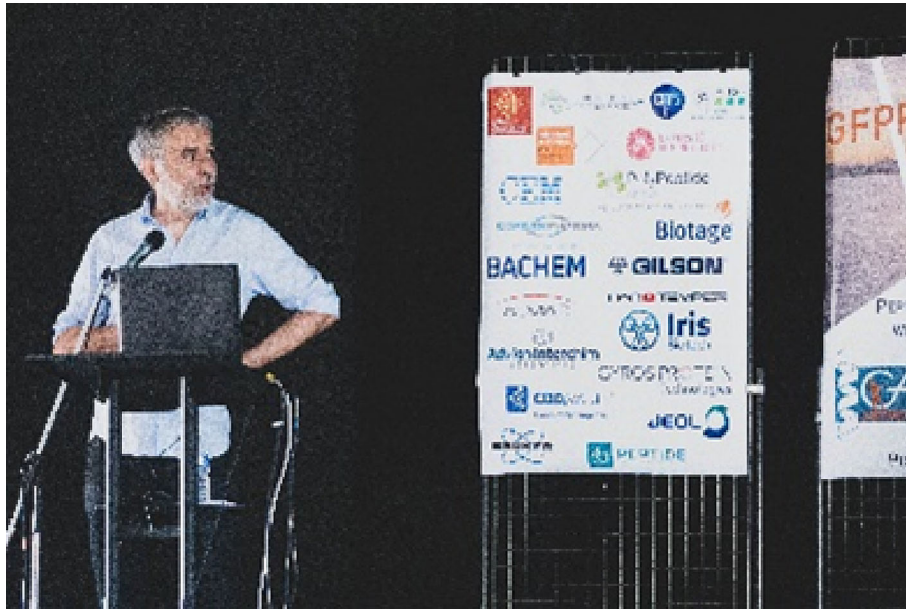
J. Tytgat, Belgium.

tourist train to discover the vineyards and the Mediterranean coast from the top of the hill surrounding the town, a wine tasting in the famous castle of Salses, a boat trip along the cliffs of Leucate with oyster tasting for the most resistant, and finally for the sportiest an initiation to wakeboarding on the lagoon of Leucate.

The comprehensive and high-level scientific program, combined with the informal and friendly atmosphere associated to the sunny weather without tramontane, good food and tremendous location,

made this meeting a great success, as testified by the very positive feedback received from participants.

Special thanks go to all sponsoring companies, especially the 11 ones that exhibited during the symposium and their representatives, who interacted dynamically and constructively with the participants during breaks. We also very warmly thank academic sponsors of the symposium, as well as the Universities of Montpellier, Perpignan, Muse, the CNRS, the Région Occitanie. Finally, we warmly thank



J.L. Banères, France.

European Peptide Society for your unfailing support. Without all these generous financial support, all this would not have been possible!

Contributed by the GFPF/BPGM scientific board.

EPS NEWSLETTER CONTENTS

1st Chemical Biology Ireland Conference

Dublin, Ireland, 8-9 August 2022

The 1st Chemical Biology Ireland conference was held in University College Dublin (UCD) on 8-9 August 2022.

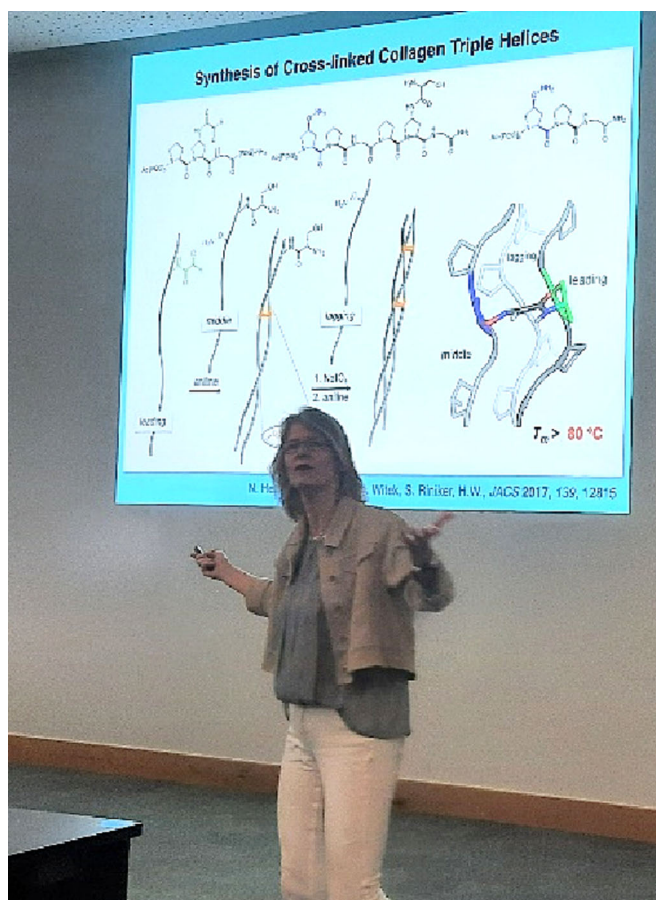
In 2020, Marina Rubini (UCD) contacted Joanna McGouran and Eoin Scanlan (Trinity College Dublin) with the goal to organise a conference with the aim to provide an international platform for knowledge exchange and networking for Irish scientists working in the emerging field of Chemical Biology and related disciplines at the interface between bioorganic chemistry, medicinal chemistry, and protein/peptide chemistry. Due to the pandemic, the conference had to be postponed twice, but it was worth waiting. In the end, 113 participants from 13 countries all over the world attended the event and even the weather was on our side in sunny Dublin!

The scientific programme started with a brilliant opening lecture given by **Helma Wennemers** (ETH) on “Synthetic Collagen Peptides – From Structure to Function”. In particular, she showcased the design and synthesis of chemical probes for the simultaneous monitoring and targeting of lysyl oxidase-mediated collagen cross-linking.

Further, **Joanna McGouran** (Trinity College Dublin) presented the development and use of activity-based probes to study endogenous deubiquitinating enzymes; **Nediljko Budisa** (University of Manitoba, Canada), gave insight in recent advances in genetic code engineering of *Escherichia coli* for endowing proteins and cells with new and unusual functions; **Kathrin Lang** (ETH) highlighted the use of artificial designer amino acids for investigation of protein-protein interactions, while **Eddie Myers** (NUI Galway) presented novel thermal and



Group photo of the congress attendees.



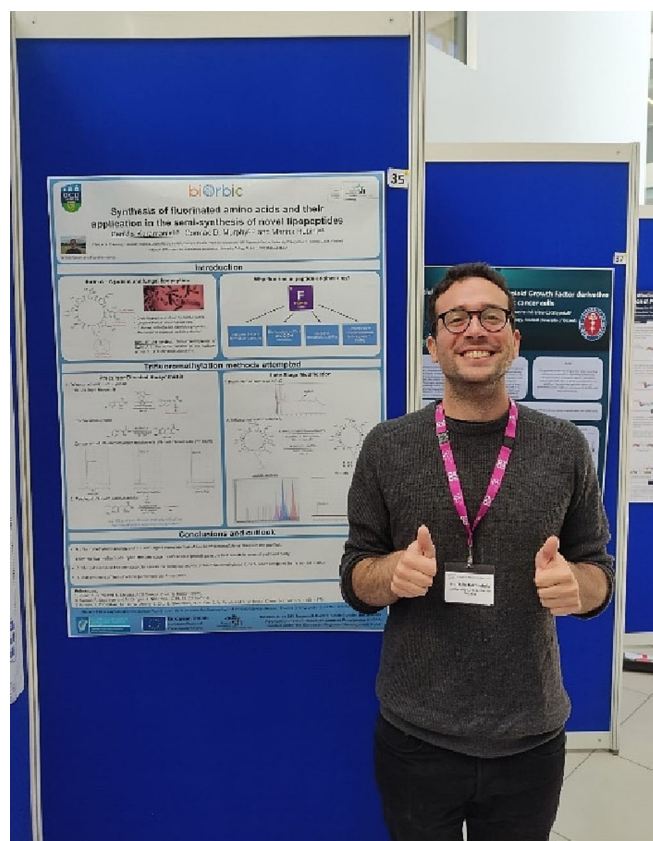
Helma Wennemers (ETH Zurich).

photochemical transformation of cysteine derivatives for the development of new linkages for peptide biomaterials

The scientific programme on the first day closed with the plenary lecture of **Ron Raines** (MIT) on “Lessons learnt from Collagen”. In his inspiring lecture, he explained how stereoelectronic effects can be exploited for the creation of synthetic collagens for applications in biotechnology and biomedicine.

At the end of the scientific session on the first day, the Conference Get Together next to the riverbank of the Dodder provided the ideal environment to socialise and exchange ideas in an informal and friendly atmosphere.

The programme continued the second day with **Andreas Marx** (University of Konstanz) who reported on synthetic tools to study post-translational modifications such as ubiquitination and ADP-ribosylation. Further, **Stuart Conway** (University of Oxford) gave new insight into probing the role of bromodomains in the disease-causing parasitic worms *Schistosoma mansoni*; **Valentin Wittmann** (University of Konstanz) showcased the use of chemoselective ligation reactions in metabolic glycoengineering and in the preparation of



Poster session.

glycoconjugates; **Stefan Oscarson** (University College Dublin) reported on chemical biology approaches towards the study of the cell wall of the fungi *Cryptococcus neoformans* and the development of fungal glycoconjugate vaccines, and **Stephen Cochrane** (Queen's University Belfast) reported on synthetic non-ribosomal peptides that selectively target Gram-negative bacteria. The closing lecture was given by **Christian Hackenberger** (FMP Berlin) on “Next-generation bioconjugates for intra- and extracellular targeting”. His lecture focused on the chemical modification of functional proteins for pharmaceutical and medicinal applications.

The scientific programme included 12 invited lectures, 7 selected oral presentations, and engaging poster sessions (55 posters).

We would like to thank the academic sponsors of the conference, the sponsoring companies and exhibitors, the European Federation for Medicinal Chemistry and Chemical Biology, and of course the European Peptide Society for their support.

Given the positive and enthusiastic feedback from the participants we plan to make “Chemical Biology Ireland” a biannual event. Fáilte go hÉirinn sa bhliain 2024! Welcome to Ireland in 2024!

Contributed by Marina Rubini.

11th Austrian Peptide Symposium

Vienna, Austria, 1 December 2023.

The 2022 meeting was our 11th edition and finally back as in-person event in Vienna (1st of December 2022). The meeting was co-organized by Christian Gruber (Medical University of Vienna) and Christian Becker (Austrian representative to the EPS, University of Vienna). Following a successful tradition, we started the event with a speaker's dinner the evening prior to the meeting (this time at the Heurigen Restaurant Kierlinger). The meeting was held as one-day symposium including 4 scientific sessions, poster and industry presentations, and a dinner/networking session. We were able to gather invited lectures by renowned national and international speakers, short oral presentations mainly from Austrian early career investigators, which were selected from the submitted abstracts, and a vibrant poster session including 35 posters, covering manifold aspects of peptide research. Overall, we had a record-breaking 101 participants attending from 16 countries. As one of the highlights, we presented the second "Bachem AtPS Award for Peptide Science" – for details, please see below.

The first morning session was chaired by Christian Becker and focused on the chemistry and chemical biology of peptides including the following speakers: Pedro Gois (University of Lisbon, Portugal) "N-Terminal Cysteine: A Hot-Spot for Bioconjugation", Luc Brunsveld (University of Eindhoven, The Netherlands) "Cooperativity in protein-protein interaction stabilization; a guiding principle in molecular glue

development", and Monika Swiontek (CEM, Germany) with an industry presentation titled "Ultra-Efficient Solid Phase Peptide Synthesis".

The second morning session was chaired by Christian Gruber and focused on peptide physiology and pharmacology and we had talks from Helena Safavi (University of Copenhagen, Denmark) "Evolutionary-optimized peptide ligands from cone snail venoms", Meritxell Canals (University of Nottingham, UK) "Ligand-dependent regulation of mu-opioid receptors" and Manuela Schmidt (University of Vienna, Austria) "The protein landscape of chronic pain".

The poster session, which was held after the lunch break, featuring 35 poster presentations that were presented mainly by early-career researchers. There was also a poster award competition (for winners see end of this article).

The first afternoon session was chaired by Anne Conibear (TU Vienna) and included six excellent short oral contributions selected from the submitted abstracts. Talks were given by Mirja Harms (University of Ulm, Germany) "Preclinical development of the endogenous CXCR4 antagonist EPI-X4", Andrea Tagliani (University of Milan, Italy) "Leveraging the biotechnological potential of combinatorial libraries of cyclic peptides", Roman Lichtenecker (University of Vienna, Austria) "The prolific synergy of selective protein labeling and biomolecular NMR spectroscopy", Monika Perisic (University of Vienna, Austria) "Fluorescent peptide tracers for oxytocin receptor visualization", Kevin Neumann (Radboud University, The Netherlands)



Participants of the 11th Austrian Peptide Symposium.



Bachem Award: Christian Becker, Philippe Théron (Bachem), Charalampos Pappas (award winner 2022), Christian Gruber (from left to right).

“Cyanoylides: A new class of protecting groups in peptide chemistry”, and Natasa Tomasevic (Medical University of Vienna, Austria) “Circular peptides as new class of cannabinoid type 2 receptor ligands”.

The final session of this meeting was chaired by Roland Hellinger (Medical University of Vienna) and focused on peptide synthesis from an academic and industry perspective. Our speakers in this session were Andrei Yudin (University Toronto, Canada) “Development of synthetic methods to access peptide macrocycles”, Mariana Damian (Biotage) “Biotage solutions to speed up the peptide synthesis workflow”, Victoire Laude (Vapourtec) “Synthesis of peptide in continuous flow: from optimisation to scale-up” and Thomas Mindt (University of Vienna, Austria) “Metabolically stabilized triazolo-peptidomimetics for tumor targeting”.

Finally, we conveyed the second Bachem AtPS Award for Peptide Science in D/A/CH to Charalampos Pappas (University of Freiburg) who presented the award lecture titled “A Systems Chemistry Approach Towards Life-like Peptide Assemblies”.

The scientific part of the symposium ended with the announcement of four winners of the poster award competition, i.e. Dominik Vogl, Oliver Gajsek, Paula Schwarz and Xabier Guarrochena.

Last but not least, we concluded the event with a dinner and social networking, while tasting wine from the Austrian vineyard of Michela Jöbst (Langenlois). The next symposium is to be held on the 5th of December in 2023 in Vienna, hopefully with as many interesting presentations and great number of participants.

We are grateful to everyone, who helped making the event possible, in particular to our sponsors, which are: Bachem, Biotage, CEM, Vapourtec, Gyros Protein Technologies, Merck, Almac, Rieger-Industrievertretungen GmbH, CDD Vault, MagLab, the Vienna Convention Bureau, the Medical University of Vienna and the European Peptide Society. Without their generous financial support, all this would not have been possible!

Contributed by Christian W. Gruber and Christian Becker.

In Memoriam: Michael Przybylski (1948–2023)



Michael Przybylski studied Chemistry and received his PhD degree from the University of Mainz, Germany. After his Post Doc stay as fellow at the Bioorganic Chemistry Institute in Mainz he spent two years as Guest Scientist at the National Cancer Institute, NIH, Bethesda, USA. In 1989 he took the Chair for Analytical Chemistry at the University of Konstanz, where he served as Director of the Analytical Chemistry and Biopolymer Structure Analysis laboratory. From his highly productive Konstanz lab over hundred PhDs and Masters in Biology, Chemistry, and Biochemistry as well as more than a dozen nationally and internationally active University Professors have emerged. While active in teaching and researching, Michael Przybylski founded the Steinbeis Centre for Biopolymer Analytics and Biomedical Mass Spectrometry in 2008, which resided in Konstanz for eight years. As Emeritus he moved the Steinbeis Centre to Rüsselsheim, Germany, in 2016. Michael Przybylski was the Director of the by him founded research center until today.

Since 2016 Michael initiated and conducted an extremely fruitful collaboration with the School of Engineering of the University of Applied Sciences RheinMain in Rüsselsheim. Prof. Przybylski led two international mass spectrometry workshops and a successful summer school at the School of Engineering. In addition, he was assigned as Senior Lecturer and taught students of the Master Curriculum “Medicinal Technology” of the University of Applied Sciences RheinMain, Rüsselsheim.

Through Michael Przybylski's unparalleled engagement and his outstanding application-oriented biochemistry expertise he significantly broadened the education of future Engineers guiding them towards medical applications as well as to Life Sciences in general. In fact, only by including the Steinbeis Centre it became possible for the

University of Applied Sciences to offer internships and scientific projects in the biomedical field to the Engineering students who developed an interest beyond traditional Engineering. Michael Przybylski opened academic training towards biomedical analytics which was immediately valued by many of the students who more and more were attracted from all around in the world.

Michael Przybylski's research was from the beginning interdisciplinary-oriented and in many ways groundbreaking. Consequently, novel mass spectrometric methods which are worldwide applied evolved from his lab. He, together with a research consortium of his choice, invented the “ProteolysisExcision-Mass Spectrometry” for investigating protein-ligand interactions and peptide/protein epitopes. He elucidated structures of several membrane proteins, such as the lung surfactant protein C. His laboratory applied novel biopolymer mass spectrometry methods in combination with protein and peptide chemical procedures, conducted tertiary structure characterizations by protein chemical modification reactions coupled with mass spectrometry, and performed mass spectrometric characterizations of biopolymer recognition structures. Michael Przybylski's latest research focused on one side on the development of biosensor and mass spectrometry technologies for the elucidation of antibody epitopes and on the other side on the determination of pathophysiological modifications of lysosomal proteins by mass spectrometry.

Michael Przybylski published over 400 scientific papers in internationally renowned journals and held about 25 patents. He gave around 150 invited lectures. He received the St. Denis prize for cancer research, he held several international Guest Professorships, he was awarded the Life-Science prize of the German Society for Mass Spectrometry, and he was granted the “PhD of honor” from the A.I.I. Couza University, Iasi, Romania. Michael Przybylski was Guest Professor at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Adjunct Professor for Analytical Chemistry at the Indiana University, Bloomington, USA, and Adjunct Professor for Biochemistry at the Victoria University, Canada. He was member of scientific boards at several international conferences, Publisher and member of the Editorial Board of several international scientific journals and President of the German Society for Mass Spectrometry from 2000 to 2003.

Michael Przybylski passed away on February 27, 2023, shortly before celebrating his 75th birthday. He unexpectedly departed from this life and with him we lost a reputable and esteemed personality, a scientist who was gifted with the ability to bring people together, and a dear friend.

Contributed by Michael O. Glocker.

Extract from the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, August 29, 2022

Mestral Room@Hotel Meliá Sitges, Spain – 13:50-15:30 CEST

Participants:

Norbert Sewald (NS), Krzysztof Rolka (KR), Fernando Formaggio (FF), Florine Cavelier (FC), Paula Gomes (PG), Paolo Rovero (PR), Meritxell Teixidó (MT), and Anna Maria Papini (AMP)

1 | WELCOME

The President (NS) welcomed all participants and opened the meeting.

2 | APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE EC MEETING HELD IN MARCH 2022

The minutes of the EC meeting (videoconference) held in March 2022 (Annexes 1 and 2), were unanimously approved by the EC members who had attended the meeting.

3 | PREPARATION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND INTERNATIONAL LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The President started a brief discussion on the main points that should be addressed at the General Assembly (GA) and International Committee (ILC) meetings to be held during the 36th European Peptide Symposium and 12th International Peptide Symposium (36th EPS & 12th IPS). Namely, future options regarding the Proceedings of European Peptide Symposia and integration of the Indian Peptide Society in the rotation of the International Peptide Symposia were considered as relevant points to discuss in the GA and ILC meetings, respectively.

4 | ANY OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 | Balance of the ongoing Symposium

The President asked Meritxell Teixidó (MT), the chair of the ongoing 36th EPS & 12th IPS, to brief EC members on the event. MT presented general figures on registered participants (751) and their

respective geographical and age distribution, number of grants, ratio of oral versus poster presentations, and major industrial delegates and sponsors. MT suggested, for forthcoming Symposia, the formal establishment of (i) wire transfer instead of cheques for payment of prizes, (ii) supply information on how to prepare Proceedings, and (iii) have a clear protocol for Young Testimonials operating at the EPS booth. These suggestions were briefly discussed and consensually agreed by EC members. The President further congratulated MT on the success of the ongoing event and on the option of integrating an event APP, suggesting that a future APP should further include access to the abstracts of the communications.

4.2 | Briefing on the preparation of the forthcoming Symposium

The President then asked Anna Maria Papini (AMP), the chair of the future 37th EPS & 14th IPS to be held in Florence in 2024, to make a quick overview of how was the organization of the event evolving. AMP made a comprehensive description of the meeting venue, social events planned, and accommodation options in Florence, and further proposed the event to be scheduled for the week of the 25th to the 30th of August 2024. The Secretary reminded AMP that Symposium Chairs should sign and return, till the 31st of October 2022, the letter of agreement with the European Peptide Society regarding the duties and activities within the purview of Symposia Organizers. A letter of agreement, with the respective annexes, were delivered by the Secretary to AMP (paper and electronic formats), for revision and timely signature. Finally, AMP confirmed her full availability to convene future meetings with the EC members, in the presence of a representative of the PCO hired to co-adjuvate in the organization of the event – OIC Group.

(AMP, MT and PR left at 14:45)

4.3 | Application of Belgium to organize a future edition of the European Peptide Symposium

The President informed EC members to have received a formal request from the National Representative of Belgium, Steven Ballet, to host a future edition of the European Peptide Symposium (Annex 3). After consulting the current schedule of forthcoming Symposia, it

was consensually agreed that this subject should be integrated in the Agenda of the next General Assembly meeting.

4.4 | Incoming changes in the composition of the Executive Committee

The President reminded EC members that himself, the Secretary (PG) and the Communication Officer (KR) would end their second mandate in 2023, and that prospective successors should be considered to organize the election for the General Assembly to be held in May 2023. It was agreed that the President would informally approach a few colleagues to inquire about their availability to become an EPS Officer.

4.5 | Revision of the Bylaws

A brief discussion on the revised bylaws document previously circulated by the President amongst EC members took place, and it was

agreed that the Secretary would prepare a primed version of the draft document for distribution to General Assembly members for discussion and subsequent approval of a final version.

As nothing else had to be deliberated, and no other members asked to intervene, this part of the EC meeting was closed at 15:30 h. The present minutes were elaborated, approved and signed as they stand.

Norbert Sewald, President of the
EPS

Paula Gomes, Secretary of the
EPS

Annexes:

1. Minutes of the EC meeting - Part I, March 2022
2. Minutes of the EC meeting - Part II, March 2022
3. Letter of Intention by Steven Ballet, National Representative of Belgium

Extract from the minutes of the General Assembly of the European Peptide Society of August 29, 2022

No Profit Scientific Society

Seat in VIA F. FERRUCCI 203/C - 59100 PRATO (PO)

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On August 29, 2022 at 21:00, in the Garbí 2 Room at the Hotel Meliá Sitges, in Sitges – Spain, the members of the General Assembly of the European Peptide Society participated, according to Attendance Sheet herein attached, to deliberate on the following agenda:

1. Welcome – NS
2. Apologies for absence – PG
3. Approval of the minutes of the GA meeting of May 2022 (Annexes 1&2) – PG
4. News and information – NS
5. Welcome to the new General Assembly members for the 2020–2024 and the 2022–2026 terms (Annex 3)
6. Recognition to the members ceasing their service in the GA in 2020 and in 2022 (Annex 4)
7. Any other business

The President welcomed all participants and opened the meeting starting by asking that points 4 and 5 would be discussed in reversed order, which was consensually accepted. Then, apologies for absence, received as listed in the Attendance Sheet herein attached, were presented by the Secretary. All matters of the agenda were next addressed, as follows.

MINUTES OF THE LAST GENERAL ASSEMBLY (MAY 27TH, 2022)

The minutes (Annexes 1&2) were approved by unanimity.

WELCOME TO THE NEW GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS FOR THE 2020–2024 AND THE 2022–2026 TERMS

The President welcomed the new General Assembly members (listed in Annex 3) and invited each of the participants to introduce themselves to the others. After a brief explanation of the functioning of the General Assembly and of the role of the National Representatives

(NR), the President informed that new members would have the right to vote from this point forward in the meeting.

NEWS AND INFORMATION

- a. Briefing on the ongoing 36EPS&12IPS and update on the next 37EPS&14IPS

The President invited the Chair of the 36th European Peptide Symposium & 12th International Peptide Symposium, Meritxell Teixidó (MT), to brief the participants on the progress of the ongoing event, after which all participants consensually agreed that the event was being a major success, congratulating MT accordingly. Next, the President invited the Chair of the next 37th European Peptide Symposium & 14th International Peptide Symposium, Anna Maria Papini (AMP), to give an overview of the organization of the event, scheduled for late August 2024. After a brief discussion, the plans drawn for this future event were consensually regarded as appropriate.

- b. Applications of Belgium and Sweden to host future Symposia
The President informed that Steven Ballet (SB), the NR of Belgium, had sent a formal application for this country to host a forthcoming Symposium. Considering that (i) the last time Belgium hosted the EPS was in 1976, and (ii) slots had been already taken until 2034, including by countries that had hosted the EPS less time ago, the question arose on whether Belgium should be given priority over such countries. A very brief discussion took place, with SB agreeing to have the EPS hosted in Belgium in 2036. Alessia Tietze, the new NR of Sweden, proposed the 2038 edition to be hosted by this country, which was unanimously approved. This, the current schedule for forthcoming Symposia is as shown in Annex 4.
- c. Update on the Journal of Peptide Science
The Editor-in-Chief of JPS, Paolo Rovero, made a brief presentation of the status of the journal. Ongoing initiatives aimed at increasing the journal's impact factor and the number of contributions from European peptide scientists were presented and briefly discussed.

- d. Symposium Proceedings
Michal Lebl (ML) was invited to intervene in the role of editor of the Symposium Proceedings. ML, drew the attention of those present that a significant number of young participants of the

Symposium had no idea what the Symposium Proceedings, or how they should be prepared. It was consensually agreed that ML would give a brief explanation to the congress participants on this subject. This topic elicited a discussion on whether the current model of Symposium Proceedings should continue or if new models should be considered, given that generally the number of Proceedings submitted is considerably lower than that of communications in the event, especially in the case of posters. Different alternative publication models were suggested, such as: protocols; short papers in Journal of Peptide Science; accept a poster *fac simile* instead of the classical paper; migrate to social media as in Tweet meetings; among others. As there was no clear preference for any of these options, Meritxell Teixidó proposed to keep the current model, and promote a deep reflection on possible new options if less than 10% of the poster communications presented at the 36EPS&12IPS originate a Proceedings paper. This proposal was consensually agreed.

RECOGNITION TO THE MEMBERS CEASING THEIR SERVICE IN 2020 AND IN 2022

The President expressed the deep gratitude of the European Peptide Society to each of the NR ceasing their duty as General Assembly members in 2020 and in 2022 (Annex 5), to whom a Certificate of Service was delivered.

As no other members asked to intervene and nothing else had to be deliberated, the meeting was closed at 23:15. The present minutes were approved as they stand.

The Secretary

The President

Prof. Paula GOMES

Prof. Norbert SEWALD

29th of August, 2022

Extract from the Minutes of the Meeting of the International Liaison Committee (ILC), August 30th, 2022, 1:45 p.m. (CEST)

(Garbí 2 Room – Hotel Meliá Sitges, Sitges, Spain)

Participants: please, see attached attendance list

Chair: N. Sewald, President of the EPS

1. Welcome

Norbert Sewald (NS) opened the meeting, by welcoming all participants and asking them to briefly introduce to each other.

2. Minutes of the ILC meeting 2018 in Dublin, Ireland – the minutes were unanimously approved by all those who were present in the ILC meeting held during the 36th European Peptide Symposium, in August 30, 2018.

3. Reports from Peptide Societies (1st part)

- *American Peptide Society (APS)* – Ved Srivastava (VS) and Anna Maria Papini (AMP) represented the APS. VS informed on the (i) successful 27th American Peptide Symposium, held in Whistler in June 2022; (ii) financial status of the APS; (iii) forthcoming American Peptide Symposium, to take place in Scottsdale (AZ) in June 24–29, 2023 (<https://aps2023.org/>).
- *Australian Peptide Association (APA)* – Lara Malins represented the APA and presented the forthcoming 15th Australian Peptide Conference & 13th International Peptide Symposium (<https://www.peptides2023.org/>), to be held in Brisbane (QLD) in October 15–20, 2023. Satellite events on the topics of Solid-Phase Synthesis and Venom-to-Drugs are also planned.
- *Indian Peptide Society (InPS)* – VS informed that he was asked to also represent the InPS in this meeting, having been committed to propose that this Society could be considered in the rotations for hosting the International Peptide Symposia (IPS). The participants consensually supported this proposal, provided the calendar of the forthcoming IPS was re-evaluated. As this calendar was to be addressed in point 4 of the meeting agenda, NS proposed to advance to the discussion of this point, which was consensually agreed.

4. Calendar of the forthcoming ILC meetings

NS asked the participants whether to keep the “tri-block” model for IPS (Europe→America→Asia/Australasia) or evolve into a “four-block” splitting, considering the inclusion of the InPS as an additional IPS host and the quite large number of society members from Asia/Australasia alone. The representatives of the Korean Peptide and Protein Society (KPPS), Young Ho Jeon, Jeong Kyu Bang, and Yangmee Kim, advised that it should be avoided to

organize IPS in Asia three years in a row, and further mentioned that they believed to be the hosts for the IPS in 2027, which did not agree with the information in the ILC meeting agenda, where the Japanese Peptide Society (JPS) was listed as the host for that same edition of the IPS. After a brief discussion, the following tentative calendar was advanced:

- 2023 – 13th IPS, Australia
- 2024 – 14th IPS, Europe (Italy)
- 2025 – 15th IPS, USA
- 2026 – 16th IPS, China
- 2027 – 17th IPS, Japan
- 2028 – 18th IPS, Europe (France)
- 2029 – 19th IPS, Korea
- 2030 – 20th IPS, to be determined
- 2031 – 21st IPS, India

Still, considering that the Chinese Peptide Society (CPS) was not represented, the KPPS and the InPS manifested their interest in respectively hosting the 16th IPS (2026) and the 19th IPS (2029), in case the CPS did not confirm their interest in hosting the 16th IPS in 2026. NS volunteered to contact the CPS representative, Gong Chen, in this regard (see *Addendum* to these minutes).

5. Reports from Peptide Societies (2nd part)

- *Japanese Peptide Society (JPS)* – the JPS was represented by Kazuyasu Sakaguchi, Hironobu Hojo, Hiroaki Suga, and Shiroh Futaki, who briefly updated all participants on recent and future initiatives of their Society, some of which were joint initiatives of the JPS and the KPPS.
- *Korean Peptide and Protein Society (KPPS)* – the President of the KPPS, Young Ho Jeon, distributed to all participants copies of a brief report on the Society's activity in 2020–2022, highlighting the (i) cancellation of the KPPS symposium in 2020, due to the COVID-19 outbreak; (ii) occurrence of the 24th KPPS Symposium in 2021, as a hybrid event with about 150 attendees; and (iii) organization of the 25th KPPS Symposium in 2022 as a face-to-face event with about 200 participants.
- *European Peptide Society (EPS)* – the President of the EPS, Norbert Sewald, made a quick analysis on the ongoing and forthcoming European Peptide Symposia, adding that detailed information on these events would be given on September 2, 2022, at the Closing Ceremony of the 36EPS&12IPS.

As nothing else had to be deliberated, and no members asked to intervene, the meeting was closed at 3 pm. The present minutes were approved as they stand.

N. Sewald

P. Gomes

30th of August, 2022

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