Peptide Science in Austria
32nd European Peptide Symposium
The 32 EPS Soccer Event
2nd Austrian Peptide Symposium
Nanopeptide 2012

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Thank you Alex….

Professor Alex N. Eberle retired as Secretary of the Society

Prof. Alex Eberle – as student at ETH Zürich as well as pupil and close collaborator of Professor Robert Schwyzer at the Institute of Molecular Biology and Biophysics, ETH – was engaged with the world of peptides, more specifically with peptide hormone-receptor interactions, for more than 40 years.

The great journey with peptides, including the synthesis of α-melanotropin related compounds for structure-function elucidation and for photoaffinity labeling, the first biochemical characterization of MSH receptors as well as the first report on highly specific targeting of melanoma metastases in vivo demonstrates the success of the focused, thoughtful and highly rational way of thinking of an intellectual fellow scientist.

In addition to the scientific achievements Alex has played a great role in the development of peptide research in Europe. First, Prof. Eberle served as the Executive Committee member and Vice President of the Max Bergmann Society between 1987 and 2005. Soon after the establishment of the European Peptide Society (EPS) he became elected as representative of Switzerland (1994–2002) at the Council and then contributed to the further development of EPS as member and Secretary of the Society (2006–2012). His engagement in establishing scientific links with colleagues in the East of Europe even from the late 70’s is well documented and considered as important signal of European openness and sensitivity from early days.

Professor Eberle is not only a major contributor to the scientific program of international conferences including European Peptide Symposia, workshops as excellent lecturer and communicator of science, but he is a skillful diplomat and builder of scientific societies recognized by various decorations for example the first Leonidas Zervas Award of the European Peptide Society (1988), the Debio Peptide Award (1994) and recently, the Pro European Peptide Society Award (2012).

Alex, you have made a remarkable contribution to the development of peptide science and to the shaping and renewal of EPS as an innovative, modern Society in a positive and meaningful way. Thank you!

Prof. Dr. Ferenc Hudecz
President
Between the late 40s and early 60s, peptide science “Made in Austria” was amongst the world’s best and one of its leading figures at the time was Hans Tuppy. During the early years of his career he joined Frederick Sanger’s laboratory at Cambridge (UK) where he worked on the amino acid sequence of bovine insulin (Sanger was awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1958 for sequencing insulin). Later on he became the first Professor for Biochemistry in Austria and continued to work on neuropeptides, including oxytocin. Despite this former glory, the Austrian peptide community was hibernating for some time and lacked regular meetings for scientific exchange. However, the steep increase in interest in peptides by the pharmaceutical industry as well as academia for highly diverse research areas, such as material sciences, biotechnology as well as cell biology and protein synthesis, has changed this situation dramatically.

The high quality of research in peptide science and the increased level of interest allowed the successful start of the Austrian Peptide Symposium in 2011. Partially encouraged by such an attractive event as well as by the renewed interest in peptides a significant increase in the number of EPS members in Austria (6 in 2009 to 42 in 2012) has occurred. The future prospects are even better with more groups integrating peptide chemistry into their activities again and universities as well as other academic institutions recognizing the importance to include peptide science in their scientific repertoire.

Currently groups engaged in peptide chemistry or peptide biology are located at the Universities of Innsbruck, Salzburg and Vienna, the Technical Universities of Graz and Vienna, the Medical University of Vienna, the Max F. Perutz Laboratory Vienna, the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna and Tulln and the Austrian Institute of Technology. Besides an increasing academic interest in peptide science, there are numerous Austrian-based biotech companies that are engaged with peptide drug discovery and development, e.g., Apeptico R&D GmbH (Vienna), Baxter Innovations GmbH (Orth), Boehringer Ingelheim RCV GmbH & Co KG (Vienna), DSM Fine Chemicals Austria NFG GmbH & Co KG (Linz), Fibrex Medical (Vienna), Inte:Ligand (Vienna), PDC Biotech (Vienna), piCHEM (Graz) to name only a few.

By taking advantage of the thriving peptide chemistry the Austrian peptide community is expected to grow and to significantly contribute to the field of peptide chemistry in the future. Not only by holding an annual symposium that provides a national and international meeting point for scientific exchange but also by contributing to the EPS and by further strengthening peptide chemistry in general.

Contributed by Christian F.W. Becker and Christian W. Gruber
The 32nd European Peptide Symposium was held successfully in Athens, Greece from Sunday September 2nd, to Friday September 7th, 2012. Athens is the largest city and capital of Greece. From this town the light of democracy, civilization and science has been bequeathed to the whole world and Athens is widely referred as the cradle of Western civilization. The venue of the Symposium was Megaron Conference Center, a modern building with all necessary facilities for hosting great events and conferences and which is situated nearby the center of the city and at accessible place by public transportation.

In 1963, the Laboratory of Organic Chemistry (LOC) of the University of Athens with Prof. Leonidas Zervas serving as a Chairman organized in Athens the 6th EPS. In 1986, Prof. Dimitrios Theodoropoulos from the University of Patras organized the 19th EPS at the picturesque place of Chalkidiki. After 50 years, LOC has celebrated the jubilee by receiving the torch for organizing the 32th EPS. Prof. George Kokotos, director of LOC, took the responsibility as the Chairman with Prof. Paul Cordopatis as the Honorary Chairman who is also a member of the EPS Executive Committee (Communication Officer) to organize it. The scientific and organizing committees, consisting of European and Greek scientists respectively well-acquainted in the field, took the responsibility to aid in this difficult task taking into account the financial crisis of the country.

The organizers hosted 650 participants from 45 countries and 31 exhibitors. Most of the participants were originated from Europe but also from Israel, China, Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Canada and USA. Participants were mainly Academics but originated also from the industrial sector, gingered the symposium with their active contribution through the scientific talks, posters and fruitful scientific discussions.

Among the Plenary Invited Speakers eminent was Prof. Kurt Wüthrich who received the highest scientific honor in 2002, the Nobel Prize award in Chemistry. It is worthwhile to point out that Prof. Wüthrich belongs to the group of 22 Nobel Prize Winners who signed a supporting text for Greek researchers that suffer from the economical crisis.

One of the major aims of the EPS symposia is to promote young researchers who are just at the beginning of their careers. Thus, Dr Bert L. Schram Young Investigators’ Mini-Symposium preceded...
the official opening of the conference. Twelve young researchers, selected by an international committee among fifty, competed for two awards sponsored by the ESCOM Science Foundation. The Dr Bert L. Schram awards were granted to Dr V. Pattabiraman (ETH Zurich, Switzerland) and Dr F. Mende-Thomas (University of Bristol, UK) during the closing ceremony.

The Chairman of the symposium Prof. George Kokotos with a short welcoming address announced its official opening. Greetings were followed by the deputy of Minister of Education and Religion, Civilization and Athletics Mr Kostas Tzavaras, the Rector of the University of Athens Prof. T. Pelegrinis, the Dean of the School of Sciences Prof. H. Papageorgiou and the Chairman of the Department of Chemistry Prof. A. Kalokairinos.

After welcome addresses, the Rector of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, awarded with Leonidas Zervas award, sponsored by the University of Athens, Prof. Knud J. Jensen (University of Copenhagen, Denmark). The president of the sponsored Polypeptide Group M. Verlader, awarded the J. Rudinger award to Prof. David J. Craik (The University of Queensland, Australia). The two awarded scientists presented a lecture on their important research activities. The Opening Ceremony ended with a Welcome Reception at the atrium of Megaron in a beautiful evening with an almost full moon to enlighten the event.

Following the tradition, the gong rang and the conference started on Monday morning with Prof. Kurt Wüthrich speech entitled “Exploring the Protein Universe”. In the following days, 94 oral presentations and 400 posters as well as 31 exhibition booths livened the conference place.

Various aspects of the important role of amino acids, peptides and proteins (protos in Greek language means the first and thus important and it is the root of the word protein) in therapeutics, nanotechnology and catalysis were covered. The scientific program and all the abstracts of the oral and poster contributions were published in a special issue of Journal of Peptide Science.

The success of the conference is not judged for only its scientific context but also the friendly environment that generates. First, the Invited Speakers and Chairpersons Dinner held on Tuesday, 4 September at Dionysos Restaurant facing Acropolis was an opportunity for participants to gather together and develop friendship. The distinguished
guests enjoyed not only traditional Greek food but also the Acropolis, one of the most famous ancient monuments of the world dressed in beautiful lights. A munificent greeting from the resplendent moon affirmed our scientific efforts to understand and expand knowledge on the important field of peptides and proteins. Second, the excursion in different picturesque places, ancient monuments and museums on Wednesday at noon time provided a chance for the guests to receive a flavor of the heritage of the city. On Wednesday night, a traditional soccer game was held. Buses were used to transport the attendants to the soccer field and 50 participants of different age and sex divided into two groups played a really professional game. The game started after the players of the two teams were dressed with different uniforms and being escorted by the municipality band and professional referees and arbiter. Fans were enjoying by applauding on the performance of the players and participating by this way in the game. Maurice Manning and Lajos Balaspiri were the coaches of the two teams and received their role very seriously by inspiring and guiding the performance of the players. A buffet dinner followed the soccer game and all attendants enjoyed synchronised swimming by young professional female athletes in the swimming pool. The Mayor of Chalandri Municipality, G. Kourasis, and the Chairman of the Civilization and Athletic Organisation, E. Ntavaris, awarded distinguished scientists participating in the conference. Diplomas were
also given to all players participating in the soccer game. The scientific and organizing committees are thankful for the sponsoring of the event by the Municipality of Halandri.

The official dinner of the conference on Thursday evening was held at Vores Museum. This property, situated at Paiania village near Athens, is not only a proper place for special events but also hosts collections of Traditional and modern Greek art. The splendid place, the traditional food followed by dance consummated a memorable night. As the guests informed, they enjoyed all days and nights during the conference time the nice Attika blue asteroid sky by walking around the Acropolis and Plaka.

Each enjoyable moment has an end and 32nd EPS could not be an exception. On Friday, in the closing ceremony and remarks, apart from the two awards given for the young investigators, another five awards were offered to the ones that presented the best posters. Two poster awards sponsored by Dr Bert L. Schram were given to I. Valverde (University of Basel, Switzerland) and S. Cujova (Czech Academy of Sciences, Czech Republic). Two poster awards sponsored by the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and the Agricultural University of Athens were offered to E. Thinon (Imperial College, UK) and M. Lefrancois (University de Sherbooke, Canada), respectively. The last one was sponsored by Royal Society of Chemistry and it was offered to P. Giannelou (University of Athens, Greece).

The chairman of EPS Prof. Ferenc Hudecz, described with warmest greetings the conclusion of the 32nd EPS characterized by high scientific standards and organization. Prof. George Kokotos also congratulated all heroes not only those on the scene but also the ones behind the scene. Our graduate students who were the heart of the symposium and offered their enthusiasm provided an impetus to the conference taking care of every small detail in order to make happy every participant and feel comfortable that someone cared of them for each small not predictable problem that they could have faced. A video with important and memorable moments of the symposium closed the remarks of the Chairman, Prof. G. Kokotos. Prof. Ivanka Stoineva (Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria) closed the ceremony by announcing the 33rd EPS which will be held in Sofia, capital of Bulgaria. Her nice presentation, with excellent pictures, constitutes a promise that the next EPS will be successful and joined our hope and desire to meet again. Let us make a rendezvous at 2014 to meet again in Sofia and join our hearts and new scientific results.

Contributed by Thomas Mavromoustakos

Chairman of 32 EPS symposium Prof. George Kokotos (right) with the Honorary Chairman Prof. Paul Cordopatis (left).
In 2007, our sister organization, the American Peptide Society, gave its symposium the appealing title of “Peptides for Youth” with the objective of encouraging and recruiting the next generation of peptide scientists. This goal was always in the mind of Bert Schram. Very often ideas outlive people, and thanks to the “ESCOM Science Foundation” and the great generosity of Elizabeth Schram, the “Dr. Bert L. Schram Young Investigators’ Mini Symposium” was held once again this year in marvelous Athens, during the celebration of the 32nd European Peptide Symposium.

The entrance of young budding scientists is important in all fields; however, it is critical in ours because peptide research is without doubt experiencing a “Golden Era”. Two key branches of knowledge, namely drug sciences and new materials, are setting their sights on peptides as a potential Philosopher’s stone. In this regard, from 2009 to 2011, the FDA approved the release of only 76 new therapeutics, these comprising 58 new molecular entities and 18 new biological agents. The encouraging news for peptide scientists is that during the same period eight peptides (11%) were accepted by the agency. For 2012, it is expected that five new peptide-based drugs will attain FDA approval. In the field of new materials, the limits of peptide function are still unknown. The superior specificity of peptides for targets can be used in such a way as to assemble them into specific structures and shapes on a large scale.

The climax of that Mini Symposium was not at the end, when the winners were disclosed, but several months earlier when the announcement of the symposium reached laboratories, and young researchers, Ph.D. students and recent post-doctoral fellows decided what to present and started writing abstracts and discussing them with their advisors. This was the moment of self-analysis and of shaking up science, processes that very often bring about new ideas and hopes and a stronger commitment to our field, namely that of peptides.

In this edition, 55 young researchers submitted their abstracts and 12 were selected to give a lecture. The assemblage of laboratories (11 countries in three continents) and researchers (from many more countries than for laboratories) involved in the projects are an excellent indicator of the diversity and globalization of the peptide world. As would be expected, these 12 lectures covered all aspects of the peptide field.

Although the 32nd European Peptide Symposium was of outstanding scientific quality, we should be proud to admit that the most all-round session was that devoted to the Mini Symposium. This session was exceptional not only for its scientific content and relevance but also for the clarity and visual impact of the presentations, the timing, and the accuracy of the questions raised.

Devoted to young investigators and sponsored by the “ESCOM Science Foundation”, another important highlight of this event was the Networking Lunch. This initiative allowed those young investigators who had submitted an abstract and senior members attending the Symposium to share thoughts and ideas with the sole aim to strengthen the peptide field and, more importantly, to pass the baton to the next generation of scientists.

Last, but not least, although all the presentations were outstanding, we have to congratulate Franziska Mede-Thomas, from the University of Bristol, and Vijaya Pattabiraman, from ETH, for their excellent contributions: “De novo designed heterodimeric coiled coils – Useful tools for the development of new materials” and “Chemoselective α-ketoacid-hydroxyl-
amine (KAHA) ligation with 5-oxaproline for chemical protein synthesis”, respectively. These two colleagues merited the “Young Investigators Dr. Bert L. Schram Award”. Franziska and Vijaya are exceptional examples of this new generation of young researchers that will maintain our field at the frontier of science.

Finally, I wish to warmly thank Elizabeth Schram and the “ESCOM Science Foundation” for promoting this peptide-based ecosystem, in which scientists with a wide range of ages, origins, and backgrounds work together to build a better world. Our memory of Bert Schram serves to guide us in our endeavors.

*Contributed by Fernando Albericio*
The organizers of the 32 EPS in Athens, Greece, especially Dr. Thomas Mavromoustakos, are to be congratulated on organizing what was truly a most memorable and enjoyable soccer event on Wednesday, September 5, 2012, on the 26th Anniversary of the very first such event at the 26 EPS in Porto Carras, Greece in 1986. The 32 EPS Soccer event was sponsored by the Municipality of Halandri. The Municipality spared no expense or effort in ensuring that the event was spectacular. It took place at the Athletic Center N. Perkizas in Halandri.

Traditionally, the football game features players from Europe, coached by my good friend Professor Lajos Balaspiri and the “Rest of the World” coached by me. (32 EPS Poster 393 by L. Balaspiri and M. Manning, documents the history of this soccer event). A total of 47 players signed-up or were recruited to play in the 32 EPS game in Halandri. As might be expected, the majority were from Europe. So, to make the teams more even, I recruited most of the players from Greece to my team. In addition to the Greek players, the “Rest of the World” team was made up of players from Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, China, France, Israel, Japan, and Russia. Professor Paul Cordopatis, who had played with the European team in the inaugural match in Porto Carras, elected to remain with the European Team. For the first time ever, this year’s game featured women players: Tatyana Dzimbova, Eva Pellas, Garcia Yara Ruiz and Linde Smeenk. Linde, a highly talented player from the Netherlands, was very instrumental in recruiting players for both teams.

The two teams and many spectators were bussed from the Megaron (site of the 32 EPS in Athens) to the Athletic Center in Halandri, where in the dressing rooms, they were given special uniforms (white for Europe and blue for the Rest of the World). By this time, the stands had begun to fill-up with spectators and the Municipal Philharmonic Band was tuning-up on the track to lead the two teams onto the pitch for a 7:00pm kick-off. The atmosphere was electric with enthusiastic anticipation, as both teams lined up on the track before taking to the soccer field. To the sounds of lively Marches, the two teams paraded side-by-side from the track to the field, with the Referee Maranos Sofianos and two linesmen Skouras Theodoros and Zertopoulhs Nikos, leading the way. All stood to attention at midfield in one long line, during the playing of the Greek National Anthem – a truly moving and memorable moment. Dr. Wolfgang Rapp, who had played with Europe many times in the past, was an assistant coach for Europe. Professor James Tam served as assistant coach for the “Rest of the World”. The big challenge facing coaches and assistant coaches was to ensure that all of the 23 players on each team got playing time. Somehow, we managed to do this.

The game was truly exciting. Team Europe went ahead 2-0 within ~10 minutes, with goals from Matthias de Vleeschouwer. Linde Smeenek, who played brilliantly throughout the game and was a real star, had two assists, one from a corner. At this stage, it looked as if the “Rest of the World” team would be blown away. However, very steady play by right back Jean Francois Hernandez, a veteran of previous “Rest of the World” teams, combined with excellent play by the Greek players, led to a goal by Christoforos Kokotos, son of 32 EPS Chairman, George Kokotos, to make the score 2-1. Within minutes, Kokotos scored again to level the scores at 2-2. Kokotos scored a third goal, which led to a 3-2 margin for the “Rest of the World” at the break. Bill Lubell took over in goal for the “Rest of the World” just before the break. With a goal by Hashem Etayash, the “Rest of the World” forged ahead to a 4-2 lead, before Europe came surging back, with goals from Jean-Phillipe Ebran and Timo Nuyens, to tie the game. Fittingly, the winning goal was scored by Professor George Spyroulias to ensure a
5-4 victory by the “Rest of the World” team.

To add to the excitement, during and after the game, interviews of players and officials were conducted by local TV stations. Personally, I was most impressed by the excellent job done by the referee and the two lines-men, by how well both teams played and especially by the play of the over 40 and 50 year old players. The enthusiasm, sportsmanship and skill exhibited by all were truly remarkable. The fantastic team-play of all the Greek players on my team was also particularly noteworthy. A most enjoyable banquet in the swimming pool area, following the game, was hosted by the Mayor of Halandri and other officials from the Municipality of Halandri. This banquet, which featured excellent food, beverages, spectacular exhibitions of synchronized swimming, awards, and music was a most fitting conclusion to a truly memorable soccer event at the 32 EPS in Halandri.

Contributed by Maurice Manning
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ollowing the successful re-launch of Peptide Symposia in Austria in 2011 (see Meeting report, EPS Newsletter 45: January 2012) it took less than one year to continue this conference series. The 2nd Austrian Peptide Symposium was held at the Institute of Pharmacology (Medical University) in Vienna on the 29th of November, 2012. This symposium was co-organized by Christian Gruber (Austrian representative to the EPS, Medical University of Vienna) and Christian Becker (University of Vienna). Compared to the ‘kick-off’ meeting in 2011 that comprised six invited lectures, in 2012 we were able to host eight invited national and international speakers and to include a “hot topics” forum for selected short oral presentations within four scientific sessions as well as a multifaceted poster session. The meeting was attended by over 80 registered presenters and participants from Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Serbia, Spain, Switzerland and the UK.

The first lecture of the 2012 meeting was given by Wolfgang Knoll (scientific director of the Austrian Institute of Technology in Vienna) on tethered membrane bilayers as platforms for studying antimicrobial peptides. Anna-Maria Papini, head of the laboratory of Peptide and Protein Chemistry and Biology (PeptLab, University of Florence) and treasurer of the EPS, delivered the second lecture about the importance of uncommon post-translational modifications as markers in autoimmune diseases. The first session was completed by Meribell Teixido, who is an independent research associate in the laboratory of Ernest Giralt (IRB Barcelona) and Spanish representative to the EPS, with a lecture about peptides as blood-brain barrier shuttles.

The second session started with Maria Waldhoer presenting her latest results about real time trafficking and signalling of class B incretin receptors. Her academic career started in Austria (Medical Universities in Vienna and Graz) and she is now affiliated with Novo-Nordisk in Copenhagen, Denmark. Afterwards Robert van Ling, an application specialist on nanoflow liquid chromatography from Dionex/Thermo-Fisher, provided insights into the latest technology of LC workflows for peptidomics and proteomic analysis.

During the lunch break a poster session on different aspects of peptide science, including 16 presentations from students and early-career researchers, who participated in the poster prize competition, was held. The third session “Hot topics in Peptide Science” included six short oral presentations that were selected from submitted abstracts and the speakers were Holger Bohlmann (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Tulln), Carolin Lechner (University of Vienna), Maud Larregola (University of Cergy-Pontoise, France), Johannes Koehbach (Medical University of Vienna), Bernhard Schuster (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna) and Guntram Christiansen (University of Innsbruck).

The fourth and last session included four invited lectures. Derek Macmillan from the University College London presented his work on protein semi-synthesis using controlled cleavage of X-Cys peptide bonds. Rolf Breinbauer, head of the institute of organic chemistry at the TU Graz, presented his work about transition metal catalysis for the synthesis and modification of lipidated peptides. The next lecture was given by Dietrich Merkel, an application specialist associated with ABSciex. He provided insights into applications of the latest Eksigent ekspert™ technology for peptidomics and proteomics research. The final lecture of the symposium by Chiara Carbele, from the department of molecular biology at the University of Salzburg, provided insights into peptide-based modulators of protein-protein and receptor-ligand interactions. Prior to the conclusion of the scientific part of the symposium two best
poster prizes were awarded to Carolin Lechner for her poster entitled “Silica precipitating silaffin peptides: Versatile tools for biotechnological applications (University of Vienna) and Johannes Koehbach for his poster entitled “Pharmacological characterization of circular plant peptides with oxytocin-like activity” (Medical University of Vienna).

The scientific part of the symposium was followed by a social get-together and wine-tasting guided by Michaela Jöbstl, a winemaker from Langenlois, one of Austria’s hot spots for excellent wine, situated near the Danube river and the famous Wachau valley. Overall, the meeting received very good feedback from its participants, not only due to the wine session, but in particular because of its high-quality lectures and up-to-date topics.
The recent meetings of the Austrian Peptide Community in Vienna were a successful start into a new era of peptide symposia held in Austria that will bring the expanding Austrian peptide community and international guests together once a year. Along this line, we are happy to announce that the 2013 meeting of the Austrian Peptide Society will be held in Graz and be organized by Rolf Breinbauer.

We are grateful to everyone who helped in the organisation and realization of the 2012 Austrian Peptide Symposium and in particular to our host, Michael Freissmuth (Head of the Center for Physiology and Pharmacology at the Medical University of Vienna) and all involved staff members from the Institutes of Biological Chemistry (University of Vienna) and Pharmacology (Medical University of Vienna). Last but not least, we would like to thank the sponsors for this event that would not have been possible without the financial support from our sponsors: Dionex (part of Thermo Fisher Scientific), peptides & elephants, AB Sciex/Eksigent, the Austrian Pharmacological Society, the Special Research Program SFB35 and the European Peptide Society.

*Contributed by Christian W. Gruber & Christian F.W. Becker*
The Nanopeptide 2012 conference attracted 90 delegates and speakers and covered all aspects of peptide biomaterials, from physics and biophysics, through chemical and analytical techniques, through to biomedical applications. The conference was held from November 12–14, 2012 at the Manchester Institute of Biotechnology (MIB), University of Manchester under the auspices of the European Peptide Society, the Macro Group UK, the British Biophysical Society and the Protein & Peptide Science Group of the Royal Society of Chemistry. The conference was organised by Stephen Hoare (Peptide Conferences) and the programme committee was Aline Miller (Manchester), Louise Serpell (Sussex) and Rein Ulijn (Strathclyde).

The meeting began with an excellent keynote lecture from David Kaplan (Tufts University, USA) who set the scene with his talk on “Silk Peptides in Block Copolymers for Structure-Process-Property Relationships” featuring his work on silk-based block copolymers to address the challenge of synthesis, processing and structure/function. Several of the themes covered in his talk were taken up by other speakers on subsequent days. After David Kaplan’s lecture everyone enjoyed a welcome reception that set the tone for the friendly nature of the meeting.

The second day began with a session on ‘Peptide Design’ during which Dek Woolfson (Bristol, UK) described his work in designing a ‘peptide toolkit’ for use in assembling large structures. This was followed by four talks on peptide fibrils and nanotubes. Jeff Hartgerink (Rice University, USA) described his ‘Collagen Design Engine’, a simple genetic algorithm which utilizes pairwise interactions to generate sequences of stable collagen heterotrimers and Louise Serpell (Sussex, UK) talked about her work in designing functional materials based on normally pathological amyloid fibrils. Vince Conticello (Emory University, USA) discussed the fundamental interactions driving the formation of peptide nanotubes from coiled-coil assemblies.

The next session, ‘Peptide Biomaterials and Tissue Regeneration’ addressed perhaps the most exciting area of biomedical application of peptide biomaterials. There were seven talks, either side of lunch that covered a range of applications such as peptide assemblies as cell scaffolds and immune adjuvants (Joel Collier, University of Chicago, USA) or the use of elastin-based protein and peptide scaffolds to promote cell attachment, proliferation and tissue repair in 3D (Tony Weiss, University of Sydney, Australia). Aline Miller (University of Manchester, UK) took the design rules described in the first session as the basis of her group’s work on rules for introducing bioactivity and responsiveness into the gelled state of self-assembled peptide fibrils that have applications in regenerative medicine. Thomas Scheibel (Universität Bayreuth, Germany) described their methods for bioengineering spider silk proteins that took recombinant proteins mimicking natural silk and developed spinning techniques to produce protein threads closely resembling natural spider silk fibres.

After the afternoon coffee break, Hiroshi Matsui (Hunter College, CUNY, USA) talked about reconfigurable 3D superstructures made from collagen peptides and metal nanoparticles that were used as the basis of autonomous biochemical motors. This session, ‘Peptide Interactions with Materials & Nanomaterials’, also featured a range of other contributed talks.

A highlight of the meeting was the poster session that brought day 2 to a close. There were 40 posters, most of which were competing for the poster prize for young researchers sponsored by the Protein & Peptide Science Group of the Royal Society of Chemistry. The five poster judges had a difficult task and commented on the exceptionally high standard of the posters. In the end, a
The Ph.D. student Marion Limo, winner of the poster prize
on the self-assembly and biomedical applications of peptide/amyloid copolymers.

A final session on ‘Peptide Nanostructures for Opto/Electronic Applications’ featured just one talk, from Mariano Venanzi (University of Rome Tor Vergata, Italy) on photocurrent generation by self-assembled monolayers formed by conformationally constrained peptides functionalized with antenna chromophores and covalently linked to gold electrodes. It is hoped to be able to cover more of this subject in the future.

The conference was marked not just by the excellence of the invited speakers, but also by the active participation of many young researchers. The MIB proved to be a great location for a meeting of this size; although the double-screen of the lecture theatre proved challenging for some speakers, the layout of the venue and the timing of the programme allowed for much productive informal discussion. The response of speakers delegates was universally positive and the organizer and programme committee are already looking forward to Nanopeptide 2014.

The organizer would like to thank the various learned societies under whose auspices the conference was held for their support and encouragement as well as to the PPSG of the Royal Society of Chemistry for their sponsorship of the Poster Prize and the EPS for financial support.

*Contributed by Stephen Hoare*
Society News

New Member in the EPS Executive Committee

Dirk Tourwé, Emeritus Professor of Organic Chemistry, obtained his Ph.D. at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel under the supervision of Prof. George Van Binst (1974) and then defended his Habilitation thesis at the same University (1979). After post-doctoral studies at the University of Arizona (in the Laboratory of Prof. Victor Hruby) he became Professor in Organic Chemistry and then Head of the Organic Chemistry Department of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel. Between 2000 and 2005 he acted as Head of the Department of Chemistry of the Faculty of Sciences. In 2003 the University of Szeged conferred the Doctorate Honoris Causa to Prof. Dirk Tourwé for his contribution in the field of peptide science. He is member of the editorial board of Journal of Peptide Science, Chemical Biology and Drug Design, and European Journal of Organic Chemistry. During the last ten years he has been the supervisor of 20 Ph.D. and 25 Master theses and author or co-author of ~130 research papers dealing with the modification of bioactive peptides to improve their metabolic stability and selectivity, peptide mimetic synthesis, amino acid chemistry, radiolabeled peptides for tumor diagnosis and therapy, asymmetric synthesis and combinatorial chemistry.
“Temporary EPS Membership” & Access to “Restricted to Members” Content of the EPS website

From last July the EPS website has radically changed after the migration to a completely new environment with an increased functionality and many new features.

The “restricted to members” section is, at the moment, the most visited part of the new site, especially after the uploading of previous Symposia proceedings “Peptides Series”, including that of the last 32nd EPS in Athens last September. As a result, the applications for membership to the EPS have increased (with 34 new members for the period December 2012–January 2013). At the same time, many membership applications appeared from students and young people in their MSc or PhD studies, and this particular interest created a challenge for the Society in conjunction with the EPS Statute’s Membership requirements (§5.1.a, http://www.eurpepsoc.com/eps-statutes/), the solution given by the Executive Committee by implementing the status of Temporary Membership to the EPS for a period of 3 years.

Below you can find the simple steps you need to follow for the approval of a Temporary Membership to the EPS through the website; the key factor is that you will need a recommendation from an already active member of the Society.

Instructions for Applicants (Temporary EPS Membership):
1. Go to http://www.eurpepsoc.com/profile/
2. Give all your personal details in the appropriate fields
3. In the “Justification of EPS Membership” section and in the “Peptide Publications (Enter DOIs) / Recommender’s Email Address” field, please provide the email address of the EPS Member recommending you to the Society.
4. Submit your application
5. The EPS member recommending you, must follow the steps described below in the next 14 days from your application
6. Wait for the automatic confirmation of your application / Welcome to the EPS.

Instructions for an EPS member recommending a person for Temporary Membership:
1. Login to your EPS account at http://www.eurpepsoc.com
2. In the “About Us” tab of the home page choose “Contact Us”
3. Provide your email and full name
4. In the “Message” field, type: Member Recommendation
5. In the “Temporary Member Application: Email Address” field, give the email of the applicant you recommend for application
6. Submit the form

Temporary Members can apply for full membership as soon as they can demonstrate to actively perform research in peptide science and to be co-author(s) of at least one publication in the scientific press in the field of peptide science. The Temporary Membership status will be terminated after three years, and any special cases will be subjected to the decision of the Executive Committee.

Since this procedure is newly introduced, you can always use the “Contact Us” function at the website, if you need further help or information.

Contributed by George Pairas
The minutes of the Patras meeting (October, 2011) were accepted with some modification. The Secretary reported that the minutes of the Florence meeting (June, 2011) are now completed and asked for acceptance by the EC. The President emphasized the importance of the minutes as key documents for reporting on the activity of the Executive Committee/Council.

Progress report on the 32nd EPS in Greece (2012)
George Kokotos sent a report with an update of the current state of the preparation of the 32nd EPS Symposium. After a long discussion, the EC took notice of the smooth preparation of the symposium.

The Treasurer reported that after opening the EPS bank account, €92,531.21 were received from Naples by A.M. Papini (the difference between the balance of 2011 and the sum actually received may reside in the bank fees). Account details and audit for the year of 2010 were received by E. Benedetti. Furthermore, the Treasurer reported that Studio Dr. Gori suggested that no audit is necessary for 2011 because no money was received nor payments made in 2011 and the EPS has a fiscal code in Italy. Total costs for small meeting decided in Patras and in Paris will reach €9,750; funds for other meetings will have to be considered in the budget. Sponsorship by the EPS will be regarded as a “donation” in the future.

In order to clarify the budgetary situation, the Treasurer will check all existing sponsorships (documents, types of sponsors); after the evaluation, new contracts may be necessary. The provisional budget for 2012 (end of May 2012) amounts to €31,450. In view of decreasing assets of the EPS, the attempts to find new sponsors, e.g., through scientific activities of the EPS have to be increased. All members of the EC, in particular the treasurer, will contact all potential sponsors by explaining the new situation of EPS.

The status of sponsorship was heavily discussed by the EC. The treasurer emphasized that considering the new Statutes distinction shall be made between “sponsorship”, which is considered as commercial activity and “donation” which is a non-commercial activity. An appropriate form for sponsors was presented by the Treasurer, which can be used to acknowledge donations in the future. It was agreed that the form of sponsorship will be worked out by the Treasurer and presented during the next EC meeting in Athens. As agreed during the EC meeting in Budapest in November 2010, a new strategy for attracting donations/sponsorship by the EPS is required. Due to the preparation of the new Statutes and the recent registration of the Society, A.M. Papini and the Secretary will start to work on a proposal how to increase the revenue by the EPS from now. In parallel, the EC asked the Treasurer to check the existing list of sponsors and provide the names of those with whom the EPS agreed previously on sponsorship. Based on this information, the Communication Officer of EPS will arrange an update of the list presently available for “Sponsors of EPS – 2011” on the website.

Statutes and Bylaws of the EPS
The Statutes were officially accepted as legal Statutes of the EPS on 4 May, 2012, in Prato. The original of the entire dossier is kept by the Notary in Prato, Dr. Laura Biagioli, Via F. Ferrucci 203/c, I-59100 Prato, Italy. A legal copy of the original is kept by the Treasurer and copy of this (with official stamp) is kept by the Secretary and the trustee in Prato, Studio Dr. Gori. A.M. Papini is convinced that the procedure of registration of the EPS may be used as a model for national societies.

A draft of the bylaws was discussed in detail. It was decided that the bylaws and the statutes shall be edited as a single
The revised version of the document shall be sent out by the Secretary four weeks before the Council meeting to the members of the Council. The discussion and adaptation of the by-laws are planned during the Council meeting in Athens.

The Scientific Affairs Officer reported that for the Zervas award, SAC selected Knud Jensen, Denmark, and Miguel Castanho, Portugal, and for the Rudinger Award, David J. Craig, Australia, and Herbert Waldmann, Germany. The selections were approved by the EC. Election is in process. Professor Kiso contacted the President of EPS for nominations of the Shiro Akabori Memorial Award established in 2000 by the Japanese Peptide Society. Nominations for the Akabori Memorial Award 2012 will be accepted until June 30, 2012. Among past recipients two European peptide scientists can be found, Gunther Jung (2000) and Jean Martinez (2006). F. Hudecz asked the members of the EC as well as members of the Scientific Affairs Sub-Committee to send him proposals by 10 June, 2012. P. Cordopatis suggested the nomination of Alex N. Eberle for the Akabori Award.

The Communication Officer reported on the planned content of the issue 46 of the Newsletter. He asked the President to provide a message regarding the Statutes and Society registration. Besides the regular items there is a plan to have a contribution on Max Brenner from A. Eberle and also an article about “Peptides in Hungary” by Prof. B. Penke, the National representative of the country.

The EC acknowledged the further development of the website and the dedicated work of G. Pairs. As special advancement of the website the availability of older Proceedings (“Peptides 1962”, “Peptides 1986” and “Peptides 1998”) were welcomed. P. Cordopatis reported that the coming additions will be “Peptides 2000” and “Peptides 2002”. A. Eberle will provide the digitalized proceedings “Peptides 1992” soon.

The EC asked the Webeditor a) to remove the logo of Bachem as sponsor of the Leonidas Zervas Award sponsor, b) to ask permission directly from National Representatives to incorporate their contact details under their names on the Contact List on the website, c) in collaboration with the Secretary to provide a Member contact list limited to the full name, title, affiliation and country, without email address.

The Secretary reported that a completed list grouped according to European and non-European countries has been established by G. Mild. In the future, an easier way of obtaining the names from website registrations by the Secretary has to be established with James Weeks of Wiley. The term of A.N. Eberle, as Secretary will end at the end of the 2nd EPS. It was confirmed by the EC, that D. Tourwe, member of the Council will be nominated as Secretary during the Council meeting in Athens. P. Cordopatis’ term is until 2012, The President proposed his nomination as Communication Officer of the Society and member of the EC for another 4-year. The EC fully agreed with this proposition. S. Lavielle’s, A.M. Papini’s and F. Hudecz’s terms are until 2014, with another 4-year option.

The Secretary reported the results of the election of the French Council member in the EPS Council. The votes obtained by the deadline are as follows: Total votes received: 28. Votes for Florine Cavelier: 25, Votes for Djamel Drider: 2, Blank: 1. Thus Florine Cavelier is the elected new member for France in the EPS Council. The Executive Committee is approved the election. A. Eberle also reported that M. Bienert (National Representative of Germany) announced his retirement and the Secretary initiated the process of election. It was clarified that the newly elected members of the Council (e.g. French National Representative, German National Representative) will have
the voting right from the end of the Symposium, but will participate the Council meeting.

- **Future EPS Symposia**
  The Secretary reported that the official letter of invitation has not yet been sent to Prof. I. Stoïneva (Sofia, Bulgaria) because the guidelines – together with the Bylaws – are currently under review. He will send the letter not later than July 2012.

  The EC proposed Germany as location for the 34th EPS Symposium to the Council. If Germany accepts, then Ireland will be considered as potential venue for the 35th EPS Symposium.

- **Journal of Peptide Science**
  F. Hudecz reported that Annette Beck-Sickinger – owing to personal reasons – will not take the deputy editor-in-chief position at JPS. The editor-in-chief of the Journal of Peptide Science, L. Moroder suggested Ulf Diederichsen as deputy editor-in-chief. This proposal was supported by Martin Röthlisberger representing J. Wiley. As a result of the consultations initiated by the President by email, all members of the Executive Committee agreed on nomination of Ulf Diederichsen to act first as deputy editor-in-chief with the perspectives to replace L. Moroder about a year later.

  The financial report 2011 for JPS sent by M. Rothlisberger in April, 2012 to the President, Treasurer and Editor-in-Chief was also discussed. It was noted that the Agreement signed in 1994 and modified in 2008 will expire on 31st December 2013. In accord with clause 24, the agreement shall be renewed automatically for a further 5 years, unless either party notifies the other in writing that it does not wish to renew the agreement. Such notification to be given at least twelve months prior to the expiration of the initial term or and annual extension thereof.

  The next EC meeting will be held in Athens during the 32nd EPS Symposium. The President invited the Executive Committee to have its annual meeting in Budapest in April/May, 2013.

  The President thanked Solange Lavielle for the kind invitation, hospitality and organization of the Executive Committee Meeting in Paris.

  *Condensed by the Editor from the Minutes provided by the Secretary*
EPS Council Meeting

Megaron, Athens, Greece
3 September 2012

Part I

● The President welcomed the Council and explained the procedure of the Council meeting (General Assembly), in particular the reason for splitting the meeting in two parts due to the new Statutes.

● The minutes of the last Council meeting (6th September 2010, Copenhagen) were accepted unanimously.

● The Secretary reported that in France Prof. S. Lavielle retired as the French representative from the Council owing to her election as member of the Executive Committee (SA Officer). The French members elected/proposed Prof. Florine Cavelier as new representative for France. In Germany, Prof. M. Bienert retired from the Council; the German members elected/proposed Prof. Oliver Seitz as new representative for Germany.

With regard to the member database, with the help of Council members and various efforts to remind members to re-register through the website, an almost complete member list (approx. 1000 members) could be put together by the former assistant of the Secretary, Dr. Gabi Mild. In the meantime, the website and its data bank have been redesigned so that the new Secretary will have easier access to member data. For membership of PhD students without a publication, a recommendation by the promoter will be accepted.

● Prof. F. Cavelier and Prof. O. Seitz were co-opted unanimously as new Council members.

● The President explained that in Part II, which deals with the resignation of the present Secretary and his replacement, Prof. Dirk Tourwé will be proposed to elect as Secretary and member of the Executive Committee. Similarly, the first period in office of Prof. Paul Cordopatis as Communication Officer has come to an end but he is willing to serve for a second period in the same function. The proposition of the President to co-opt these two persons to the Council was unanimously accepted by the Council.

● The President reported that two years ago there was a general agreement in the Executive Committee that the Statutes of the EPS had to be updated, mainly because of changes in the legal situation in Europe/European countries. In the last two years, the Executive Committee had to work extremely hard to prepare the new Statutes that were compatible with the governance of EPS and with the law in the country of residence of the Treasurer where the Society had to be registered as non-profit society. Details of this procedure can be found in Appendix 1.

The Council approved the work, the results and the procedures of the Executive Committee unanimously and accepted the new Statutes.

● Reports about EPS Symposia

EPS-31: Denmark 2010; K. Jensen reported that about 800 participants attended, 500 abstracts were submitted and that the unpredicted profit (€9000), in addition to the agreed upon €12,479.59 was transferred to the EPS account for the use of the European Peptide Society. The Proceedings were published in the same year. The President expressed his thanks not only for the great success of the Symposium, but also his appreciation for the donation by the three Chairpersons, who organized the event.

EPS-32: Greece 2012; G. Kokotos reported on the ongoing meeting. About 450 full participants and 150 students registered; 75 exhibitors are present. About 400 posters are presented.
EPS-33: Bulgaria 2014 (I. Stoineva)
Bulgaria had already been chosen as country for the EPS-33 at the Council meeting in Copenhagen at 2010. Prof. I. Stoineva gave an overview on the opportunities in Bulgaria and in particular in Sofia where the Symposium will take place in the National Palace of Culture. There was an intensive discussion about the date chosen (already two years ago) because of coinciding meetings (EuCheMS, Medicinal Chemistry). However, the dates cannot be changed at this stage of the preparation of the Symposium. In the future, collisions should by all means be avoided.

EPS-34: Germany 2016 (U. Diederichsen)
Prof. U. Diederichsen, on behalf of Prof. O. Seitz, the German Council member and the German peptide community offered to organize EPS-34 in Germany (most likely in Leipzig; a presentation about Leipzig as venue has been presented to the Council by Prof. Annette Beck-Sickinger in Copenhagen in 2010). The Council accepted the offer by the German representative unanimously.

Candidates for 2018, 2020: the Irish peptide community has already expressed their interest to organize the Symposium in 2016 or 2018, and the Spanish peptide community to organize it in 2018 or 2020. The Council will decide on the venue of EPS-35 in 2014 considering the timing of expressed interest.

Journal of Peptide Science: Editor’s Report
The Editor-in-Chief reported about the state of the JPS and about the difficulties in raising the Impact Factor of the Journal. About 160 manuscripts are submitted yearly, from which about 100 are accepted. The annual number of reviews remains constant, whereas the number of protocols is variable. He thought that on a longer term the different peptide journals should be merged in order to have one excellent high-impact journal.

M. Röthlisberger from Wiley indicated that publishers may soon decide to go for electronic versions of journals only. This will be the case for J. Pept. Sci. Also there is the debate about open access that might influence the financial side of journal production: from a reader pays to an author pays model EPS is asked to formulate its opinion on this matter.

Prof. Lars Balzer stated that the Journal should be a cash-cow for EPS and that therefore the contract between Wiley should be renegotiated. The President assured that the Executive Committee will inform Wiley that it will not continue the present agreement over the end of 2012 and will immediately start negotiations. The Secretary and the Treasurer will be in charge of the negotiations.

Prof. George Pairas explained the recent developments of the website of the EPS: the website has been relaunched and only one registration site for new members is displayed. Membership lists can now be extracted much more easily. The webmaster will expand on the restricted members only section of the website by placing previous EPS Proceedings volumes, as they become available electronically, and other material of interest. He welcomes propositions by Council members. The Council and the President thank G. Pairas for his great efforts and achievements during the last four years.

The Newsletter Editor, Prof. Paul Cordopatis, gave an account on recent EPS Newsletters and also a survey over the past few years. The Newsletter has become an excellent means of communication within EPS and also for attracting new members to the EPS. The Council thanks P. Cordopatis for his excellent work.

The Treasurer reported about the following five items. The details had been sent to all Council members before the Council meeting. The Council approved the budget for 2013 unanimously.
a) Report on the transition  
b) Accounts for the year of 2010 and 2011  
   i) Auditor’s report  
   ii) Supplementary Notes and Management Accounts  
c) Expenses in the year 2012.  
d) Donators/sponsors  
e) Budget for 2013  
Council members emphasized the need to have other income than contributions from EPS Symposium organizers.

Part II (according to the new statutes of the EPS)

- The Scientific Affairs Officer had distributed her report to the Council before the Council meeting and referred to this report. She thanked all members of the SAC for their work.

- Resignation of the Executive Committee Member and Secretary Prof. Alex Niklaus and his replacement

The Council took notice of the regular resignation of the current Secretary, Prof. Alex N. Eberle. A letter of resignation was prepared by him. The Council thanked A. Eberle for his work for the Society. The President outlined the results of the high-quality service provided by Prof. Eberle as Council representative of Switzerland, as member of the EC and during the last four years as Secretary of the Society. The crucial role of the Secretary was also markedly emphasized by the President in preparation of the new Statutes of the EPS.

The Council then elected formally Prof. Dirk Tourwé as new Secretary for the next four years. He will take office right after the Symposium, i.e. on September 8, 2012. The President summarized the contributions of Prof. Tourwé to the development of the European peptide community as Council representative of Belgium, as member of the SAC and during the last two years as invited consultant to the EC. The President thanked Prof. Tourwé for his dedicated work during the formation of the new Statutes of the EPS.

Formal minutes in English and Italian were prepared for this part II of the Council meeting and signed by the President and the Secretary. Also a list with all Council members present was circulated and signed by all Council members.

Condensed by the Editor from the Minutes provided by Alex N. Eberle and Dirk Tourwé
International Liaison Committee (ILC) Meeting

Hilton Hotel, Athens, Greece
4 September 2012

F. Hudecz welcomed all participants on behalf of EPS to this year’s ILC meeting which was – in accord with the previous practice – a mixed business meeting and lunch.

The minutes of the ILC meeting in Kyoto in 2010 were circulated; they were already discussed during the APS meeting in San Diego.

M. Manning, on behalf of the President of the APS, Prof. Ben Dunn, gave a report on the ILC meeting held in San Diego in June 2011, on the basis of notes composed by Benn Dunn. Major issues of that meeting were the frequency and sequence of International Peptide Symposia as well as the establishment of a high-impact journal in peptide science.

Reports from Peptide Societies

**American Peptide Society**
M. Manning reported about the forthcoming APS Symposium to be held in Hawai (23–27 June, 2013), which will also be the 6th International Peptide Symposium. In view of the latter, concerns were expressed about the international composition of the Scientific Programme Committee and it was advised that an appropriate number of Committee members should be invited to participate in shaping the Symposium.

**Japanese Peptide Society**
Y. Kiso reported about the forthcoming 49th Japanese Peptide Symposium that will be held November 7–9, 2012 in Kagoshima and the 50th Japanese Peptide Symposium in Osaka which is also the 4th APIPS (Asian-Pacific International Peptide Symposium).

**Australian Peptide Association**
J. Wade and P. Alewood reported about next year’s 10th Australian Peptide Conference to be held in Penang, Malaysia, from 8–13 September 2013.

**Chinese Peptide Community**
K. Liu spoke about the activities of the Chinese peptide community and provided information that no formal Chinese Peptide Society does exist. However, the Chinese peptide community is always represented by the President of the Chinese Peptide Symposium held every two years. The 13th Chinese International Peptide Symposium will be in July 2014.
Singapore Peptide Community
J. Tam offered to organize a peptide meeting in Singapore just before or after the 10th Australian Peptide Conference of next year.

European Peptide Society
F. Hudecz communicated that the EPS-33 will be held in Sofia, Bulgaria in 2014 and the EPS-34 in Germany, most likely in Leipzig.

Proposal on the rotation of the label “International Meeting” among (Americas/Europe/Asia-Oceania (proposal by Ben Dunn) and the venue and time of the next International Peptide Society Meeting (J. Wade) – 6th and 7th International Peptide Symposium (Y. Kiso)

The issue of rotating the label “International Peptide Symposium” was discussed in much detail (for details see the Annex); however, a consensus about the type of rotation and the venue of the 7th IPS was not achieved. F. Hudecz suggests to send all arguments to the President of the APS before the next ILC meeting at the forthcoming APS in Hawaii.

Contributed by Dirk Tourwé, Ferenz Hudecz, and Alex N. Eberle
The President congratulates Dirk Tourwé for his superb election in the Council Meeting and he thanks Alex Eberle for his excellent work and Paul Cordopatis for his past efforts and for his re-election.

The minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held in Paris (May 2012) were accepted.

EPS-32 in Athens
The EC discussed about the progress of EPS-32. Strong points: High-quality science; Very good organization of the meetings and the social events. Weak points: poster session had a few minor problems; Opening ceremony should include the EPS President as speaker. Free internet for EC members at their hotel is an issue for the future.

Concerning transfer of money for travel grant recipients, in the future the following rule shall apply: The money will be transferred by the Treasurer to the recipients directly. Therefore, as the symposium organizer selects the recipients of the travel grants, he/she will send the list to the Treasurer two weeks ahead of the start of the symposium.

Business concerning the Council meeting held during the 32nd EPS in Megaron, Athens, Greece:
- The President wishes more time for the Council meeting in the future.
- Preparation of a single report presentation for the Council meeting. This means that the contributions by individual EC members should be circulated ahead of time so that everybody agrees with the contents. In this way, overlap between contributions by individual EC members can be avoided. Deadlines must be defined in the future.
- The Secretary elect communicates opinions of Council members that think that documents should be distributed in paper and issues that do not require a discussion could be left away for the sake of strategic discussion.
- Documents that are sent out to the Council members should all be sent out by the Secretary. Consequently EC members will send their documents to the Secretary for distribution. Before Council meetings, all documents relating to reports etc. will be sent out ahead of the meetings whereas budget issues will be distributed in printed form during Council meeting.
- Negotiations concerning the Journal of Peptide Science shall be initiated by the Secretary with the help of the Treasurer with Wiley. At a later stage, the President will join and finally the Council will be consulted. A negotiation strategy should be developed, and a list of topics to be discussed with Wiley should be made by the Secretary. First the President will send a letter to Wiley, indicating the intention of the EPS Executive Committee to re-negotiate the conditions. It will be followed by an initial discussion between Wiley MR and DT/AMP.
- Work on the Bylaws by individual EC members by the end of October. The corrections/additions will be collected by the Secretary and an integrated version sent out again by the Secretary by the end of November.
- 33rd EPS Symposium in Bulgaria: The Bulgarian organizers aim at fulfilling the conditions of provisional Appendix 9 of the Bylaws; the EC will show flexibility if the conditions cannot be met because the agreement with Bulgaria was put in place before the Appendix 9 was born.
– 34th EPS Symposium in Germany: Conditions according to Appendix 9.
– 35th EPS Symposium in Ireland, decision will be made in Sofia in 2014. Spain signalled her interest to organize Symposium in the future.
– Procedure of approval of membership applications: straightforward on-line applications will be approved by G. Pairas, with a copy to the Secretary. For other applications, the Secretary will be consulted. For applications of Ph.D. students without a publication: a recommendation by their Ph.D. supervisor will be required.

● Date and location of the next Executive Committee meeting
Second half of March, Budapest

● It was agreed that Dirk Tourné in the Scientific Affairs Committee will be replaced by invitation of Krzysztof Rolka (Gdansk, Poland).

Addendum: KR accepted with pleasure the invitation to serve as SAC member in 2012–2016 period.

Condensed by the Editor from the Minutes provided by the Secretary
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CALENDAR of Forthcoming Events

11th GERMAN PEPTIDE SYMPOSIUM
Munchen, Germany
18–21 March 2013
Website: http://www.gps2013.de/welcome-note/

THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE ON BACTERIOCINS AND ANTIMICROBIAL PEPTIDES-BAMP2013
Staré Mesto, Slovakia
21–23 March 2013
Website: http://www.bacteriocin-conference.net/Conference

6th ANNUAL WORLD PROTEIN AND PEPTIDE CONFERENCE
Suzhou International Conference Centre, China
21–23 March 2013
Website: http://www.bitlifesciences.com/pepcon2013/

18th FRENCH PEPTIDE SYMPOSIUM
Le Lazaret, Sète, France
26–31 May 2013
Website: http://gfpp.free.fr/wordpress/

23rd AMERICAN PEPTIDE SYMPOSIUM
in conjunction with the 6th INTERNATIONAL PEPTIDE SYMPOSIUM
Hilton Waikoloa Village
Big Island of Hawai’i
22–27 June 2013
Website: http://aps2013.org/

10th AUSTRALIAN PEPTIDE CONFERENCE
Shangri La Golden Sands Resort
Penang, Malaysia
8–13 September 2013
Website: www.peptideoz.org

33rd EUROPEAN PEPTIDE SYMPOSIUM
Sofia, Bulgaria, 2014

34th EUROPEAN PEPTIDE SYMPOSIUM
Germany, 2016
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