A Message from the Editor
Peptide Chemistry in Bulgaria
11th German Peptide Symposium
Dutch Peptide Symposium
Enrique Pérez-Payà (1962–2013)
EPS General Assembly Meeting
Dear EPS Members,

This issue of the EPS Newsletter, 48th by number and 49th of the series is (according to an EPS EC’s decision, Budapest 2013) the last to appear in a paper-print edition.

The next issue, will be the first of the new series of the Newsletter to appear in pdf format only. The overall edition will maintain the paper-print production quality and it will be available through the EPS website, as all the till now produced issues (starting from No: 00-Introductory issue of Feb 1990).

It is my strong belief that this decision will have positive results for the Newsletter circulation and for the dissemination of news concerning the EPS activities and, apart of the economic benefit for the Society, will give us a tool of greater flexibility regarding the topics and length of each issue. As a result, the two annually appearing issues will continue to cover all aspects of the Society’s interests, and at the same time will give us the opportunity to present focus articles and news according to our members’ interests and suggestions.

It goes without saying that, to succeed with this effort, we will need an actual feedback from all Newsletter readers and especially the National Representatives and that their suggestions and contributions are not only welcomed but rather sought and requested.

Professor Paul Cordopatis
EPS Communication Officer
Patras, July 2013
The Bulgarian peptide chemistry commenced in early 60s into the two main centers for protein research in Bulgaria: the Department of Organic Chemistry at The University of Chemical Technology and Metallurgy – Sofia (UTCM) with Chairman Prof. Chavdar Ivanov and the Department of Protein Research of Institute of Organic Chemistry of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS) with chair Prof. Maria Karadjova. The pioneers of Bulgarian peptide chemistry – Prof. Boris Aleksiev, Prof. Liliana Mladenova-Orlinova and Prof. Maria Karadjova specialized in the Institute of Organic Chemistry of Czech Academy of Sciences – Prague, Czech Republic at that time. Influenced by the leading world-famous Prof. Josef Rudinger, both Prof. Aleksiev and Prof. Mladenova-Orlinova established their own peptide research groups in UTCM, Sofia. Their Ph.D students later on created peptide laboratories either in the UTCM or in other scientific institutions.

The 1st meeting of “Structure and function of peptides, proteins and enzymes” was held in 1986 in Sofia and ten years later the Bulgarian Peptide Society was established during the 1st Bulgarian Peptide Symposium in Rila mountain with founders Prof. Ch. Ivanov, Prof. B. Aleksiev, Prof. D. Petkov, Prof. L. Vezenkov and Prof. L. Kaskov. Prof. L. Vezenkov has been elected as its chairman.

itives of Bulgaria in the EPS Council. Members of the Bulgarian Peptide Society are also active participants in the organized by the European Peptide Society events. The Bulgarian Peptide Society under the auspices of the European Peptide Society organized six Bulgarian Peptide Symposia, where famous foreign scientists, including some of chairmen and members of the Executive committee of the EPS were plenary speakers.

The development of peptide chemistry in UCTM, pass through the following topics: peptides with regulatory action, including analogues of oxytocin, vasopressin, gastrointestinal hormone, human big gastrin I, gonadotropin releasing hormone. Some studies led to the development of semi-industrial technologies for oxytocin, its analogue Mrp^1^-oxytocin and Mrp^1^-D-Arg^{-2}-vasopressin. The oxytocin manufacture was realized by the research team of Prof. L. Mladenova, Prof. L. Vezenkov and Prof. Ch. Ivanov; peptides with opioid activity, such as enkephalin and nociceptin analogs; peptide and glycopeptide inhibitors of enzymes, including peptides with anticoagulant and antiaggregating activity, as well as peptides with combined antibutyrylcholinesterase, antibutyrylcholinesterase and antiα-secretase activity; peptides with potential application in diagnostic and therapeutic of virally induced diseases such as HIV and picornaviruses; peptide sweeteners; synthesis of aminophosphonic acids and their application in peptide synthesis; peptide antibiotics as micobacillin and other inhibitors of β-lactamases; synthesis and study of unnatural amino acids and peptides; modification, structural studies and application of proteins and enzymes, especially investigation on the unique Vipoxin toxin isolated from the venom of the Bulgarian viper.

Currently, 3 laboratories in UCTM are engaged with topics related to peptide chemistry. They are headed by Prof. L. Vezenkov, Prof. E. Nadjenova and Assoc. Prof. D. Danalev.

Prof. Vezenkov, began his scientific career during his Ph.D thesis under the supervision of Prof. L. Mladenova on strepogen active peptides. Dr. Vezenkov became head of the Laboratory of Biologically Active Peptides Synthesis at the Organic Chemistry Department of UCTM. Several pharmaceutical products based on α-aminoacids and peptides, were implemented in Bulgarian Pharmaceutical companie “Balkanpharma”. Currently the Prof. Vezenkov’s team works on the galantamine analogs comprising peptide motif as potential drugs for treatment of Alzheimer’s disease.

Prof. Naydenova has been PhD student of Prof. Boris Aleksiev, working on the synthesis of peptide sweeteners. Prof. E. Nadjenova specialized in Poland, in the laboratory of Prof. Kuprishevsky as well as in Greece, where she becomes acquainted with principals of solid phase peptide synthesis. She introduced the method in UCTM research teams. Currently, her investigations are in the field of aminophosphonic acids and their application in the synthesis of peptides in order to increase their biological activity as well as their resistance to enzymatic degradation. She actively collaborates with the group of Prof. Vezenkov, and their common work concerns new somatostatin analogues and peptides with antitumor activity.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dancho Danalev has been PhD student of Prof. L. Vezenkov and further he realized two postdoctoral possessions connected with carbohydrates, glycoamino acids and glycopeptides synthesis in the laboratories of Prof. Vincent Ferrières in the Ecole National Supérieur de Chimie de Rennes, France and Prof. Nadège Lubin-Germain in the University of Cergy-Pontoise, France. Assoc. Prof. Danalev created a research group in 2011 as a part of Biotechnology Department of UCTM working in a collaboration with Prof. Lykov Yotova on biosensors. All UCTM teams have collaborations with leading research groups from Europe headed by Prof. Jean Martinez (University of Montpellier, France), Prof. Frederic Checler.
Assoc. Prof. Stoytcho Stoev, became a regular PhD student in the Department of Organic Chemistry of UTCM under the scientific supervision of Prof. Aleksiev. In the frame of S. Stoev’s thesis were synthesized the first peptides in Bulgaria, published by B.Aleksiev, S.Stoev and co-workers in Die Pharmazie in 1971.

Assoc. Prof. S. Stoev moved to Institute of Molecular Biology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia in 1971 and gradually built up his research group including Assoc. Prof. Sotir Zahariev, Dr.Georgi Videnov, Assoc. Prof. Tamara Pajpanova. In the 80s and 90s S.Stoev specialized chemistry and structure activity relationship of oxytocin and vasopressin agonists and antagonists in the laboratory of Prof. Dsc. Maurice Manning in the University of Toledo, Ohio, USA. The research aim of S. Stoev group was the synthesis and
characterization of new α-aminoacid derivatives as building blocks for the preparation of modified peptide analog. S. Stoev was co-founder and scientific head of Laboratory of Antimetabolites in Blagoevgrad town, a research and development laboratory created for large scale synthesis. In 1982 S. Stoev organized and became deputy chairman of Department of Chemistry at South-Western University (SWU) in Blagoevgrad. The international scientific collaborations of S. Stoev and his group are with: Prof. G. Kreil group, Institute of Molecular Biology, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Salzburg, Austria; Prof. G. Kupryszewski, later with Prof. K. Rolka group, University of Gdansk, Poland; with Prof. G.-J. Krauss group, Martin-Luther University, Halle (Wittenberg), Germany; Prof. H. Zann and Prof. D. Brandenburg, German Wool Research Institute, Aachen, Germany and the Center of Oncology, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russian Federation. In 1994 S. Stoev joined permanently Prof. M. Manning’s laboratory in Toledo, Ohio, USA. He was succeeded in IMB, BAS by his co-worker Assoc. Prof. T. Paipanova, which up to now is chair of the group.

The beginning of the peptide chemistry in the Department of Chemistry at the South-West University “Neofit Rilski” was launched in the late 80s by Assoc. Prof. St. Stoev and Dr. G. Videnov (PhD student of Prof. Dr. Dietrich Brandenburg Deutsches Wollforschungsinstitut, Aachen). The first synthesized compounds were thioamide and sulfonamide derivatives of the proteinogenic amino acids. These compounds were used for the preparation of vasopressin and oxytocin analogues. Currently, the peptide chemistry studies are continued by the chair Assoc. Prof. I. Stankova in several directions: synthesis of unnatural amino acids and peptides for modifications of antiviral drugs and antioxidants; the use of vibrational spectroscopy for the identifications of amino acid and peptide derivatives; quantum-chemical modeling and QSAR.

In the early 60’s the research team of Prof. Maria Karadjova at the Institute of Organic Chemistry of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences made their pioneer work on “Isolation, properties and primary structure of myoglobin from the dolphin Delphinus delphis” published in Coll. Czechoslov. Chem. Commun. 29, 551–56 (1964). The main research interest of the group in the 70s and 80s was focused on the study of structure activity relationship of hydrolytic enzymes (urokinase, trypsin, chymotrypsin, subtilysin BPN) with model peptides substrates – Prof. D. Petkov, Prof. N. Genov, Assoc. Prof. N. Stambolieva, Assoc. Prof. V. Taran, Assoc. Prof. V. Yomtova. At that time the research team of the “Biocatalysis” laboratory, under Prof. D. Petkov, started investigation on enzymatic peptide synthesis. The main results are contributions to the development of theory – kinetics and thermodynamics aspects of biocatalytic reactions, and practice – enzymic synthesis of peptides by using iterative procedure, enzymatic semisynthesis of Phe15-aprotinin (basic pancreatic trypsin inhibitor), bioenzymatic synthesis of the peptide sweetener Aspartam, chemoenzymatic synthesis of diastereomeric opioid peptides D-Leu-enkephalinamides, enzymatic synthesis of glycosylasparagine and β-aspartyl peptides. The latest results of the group are on the theoretical aspects of ribozymic model reactions. The group has active research collaborations with Prof. V. Kashe (Germany), Prof. I. Mononen (Finland), Prof. Kirby (England), Prof. A. Chattopadhyaya (Japan). Classical and solid phase peptide synthesis methods are used to synthesize different prolyl peptides as inhibitors of Angiotensin I converting enzyme (ACE), by the group of Assoc. Prof. I. Stoineva. The biological activity, spectral and theoretical study and NMR analysis of peptides are investigated with collaboration with researchers from different Universities in Bulgaria.

The research group of Prof. B. Tchorbanov is open to the isolation and characterization of hydrolytic enzymes and
their inhibitors with peptide structure from plant sources from the local areal as aminopeptidases from *Brassica* (Z. Naturforschung 63c, 105–112, 2007) and *Leguminosae* plants as well as proteinase inhibitors (Biochim. Biophys. Acta 1298, 95–101, 1996; Protein Sci. 10:2280–90, 2001) from paprika seeds. An effective aminopeptidase was isolated from Lactic acid bacteria from Bulgarian yogurt (J. Dairy Research 61, 581–585, 1994). A very active fraction of glycopeptide origin was isolated from medicinal herb *Galega officinalis* L. inhibiting platelet aggregation (J. Med. Food 5, 229–234, 2002). The protein hydrolysis processing was studied (Biol. Chem. Hoppe-Seyler, 368, 1321–25, 1987; Biotech.&Biotechnol. Equipment 22, 835–838, 2007) in order to obtain non-bitter protein hydrolysates as supplements for medicine and sport purposes, as well as analytical methods for control of hydrolysis process and products.

Several scientific groups from the Medical University of Sofia are also members of the Bulgarian peptide society. In the laboratory of “Haemodynamic and renal functions” in the Department of Physiology, headed by Prof. Radoslav Girchev, the effects of newly synthesized, modified in 9 or 13 as well as in 7 or 8 position nociceptin analogues on fast oscillations of arterial blood pressure and heart rate in normotensive and on spontaneously hypertensive rats, are investigated. The working group headed by Prof. Adriana Bocheva investigates biological effects of peptides with opioid activity, such as enkephalin and nociceptin analogs. Area of activities of laboratory “Analysis and synthesis of bioactive compounds”, Department of Medical Chemistry and biochemistry, headed by Prof. Vanio Mitev includes: peptide synthesis using solution and solid phase methodologies; synthesis of modified peptides – fluorescent labels, biotinylation, phosphorilation; identification, isolation and purification of peptides from natural sources (plants, insects and ext.); LC/MS analysis of peptides; proteomics.

*Contributed by Ivanka Stoineva and colleagues from peptide groups*
The 11th German Peptide Symposium (GPS) was held March 18–21, 2013 at the Technische Universität München (TUM) in the Department of Chemistry at the TUM Campus Garching in Garching at Munich. The meeting was organized by Aphrodite Kapurniotu, Horst Kessler, and Stephan Sieber from the Technische Universität München and was attended by 270 researchers from academia and industry. The symposium covered the following topics of peptide and protein science: peptides/peptidomimetics in medicine, peptide/protein structure, folding and interactions, peptide self-assembly in disease and material science, and peptide and protein synthesis.

It started with a very interesting and thorough overview by Luis Moroder (Max Planck Institute of Biochemistry) on the history of peptide chemistry in Germany, followed by the highly stimulating lectures by Bill DeGrado (University of California, San Francisco) on the design of therapeutics that act on membranes and membrane proteins and Thomas Carell (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München) on DNA bases beyond Watson and Crick.

In the following days, a number of high standard lectures were delivered comprising eight invited lectures, 32 selected lectures, and 32 short lectures on posters which were presented mainly by young investigators. The three sessions on “peptides and peptidomimetics in medicine” were opened by Annette Beck-Sickinger (University of Leipzig) who presented strategies for immobilization and controlled release of peptides and protein therapeutics, John Robinson (University of Zürich) who talked about epitope mimetics in drug and vaccine research, and Norbert Zeewald (Bielefeld University) who presented recent work of his group on cytotoxic peptide-drug conjugates based on cryptophycins. The three sessions on “peptide/protein structure, folding and interactions” were opened by Johannes Buchner (Technische Universität München) who talked about the peptide binding properties of the molecular chaperone BiP that regulate antibody assembly, Thomas Kiefhaber (Technische Universität München) who talked about the use of triplet-triplet energy transfer to detect conformational fluctuations in peptides and proteins, and Herbert Waldmann (Max Planck Institute of Molecular Physiology) with an overview of work of his group on the dynamic
regulation of Ras localization and signaling. The session dedicated to peptide self-assembly in disease and material science was opened by lectures of Ehud Gazit (Tel Aviv University) who gave an overview of the work of his group on molecular self-assembly of short aromatic peptides in the context of biology, nanotechnology and material science and Bernd Reif who talked on solid-state NMR studies on amyloid aggregates and their interference with small molecules (Technische Universität München). Finally, two sessions dedicated to peptide and protein synthesis were opened with the lecture by Henning Mootz (University of Münster) on mechanisms and applications in protein semisynthesis of split inteins. All selected lectures and the short lectures delivered mainly by young researchers were of excellent quality as well. Lectures were accompanied by three sessions with 106 poster presentations and a number of industrial exhibitions.

Finally, six prizes were awarded to young investigators. Three prizes were awarded for the best-poster-to-short-lecture presentations, sponsored by Roche Diagnostics GmbH, and three awards for the best poster presentations, sponsored by ChemBioChem-Wiley-VCH.

The awardees of the Roche Diagnostics GmbH prize were:

1st Place: Kristine Steen Jensen from Technische Universität München for the presentation “Coupled folding and binding dynamics of the intrinsically disordered pKID upon binding to the KIX domain” by K.S. Jensen, T. Kiefhaber.

2nd Place: Denisiuk Alexander from Technische Universität Berlin for the presentation “Structure elucidation and progress towards the total synthesis of the cyclodepsipeptide Skyllamycin A” by A. Denisiuk, V. Schubert, P.-L. Saaidi, E. Graf, H.-P. Fiedler, R. Süßmuth.

3rd Place: Mykhailiuk Pavel, from Kyiv National Taras Shevchenko University for the presentation “Design, synthesis and application of fluorinated amino acids as labels to study the membrane active peptides by solid state 19F NMR” by P. Mykhailiuk, A. Tkachenko, A. Zhdanova, V. Kubyshkin, Radchenko, S. Afonin, O. Babii, P. Wadhwni, A. Ulrich, I. Komarov.

The awardees of the ChemBioChem-Wiley-VCH prizes were:

1st Place: Robert Kastl from ETH Zürich
for “Peptide-catalyzed stereoselective synthesis of γ-nitroaldehydes bearing a quaternary stereogenic center” by R. Kastl, H. Wennemers.

2nd Place: Michaela Stach from University of Bern for “Membrane targeting antimicrobial peptide dendrimers” by M. Stach, T. Darbr, J.-L. Reymond.

3rd Place: Jonathan Zerweck from Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) for “Lipid shape is a key factor in the synergistic reorientation of membrane-bound PGLa and Magainin 2” by J. Zerweck, E. Strandberg, P. Wadhwani, A. Ulrich.

Also, Norma Greenfield (New Jersey, USA) received a JASCO sponsored award for her valuable contributions to the use of CD spectroscopy to study peptide and protein structure.

The three days of the meeting succeeded in providing a very good update of the status of peptide science in Germany and beyond. In addition, they were characterized by vivid scientific discussions and social interactions which were accompanied by various typical cultural/culinary bavarian events.

Contributed by Aphrodite Kapurniotu
This year’s edition of the Dutch Peptide Symposium took place on April 24, 2013 and was organized at the NKI-AVL (Netherlands Cancer Institute-Antoni van Leeuwenhoek hospital) in Amsterdam which celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2013. The one day event took place under the auspices of the European Peptide Society and was attended by 139 participants from both academia and industry.

During the event, researchers of Dutch academia and industry have a chance to present their work on the synthesis, development and application of peptides. In addition, internationally distinguished speakers are invited to present their current research. The scientific program consisted of 12 lectures, presented by students and scientists from The Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark and Germany. The excellent contributions ranged from peptide synthesis (e.g. peptide conjugation) to biological application of peptides such as new assay reagents and probes to study the Ubiquitin-proteasome system. Moreover, we were proud to present Prof. Dr. Roderich Süssmuth (Rudolf-Wiechert-Professor für Biologische Chemie, Institut für Chemie / FG Organische Chemie, Technische Universität Berlin) as keynote speaker. In his presentation titled “Nature’s inventory for peptide synthesis”,...
Prof. Dr. Roderich Süßmuth discussed the biosynthesis principles of structurally complex peptides. Next to examples of ribosomal and non-ribosomal peptide syntheses, impressive examples of discoveries from his group and successes on increasing the structural space by pathway engineering, combinatorial biosynthesis and Synthetic Biology were presented.

The Dutch Peptide Symposium also gave companies that are involved in the peptide field the opportunity to sponsor this event and to present themselves at presentation booths which were set up at the lobby of the meeting venue. Thanks to the generous contributions of our sponsors and the European Peptide Society the symposium was free of charge for all participants. The organizing committee would like to thank all sponsors and participants for making the 2013 edition of the Dutch Peptide Symposium a success.

*Contributed by Remco Merkx*
It is our sad duty to report the untimely passing of our dear colleague Enrique Pérez-Payá, CSIC research professor and group leader at the Prince Felipe Research Center (CIPF), in Valencia, Spain, on May 28.

Enrique was an active contributor to peptide and protein science since the days of his PhD work on the membrane interactions of melittin, substance P and other peptides. During his postdoc at the Torrey Pines Institute for Molecular Studies (1993–95) he acquired expertise in combinatorial peptide libraries, which became a key tool of his subsequent research, first at the University of Valencia (1996–2002), later on at the CIPF. His laboratory successfully used peptide and peptoid libraries for blocking therapeutically significant protein-protein interactions in areas such as apoptosis, antimicrobials (peptides and LPS inhibitors), antitumorals, etc. Enrique authored over 120 papers on these and related areas, and filed over 20 patents for peptide-based biomedical products, several of them licensed to Spanish pharma or biotech companies. His scientific legacy also includes the training of ten PhD students over the 2001–2012 period, as well as the enthusiastic organization of scientific meetings, including the 7th Iberian Peptide Meeting (2000), a proteomics satellite meeting at the XXIV Congress of the Spanish Biochemical Society, or the VI European Symposium of the Protein Society. His laboratory was also an active participant at many recent European Peptide Symposia, some of which also had Enrique as speaker. Enrique’s departure creates a hard-to-fill void in a Spanish scientific scene that, in trying times like the present, can ill-afford losing talented people like him. He will be particularly missed by those in the peptide-protein chemistry community who admired his achievements and enjoyed his friendly, low-key style and bonhomie. Enrique is survived by his wife Susa and his children Carla, Enric and Albert.

Contributed by David Andreu
The registration of EPS as a non-profit organization in March 2012 required new statutes (http://www.eurpepsoc.com/eps-statutes) and consequently some changes in the previous mode of operation of the Society. Until 2012, the Council, the governing body of EPS composed of one representative of each member country, met biannually during the European Peptide Symposium, when usually most of the national representatives were attending the Symposium. The new legislation on non-profit organizations requires an annual meeting. The Council is now called the General Assembly, and the national representatives are called Effective Members.

The annual General Assembly is required to approve the annual accounts, the budget for the coming year and the report on the activities of the Executive Committee. From this year on the General Assembly meetings do not coincide with the EPS Symposium, because of the new regulation (the above mentioned documents have to be approved before the end of May). In addition the presence of the required 50% + 1 Effective Members at such a meeting would involve a large expense in time and travel cost. (It is important to note, that the General Assembly will also meet during the Symposium every second year.)

In accord with the new Statutes the first General Assembly was organized by videoconference at the Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest on 22nd May 2013. For the appropriate preparation of this historical first meeting the Secretary sent out the agenda and all the documents for readings. To experience the
“Vidyo system” and PC connection facilities first a “test-session” was organized a week prior of the official General Assembly meeting on 22nd May, 2013.

The General Assembly meeting was called at 11 a.m. As required by the legislation, the President Ferenc Hudecz and the Secretary Dirk Tourwé were physically present at the meeting in Budapest, as well as the Hungarian Effective Member, Professor Botond Penke made a successful effort. In addition 14 Members connected via the videosystem, which was just below the attendance limit required. Therefore a second meeting was called at 11:30 a.m. This meeting could validity decide irrespective of the number of participants. However, 18 colleagues (including Executive Committee members and National Representatives) from 15 countries were on line.

After accepting the agenda, the financial statements and the budget were introduced and explained by the Treasurer Anna Maria Papini, and after a discussion, unanimously accepted. The appointment of the auditor was renewed. The report about the activities of the Executive Committee were presented by the Secretary Dirk Tourwé. This included the announcement of an endowment of 50,000 USD made by Dr. Rao Makinini to secure the next Zervas Awards, four National meetings were supported by EPS-donations, update on the ongoing negotiations with Wiley for a new agreement for publishing the Journal of Peptide Science and a note on the preparatory work of the Executive Committee on Bylaws for the new Statutes.

These topics were actively discussed by several participants. Despite a slight delay in the sound of the speakers, the discussions went smoothly. Three Members mentioned difficulties in either connecting to the videosystem or in the ability to speak. Nevertheless this first experience with a General Assembly by videoconference was considered successful. Considering the experience gained, in the coming years the required annual General Assembly will be organized in the same way in May. However, major strategic discussions will still be planned for the General Assembly coinciding with the EPSymposium, when most of the Effective Members will be physically present.

Finally, we wish to thank the General Assembly (formerly Council) members, who made an attempt to participate in the “test” and/or the official meeting. Also thanks are due to those who sent apologies.

We wish to express our special thanks for the preparation of the General Assembly meeting to all members of the Executive Committee and to Professor A. Benczúr who contributed as expert on networks and to members of the ICT team headed by Mr. A. Sándor of the Faculty of Informatics at Eötvös Loránd University and to the special advisor, Mr. B. Kiss for providing a free service to our peptide community.

Contributed by Dirk Tourwé and Ferenz Hudecz
Online-Only from 2014!

Journal of Peptide Science

January 2014 sees Journal of Peptide Science move to an online-only publication. This will allow the journal to focus on improving the quality of its online provision for authors and readers by adding value and functionality to articles.

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As the President indicated, the meeting had two major tasks to complete: to elaborate the bylaws and to decide on critical issues for the Wiley contract discussion.

The minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on September 6th, 2012 in Athens, were accepted without corrections.

According to the Treasurer’s report, a financial statement was prepared by the auditor, Dr. Gori, and a certificate of conformity was provided. An overview of the financial situation of EPS over the years 2011, 2012 and 2013 (until end of March), and a detailed list of expenses and income until 31/03/2013, accompanied by a document explaining the details of each cost item, was prepared. The Executive Committee approved and signed the Financial Statement document and a document “Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of March 29th”, 2013 on approval of the draft of the Financial Statements for the fiscal year ended 31/12/2012” both in English and in Italian as required by the Italian fiscal law.

An updated version of the budget for 2013 (already proposed to the General Assembly of September 3rd in Athens), was prepared taking into account the more recent data. This draft was approved by the EC provided that Dr. Gori does not have any legal objections.

Bylaws of the EPS
Based on the draft of the Bylaws that was discussed during the EC meeting in Athens, and on remarks made by EC members, a new draft was prepared by the Secretary, and it was discussed, modified and completed accordingly. It was agreed that this document will be sent to the EC members for approval and it will then be sent to all Effective Members for their comments.

The comments will be collected by the Secretary and communicated to the EC members, and that a final version of the draft bylaws will be presented to the Effective Members (General Assembly) for e-mail voting in accord with the Statutes. This procedure will allow the Society to have valid Bylaws, which are in accord with the Statutes. The President expressed his sincere thanks to the Secretary for his dedicated work in composing the new draft and for the careful considerations of issues covered.

Progress report on the 33rd EPS in Bulgaria (2014)
Dr. I. Stoineva, as spokeswoman of the three co-chairs, presented the progress on the organization of the 33rd EPS. The venue (Palace of Culture Sofia) has been reserved, the website is activated [www.33eps2014.com], an exhibition plan is proposed, the scientific committee has been composed. The EC suggested to involve S. Lavielle, as chairperson of the Scientific Affairs Committee of EPS to the list.

A break even budget is expected when 300 full participants are paying a registration fee of 600€ (which does not include the conference dinner). EC strongly suggests to take into account all options to reduce the registration fee, also considering that the rent for the venue in Sofia is considerably less that in Athens. It is expected that the expenses in relation with the participation of the Symposium will be much less, than in previous Symposia (Greece, Denmark).

Members of the EC expressed their readiness to assist in formulation of detailed plans (financial, organization etc.)
The President acknowledges the report with thanks and indicated that J. Martinez is very much pleased to act as a special envoy on behalf of EPS also on day-to-day matters. The importance to have a “plan B” concerning the Symposium was also emphasized in case of unexpected local events. Close collaboration between the organizers and the EC was offered.

**Wiley Contract concerning the J. Pept. Sci.**

After the General Assembly in Athens (3rd September 2012), at the Executive Committee meeting EC decided to re-negotiate the contract with Wiley. Initial negotiations were conducted by the Secretary, D. Tourwé with the help of the Treasurer, A.M. Papini. It was agreed that the help of a business lawyer was required for these negotiations. On suggestion of L. Balzer (GA member), Dr. Hugo Norlén of Lindahl in Uppsala was contacted and involved as an adviser. On request of the President, a list of key critical points to be discussed with Wiley was composed by the Secretary/Treasurer and sent to H. Norlén for advice. A letter was sent by the President, F. Hudecz to the Wiley representative Martin Rothlisberger on October 25th, to inform Wiley about the intent to re-negotiate the current agreement. Immediately after the confirmation of receipt (Oct 29th) of the letter of the President, Wiley was asked for possible dates for a discussion. In order to avoid the automatic prolongation of the existing contract for another five years from 1 January, 2013, a letter was sent on December 8th by F. Hudecz to M. Rothlisberger to terminate the contract. On January 18th a proposal was received from Wiley for changes to the current agreement. Key issues included the cancellation of the accumulated debt of EPS in return for a change of 50/50 to 51 Wiley/49 EPS ownership of the journal, which would become online-only. A newly invented Publication Fund was also proposed to contribute to open access publication cost of EPS members. In accord with the Wiley proposal the EPS Newsletter, Website, News Bulletin and Symposia Abstract printing would be included in the contract. EPS asked detailed cost estimates of all these items from Wiley. A first discussion between Wiley and A.M. Papini and D. Tourwé by telephone conference took place on March 27th.

During the meeting in Budapest, the EC discussed the various options of the Wiley proposal, and voted 4 to 1 in favor of the cancellation of the accumulated debt in 2014 in exchange the modification of the 50/50 share to 51/49 share (Wiley/EPS). EC was unanimously not interested in the creation of the Publication Fund as 50% of the EPS profit would be re-invested in the journal. It was also a consensus on items that now belong to the responsibility of the EPSymposium organisers (printing of Abstract book, exhibition discount, contribution for six months online access to J. Pept. Sci.) and therefore cannot be included in the contract. A major problem concerning the display of sponsor logo’s on the current Website hosted by Wiley was also detected. This is considered as a commercial activity requiring contracts between EPS and the sponsor. At present income from the sponsors on the website is shared 50/50 between EPS and Wiley. For sponsors recruited by EPS, this income should be credited to EPS. A list of questions for further discussion will be prepared by the Secretary, and sent to Wiley. In a further stage of the negotiations, the President will join the discussions. Further and final decisions will be made after the next round of discussion with Wiley representative and will depend on the availability of information.
The Scientific Affairs Officer reported on the meetings for which EPS has granted a donation. Attention is drawn to the new two-deadline application procedure (January 15th and June 15th). Given the limited budget, a selection will be made. Preference will be given to as much as possible diversity in topics, rather than to recurring applications. The President thanked the Scientific Affairs Officer for her balanced actions in handling the submitted requests during this transition period under the past and planned Bylaws.

Sponsoring of Awards

a. Zervas Award: an endowment of 50,000 USD from Rao Makinini was obtained. To secure that this endowment is used only for the Zervas Award, a paragraph was added to the EPS Bylaws. The EC expressed its high appreciations to Rao Makinini for his generous donation, to M. Verlander for his assistance and to the Treasurer for the organization and completion of this transaction.
b. Rudinger Award: the award was (till 2012) sponsored by Polypeptides. The Secretary will contact Polypeptides to inquire about their willingness to sponsor the Award at the 33rd EPSymposium.

EPS Newsletter and Website

The Communication Officer presented a report regarding the publishing of the Newsletter, the digitalization of the EPSymposia proceedings, the website development, including the membership management. Members of the EC thanked P. Cordopatis for his complete, precise and timely report and acknowledged the progress with enthusiasm in the field of Communication.

EC agrees that expenses for digitalization of EPS Proceedings are acceptable, and approved a budget for this activity.

Because the number of members listed on the website is substantially larger than the one in the list made by the previous Secretary, the National representatives (Effective members) will be consulted to clean up the list.

General Assembly representatives, Effective Member elections

In 2013 no elections are expected, in 2014 re-elections will be needed for the majority of member countries: Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, Greece, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland & UK. A “de novo” election will be needed for Denmark, Hungary, Russia and Sweden.

In the past the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Peptide Science was a permanent invited member of the Council. In accord with the new Statutes the General Assembly could coopt Effective Members. Therefore the EC will make a proposal to the GA in Sophia to coopt the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Peptide Science. It was agreed that in the future, the Wiley representative will be invited to the General Assembly only for specific issues related to the journal to be defined by the Secretary.

Condensed by the Editor from the Minutes provided by the Secretary
Society News

EUROPEAN PEPTIDE SOCIETY
Non-profit Organisation
Registered Office VIA F. FERRUCCI 203/C - 59100 PRATO (PO)

Financial statements at 31/12/2012

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<th>Balance Sheet</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Assets</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>A) Fixed assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>I. Intangible assets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1) Start-up and expansion costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Tangible assets</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total fixed assets | 7.146 |

B) Current assets

| I. Accounts receivable | | |
| 1) From customers | | |
| - falling due within one year | 14.620 | |
| - falling due after more than one year | | |
| II. Liquid assets | | |
| 1) Bank | 59.463 | |

Total current assets | 74.083 |

Total assets | 81.129 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities</th>
<th>31/12/2012</th>
<th>--</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A) Shareholders’ equity</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>I. Share capital</td>
<td>92.531</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>II. Retained earnings (loss) carry forwards</td>
<td>(11.614)</td>
<td></td>
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<td>III. Profit (loss) for the year</td>
<td>(3.828)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total shareholders’ equity | 77.089 |

B) Provisions for liabilities and charges

Total provisions for liabilities and charges

| 1) Accounts payable to suppliers | | |
| - falling due within one year | 4.140 | |
Total shareholders' equity and liabilities 81,229

Profit and loss account 31/12/2012

A) Revenues
   Total revenues

B) Expenses
   1) Raw materials, subsidiary materials, consumables and goods 1,452
   2) Services 15,252
   3) Depreciation and value adjustments
      a) depreciation of intangible assets 1,786
   Total expenses 18,490

Difference between revenues and expenses (A-B) (18,490)

C) Financial income and costs
   - other income 43
   - Interest and other financial costs:
   Total financial income and costs 43

D) Value adjustments of financial assets
   Total value adjustments to financial assets

E) Extraordinary income and costs
   Income:
   - capital gains on disposals
   - other extraordinary income 14,620
   Expenses:
   - Differences from rounding to the Euro unit 1
   Total extraordinary income and costs 14,619

Result before taxes (A-B+C+D+E) (3,828)

Profit (loss) of the year (3,828)

The President of EPS
Hudecz Ferenc

The Treasurer
Anna Maria Papini
EUROPEAN PEPTIDE SOCIETY  
Scientific Nonprofit Society  
Based in VIA F. FERRUCCI 203/C - 59100 PRATO (PO)

Notes to the financial statements closed on 31/12/2012

Premise
The present Financial statement shows for the year 2012 a loss of Euro (3828,00).

Performed activities
The European Peptide Society carries out its activities as a non-profit organization with the aim to coordinate, support and representing internationally the advancement of research and training in the science of peptides in Europe and extra-European countries.

Significant events realised in the year 2012
By application to the Notary Laura Biagioli of Prato (PO) in Italy on 15/03/2012, the European Peptide Society was established as a scientific non-profit society whose discipline is regulated by the agreements contained in the Charter annexed to the Deed of Constitution. On the same date the Executive Committee was formed and attributed the legal representation and signature of the Society (7571 Euro).
With the formal establishment of the Society, the funds raised so far formed the Society assets at 15/03/2012 (92531 Euro).

The European Peptide Society supported National meetings performed in 2011 and 2012, as well as travel grants to young scientists to participate at the 32nd EPS for a total of 15325 Euro (see detailed expenses in attachment).

Preparation criteria
These financial statement has been drafted with reference to the formal requirements imposed by the European Union and followed by the Italian legislation to prepare the financial statements.

Evaluation criteria
The criteria used to evaluate the financial statements sheet closed on 31/12/2012 were oriented towards the general criteria of prudence and competence in the perspective of continuing the activity. Following the principle of competence, the effect of transactions and other events are recognized and allocated to the year to which these transactions and events are related, and not to the year of the related cash movements (receipts and payments). The continuity of application of the evaluation criteria over time is a necessary element for the purpose of comparability of financial statements of the Society in subsequent years.

In particular, the evaluation criteria adopted for the financial statements were the following:

Assets
Intangible assets
They are recorded at historical cost and are stated net of depreciation made during the year and charged directly to the individual items.
These are the legal and administrative costs of incorporation and recorded as amortized over a period of 5 years (1786 Euro/year).

Accounts receivable
They are carried at estimated realizable value and represent the donation received in 2013 by the 32nd EPS that was held in Athens in 2012. The proceeds are extraordinary in that they are represented by donations to the Society for the achievement and the development of its mission (14620 Euro).

Total accounts payable
They are recognized at their nominal value, adjusted for returns or billing adjustments. They are accounts payable which arose in 2012 and will be paid in 2013 (4140 Euro for Lawyer LINDHAL to assist in Wiley negotiation and Studio Gori for revision of financial statements 2008-2010 and Audit 2012).

**Taxes on incomes**
In 2012, the Society did not make any commercial transaction and, therefore, it is not subject to taxation on business incomes.

**Recognition of revenues**
The Society has no revenues, as these are the result of a commercial activity that the association has not done.

**Activity**

**A) Fixed assets**
1) Start-up and expansion costs (7146 Euro = 4/5 of 8932 Euro to be amortised during the next 4 years)

**B) Current assets**

**I. Accounts receivable**
It is a single credit already collected in the course of 2013 (Donation from 32nd EPS 14620 Euro).

**II. Liquid assets**
The balance represents the cash at the Cassa Risparmio di Firenze (Gruppo Intesa-SanPaolo) Agency in Prato (PO) (59463 Euro)

**Liabilities**

**A) Shareholders’ equity**
Losses carried on the new were detected on the basis of payments made after 15/03/12 of expenses performed in the previous year 2011 (11614 Euro).

**B) Payables**
Payables are stated at their nominal value (4140 Euro)

**Profit and loss account**

**B) Expenses**
1) Expenses for 32nd EPS Awards (1452 Euro)
2) All other expenses as detailed in the annexes (15252 Euro)
3) 1/5 expenses for EPS constitution (1786 Euro)

**C) Financial incomes and costs**
Incomes for bank interests (43 Euro)

The financial statements, comprising the Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Notes, give a true and fair view of the financial position and the results of operations and corresponds to the accounting records.

The Executive Committee is composed of:
Hudecz Ferenc - President
Dirk Tourwe - Secretary (nominated on 03/09/12 in substitution of Eberle Alex Niklaus)
Papini Anna Maria - Treasurer
Lavielle Solange - Scientific Affairs Officer
Cordopatis Pavlos - Communication Officer
The Executive Committee was nominated on 15/03/2012 and will expire with the approval of the financial statements that will be closed on 31/12/2015.
Journal of Peptide Science publishes online only from 2014

From January 2014 onwards the Journal of Peptide Science publishes only an online edition and the print edition will be discontinued. 95% of the readers have already been using the online edition, so only very few subscribers will notice a change. This move brings advantages to authors and readers: no charges for unlimited numbers of colour illustrations will mean a more colourful journal and faster publication speeds.

The Journal of Peptide Science has now an impact factor of 2.071!
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CALENDAR of Forthcoming Events

11th FIPS BIANNUAL PEPTIDE SYMPOSIUM 2013
Biomedicum, Helsinki, Finland
28–29 August 2013
Website: www.finmedchem.fi

PEPTIDE ARRAYS
Surgeons’ Hall, Edinburgh, UK
3–4 September 2013
Website: www.peptidearrays.org

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

14th MaNaPro & 8th ECMNP
Island of La Toja, Galicia, Spain
15–20 September 2013
Website: www.manapro2013.com

3rd INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON ANTIMICROBIAL PEPTIDES [IMAP 2013]
Burlington House, London, UK
23–24 September 2013
Website: http://www.peptideconferences.org/imap/imap-2013

1st INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PEPTIDE MATERIALS FOR BIOMEDICINE AND NANOTECHNOLOGY [PepMat 2013]
Imperial Hotel Tramontano, Sorrento, Italy
28–31 October 2013

7th WORLD PROTEIN AND PEPTIDE CONFERENCE 2014
Dalian Hi-tech Industrial Zone, China
25–28 April 2014
Website: www.bitlifesciences.com/pepcon2014

33rd EUROPEAN PEPTIDE SYMPOSIUM
National Palace of Culture, Sofia, Bulgaria
31 August – 5 September 2014
Website: www.33eps2014.com

34th EUROPEAN PEPTIDE SYMPOSIUM
Leipzig, Germany, 2016
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