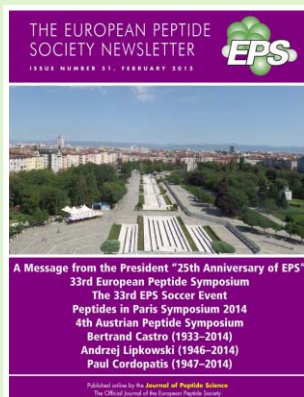


THE EUROPEAN PEPTIDE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NUMBER 51, FEBRUARY 2015



A Message from the President "25th Anniversary of EPS"
33rd European Peptide Symposium
The 33rd EPS Soccer Event
Peptides in Paris Symposium 2014
4th Austrian Peptide Symposium
Bertrand Castro (1933–2014)
Andrzej Lipkowski (1946–2014)
Paul Cordopatis (1947–2014)



Cover photo: Sofia, the host city of the 33rd EPS; view from the top floor of the National Palace of Culture (photo by George Pairas).

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Professor Krzysztof Rolka
Faculty of Chemistry
University of Gdansk
PL-80398 Gdansk, Poland
Tel: + 48 58 5235088
Fax: + 48 58 5235012
E-mail : krzysztof.rolka@ug.edu.pl

SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

This Newsletter is published in cooperation with the Journal of Peptide Science twice a year and can be obtained as a free PDF download from the European Peptide Society website at: www.eurpepsoc.com

Journal of Peptide Science, the official journal of the European Peptide Society EPS, is an online journal published by John Wiley & Sons Ltd on the Wiley Online Library as 12 issues each year. Information on and access to the journal can be obtained at: wileyonlinelibrary.com/journal/jpepsci

A Message from the President 25th Anniversary of EPS



Dear Reader!

It is my pleasure to welcome you by this message in the year of the 25th Anniversary of the foundation of the European Peptide Society.

In accord with the notes of the Founding President of EPS the process has been initiated at the first “open” meeting in Tübingen, Germany in 1988. The informal European Peptide Committee elected a Chairman, Prof. G.T. Young for a period of four years, together with a Standing Sub-Committee composed of Professor G. Jung, Professor J.E. Giralt, Professor K. Medzihradszky, and Dr. A. Loffet. This Sub-Committee met first Jesus College, Oxford, on December 18, 1988 and drafted Statutes for the society. After favourable response, invitations were sent out in mid-1989 to those who had attended recent Symposia to join the new society. The elected Council consisting one representative from each constituent country met first during the Symposium in Platja d’Aro, Spain in September 1990 and the Council elected the first Executive Committee of EPS. [*The European Peptide Society Newsletter, Introductory issue (February, 1990) No 1 (January, 1991) and No 17 (September, 1997)*]

The European Peptide Society was established as “a non-profit association

... for the public benefit in order to promote in Europe and in certain neighbouring countries the advancement of education and in particular the scientific study of the chemistry, biochemistry and biology of peptides, which are chemical compounds having important functions for human health and welfare by the organization of scientific meetings, by the publication and dissemination of the results of research and in other appropriate ways” (Statutes, 1994). In order to fulfil its mission the Society has used above mentioned and newly developed tools like biannual Symposium (already since 1958) including the publication of the Proceedings, young investigator competitions, exhibition; Travel Grants; Scientific Awards; Support Small Scientific Meeting; publishing J. Peptide Science and EPS Newsletters; Website just to mention the main ones.

The EPS Newsletter, published twice a year, is as old as the Society itself. Dr. John H. Jones (Balliol College, Oxford) by invitation of the Chairman created and edited the Newsletter from the beginning until January 2003. After his retirement, from the issue No. 30 Prof. Paul Cordopatis took the responsibility to publish the Newsletter first in paper-print edition and later in on-line form (2014).

20 years ago by the decision of the

Executive Committee and Council, the Journal of Peptide Science (JPS) as the official journal of the European Peptide Society was founded and published since in collaboration with John Wiley & Sons. The founding Editor-in-Chief, C. Schneider (Schweizterland, 1995–1998) was followed first by J.H. Jones (UK, 1999–2007) and then by L. Moroder (Germany, 2008–) and the JPS became a widely accepted source of reliable results from laboratories worldwide in peptide science.

The latest addition to serve the peptide community was the development of the website. This became an important activity year-by-year and will produce even more information about Society related events from the past (e.g. digitalized Proceedings volumes, Newsletter issues, photo- and document archive), present (e.g. reports of meetings, summers schools, books) and from the future (e.g. conferences, grant sites). Here I wish to thank Dr. George Pairas for the innovative and highly engaged service as web-site content manager of the Society.

The Newsletter issues with the Proceedings of the European Peptide Symposia, the volumes of JPS as well as the website of our Society truly document the history of the Society of the past 25 years. This brief outline of the develop-

ment of the Society must mention our partners in collaborating with us from the early days. We are grateful for the help and assistance of Rao Makineni (first Bachem Inc.), Polypeptide Laboratories (first Ferring Pharmaceuticals), John Wiley & Sons and of the ESCOM Science Foundation.

Last year the Society has made a historical contribution to the further development of our field in Europe by providing the possibility to the Bulgarian peptide community to organise, for the first time, a European Peptide Symposium in Bulgaria (Sofia, 31 August–5 September, 2014). This event was a great success! Thank you very much Professors I. Stoineva, R. Kafflein and L. Vezekov for all your efforts, hard work and congratulations for the achievements.

During the 33rd European Peptide Symposium, the General Assembly (previously named Council) of EPS welcomed the newly elected National representatives from Bulgaria, Denmark, Hungary and Russia and made a decision on the venue of future Symposia in the coming six years (Leipzig, 2016; Dublin, 2018; Spain, 2020).

The General Assembly accepted the proposal of the Executive Committee to establish the new “Miklós Bodanszky Award”. This is to acknowledge the achievements of a young Colleague, who

made a significant contribution to peptide based drug research up to the ten years after PhD. The award will be presented first during the EPS Symposium in Germany in 2016.

Following the regulations of the new Statutes of the Society, the General Assembly elected the President and members of the Executive Committee for the period of 2016–2020. Prof. David Andreu (Spain) as incoming president, Prof. Dirk Tourwé (Belgium) as secretary, Prof. Anna Maria Papini (Italy) as treasurer Prof. Anna Maria Papini (Italy), Prof. Krzysztof Rolka (Poland) as Scientific Affairs Officer and Prof. Norbert Sewald (Germany) as Scientific Affairs Officer.

During the International Liaison Committee meeting in Sofia and after consultations for decades with sister/brother societies (American Peptide Society, Japanese Peptide Society, Australian Peptide Association, Korean Peptide Society, Singapore Peptide Community) it was agreed on the schedule of the “International Peptide Symposium (IPS)” as a circulating logo. Thus, the 7th IPS will be organised in Pacific Region (2015), while the 34th European Peptide Symposium will host the 8th IPS in Leipzig next year.

Finally, I wish to thank first Professor Paul Cordopatis, who sadly passed away last October for his service, first as

National representative of Greek peptide community (2002–2010) then as member of the Executive Committee (2010–2014). For handling and shaping all communication related tasks the Executive Committee invited him to accept a newly created function. From 2011, Paul whole-heartedly served our Society as the first Communication Officer responsible – among other duties – for the Newsletter and the Website of the Society.

As president I am grateful to all members of the Executive Committee, Professor Dirk Tourwé, Professor Anna Maria Papini and Professor Solange Lavielle for their recent constructive, but critical input, during the negotiations on various matters including the renewed agreements on publishing the Journal of Peptide Science as well as on the EPS website. Also for the fruitful and

conclusive discussions in Sofia about the new Bylaws of the Society, special thanks are due to the members of the General Assembly present at the 33rd European Peptide Symposium. It is my personal impression that by the new Statutes (March 2012), Bylaws (July 2013) and contracts mentioned above (December 2013 and March 2014), the Society is ready to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of its foundation in Oxford.

Happy Birthday EPS and all the best for the coming many 25 years!

Professor Ferenc Hudecz
President of EPS
Budapest,
January 2015

CONFERENCE REPORT

33rd European Peptide Symposium

Sofia, Bulgaria 31 August – 5 September 2014

The 33rd European Peptide Symposium was held at the National Palace of Culture in Sofia – the beautiful capital of Bulgaria, August 31st to September 5th 2014. We were honoured to host for the first time a European Peptide Symposium. The meeting was attended by over 550 registered participants from 39 countries from all over the world.

The Opening Ceremony on Sunday began with the welcome address by the Chairpersons of the Symposium and with the interesting introduction by Prof. Ferenc Hudecz, the President of the European Peptide Society.

The prestigious Leonidas Zervas Award sponsored by Dr. Rao Makineni was shared between Prof. Miguel Castanho from the Institute of Molecular Medicine – Lisbon, Portugal, and Prof. Philip Dawson from the Scripps Research Institute in USA. Both winners presented lectures “Peptide-lipid duets in viruses, bacteria, and humans: new views, new avenues” and “Making new connections in peptide and protein chemistry”, respectively.

The winner of the Josef Rudinger Memorial Lecture, sponsored by Poly-peptide group, Prof. Ernest Giralt, from the Institute for Research in Biomedicine, Barcelona, Spain presented lecture entitled “Use of peptides to modulate protein-protein interactions”.

In collaboration with the International Scientific Committee, the Local



Prof. Ferenc Hudecz during the opening ceremony

Organizing Committee prepared a high quality scientific program with the aim to present and highlight the most important new achievements in peptide science. The Committee had the difficult task to select 69 oral presentations from the 95 requested speakers.

During the week the participants of the symposium had the opportunity to attend more than seventy outstanding lectures, as well as hundreds of posters that describes the latest discoveries in the peptide field. Four plenary lectures were presented during the 33rd EPS. On the 1st of September – Prof. Jean Martinez from the University of Montpellier, France, presented “Characterization of a new peptide, exhibiting dopamine effects by

targeting brain angiotensin converting enzyme”. Prof. Mohamed Marahiel, Department of Chemistry/Biochemistry Philipps-University Marburg, Germany, gave a talk “Introducing lasso peptides as a molecular scaffold for drug design” on the 3rd of September. Prof. Annette Beck-Sickinger spoke about “Molecular mechanism of peptide hormone binding and gpcr trafficking” on the 4th of September. The last plenary lecture entitled “Developing stable, bioactive, non-toxic peptides and peptidomimetics as drugs for disease” was given on the 5th of September by Prof. Victor Hruby.

During the Symposium, the scientific community also had the pleasure to attend several invited speakers: Prof.

Krzysztof Rolka, Faculty of Chemistry, University of Gdansk, Poland), who presented the lecture “Sunflower trypsin inhibitor-1 (sfti-1) as useful scaffold for the development of peptide-based drug leads” and Prof. Huib Ova, Division of Cell Biology, the Netherlands Cancer Institute, Amsterdam, whose lecture was titled “Chemical ubiquitination”.

Generally after the lectures there were fruitful discussions, highly contributing to the scientific program.

Over 300 poster presentations on different aspects of the peptide science were divided into two poster sessions including many students and career researchers participation in the advertised topics of the symposium.



Plenary lecturer Prof. Mohamed Marahiel (left) and Prof. Philip Dawson (right) the winner of the Leonidas Zervas Award, during the discussion with young peptide researcher.



The winner Jean-Marie Swiecicki



The winner Anna Kwiatkowska



Group picture of the part of the participants at 33rd EPS in Sofia

Eleven young scientists were selected from 69 participants to make speeches during Dr. Bert L. Schram Young Investigator's Mini-Symposium. In view to stimulate the attendance during the young investigator session, the Organizers took the decision to integrate it into the main program.

Following the tradition of the EPS, ESCOM Foundation sponsored Dr. Bert Schram Networking Mixer, which proceeded with a great success. The discussion was opened and moderated by Prof. Solange Lavielle – the scientific affairs officer of the EPS. There were exciting discussions between more than

25 senior researchers and over 80 young peptide scientists, PhD students and students.

We would like to acknowledge European Peptide Society support to stimulate the participation of 43 young researchers with Fellowships.

During the scientific part of the 33rd

EPS, one of the main goals is to recognize and stimulate the talents of young scientists in the field of the peptide science. The Dr. Bert L. Schram Awards were granted to two young participants for the best oral presentation. Jean-Marie Swiecicki from University of Pierre et Marie Curie was awarded for the lecture entitled "Direct translocation of cell penetrating peptides through membranes occurs via the formation of inverted micelles" and Anna Kwiatkowska from Institute de Pharmacologie de Sherbrooke with the lecture entitled "Development of PACE 4 inhibitors as a potential treatment against prostate cancer".

Kathrin Thell was awarded for her best poster presentation entitled "Immuno-suppressive circular plant peptides" and Aleksandra Pekosak from VU Medical Centre for her best poster presentation entitled "Native peptides radiolabeled with carbon-11: novel methods to synthesize peptidic positron emission tomography tracers for tumour imaging".

We would like to express our special thanks to Ms. Elisabeth Schram and Dr. Johan Elgersma for their participation and support of young participants at the 33rd EPS.

The scientific part of the Symposium was accompanied by social get-together events such as the Welcome Reception which was held at the History Museum, the National Bulgarian dinner organized at the "Vodenitzata" restaurant, the Gala dinner which was celebrated at the Rainbow Plaza and of course the traditional Soccer cup – "Europe against the World". The 33rd European Peptide Symposium is now history, but hopefully it remains a lot of memorable moments for everyone who attended it.

We would like to express our gratitude to sponsors, because this event would have not been August 31st to September 5th 2014 possible without their financial support: PolyPeptide, Aapptec, Bachem, Cem, Merck, Novabiochem, Chs, Senn, Sigma-Aldrich, Makmetal, Advanced Chemtech, ACM 2, Activotec, Aquachim, BCN peptides, Biotage, Chinese peptide, Corden pharma, CBL, CS Bio, Eurogentec, GLS, Hecheng, Intavis, Iris Biotech, Kromasil, Pcas, Peptides International, Peptides & Elephants, Polypure, Protein Technologies, Rapp Polymere, FOT, Chromservis Ltd. and Media partner-Chemistry today.

Finally, but not at least, the Local

organizing committee would like to state its special thankfulness to everybody who has contributed to the success of the 33rd European Peptide Symposium in Sofia.

*Contributed by Ivanka Stoineva,
Lyubomir Vezekov and Reni Kalfin*

The 33 EPS Soccer Event

In keeping with the long-standing tradition, the 33rd EPS soccer game between Europe and the “Rest of the World” was played in the Rakovsky Mini Stadium in Sofia, Bulgaria on September 3rd, 2014, with the kick-off at 5 p.m. The local organizers Dancho Danalev, Ivanka Stankova, Dimeter Babev, Daniela Petkova, and Tatyana Dzimbova did a marvelous job with all of the preparations, including providing both teams with colorful uniforms and refreshments at half time. Heavy rains earlier in the day had cast doubt that the game would even be played. However, by game time, the skies had cleared and the spectators who showed up to watch the game were treated to a highly entertaining and thrilling contest.

The final 4-1 score in favor of the “Rest of the World” belied the closeness of the game, which, based on the score line might appear to have been an easy victory for the “Rest of the World” squad. As a matter of fact, the outcome was uncertain right up to the final brilliant goal by Brazilian player Eduardo Vicente, with only minutes to play.

The 8-a-side game was played with 20-minute halves at a very fast pace, much like an indoor game, on artificial turf in a shortened field. Substitutions were both necessary and frequent. The game was



Team Europe Goal Keeper Batłomiej Fedorczyk



Action during the 33 EPS Soccer Game



No 3: Team Europe discussing strategy with Coach Tatyana Dzimbova

very well-officiated by Kiril Iliev and Emanuel Ivanov.

Team Europe, in bright yellow uniforms, was coached by Tatyana Dzimbova from Bulgaria. The “Rest of the World” team, in blue uniforms, was coached by me. Both coaches were presented with captain’s arm bands.

The following 12 players lined out for Europe: Linde Smeenck, Paul Werkhoven, Dennis Lowik (all from The Netherlands); Morten Hansen (from Denmark); Barthomiej Fedorczyk (Keeper) and Adam Prah (both from Poland); Christian Beyer (from Germany); Miroslav Malesevic (from Serbia); and Asen Yanachovov, Kabyou Georgher, Edson Crusca, and Nikolei Georgiev.

Linde, who had played in the thrilling game at the 32 EPS in Athens, took a leadership role in ensuring that both teams were evenly matched. Since 15 players had signed up to play with Europe compared to only eight players for the “Rest of the World”, Linde generously recommended that to make the game more equitable, three of the players who had signed up to play for Europe could instead play with the “Rest of the World” team to bring the total number of players on my team to 11. Obviously, this most admirable gesture had a huge effect on the outcome of the game.

The “Rest of the World” team featured, for the first time, four highly experienced



No 4: Rest of World Team with Coach Maurice Manning

players from Brazil. These included the MVP of the game, goalkeeper, Esteban Nicolas Lorenzon, the aforementioned Eduardo Vicente, Eduardo Cilli, and Reinaldo Marchetto. Jean-Francois Hernandez from France came out of retirement to play yet another blinder. He was joined by Frenchman Kamel Mabrouk, Vangelis Agouridas, and Laszlo Otvos (USA), a star of many previous EPS soccer events. Shota Takayama (Japan), William Lubell (Canada), and Ranganath Gopalakrishnan (India) rounded out the “Rest of the World” team.

After a furiously played first five minutes, The “Rest of the World” took a 1-0 lead with an unstoppable shot from a



Team Europe and Rest of World Team with both Coaches



Linde Smeenk with Coach Maurice Manning

free kick by Laszlo Otvos. Both keepers were brilliant throughout the game. Continued pressure by the “Rest of the World” team combined with a defensive error led to an own goal against Europe to give the “Rest of the World” team a 2-0 lead at the break.

Five minutes after the break, Europe came storming back with an excellent goal by Morten Hansen. The big question then was, “which team would score the next pivotal goal?” During this period, both defenses and keepers continued to withstand relentless pressure. Finally, with about 10 minutes to go, a defensive lapse by Europe allowed Renaldo Marchetto to score a gift goal and give the “Rest of the World” a 3-1 lead.

Europe continued to play hard but were denied a desperately needed goal. Finally, with only minutes to go, a very well taken shot by Eduardo Vicente at the bottom right hand corner of the goal eluded the outstretched arms of the European keeper to give the “Rest of the World” its final margin of victory (4-1).

At the closing ceremony, in a very nice gesture by the organizers, players and coaches from both teams were awarded gold medals inscribed on one side with “33 EPS Symposium: 33 EPS European Peptide Symposium: Sofia 2015 Soccer Cup” with the inscription on the back



Dennis Lowik with Coach Manning

showing a cup, a soccer ball, and a soccer cleat. These medals were attached to lavaliers bearing the Bulgarian National Colors. These are now treasured mementos of a most memorable EPS soccer event.

These presentations made by Ivanka Stankova and Dancho Danalev, symbolic of the spirit with which the game was played, were applauded by all the spectators as a sign of their appreciation for a most sporting contest – one of the best in the long tradition of these biannual games, dating back to the 14th EPS in Porto Carras in 1986.

This report is submitted in honour of my good friend and long time coach of Team Europe: Professor Lajos Balaspiri Photos courtesy of Professor Aleksandra Misicka-Kesik, University of Warsaw.

Contributed by Maurice Manning

CONFERENCE REPORT

Peptides in Paris Symposium – PIPS 2014

Paris, France, 5–8 October 2014

Professors Anna Maria Papini, William Lubell and Solange Lavielle co-chaired, two events organized in the context of the thematic semester 2014, Peptides & Proteins Molecules of Life of the University of Cergy Pontoise with the strong support of the Institute for Advanced Studies of the University of Cergy-Pontoise (Hung The Diep, Florence Brouillaud and Ratana Pok),

PIPS-2014 was conceived to enhance dialogue between peptide scientists and to provide a novel forum for young scientists to learn more about the history and state-of-the-art technology of our growing field. PIPS-2014 featured a series of lectures from world-class experts in peptide science from October 5–8, 2014 followed by a workshop featuring lectures from pioneers of our field and hands-on applications of modern machines making impact in peptide science from October 8–10, 2014.

About 120 participants attended PIPS-2014. Featuring lectures from fourteen distinguished speakers (S. Kent, L. Baltzer, J.-L. Banères, C. Becker, A. Boto, A. Brik, N. Budisa, P.E. Dawson, F. Formaggio, A. Friedler, A. Kaporniotu, G. Maayan, G. Morelli, D. Woolfson), as well as three established scientists (I. Fujii, L. Gentilucci, and S. Yitzchaik), and thirteen young investigators (S. Chen, M. Di Pisa,



From left to right: Prof. Waleed Danho, Prof. Steve Kent, Prof. Ferenc Hudecz, Prof. Anna Maria Papini, Prof. Solange Lavielle, Prof. Michael Chorev, Prof. Claudio Toniolo, Prof. Luis Moroder, and Prof. William Lubell at PIPS-2014 (October 5–10, 2014).

L. Khemtémourian, A.I. Fernández-Llamazares, N. Gilles, R. Grzywa, S. Pascarella, M. Reches, K.B.H. Salah, J.-M. Swiecicki, A. Tapeinou, G. Upert, E. Wynendaele), representing fourteen different countries, convened at the modern site of the University of Cergy-Pontoise at Gennevilliers in the Région Île-de-France. Moreover, a poster session was held on the afternoon of October 7th to empower informal communication in front of printed excerpts about novel discoveries.

Subsequently, the venue shifted to the Peptide & Protein Chemistry & Biology Platform PeptLab@UCP at the Neuville Université site where thirty selected young investigators coming from Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Québec, Romania, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, and United Kingdom could attend featured morning tutorials on relevant themes in peptide science by leaders, who have made seminal discoveries in these research areas:



The distinguished speakers with the young investigators attending PIPS-2014 Symposium and Training Course at the Gennevilliers site of the University of Cergy-Pontoise (October 5–10, 2014).

bioconjugates (F. Hudecz), cysteine-rich peptides (L. Moroder), conformational analysis (C. Toniolo), biophysical methods (A. Friedler), chemical ligation (S. Kent), post-translational modifications (M. Chorev), and peptide drug delivery (W. Danho). After a lunch break, the young

investigators were invited to test drive the latest in peptide chemistry (Novabiochem, Merck Chemicals), instrumentation for peptide science, featuring synthesizers (CEM and Protein Technologies), purification devices (GE Healthcare and Propep SARL), as well as tools for making

biophysical measurements on peptides and proteins (GE Healthcare and SAW Instruments). Considering how peptide science has shaped the practice of synthetic, analytical, and biological sciences, due to inherent challenges to assemble these polyfunctional molecules

and their abundant applications in various fields including medicine, materials science, catalysis, and nanotechnology, the young investigators had a unique opportunity to learn about latest innovations and original discoveries from the masters in our field as well as industrial innovators advancing our science.

The organizers wish to acknowledge the organizing training committee: Fabienne Burlina, Matthea Ieronymaki, Maud Larregola, Olivier Monasson, Francesca Nuti, Elisa Peroni, Feliciano Real-Fernandez and Cédric Rentier.

Unable to imagine a better location to enjoy scientific rapport within a festive environment, we were pleased that Paris hosted this international meeting in 2014, yet are hopeful that PIPS 2014 could become a proof-of-concept for the European Union to support future peptide and protein training courses of this kind to enhance our field in years to come.

This event was supported by the European Peptide Society and the following sponsors: CEM (gold sponsor) CS Bio Co (silver sponsor), Protein Technologies, Inc, GE Healthcare, SAW Instruments, Proteomic solutions, Iris Biotech GMBH, Waters, Propep SARL, Merck Millipore, Intavis AG are gratefully acknowledged.

Contributed by Solange Lavielle



The chairs of the PIPS-2014 Symposium and Training Course at the Gennevilliers site of the University of Cergy-Pontoise (5–10 October, 2014): Professors Solange Lavielle, William D. Lubell and Anna Maria Papini.

CONFERENCE REPORT

4th Austrian Peptide Symposium

Salzburg, Austria, 4 December 2014

The 4th Austrian Peptide Symposium was held at the University of Salzburg on the 4th of December 2014 and was co-organized by Chiara Cabrele (Department of Molecular Biology, University of Salzburg), Christian Gruber (Austrian representative to the EPS, Medical University of Vienna) and Christian Becker (University of Vienna). The event was based on the one-day-symposium format that was successfully used for the former Austrian Peptide Symposia (2011 and 2012 in Vienna, 2013 in Graz): this included invited lectures given by renowned national and international speakers, short oral presentations on hot topics in peptide science, which were selected from the submitted abstracts, and one poster session covering manifold aspects of peptide and protein research. Overall, more than 80 participants from different European countries (Austria, Belgium, England, Germany, Hungary, Portugal, Spain and The Netherlands) attended the symposium.

The first morning session was focused on bioactive peptides and their interaction with receptors or lipids: Annette G. Beck-Sickinger (University of Leipzig, Germany) held the opening lecture on the mode of binding of rationally designed neuropeptide Y analogs to the Y-receptor subtypes. Jozef Vanden Broeck (University of

Leuven, Belgium) followed with a lecture on selected neuropeptides that regulate food intake and secretion of digestive enzymes in locusts. The first session closed with the lecture of Miguel Castanho (University of Lisbon, Portugal) on biophysical aspects of the interaction of peptides and proteins with membrane models and their implication in the design of novel therapeutics.

The second morning session was dedicated to peptide chemistry and mimicry, and included the lecture of Rob Liskamp (University of Glasgow, Scotland) on protein mimicry using cyclic peptides as scaffolds, followed by the lecture of Tamás Martinek (University of Szeged, Hungary) on functional helical and β -sheet-mimicking foldamers.

The poster session, which was held during the lunch break, featured 19 posters that were presented and discussed by PhD students and early-stage researchers. There was also a poster award competition for the three best poster presentations.

The first afternoon session, "Hot Topics in Peptide Science", included six excellent short oral contributions selected from the submitted abstracts, which were given by Marina Rubini (University of Konstanz, Germany), Reza Omidvar (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Tulln, Austria), Anne Conibear (University

of Vienna), Kathrin Thell (Medical University of Vienna), Claudia Bello (University of Vienna) and Hannelore Breitenbach-Koller (University of Salzburg).

The second and last afternoon session covered structural and bioanalytical aspects of peptide and protein research with three lectures. The first speaker, Christian Huber (University of Salzburg), reviewed recent progresses in the analytical separation and identification of complex peptide mixtures. Then, Robert van Ling (Thermo Fisher Scientific, The Netherlands) presented innovative techniques and tools for ultrafast-HPLC workflows in peptidomics and proteomics. Finally, Heidi Pertl-Obermeyer (University Hohenheim, Stuttgart, Germany) gave a lecture on the design of new peptidic standards for the absolute quantification of vacuolar transport proteins from plants by mass spectrometry.

The scientific part of the symposium ended with the announcement of the three winners of the poster award competition: Giulia Di Giglio (Medical University of Vienna) for her poster entitled "Pharmacology of novel oxytocin-like neuropeptides from ants", Roland Hellinger (Medical University of Vienna) for his poster entitled "Target deconvolution of immunosuppressive circular



Group photo of all participants of the 4th Austrian Peptide Symposium at the University of Salzburg (Auditorium of the University Library)

plant peptides?, and Tom Podewin (Ludwig-Maximilian-University, Munich) for his poster entitled “Photo-controlled chignolin-derived β -hairpin model peptides”. A social get-together followed the closing remarks. Overall, the meeting was successful and received a very positive feedback thanks to the comprehensive and high-level scientific program, the nice and friendly atmosphere among the participants and

the stimulating place, the Auditorium of the University Library from the 17th century, in the hearth of the historic center of Salzburg.

The four Austrian Peptide Symposia hosted so far in Vienna, Graz and Salzburg have obtained good resonance within the national and international scientific community, which strongly motivates the Austrian organizers to make of this event a consolidate tradition. Along

this line, we are happy to announce that the 2015 meeting of the Austrian Peptide Society will be held in Vienna and co-organized by Christian Gruber (Medical University of Vienna) and Christian Becker (University of Vienna).

We are grateful to everyone who helped in the organization and realization of the 2014 Austrian Peptide Symposium, in particular our host, the University of Salzburg, and all involved staff members

from the Department of Molecular Biology and the University Library. Finally, we very much thank the exhibitors, who nicely interacted with the participants during the coffee and lunch breaks, and all sponsors of the symposium: Bruker, Thermo Fisher Scientific, CEM, Bachem, Peptides&Elephants, Rieger-Industrievertretungen GmbH, VWR, University of Salzburg, and the European Peptide

Society. Without their generous financial support, all this would not have been possible!

*Contributed by Christian W. Gruber
and Chiara Cabrele*



*Poster award ceremony.
From left to right: Christian Becker, Chiara Cabrele, Tom Podewin, Giulia Di Giglio, Roland Hellinger and Christian Gruber*

In Memoriam

Bertrand Castro (1933–2014)



Born on December 11th 1938, Bertrand CASTRO passed away on June 24th 2014.

Beyond a great chemist, he was a big-hearted person. Those of us who were lucky to have known him, and we are quite a few in the peptide family, have appreciated both his scientific dimension and his generosity. Bertrand started his career in chemistry at the «Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Chimie de Paris» in 1958 where he received his diploma as «Engineer» in 1961. He then obtained his PhD in 1966 under the supervision of Professor Henri NORMANT. He then joined the University of Paris 6 as an Assistant-professor and then the University of Nancy in 1969 as «Maître de Conférences», where he was later appointed as Professor of Chemistry in 1975. There he co-directed the CNRS

research unit E.R.A. 558 devoted to «synthetic methodologies applied to the synthesis of sugars, peptides and related molecules» together with Bernard GROSS, as well as the INSERM 19 facility of Peptide Synthesis.

In 1981 he was nominated full Professor of Chemistry at the «Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Chimie of Montpellier (ENSCM)». He further co-founded the «Centre CNRS-INSERM de Pharmacologie-Endocrinologie (CCIPE)» where he developed his research as a head of the team «Chemistry of Peptides» and became Director of the Institute from 1986 to 1989.

In 1989, Bertrand CASTRO joined the pharmaceutical company SANOFI-CHIMIE as Director of Industrial Chemical Development. Soon, he became Scientific Director Of Industrial Affairs at SANOFI-AVENTIS and assumed this function until his retirement in 2009.

Bertrand CASTRO was among the founders of «French Group of Peptides and Proteins (GFPP)», following the very first meeting that brought together french peptide scientists in 1977. He has done a lot for this community of scientists, which he always supported. For peptide chemists, Bertrand will remain the father of the BOP reagent he developed, which has become a universal «coupling reagent» in peptide synthesis. But beyond

his strong interest in peptide chemistry, Bertrand CASTRO followed an atypical yet successful path combining private and public research with expertise in numerous fields, from theoretical chemistry and chemical processes to applications at the interface between Chemistry-Biology-Physics and Health.

He received several awards, including «The Willemart Award (1967), the Lebel Award (1976)» both from the French Chemical Society, the «Henri Labbé Award (1985) from the French Académie des Sciences», the «Silver Medal» from the CNRS, the «Grand Prix Industriel SFC-SCI (1999)».

Despite his illness and weariness, he remained very active and always kept in touch with science and innovation, with his academic and industrial colleagues, but also with the piano, which he loved so much to play.

Given his skills and atypical personality, his human and professional qualities, Bertrand CASTRO was unanimously appreciated by the colleagues who rubbed shoulders with him. The peptide community has lost a great scientist and man. But Bertrand will always remain in our hearts ... and in the heart of our community.

Contributed by Jean Martinez

In Memoriam

Andrzej Lipkowski (1946–2014)



Andrzej W. Lipkowski, a native of Poland, received his Ph.D. (1976) and D.Sc. (1987) in chemistry from the University of Warsaw. He started his career in Professor Stefania Drabarek's group in the Chemistry Department working on oxytocin analogues. His first scientific adventure was during his PhD studies, when he spent a year (1973–74) isolating proteins from the Antarctic krill in the Polish Antarctic Station "Arctowski" as a member of 3rd Antarctic Expedition of Polish Biologists. He did his post-doctoral work (1977–78) at North-

western University (Chicago, USA) with Professor George Flouret working on iodo analogs of LHRH and oxytocin. After returning to Poland, Andrzej started his research on the structure-activity relationships of opioid peptides at the Department of Chemistry of Warsaw University. Following the then-recent discovery of the enkephalins (1975) this field was progressing rapidly at that time. Andrzej, from the beginning of his research in the opioid field, was committed to searching for new molecules, particularly peptides, that could be employed in the clinic as analgesics with fewer adverse effects and liabilities compared with traditional opioid alkaloids. His goal remains timely today. To achieve this, he was the first in Poland who gathered chemists, pharmacologists and anesthesiologists to discuss problems associated with pain, especially neuropathic pain, in order to develop new and better painkillers. In order to better understand the problems associated with opioid pharmacology Andrzej joined for a few months, in 1983, Albert Herz's group at the Max Planck Institute for Psychiatry (Munich, Germany). After returning from Germany Andrzej designed and synthesized a simple molecule (a dimeric enkephalin analogue connected by a hydrazide bridge), which is 1000 times more potent than morphine when

administered intrathecally. He named his molecule "biphalin". Numerous subsequent studies in many laboratories over the world confirmed that biphalin is an extremely potent analgesic compound with substantially lower addictive potential than traditional opioids. Unfortunately, the lack of patent protection of this compound removed any commercial incentive for the pharmaceutical industry to develop biphalin. The reason for the lack of patent protection was political, not scientific or clinical. At the time that Andrzej developed biphalin in Poland, it was not possible to patent a novel molecular entity (Poland was behind the iron curtain then, with different patent laws than the democratic West).

In the 1980s, like millions of Poles, Andrzej was involved in the Solidarity movement. He remained active in Solidarity even when the authoritarian government of general Jaruzelski in Poland, in an attempt to crush political opposition in Poland, introduced martial law on December 13th 1981, starting a difficult chapter for Poles and Polish science.

Andrzej later obtained a research fellowship position (1986–88) at the University of Minnesota with Professor Philip Portoghese (Minneapolis, USA), where he designed a kappa agonist based



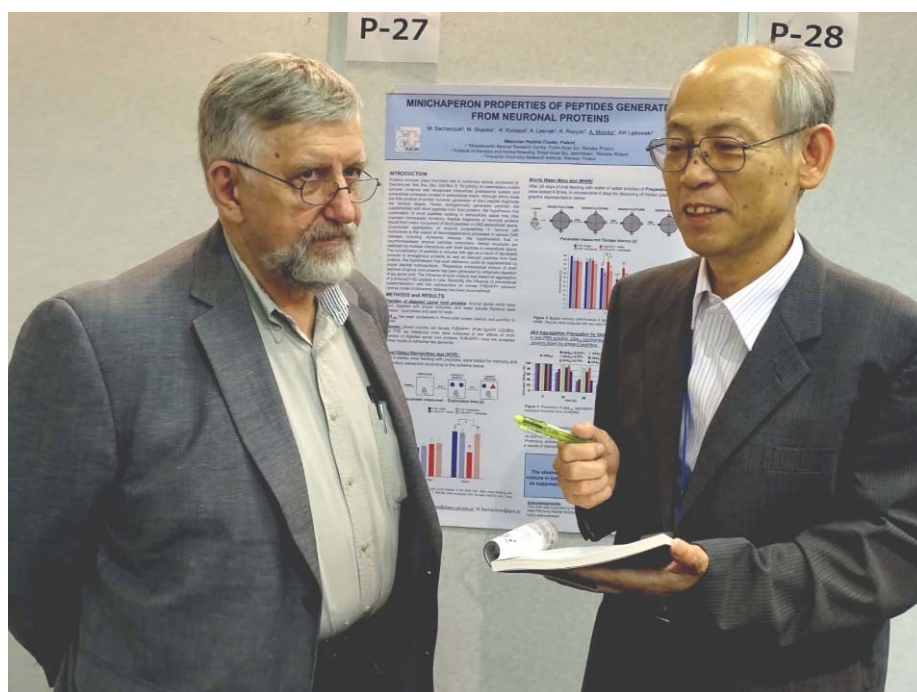
16th EPS Copenhagen (1980) AWL (front row, 3rd from left).

on Robert Schwyzner's concept of message-address components in biologically active compounds. While working in Portoghese's lab, Andrzej synthesized the famous norbinaltorphimine (norNBI), a κ -selective antagonist used in most laboratories involved in opioid research to the present day.

In 1988 Andrzej joined the laboratory

of Professor Victor J. Hruby at University of Arizona (Tucson, USA), starting a long-term collaboration that also encompassed Frank Porreca's and Frank Yamamura's laboratories there. From the outset, Andrzej suggested that it would be more rational to design multivalent drugs instead of devising receptor-selective compounds, which was the dogma at that

time. Now this concept has been widely adopted, and many laboratories are now involved in the search for multivalent drugs. Andrzej stayed at the University of Arizona for longer or shorter periods of time over the years 1988–2005. This fruitful collaboration resulted in many publications and new ideas in opioid research. The joint research results have



With M. Yoshikawa at PegPep Conference, Kyoto (2014).

strongly indicated a great potential for the use of peptide analogues or peptidomimetics for therapeutic application, an idea that still remains to be embraced vigorously by big pharma.

Through the connection of Stanislaw Szyfelbein, then Chief of Anesthesia at the Harvard-affiliated Shriners Burns Institute in Boston, Andrzej developed a fruitful collaboration with several Boston laboratories. Starting in 1989, he extended the Shriners' preclinical pharmacological

studies (initiated by the late Patricia Osgood, Ph.D.) to investigate the role of biphalin and numerous other peptide analogs in a variety of preclinical pain models. In this laboratory, and later the Anesthesiology Laboratory at Tufts-New England Medical Center, he helped nurture the careers of young scientists and clinicians being trained in laboratory research at Harvard University and the Massachusetts General Hospital. These clinician-scientists became investigators

in their own right, some returning to their home countries throughout the world. Characteristically for Andrzej, while in Boston he maintained his established collaborations outside Boston and developed new ones with other Boston laboratories (e.g., Dan Carr and Richard Kream at Tufts' Anesthesiology Laboratory, Donald Wise at Northeastern University). These fruitful efforts are reflected in multiple PhD students' theses and dozens of patents for novel molecules and delivery systems such as engineered release from polymers. The Tufts interaction, that included co-sponsorship of several Poland-US scientific conferences, continued well into the 2000s.

In 1991 Andrzej was appointed as Assistant Professor in the Medical Research Centre of Polish Academy of Poland in Warsaw (Poland) and Head of the Department of Neuropeptides. Within a few years, Andrzej created an interdisciplinary group gathering biologists, chemists and medical doctors doing complementary work on structure-activity relationships of peptides with the objective of developing a new generation of analgesics. The roles of neuropeptides in pain transmission and modulation, and translation of this knowledge into new methods of pain control were the major themes of his scientific activities. For his achievements Andrzej was appointed as a

full Professor of Medical Science in 2001. As one of the leaders in the Medical Research Centre of the Polish Academy of Sciences, he was highly successful in gathering scientists from different areas to collaborate on bigger projects, for example in the European Grant “Normolife – *Development of New Therapeutic Substances and Strategies for Treatment of Pain in Patients with Advanced Stages of Cancer*”. This comprehensive program was coordinated by Andrzej, with nine partners from seven countries including i.a. Dirk Tourwe (Vrije Universiteit Brussels, Belgium), Geza Toth (Biological Research Center, Szeged, Hungary), Iro Georgoussi (National Centre for Scientific Research “Demokritos” Athens, Greece), Giuseppe Ronsisvalle (University of Catania, Catania, Italy) and others.

In the years 1993–2010 Andrzej served also as the Head of the Biotechnology Department at the Industrial Chemistry Research Institute in Warsaw (Poland). The interdisciplinary group that he created there worked on bioactive peptides derived from natural proteins, preparation of porcine spinal cord enzymatic hydrolyzates for therapeutic applications, on the development of antimicrobial peptides, and of biofuel production technologies.

In 2010 Andrzej was elected as a Director of the Mossakowski Medical



With Victor J. Hruby in Tucson (2004).

Research Centre of the Polish Academy of Science in Warsaw. During the last four years the Medical Research Centre blossomed under his leadership, was continuously funded by grants from multiple sources, and became one of the foremost scientific institutions in Poland. Andrzej had also initiated steps to organize the legal framework for

commercialization of research results and development activities. He always dreamed of making a “real drug” available for patients.

Andrzej was always open to cooperation, generously sharing his scientific ideas, enjoying discussing study results and planning new experiments. Among many long-term collaborators was

Professor Masaaki Yoshikawa from Kyoto University (Kyoto, Japan). They collaborated on bioactive peptides derived from natural proteins and together published many papers on opioid, anti-opioid, and vasoactive peptides which they discovered. The project was selected as a topic of Polish-Japanese Joint Research under the title “Drugs from Natural Products” from 1999 to 2008. Andrzej stayed twice at Kyoto University as a visiting professor (2000–2001 and 2007). His collaboration with Professor Yoshikawa was ongoing.

Andrzej also has collaborated for years with Giuseppe Ronsisvalle, his former colleague from the Portuguese laboratory, who later became a professor of pharmaceutical and toxicological chemistry at the University of Catania (Catania, Italy). In 1999, with Giuseppe and Geza Toth from Szeged (Hungary) Andrzej proposed to the Pharmaceutical Societies of Italy, Hungary and Poland the organization of a joint meeting on medicinal chemistry in order to strengthen relations between scientists from eastern and western European countries. The first meeting took place in 1999 in Taormina (Italy). The success of this event was so evident that the Joint Meeting now links the scientists of eight countries and is a great opportunity for launching collabor-

ation especially for young researchers. In 2003 Andrzej was awarded the Marie Curie Visiting Professorship, which he spent with Giuseppe in Catania working on the synthesis of new opioid compounds.

Professor Lipkowski was a co-author of over 250 publications (articles, proceedings and book chapters) and over 50 patents concerning new drug candidates for the treatment of pain, multiple sclerosis, and Alzheimer's disease.

Andrzej had extensive knowledge of chemistry, pharmacology and medicine. Additionally he had great ability to integrate information from various fields, allowing him to synthesize experimental findings that others would find difficult to consolidate.

Andrzej was an extremely kind and modest person with an outstanding mind. He had a rare ability to visualize molecules from different points of view and was always full of ideas, many of which are still unfolding. His loss is a tragedy for all of us who knew him and benefited from his unique way of thinking. He will be sorely missed by all of his friends and co-workers, in addition to his family.

*Contributed by Aleksandra Misicka
and Daniel Carr*

In Memoriam

Paul Cordopatis (1947–2014)



Dr. Paul A. Cordopatis (Athens, 1 April, 1947) from the beginning of his academic life was interested in bioactive peptides. Paul completed his studies in chemistry at the University of Patras in 1971, where he obtained his PhD (1976) based on angiotensin II related research under the guidance of Professor D. Theodoropoulos. Soon after the habilitation in peptide chemistry was awarded (1981) and Paul was appointed as Professor of Pharmacognosy at the Department of Pharmacy, University of Patras (1988) with the

responsibility to create and lead the Laboratory of Pharmacognosy and Chemistry of Natural Products until very recent days. He also served as Head and Senator of his beloved Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Patras (1993–2003, 2007–2011).

Between 1977 and 1988 Professor Cordopatis was working as research fellow or visiting scholar/professor at internationally highly-recognized institutions like the Department of Biochemistry, CEA Saclay, France and the Basel Institute for Immunology, Switzerland.

His academic achievements and contribution to the field (design, synthesis, functional characterization and studies of structure – activity relationship of bioactive peptides) are truly documented by more than 400 scientific papers in International journals (e.g. *J. Peptide Science*, *Biopolymers*, *Biochemistry*, *Synthesis*, *Synlett*, *Heterocycles*, *Eur. J. Medicinal Chemistry*) books and conference proceedings.

In addition to the scientific achievements, it is important to note the substantial role of Professor Cordopatis in the further development of the research in peptides (πεπτός *peptós*, “digested”) in Greece as well as in Europe. In 1984 together with the late Iphigenia Photakis they established the “Leonidas Zervas Foundation” providing help to young scholars in the field.

Professor Cordopatis was highly engaged in creating scientific links with colleagues in the continent from the very early days.

Professor Cordopatis with his colleagues invented the biennial International Conference entitled “Hellenic Forum on Bioactive Peptides”. Since the very beginning (1996) he organized and chaired this set of events, which provided high-quality multidisciplinary platform for chemists, biologists, pharmacist and medical doctors in Patras under the

auspices of the European Peptide Society and the “Leonidas Zervas” Foundation. The six Proceedings Volumes published until 2010 are well-documenting the value of the Forum and the advancement of this branch of science. In addition Paul played a crucial role in the invention of the “Dimitrios Theodoropoulos Memorial Lecture Award” presented first at the 6th Hellenic Forum on Bioactive Peptides (2008) and sponsored by the A. Polychroniadis family. Paul was a founding member of the Hellenic Peptide Society in 2007.

Professor Cordopatis had actively contributed to the scientific program of the European Peptide Symposia: first as member of the Organizing Committee (19th European Peptide Symposium, Porto Caras, 1986), of the Scientific Committee (31st EPS, Copenhagen, Denmark, 2010) and later as the Honorary Chairman of the 32nd EPS (Athens, 2012).

The Greek peptide community as well as Professor Cordopatis played an important role as active member of the European Peptide Society from its establishment (1990). Paul was elected National Representative of Greece in the Council of the Society (2002–2010). As

editor of the Society Newsletter he published 20 issues available on-line at the website of the Society and directed the transition from paper-to-electronic between 2003 and 2014. His quality-driven performance recognized highly lead to his invitation to join the Executive Committee.

After nomination to the General Assembly in Copenhagen in 2010 as well as in Sofia in 2014 he was elected for another four-year period as member of the EPS Executive Committee. From 2011 Paul served our Society as the first Communication Officer responsible – among other duties – for the Newsletter and the Website (in collaboration with George Pairas) of the Society.

By his wisdom, balanced personality and intellectual values he has made pronounced contribution to create the new statutes (March, 2012), the new bylaws (July, 2013) of the Society during recent years. Also as results of – sometimes heated – discussions within the Executive Committee, he was available until the last minutes to develop new, modern and up-to-date contracts with Wiley concerning our journal (*J. Peptide Science*, December, 2013) and the website of the Society (March, 2014).

Paul was a dedicated teacher, a passionate researcher with high academic standards, an engaged Officer with positive and supportive thinking, but above all he was a builder to serve his University, his Hellenic Peptide community and our Society. Thank you Paul.

Your absence will stay with us.

*Professor Ferenc Hudecz
President, European Peptide Society*

Budapest, February, 2015

Paul Cordopatis – Hellenic Fora on Bioactive Peptides and EPS Symposia (the decade 2002–2012)



Paul Cordopatis –Hellenic Fora on Bioactive Peptides and EPS Symposia (the decade 2002–2012) 3rd HFBP, Symposium Photo, Apr 2002, Patras



4th HFBP, Symposium Photo, Apr 2004, Patras



4th HFBP, Closing Ceremony, Apr 2004, Patras



4th HFBP, Banquet, Apr 2004, Patras



Apr 2006, Gdansk



Exec Comm meeting, Apr 2006, Gdansk

Paul Cordopatis – HFBPS' & EPS Symposia (the decade 2002–2012)



5th HFBP, Invited Speakers and Guests, May 2006, Patras



5th HFBP, Opening Ceremony, May 2006, Patras



5th HFBP, In Memory of D. Theodoropoulos, May 2006, Patras



5th HFBP, Banquet, May 2006, Patras



5th HFBP, Banquet, May 2006, Patras



29th EPS, The Greek team, Sep 2006, Gdansk

Paul Cordopatis – HFBPS' & EPS Symposia (the decade 2002–2012)



29th EPS, Speakers' Dinner, Sep 2006, Gdansk



29th EPS, Banquet, Sep 2006, Gdansk



6th HFBP, D. Theodoropoulos Awards, May 2008, Patras



6th HFBP, Symposium Photo, May 2008, Patras



30th EPS, Celebrating the Athens organization of the 32nd, Sep 2008, Helsinki



31st EPS, Arrival, Sep 2010, Copenhagen

Paul Cordopatis – HFBPS' & EPS Symposia (the decade 2002–2012)



31st EPS, Presenting the 32nd in Athens, Sep 2010, Copenhagen



Exec Comm meeting in Budapest, November 2010



The EPS gong; from Copenhagen to Athens, Aug 2012, Patras



32nd EPS, Opening Ceremony, Sep 2012, Athens



*Paul Cordopatis – HFBPS' & EPS Symposia (the decade 2002–2012)
32nd EPS, Soccer Event, Sep 2012, Athens*

Paul Cordopatis – HFBPS' & EPS Symposia (the decade 2002–2012)



32nd EPS, The Bulgarian team ready for the 33rd, Sep 2012, Athens



32nd EPS, Soccer Awards Ceremony, Sep 2012, Athens



32nd EPS, Speakers' Dinner, Sep 2012, Athens



32nd EPS, Banquet, Sep 2012, Athens



32nd EPS, Banquet, Sep 2012, Athens



Society Officers

Professor Ferenc Hudecz

(Chairman)
c. member, Hungarian Academy of Sciences
Research Group of Peptide Chemistry
Department of Organic Chemistry
Eötvös Loránd University
Pázmány Péter sétány 1A
H-1117 Budapest
HUNGARY
E-mail : fhudecz@caesar.elte.hu
Tel: +36-1-372-2880
Fax: +36-1-372-2620
URL: <http://peptid.chem.elte.hu>

Professor Dirk Tourwé

(Secretary)
Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Organic Chemistry Department
Pleinlaan 2
B-1050 Brussels
BELGIUM
E-mail : datourwe@vub.ac.be
Tel : + 32 2 629 3595
Fax : + 32 2 629 3304
URL: <http://wefcol.vub.ac.be/orgc/index.php?content=staff>

Professor Anna Maria Papini

(Treasurer)
Laboratory of Peptide & Protein Chemistry & Biology
c/o Department of Chemistry, University of Florence
Via della Lastruccia 13,
I-50019 Sesto Fiorentino (Firenze)
ITALY
E-mail: annamaria.papini@unifi.it
Tel: +39 055 457 3561
Fax: +39 055 457 3584
URL: <http://www.unifi.it/peptlab>

Professor Solange Lavielle

(Scientific Affairs Officer)
Laboratoire des BioMolécules
UMR 7203, UPMC Paris 06 - ENS - CNRS
Département de Chimie - Ecole Normale Supérieure -
24, Rue Lhomond
F-75252 Paris Cedex 05
FRANCE
E-mail : solange.lavielle@upmc.fr
Tel : +33 144 32 24 43
Fax : +33 144 32 24 02
URL: <http://www.chimie.ens.fr/LBM>

Professor Krzysztof Rolka

(Communication Officer & Newsletter Editor)
Faculty of Chemistry
University of Gdansk
PL-80398 Gdansk
POLAND
E-mail : krzysztof.rolka@ug.edu.pl
Tel: + 48 58 5235088
Fax: + 48 58 5235012
URL:
http://chemia.ug.edu.pl/wydzial/katedry/katedra_biochemii

**JOURNAL OF PEPTIDE SCIENCE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF****Professor Luis Moroder**

Max-Planck-Institut für Biochemie
D-82152 Martinsried, GERMANY
E-mail: moroder@biochem.mpg.de
Tel: +49 89 8578 3905
Fax: +49 89 8578 2847

EPS WEB EDITOR

www.eurpepsoc.com

George Pairas

Assistant Professor
Department of Pharmacy
University of Patras
GR-265 00 Patras, GREECE
E-mail: gpairas@upatras.gr
gpairas@me.com
Tel: +30 2610 962327
Fax: +30 2615 006061

CALENDAR of Forthcoming Events

XII GERMAN PEPTIDE SYMPOSIUM

Darmstadt, Germany
18–21 March 2015
URL: www.chemieserver.tu-darmstadt.de/Ocs/index.php/GPS2015/Peptide

2ND ANNUAL PEPTIDES CONGRESS

London, UK
20–21 April 2015
URL: www.peptides-congress.com

NMR APPLICATIONS IN LIFE SCIENCES; EXPLORING PEPTIDES & PROTEINS – A TRIBUTE TO PAUL CORDOPATIS

Patras, Greece
18–20 June 2015
URL: www.seedrug.upatras.gr

FROM CELL-PENETRATING PEPTIDES TO NANOPARTICLES FOR CELLULAR DELIVERY – CPP Paris 2015

Paris, France
1–3 July 2015
URL: www.labos.upmc.fr/lbm/CPPPARIS2015.html

THE 29TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM OF THE PROTEIN SOCIETY

Barcelona, Spain
21–24 July 2015
URL: www.barcelocongresos.com.es/protein2015/welcome.html

14TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON AMINO ACIDS, PEPTIDES AND PROTEINS

Vienna, Austria
3–8 August 2015
URL: <http://www.meduniwien.ac.at/icaap/>

23RD POLISH PEPTIDE SYMPOSIUM

Spala, Poland
30 August–3 September 2015
URL: <http://pps23.kis.p.lodz.pl/en/>

11TH AUSTRALIAN PEPTIDE CONFERENCE

Kingscliff, NSW, Australia
25–30 October 2015
URL: <http://www.ozpeptide.org/australian-peptide-conference-2015/australian-peptide-conference-2015/>

34TH EUROPEAN PEPTIDE SYMPOSIUM

Leipzig, Germany, 2016