

# EUROPEAN PHOTOCHEMISTRY ASSOCIATION

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

12<sup>th</sup> July 2010, 19:00 - 20:30 pm

"Teatro Comunale, Ferrara, Italy

### AGENDA:

- **Report on the actions of the Executive Committee by D. Markovitsi (President)**
- **Membership fees**
- **Photochemical & Photobiological Sciences (by Sarah Ruthven, PPS Managing Editor)**
- **Elections of the Executive Committee**
- **Short Speech by Eric Vauthey**

D. Markovitsi welcomes the EPA members to the General Assembly (GA). She thanks Franco Scandola and the organizing Committee of the IUPAC Symposium on Photochemistry for having insured a large visibility to EPA.

#### 1. **Report on the actions of the Executive Committee**

During the last GA hold at Cologne (July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007), Chair David Phillips retired. Dimitra Markovitsi, already member of the Executive Committee (EC) was elected Chair. Two new members were elected to the EC: David Worrall and Werner Nau. During the GA at Gothenburg (July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008), the whole EC was reelected for two more years. The composition of the EC during the three years is given below. Besides the collective action of the EC, each member was in charge of a specific task:

- **Silvio Canonica (Switzerland)** Treasurer
- **Nina Gritsan (Russia)** Membership
- **Helge Lemmetyinen (Finland)** Vice-Chair
- **Dimitra Markovitsi (France)** Chair
- **Sandra Monti (Italy)** EPA representative in the PPS Ownership Board
- **Werner Nau (Germany)** Public relations
- **David Phillips (UK)** Past Chair
- **Eric Vauthey (Switzerland)** Web Manager
- **David Worrall (UK)** Newsletter Editor

The EC met eight times as a whole; two partial meetings took also place in order to solve out specific problems.

- a) Website: A new website was prepared. This contains also a member-only area (password: epa2010).
- b) Newsletter: Three electronic and three printed issues were edited.
- c) EPA PhD Prize: The first Prize for the best thesis in the field of Photochemistry (2008) was attributed jointly to Maria Abrahamsson (University of Uppsala, Sweden) and Alexander Fürstenberg (University of Geneva, Switzerland); 23 nominations were received for theses defended in 2006/2007. The second Prize (2010) was attributed to Anne Kotiaho (Tampere University of Technology); 8 nominations were received. All the nominees were offered the book "Photochemistry of Organic Compounds: From Concepts to Practice" by Petr Klán & Jakob Wirz, Wiley 2009 with the compliments of the authors and the EPA.
- d) Photochemical & Photobiological Sciences (PPS): This journal, created on 2002 is owned jointly by EPA and the European Society on Photobiology. It is published by The Royal Society of Chemistry with no page charge. During the last two years S. Monti, D. Phillips and D. Markovitsi participated to four meetings of the PPS Ownership Board.
- e) EPA-PPS award: In order to encourage members to submit good quality work to PPS, an award was created. The EPA-PPS award of 1000€ is for the most cited article published from an EPA member in Photochemical & Photobiological Sciences during the last three years. The first 2010 winner is Werner Nau (Jacobs University, Bremen for his article "Complexation of acridine orange by curcubit[7]uril and beta-cyclodextrin: photophysical effects and pK(a) shifts" Photochem. Photobiol. Sci., 2008, 7, 408 – 414.
- f) Membership: On July 2007, EPA had virtually about 800 members. Many of them were no more active in the field and/or had not paid membership fees for years. Serious difficulties were encountered in countries where national treasurers did not efficiently collect membership fees. As EPA had to pay PPS subscription for all its members, bankrupt was expected to occur in a few years. In order to change this situation, special efforts were made by the Treasurer, assisted by N. Gritsan and E. Vauthey. Simplified payment via credit cards was introduced, the membership application form was sent directly to all members and the relation with the national treasurers was clarified. Thus, on July 2010 EPA had 610 members who had paid membership fees for this year. They originate from 30 different countries.
- g) Financial report: On the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2010, the Assets were 105,779 SFr, slightly increased with respect to their level on 2007 (99,359 SFr). The details of the financial report presented by the Treasurer were sent to two Auditors, Hugh Burrows (who replaced Helmut Goerner) and René Williams. H. Burrows approved the financial report. R. Williams, who could not attend the GA, will send his own report later.
- h) Statutes: EPA was founded in 1970. It became necessary to adapt its statutes to the new scientific and institutional context in Europe. The EC proposed a revision which was approved by the 2008 GA.
- i) Public relations: A flyer presenting EPA was produced in 2009 and 2010 by W. Nau with precious help from Sarah Ruthven (RSC/PPS). 2000 flyers (two editions) were distributed in various conferences.
- j) Conferences: EPA was associated in various ways to several conferences during the past three years:
- Members paid reduced registration fees at the IUPAC Symposia at Gothenburg and Ferrara, as well as at the ICP Toledo.

- The Austrian EPA Section organized the Central European Conference on Photochemistry (Hofgastein, February 2008 & 2010)
- A Photochemistry Summer School was organized under the auspices of EPA (The Netherlands, May 2008)
- EPA was represented by D. Markovitsi and D. Phillips to the Symposium “Opening up scientific research to learning communities” (Athens 2008)
- EPA has participated to the organization of a Session on Solar Energy (D. Bassani) at the European Conference for Photobiology (September 2009, Poland)
- The Italian and French EPA Sections organized a joint meeting (Fisphoton; Marseille, France, December 2009)
- The Conference “Photosciences: a look into the future”, which will take place at Ferrara immediately after the XXIII IUPAC Symposium, is organized under the auspices of EPA, jointly with the Interamerican Photochemical Society and the Asian and Oceanian Photochemistry Association.

k) Promotion of awareness of photochemistry and its applications to the wider public: The occasion for EPA to get involved in an activity aiming at the popularisation of photochemistry was provided by the e-knownet project supported by the European Lifelong Learning Programme (2008-2010). The aim of e-knownet, whose full title is «Network for ICT-enabled non-formal science learning» (ICT: Information and Communication Technologies), is to develop an innovative and viable mechanism able to facilitate the flow of new scientific knowledge produced in the research laboratory, to larger, non-expert segments of society, in forms suitable for non-formal learning.

The project is coordinated by Eugenides Foundation, a science centre and a landmark of science and technology popularisation based in Athens, Greece. The other partners are: the Greek Research and Technology Network (Athens, Greece), the Center for Digital Systems, Competence Center e-Learning/Multimedia, Freie Universität (Berlin, Germany) the Science Communication Observatory / Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona, Spain) and the Francis Perrin Laboratory. The first four partners have expertise in science learning and ICT, while the Francis Perrin Laboratory (<http://www-lfp cea.fr/>) conducts research in the field of physical chemistry, most of the research topics involving interaction of light with molecular systems.

The visible outcome of the project will be a web-based platform “scinetweets.eu/photochemistry”. This tool will be completed by the end of 2010. Behind the portal, there is an important methodological work with the objective to find the optimum way to transform rapidly recently published research results to e-material (combining text, images, videos, web resources...) understandable by different target groups (adults, school students, science educators).

In the initial proposal, the “digital exhibits” were supposed to come exclusively from the Francis Perrin Laboratory. David Phillips accepted to participate to the scientific board of the project and members of the EPA Executive Committee (David Phillips, Sandra Monti and Werner Nau) contributed with research examples coming from their own laboratories. A particular effort is being made currently to explain in simple words and images some basic principles of photochemistry, including a series of cartoon illustrating the “fabulous encounter of TREL with photons” (TREL is a cartoon figure representing a molecule).

By the end of the project, the EPA will judge the compatibility of the pilot platform with its aims and will decide whether “sciencestweets.eu/photochemistry” can function entirely under its responsibility. This would allow all EPA members to show their work on the portal, gathering together different aspects of photochemistry. The label International Year of Chemistry will be requested for “sciencestweets.eu/photochemistry”.

## **2 Membership fees**

The GA approved the proposal of the EC to maintain the membership fees to 30€ (15€ for students). These fees must be paid at the beginning of the year so that members can benefit of the offered advantages and the EC may undertake further actions.

## **3 Photochemical & Photobiological Sciences (by Sarah Ruthven, PPS Managing Editor)**

S. Ruthven reports that PPS has the highest impact factor of all photochemical-biological journals: 2.708 on 2009 and the faster publication times. All EPA members have electronic access to PPS. It is stressed that PPS publishes articles on the whole field of photochemistry, not only those in relation with photobiology. Several themed issues have been published and others planned, including the one on “Photosciences: a look into the future”.

## **4 Elections of the Executive Committee**

According to the statutes, the President must be a member of the EC. After discussion among the members of the EC, Eric Vauthey accepted to be candidate for this position. In the Newsletter of December 2009, EPA members who were willing to promote photochemistry by serving on the EPA EC were invited to contact D. Markovitsi by the end of April. All the colleagues who expressed such interest compose the list which was proposed to the GA.

- Eric Vauthey (Switzerland, President)
- Bo Albinsson (Sweden)
- Silvio Canonica (Switzerland)
- Olga Fedorova (Russia)
- John Gilchrist (UK)
- Dimitra Markovitsi (France, past President)
- Werner Nau (Germany)
- Julia Perez Prieto (Spain)
- David Worrall (UK)

The GA gave its approval, first for Eric Vauthey as New President, and then, for the proposed EC.

## **5 Short speech By Eric Vauthey**

E. Vauthey thanked the EPA members for their trust and the past President for her actions in reviving EPA. He continued by stating his wish to consolidate the changes and the new actions initiated by the past presidents. One of his main goals will be to make EPA more attractive. The main tools for this will be the reinforcement of the communication tools, namely the EPA Newsletter, the web page and PPS. EPA will also organise special events at photochemistry conferences to foster contacts between its members.

D. Markovitsi thanks the David Phillips, Helge Lemmetyinen, Sandra Monti and Nina Gritsan, who served the EC for several years. D. Phillips, who is the President of the Royal Society of Chemistry since the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2010 says a few words about the importance to keep EPA vivid.

At the end of the GA, members are invited with their guest to a EPA reception organized by Werner Nau with the help of Sandra Monti.

Dimitra Markovitsi

President of EPA, July 2007 – July 2010