

## Minutes of European Separation Science Society (EuSSSS) General Meeting

held on

Wednesday September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Venue: Convention Centre, Valencia

Time: 18:00-19.30

Chair: B. Buszewski

Participants: B. Buszewski (BB), (EuSSS Chair / Poland); M. Claire-Hennion (MHC), (France); W. Lindner (WL), (Austria); A. Felinger (AF), (EuSSS Treasure / Hungary); J. Grimalt (JG), (Spain); V. Davankov (VD) (national representative of Russia); V. Kasicka (VK), (Czech Republic); J. Lough (JL), (representing C. Bevan (EuSSS Secretary), T. Greibrokk (TG) (Norway) and A. Handley (United Kingdom) and Y. Pico (Spain)

Prior to the symposium, an agenda had been drawn up for a meeting of the Permanent Scientific Committee of the International Symposium on Chromatography series (Appendix 1) and there had been some confusion regarding the relationship between this meeting and the EuSSS meeting

### 1. Welcome Address and EuSSS History

BB welcomed attendees and went on to give a presentation which dealt initially with "EuSSS – Yesterday and Today", describing the development of EuSSS from its establishment in 2002 to the formation of its first steering committee and beyond. Both CaSSS and EuSSS are now allied to the Journal of Separation Sciences. Initially there had been 14 countries and 3 associate countries. BB went on to list the meetings of the Steering Committee that had taken place. A good constitution had been established and new committee elections to be overseen by T. Greibrokk, the EuSSS elections custodian. The involvement of EuSSS in conferences and awards was highlighted. As well as "Science for Life" and young scientist awards, poster prizes for young scientists were given. At the 2009 Balaton Symposium, a new committee (BB, FD, C. Bevan, AF, H. Frank) had been elected. This group had met on December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009 in Berlin and on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010 in Torun, Poland. Candidates for the forthcoming election were WL, Y. Pico, V. Pichon, M.-C. Pietrogrande and T. Bolanca. It was agreed that it would be useful if C. Bevan (EuSSS Secretary) could prepare an article on the vision, goals and activities of EuSSS for the magazine Chromatography Today and B. Buszewski – similar article to J. Sep. Sci. And they both were already written and published (*What is the European Society for Separation Science (EuSSS), what it does and what it plans to do?*, J. Sep. Sci. **33** (2010), 1361-1362)

### 2. Goals

BB suggested that there were three important goals for EuSSS. These were (a) to strengthen cooperation with the Permanent Scientific Committee of the International Symposium on Chromatography series (b) the election of new candidates (c) to Intensify activities in the field of persuading new countries to join EuSSS.

### 3. Proposals for Changes

It was noted that discussion was required on the Tswett-Nernst Prize, a recommendation to merge the Treasurer and Vice-President roles on the Steering Committee (this would allow the two newly elected members to spend their first two years learning before taking up an executive role), involvement in coordinating events at a regional level as well as supporting meetings such as ISC, ISSS and NoSSS, an application to Brussels for a grant and a new recommendation for membership (i.e. 250 euros per country per annum, up to 1000 euros per company per annum with a minimum of 500 euros per country per annum)

In the general discussion that followed it was noted that it was important for some countries to receive a receipt for their membership payment. A photograph was shown of the bronze Tswett-Nernst award which was to be presented to V. Davankov (VD) and G. Bonn (GB) the following day. On membership BB stated that there were now 25 EuSSS member states including the latest member, Turkey, Ireland, Estonia, Belgium, Slovak Republik. While Greece and Cyprus were not interested, Switzerland was waiting to see how things progressed before deciding on membership. MCH queried the name of the French national representative. JL pointed out that while C. Bevan of the UK was on the EU Steering Committee as Secretary, the national representative was A. Handley, President of The Chromatographic Society. On a separate note, the gathering was informed of the sad passing of Dusan Kaniansky (1947 – 2010). In discussing international symposia it was agreed that the role of the EuSSS was better described as being “supporting” rather than “acting as an umbrella”. In ensuing discussion (..... sitting on the Scandinavian Foundation had been unaware of NoSSS and reported that there had been conflict over the old Nordic HPCE meeting) JL suggested that there might be a role for EuSSS in resolving regional issues.

### 4. Finance

AF reported that the original membership subscription of 2 euros per person had never worked. There is now a bank account in Hungary. The balance of the EuSSS account that had been held in Austria was transferred to the new account. It was commented that the UK had overpaid. JL intimated that the UK had no wish to claim money back. There was echoed a previous sentiment that it is best to send an invoice. WL commented on the value of networking but asked what Austria got out of EuSSS and, in the same context, how was EuSSS money spent. This triggered off a period of general discussion, most of which was focussed on EuSSS awards.

### 5. General Discussion

There had not been sufficient time to arrange for VD, the first recipient of the EuSSS Tswett-Nernst Award, to give a talk as part of the ISC 2010 programme. However, it was agreed that, in future, the award recipient should be invited to give a talk at the EuSSS-supported symposium at which the award was being presented. JL commented on the success of ISC 2010 in attracting

young separation scientists but noted that some of these young individuals had not been able to benefit from a full networking experience with leaders in the field because they had not been able to afford to attend events in the social programme. He suggested that EuSSS funds would be better spent on supporting young scientists e.g. through social events at major symposia.

Comment was made that in moving EuSSS forward, people were needed who were strongly with "us". VD suggested supporting selected meetings in the same way that IUPAC supports meetings. However, the emphasis would need to be on "selected" meetings rather than too many. VD was also in favour of awards in general to raise the profile of EuSSS in the same way that the Chirality Medal raised the profile of the ISCD (or Chirality) series. He noted however that he would prefer awards to be made on the basis of quality rather than them being given to "senior" separation scientists.

During this discussion JG returned to the matter of fees and said that because the Spanish had not received a receipt it had been difficult to obtain further funds for fees. Discussion soon returned to awards and, in particular, names and criteria. It was settled that the name of the main award should be the Nernst-Tswett Separation Science Award with the award being made only for separation science. On names, comment was made on unfortunate connotations and confusion over the abbreviation EuSSS but it was agreed that this was not a major problem.

There was also discussion on the forthcoming election (see Item 1 for list of candidates). There would be an e-mail vote on the five candidates for two vacancies by twenty-five national representatives closing on December 31<sup>st</sup>. MCH stated that there should be evidence that each candidate was supported by his/her own country. There was some discussion on voting rules and the guidance that should be given with the electronic ballot paper.

## **6. ISC 2012, Torun, Poland**

A presentation on the next symposium in the ISC series was to be given at a meeting of the ISC Scientific Committee. However BB had not been able to make this presentation because of flight delays and therefore the presentation was made at this EuSSS meeting (see Appendix 2).

## **7. Date of Next Meeting / AOB**

The EuSSS committee would meet after the elections. The next meeting of national representatives would most likely be held during HPLC 2011 in Hungary.

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **Agenda for 2010 Meeting of The Permanent Scientific Committee of The International Symposium on Chromatography**

**The 2010 meeting**

**of**

**The Permanent Scientific Committee of The International Symposium on Chromatography**

**to be held on**

**Wednesday September 15<sup>th</sup>**

Venue:

Time: 13:00-14:00

Chair: J.O. Grimalt and B. Buszewski

Participants: Members of ISC 2010 Scientific Committee, W. Lindner, Y. Pico

## **AGENDA**

1. Minutes of the 2009 meeting – for approval
2. Minutes of the 2009 meeting – matters arising (items not covered elsewhere on agenda)
3. Reflections/feedback on 28<sup>th</sup> ISC (ISC 2010) so far
4. The relations between the ISC series and EuSSS
5. Feedback from national groups on changes to ISC constitution
6. Any revisions/amendments and formalisation of ISC series constitution
7. ISC 2012, ISC 2014 and comments on future meetings
8. Any other business

## Appendix 2

### Summary of presentation and associated discussion on preparations for ISC 2012

BB gave a presentation on the preparations for ISC 2012 which will be held in Torun, Poland. At the outset there was some discussion on the legality of using the EU symbol on promotional material. BB stated that this presentation was quite different from a previous one given in Gdańsk (PBA 2008). The transport and infrastructure had totally changed. For example, there was now a 2-hour fast train from Torun to Warsaw; football teams therefore often stayed at Torun. There is also opened an airport in Bydgoszcz (45km from Torun). There are flight connections from Bydgoszcz airport to Warsaw and other cities in Poland and abroad, The capacity of hotel beds which are suitable for symposium guests is 2000. The contracts are currently with the University and with the Mayor of Toruń city hall concerning the symposium venue. It will be either Nicolaus Copernicus University facilities or in a new built Congress Centre, which should be finished soon. The final decision on the venue will be made one year out.

There are several banquet options, including the possibility of holding a barbeque. Proposals for social events and excursions were in place. An excursion along the famous route followed by the 'Teutonic Knights' was likely.

Invited speakers and topics had been confirmed and a schedule drawn up. The ISC PSC would receive free registration and invited speakers would also receive free accommodation.

While the fees were just for discussion at this point, A registration fee of 450 euros including lunch but without the banquet had been proposed. There is foreseen also sponsorship for young scientists (10 scholarships x 1000 Euro).

A contract with J. Chromatogr was already in place. Only five posters had been printed so far so there was time to address issues regarding the hierarchy of headings with ISC 2010 appearing in largest font with associated symposium series and sponsoring organisations such as EuSSS appearing less prominently.