



European Association for Professions in Biomedical Science

Association internationale sans but lucratif

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Dear Colleagues,

I hope you have all had an enjoyable summer and are now turning your thoughts once again to EPBS matters.

I am delighted to inform you that the process of registering the EPBS as an International Non Profit Association is now complete. The Royal Decree was signed by The King of the Belgians on 9th May. This is a major achievement for the Association and I congratulate you all for your commitment and patience during the process. Once again I wish to acknowledge the hard work of the Members of your Management Body and particularly Eric Legrand. It is a tremendous achievement and will allow us to develop and achieve our major objectives.

Preparations for our meeting in Rome this November are well underway. The hotel at our disposal is the Villa Aurelia, situated near to the Vatican. The topics we hope to discuss at this meeting include:

- Education Standards
- Bologna Process
- EU Directive on Free Movement
- Internal Regulations

In order to have productive and informed discussion on these topics information will be posted on our web page for your discussion and contribution.

For our social programme this year we are being offered the opportunity to visit the Sistine Chapel on Saturday evening followed by our farewell dinner. This evening is being kindly sponsored for us by Bayer.

Once again we are inviting all members to bring students to our meeting. I mentioned in my letter to you in May that we are launching a Poster Prize. This is a new and exciting development for the EPBS. At its recent meeting in Dublin the Management Body finalised details relating to this competition. We decided to name the prize in honour of our founding President Martin Nicholson in recognition for his stalwart work and his commitment to the future members of the profession. You the members will vote on the best poster using the criteria of Presentation, Content and Conclusions to reach your decision.

The poster may be the work of one of the students you bring to the meeting or it may represent work done by a student in their college or country. I urge you to facilitate your student to participate in this initiative.

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At our Management Body meeting in Brussels a questionnaire regarding the Education of Biomedical Scientists in each country was prepared. It was intended to send this to each of you for completion. This was circulated as a pilot project to some members for completion. A number of questions requiring clarification were raised. The questionnaire was discussed again and finalised in Dublin. It is now being circulated for your completion. I wish to thank our Student Facilitator, Reka Rusz along with Fernando Mendes and Ite Tytgat for their dedication in preparing this document which will form one of the building blocks required to move towards harmonisation of education and training. I am asking that you ensure that this form is completed, reflecting the situation in your country, and returned to the General Secretary as soon as possible. As we hope to present the results of this survey in November we would request your replies by the middle of October.

As you will see we intend to discuss the EU Directive on the Free Movement of Professionals along with the Bologna Process in Rome. The answers to the questionnaire will inform these discussions.

During the past year the EPBS has supported its members, when requested, through correspondence with their governments. Such action confirms the identity and importance of the EPBS. The Management Body is continuing to work on your behalf and will give its commitment to continue this work, should you so vote, for the next two years.

I look forward to meeting with you all again in Rome for an enjoyable and challenging weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Marie Culliton