



Newsletter No. 60

A Word from Lluís Mir, The President of The ISEBTT

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Dear members of the ISEBTT, dear academic researchers, students and researchers of private companies interested in electroporation and its applications. First, I sincerely hope that you are passing the pandemic with minimal troubles to your families and relatives. All our professional activities have been affected (unfortunately, many of us are still affected) and this motivates in part this Newsletter.

In 2021, the activities of the ISEBTT resume, partly because the previous experience of activities were organized during a pandemic has prepared us to better anticipate the way to conduct activities. In 2020, the schools sponsored by the ISEBTT were highly affected by the pandemic. In 2021, three schools have submitted requests that were approved by the Council and will receive funding from our society. If you plan to organize a school in 2021, do not forget to apply for support from the ISEBTT following the rules described on the Society website (<http://www.electroporation.net>). If the format of the school will be virtual, please provide an ad hoc budget. Please note also on the 4th World Congress website that ISEBTT students might benefit by applying for travel awards made available by multiple sponsors. All of us should be grateful to these sponsors who are acknowledged on the 4th World Congress website (<https://wc2021.electroporation.net/>).

The creation in 2021 of the Justin Teissié award, in the memory of our colleague, is another important point to highlight. Please find the rules of this award on our website or on the website of the 4th World Congress and do not hesitate to submit your candidature if you are an Early Career Scientist fulfilling the award requirements. It will be presented during the 4th World Congress, that has an excellent program with regular sessions, special sessions, workshops and even educational lectures.

Year 2019 was the year of our very successful 3rd World Congress on Electroporation. We could all meet physically, as it was before the pandemic. As World Congress is a biennial event it was not scheduled in 2020, which made it less stressful for those involved in the organization of the next World Congress. Our elections are also held every other year, so, no election was planned in 2020 neither. The Council of our Society worked nevertheless as several issues had to be fixed. As you may recall, at the General Assembly held at the 3rd World Congress it was approved to establish the Treasurer position to be elected directly by the ISEBTT members.

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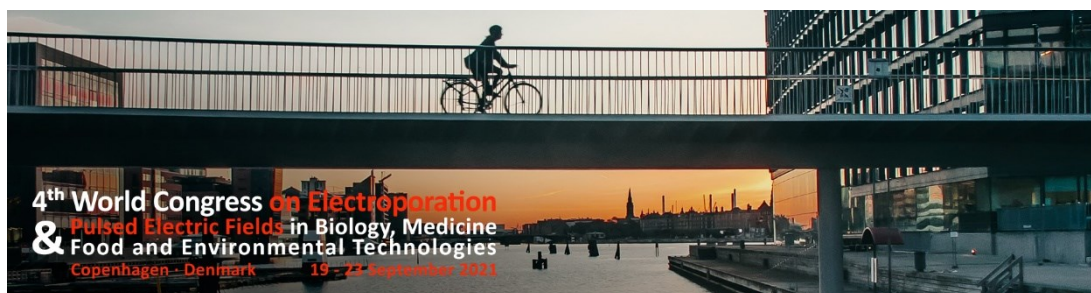
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Thus this position had to be introduced into the by-laws of our society. However, this was not the only change that I considered important to be introduced in the bylaws. Indeed, our Society also needs an Executive Secretary, with a term longer than the term of the President, to ensure the stability of the ISEBTT direction and the proper maintenance of the records, transfer of the information, etc. Another of my wishes was to set the official date of the beginning and the end of the mandates of the positions at the Council and the other elected positions. It cannot be December 31st (or January 1st if you prefer) as there will be no Council meeting these days. To ensure the continuity of the Council work and facilitate the transfer of the information between any "old Council" and the "next one", the changes of the Council members must occur at the time of the General Assembly, thus at the time of the World Congress. The last meeting of the "old council" has to be planned at the beginning of the World Congress (before the General Assembly) and the first meeting of the "new council" at the end of the World Congress. By accepting this organisation, the ISEBTT members can meet the new elected Council members (and the others members as well) during the World Congress, for the benefit of our Society and the improvement of its functioning. The Council already introduced and approved these changes in a new version of the by-laws that is now therefore ready to be sent for approval to all ISEBTT members.

However, this sending has been delayed. I did not anticipate how to deal with involuntary changes caused for example by a pandemic. Indeed, the pandemic is still present one year after it started. If many positive green lights are ignited thanks to the vaccination and previous efforts made in many countries to block the pandemic progression, there are still many negative red lights because of the new emerging variants, the vaccination limitations due to side effects of some vaccines, etc. Thus, in a few days, the Council will propose a new version of the by-laws to be voted on by all ISEBTT members. I already thank you in advance for your participation to the vote, and later on to the election of all the open positions.

For all those who have not yet renewed their membership, this is a reminder: it is time to pay your membership fees. Thank you. You already know the benefits of the ISEBTT membership, amongst them the reduction of the fees to attend the world congress or any of the schools supported by the ISEBTT. Membership also offers you the right to participate in the vote of the changes of the by-laws and in the vote to elect the members of the Council, as well as the President, the Treasurer and the Secretary of our (still) young Society. I remain waiting for your active participation to these votes and I thank you in advance.

Forthcoming events

7th School on Pulsed Electric Field Applications in Food and Biotechnology

Zaragoza, May 31 – June 2, 2021

<https://pefschool2021.electroporation.net>

15th interdisciplinary postgraduate course and international workshop Electroporation Based Technologies and Treatments (EBTT)

Ljubljana, November 14 – 20, 2021

<http://www.ebtt.org>

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*The ISEBTT established the
Justin Teissié award in memory
of our colleague.*

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