



Newsletter No. 52

The annual Electroporation-Based Technologies and Treatments Scientific Workshop & Postgraduate Course – invitation to attend

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We have never imagined that we will be grounded in our traveling and meetings. Since the outbreak of the pandemic in March, I have had to cancel four international travels that were already planned and arranged; with tickets ready in my desk drawer. Virtually all meetings were cancelled or put entirely on-line. The uncertainty in traveling and attending the meeting is still extremely high and it is impossible to tell what the situation travel-wise will be in two months from now.

Since 2003, at the end of August and beginning of September, we have been receiving applications and abstracts from prospective attendees expressing their intention to join our Electroporation-Based Technologies and Treatments Scientific Workshop and Postgraduate Course in Ljubljana. Members of my team and faculty members, we were all getting ready and excited to organize and host yet another school, meeting new people, listening new invited lecturers, and hearing the updated lectures from our faculty members and regular invited lecturers. Between 2003 and up to 2011, the event was organized biennially with the number of attendees increasing, so the decision was taken to organize the school as an annual event since 2011 onward. In the 13 times the school was organized until now, 844 participants from 41 countries from around the world attended the course. Those of you who were with us will remember the lectures in a full, packed classroom, the lab works, and having dinners and a trip on Wednesday afternoon.

I have received several enquires about the school this year and even though we were all relatively optimistic in the spring we now see how unpredictable the situation is – with numbers of new cases on the rise virtually throughout the Europe. The rules of traveling and possibility of attending depend on which country you are from (green, yellow, or red) and colours assigned to individual countries are subject to change in a rather volatile manner. Since some of us are less optimistic and think that situation may not be much better next year around this time, we decided we will not cancel the school in 2020, as this would also mean cancelling it next year.

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Instead, we are getting prepared for three scenarios: 1) the school will be organized in the same year as every year – on-site with labworks and all lecturers and attendees in full interaction; 2) the school will be fully virtual, i.e. on-line with lecturers dialling in and presenting their lectures, attendees being at their homes and offices in front their computers, and interaction being entirely virtual; 3) a hybrid of the two – some people who will be able to travel and join in person, and some who will not be able to join us in person, but will still benefit from lectures, interaction, and labworks.

With the team from our Laboratory of Telecommunications which has been supporting our School for years now by recording lectures, we are technically capable of running any of the three scenarios. We are also preparing and recording some of our labworks that cannot be put online and adapting those that can be. I would also like to thank those sponsors who have already pledged their support for this year's school, giving us means to record the wet labs in advance.

We will thus be offering virtual and/or physical attendance – depending on the epidemiological situation in Slovenia and worldwide. The participation fee will also depend on the "form" of your participation – as you will not be able to join the gala dinner at Vila Podvin (which this year became a one-star Michelin restaurant! – www.vilapodvin.si/en).

So, please do not hesitate to submit your abstract, and register. We will make sure the school will be interesting and exciting, and we can guarantee with the list of lecturers it will be scientifically excellent. See the program at www.ebtt.org.

In awaiting November 10, 2020, you can download the Book of Electroporation-Based Technologies and Treatments (in English or Spanish) from 2020.ebtt.org/index.php?id=13, which has been made available for free to download in July, and has been downloaded 99 times in English, and 61 times in Spanish.

Announcement: A special issue of *Molecules* (MDPI) titled "Novel Physical and Chemical Methods for Facilitated Drug Delivery" is now open for submissions. We invite original studies and theme-related reviews in biophysics, cell biology, physiology, therapeutics, and biomedical and chemical engineering. Although the issue will highlight electroporation and sonoporation research, high-quality relevant studies concerning enhanced drug delivery, drug resistance, electroporation, photodynamic therapy, natural chemotherapeutics, and nanotechnology, are also welcome. Guest editors are Julita Kulbacka (julita.kulbacka@umed.wroc.pl) and Anna Choromańska (anna.choromanska@umed.wroc.pl). More information is online at tinyurl.com/mdpi-special. The submission deadline is **February 15, 2021**. Papers will be published online as soon as they are accepted.

Forthcoming events

Electroporation-Based Technologies and Treatments

Ljubljana, November 15 – 21, 2020

<http://2020.ebtt.org>

8th European Medical and Biological Engineering Conference – EMBEC 2020

Portorož, November 29 – December 3, 2020

<http://embec2020.org/>

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*The happy team of the
Laboratory of Biocybernetics
having just received their sweet
reward for the hard work invested
in the 2019 school.*

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