



## Newsletter No. 65

A few words from the Editor of the ISEBTT Newsletter

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It will soon be two years since the world virtually stopped, and only slowly some meetings are returning back to on-site, face-to-face mode. Although we are all quite well connected via e-mails and video conferencing, it is very difficult – or almost impossible – to meet by chance and have a spontaneous conversation.

I personally miss meetings and quick&short exchanges of ideas and opinions very much. In this respect, the few meetings that are being held are very important to keep us abreast, even if they are not well attended or if they are entirely on-line. In this respect, the recent “while-we wait” event (i.e. the webinars organized while we wait for the 4th World Congress to take place in one year, see programme by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/while-we-wait-webinars>) was very warmly welcomed and well attended.

Large meetings are difficult to manage online, mainly due to a time constraint, but still, we had some discussions going on after each lecture, and we have heard interesting new results. The mix turned out to work well, and I think we can all thank the organisers for preparing the while-we-wait Webinars in the format and with the selected contents as they have envisioned. We sincerely hope that travel will be possible next year around the globe, and that thus meetings in person will be possible.

The protocols for traveling however are still not well established and stabilised. Vaccination, although at a high rate in Denmark, is not progressing as fast in other countries, and in many countries of the world the vaccination rates are still quite (too) low. This of course may be detrimental to the efficacy of existing vaccines against various new strains and variants. With this in mind, the scientific meetings as we remember them from the pre-pandemic years, may still be quite far from an immediate reality.

The new reality seems to be the difficulty of planning well in advance as the situation keeps changing constantly. One way to combat this uncertainty is through organising hybrid meetings. The technology is becoming ever more available, and we are all getting more and more accustomed to this kind of meetings.

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We are patient, and we understand if not everything is running as smoothly as we would have ideally hoped for. I think this is a good demonstration of our tolerance born out of spite for the situation in which we found ourselves deprived of the essential, real social life that we were so used to. Our readiness to adapt ourselves to new and sometimes challenging modes of communication the pandemic has forced upon us, and to stoically take all their pros and cons at face value, will continue to stand as a testament first and foremost to our dedication to knowledge; to obtaining it, to disseminating it, and to collaborating for the benefit of its continued growth. The hybrid meeting will probably stay a reality even after the pandemic is under control, and will be offering one of its rare benefits, that is the possibility of participating to an event in cases when we will not be able to travel either due to time constraints, or due to financial restrictions.

Not meeting in person and the lack of communication is also dissolving existing networks and negatively impacting social organisms through loss of feeling of being affiliated with that organism on the side of its members. For the electroporation community, this may be seriously detrimental, as we have just started to meet on a regular schedule, and when our society is still in its infancy. It is true that we have the Newsletter and the web page – but they are not well utilised. As the editor of the Newsletter, I would thus like to ask you to share your point of view, describe your new project, or briefly review a new book or a new paper, journal issue, etc...

As for the web page, the possibilities are even wider: announce open positions (or other news that might be of interest to the Society at large or to a particular interest group within), upload your newly published paper, or announce the lectures or meetings (i.e. events) that you are organising locally. The submission of new announcements, news, events and publications to the ISEBTT website ([www.electroporation.net/](http://www.electroporation.net/)) is not restricted to members only but is open to the entire community. A short registration procedure requiring your name, email address, and setting a password by following a link you get in your mailbox after registering is all it takes. If you are or were a member of ISEBTT, chances are we already have your account good and ready, and you only need to remember the password (there's a "Forgot my password" option too). A short web page containing instructions on how register and submit is being prepared and will be published on the website in a few days following the issue of this newsletter. By means of your contributions we will continue to strengthen the feeling of belonging to a larger community, to the International Society for Electroporation-Based Technologies and Treatments. We would all like to read about what is going on in your corner of the world. In this respect, the recent "while-we-wait" event was even more important than we could imagine.

## Forthcoming events

### 15<sup>th</sup> interdisciplinary postgraduate course and international workshop Electroporation Based Technologies and Treatments (EBTT)

Ljubljana, November 14 – 20, 2021 (*on-site* and *on-line* event)

<http://www.ebtt.org>

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*Write an email to the Editor  
with the following:*

1. *A document of 700 – 850 words on your subject.*
2. *Your profile photo.*
3. *Any graphics that illustrates your subject to go here in place of these instructions.*

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