



## Newsletter No. 92

A few words from the President: ISEBTT achievements in 2023, challenges, and the prospects for 2024

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As we approach the end of 2023, it gives me great pleasure to share with you my reflections on the state of our scientific community, highlighting recent achievements, challenges, and prospects.

Supporting research, education, and training through the organisation and sponsorship of conferences, workshops, and schools is one of ISEBTT's main missions. This year, our society supported the "1<sup>st</sup> Slovene Congress on electroporation", the "9<sup>th</sup> edition of the School in Pulsed Electric Field Applications in Food and Biotechnology" and the "Electroporation-based Technologies and Treatments International School and Workshop (EBTT)", which celebrated its twentieth anniversary this year. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere congratulations to both the organisers and the experts who have participated in the various editions of the EBTT. There is no doubt that this event, which has served as a model for the organisation of other schools, has contributed decisively to the progress made in the field of electroporation and PEF, not only in biomedicine, but also in other disciplines. In 2023, our Society has also endorsed the following events: "The Legacy and Spirit of Lojze Vodovnik International Symposium" organised by the Faculty of Electrical Engineering of the University of Ljubljana, the "Bioelectrics 2023 Symposium" in Lisbon, and the "Online Course on Applied Electrochemotherapy" organised by the H.A. Barceló Foundation (Argentina). For all those who are considering organising such events next year, our society will be happy to support them according to the established rules, which were slightly modified this year by the Council (<https://www.electroporation.net/about/support-of-schools-and-workshops/>).

ISEBTT must take advantage of the opportunities offered by new technologies to promote networking, learning, and engagement among the members of our Society, who are spread all over the world. A webinar was held on 23 May with 6 presentations on a range of topics from basic research to applications (<https://www.electroporation.net/isebtt-webinar-series/>). We thank both the organisers and the speakers for their selfless contribution to this event. As this type of online event offers many different possibilities (round tables, topical discussions, etc.), the Council is discussing the most appropriate format. I invite you all to contact us if you have any suggestions for further webinars.

A year ago, the journal "Bioelectricity" became an official journal of our society. The aims and scope of the journal were adjusted, two members of our society, Emanuela Signori and James Lyng, were appointed associate editors, and five members who are experts in the main scientific topics of ISEBTT were added to the editorial board.

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I would like to remind you that ISEBTT members have unlimited access to Bioelectricity in the "for members" section of the ISEBTT website. We all need to contribute to making Bioelectricity a reference journal in the field of electroporation and pulsed electric fields by submitting high-quality papers.

One of the main benefits of being a member of the ISEBTT is to have free access to the Handbook of Electroporation (Springer). This is a reference work in the field, comprising 157 chapters divided into 9 sections and 4 volumes. Due to the success of the first edition (77,000 chapter downloads), the preparation of the second edition of the handbook has just begun. I am pleased to inform you that ISEBTT members will continue to have free access to the second edition at no cost to the Society. This is thanks to the scientific editor (Damijan Miklavčič) and the editors of the various sections, who have waived their fees for their work in preparing the second edition so that Springer can provide access to ISEBTT members. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their generosity and, above all, for their commitment to our Society.

Their commitment is not only appreciated, but essential to the continued success of our scientific society. I invite you to actively participate in the various opportunities and initiatives we present to you. Every two years there is a partial renewal of the ISEBTT Council and the election of the President-Elect. For the 2024 elections, positions are open for representatives of life sciences, engineering/physical sciences, medical applications, food applications and environmental applications. Being a member of the most important decision-making body of our Society is an effective way to contribute to its excellence and progress. I therefore encourage you to send your candidacy to the Chair of the Election Committee ([luis.mir@cnsr.fr](mailto:luis.mir@cnsr.fr)) by 15 February 2024 at the latest.

Since its foundation in 2016, our Society has organised four World Congresses and the next one will take place in Rome (Italy) in 2024. The organisers of the 5<sup>th</sup> World Congress are doing their best, but we need to support them by proposing scientific sessions, suggesting sponsors, exhibitors or through other initiatives to make the event even more rewarding and successful than the previous editions. If you are a young scientist who fulfils the requirements for an Early Career Researcher, do not hesitate to apply for the Justin Tessie Award, which will be presented during the 5<sup>th</sup> World Congress ceremony. Application guidelines can be found on both our society's website (<https://www.electroporation.net/justin-teissie-award/>) and the World Congress website (<https://wc2024.electroporation.net/justin-teissie-award-2024/>).

Time is passing very quickly and while we are in the process of organising the 5<sup>th</sup> World Congress, we need to find candidates for the organisation of the 6<sup>th</sup>. The call for proposals for the organisation of the next World Congress on Electroporation has just been announced. Any group interested in organising the event in 2026 must submit a written proposal to the ISEBTT President with the information requested in the relevant guidelines. Having held three consecutive editions in Europe, it would be desirable for the Congress to be held on another continent this time.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to those who have contributed to the progress of our Society in 2023 for their tireless commitment. Please mark your calendars for 15 – 19 September 2024 for the upcoming World Congress on Electroporation, which will serve as a forum for exchanging ideas, fostering partnerships and promoting progress in the field of electroporation and pulsed electric fields.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Javier Raso  
– President of the ISEBTT

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*A moment from just one of the scientific events supported by the ISEBTT in 2023 (9<sup>th</sup> PEF School, Vienna).*

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