



Newsletter No. 100

Do not ask what the Society can do for you...

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We would not reach the 100th issue of the Newsletter without the contribution of numerous authors who wrote their piece and made it available to you. This would not be possible without the support of Samo Mahnič-Kalamiza – the technical editor of the Newsletter. I would like to thank them all for their respective contributions. Thank You!

How many people read the Newsletter? The number of recipients of the Newsletter before the GDPR directive was around 3300, and after it went into effect, this number was reduced by about half, due to the need to obtain explicit consent from those still wishing to continue receiving it monthly into their mailboxes. We have since expanded the reach to the present 2230 recipients – and we should continue to work on increasing this number. How many of these do open the attachment to read the Newsletter we cannot tell, but it is certainly my hope that most of those receiving the Newsletter also, at least from time to time, take a couple of minutes out of their busy day to get updated on the latest activities of the Society and on what is happening in the field of electroporation more broadly.

As ISEBTT and even before, working together in scope of the COST TD1104 action, we have achieved many goals. Most importantly, we have developed a sense of community – and I like to believe the Newsletter was contributing to achieving this. We gathered and connected researchers working in different disciplines and using electroporation in very different fields for very different applications. The vast variety of applications is well reflected in the Handbook of EP; we are presently preparing 2nd edition of the Handbook, and you have probably received an email from the production department if you have contributed to the 1st edition. If you have not but you would like to, or if you have an idea for a chapter and/or an author, please contact me.

We have mapped the world of electroporation and became recognized as a society and a community, we have our own journal where we should publish, and we should aspire for more recognition. Eventually, our efforts should culminate in the establishing of a truly our own journal – it is very difficult (and expensive) to publish in others' (peoples', societies', ...) journals.

We have successfully closed the gap between industry and academia – we have developed excellent relations with small and large companies evidenced by their continued presence at the World Congresses – both as sponsors and as exhibitors.

Continued verso...



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As ISEBTT supports schools and meetings around the world (although modestly, but still) we should recognize that some schools would benefit from greater support – in particular, the “PEF in Food” school, as it seems it struggles more to survive than the EBTT in Ljubljana. Other schools should also be encouraged to ask for support from the ISEBTT, since schools and workshops in general are some of the absolute best means of building strong fundamentals of any society. Why so? Schools and workshops, as opposed to conferences and congresses, due to the lower number of participants and longer duration, usually come with a much-emphasised component of building the social relations and team spirit among the participants. These bonds, formed during but lasting well beyond the school or workshop are what enables the subsequent formation of long-lasting collaborations, and – much more importantly to the survival of the Society – they form the basis of functional groups within the community that can later develop into functional bodies of the Society such as various committees or focus groups for development of a particular subfield of applications.

There is a long time between the World Congresses as they are taking place every two years, and we need these intervening activities to keep us together (webinars in addition to schools and workshops). There were some attempts the organizers should be congratulated for, but it is my firm belief that these individuals will not continue to appear indefinitely out of nowhere willing to invest time and effort without encouragement from the Society to continue in their efforts.

Should we organize a GRC on Electroporation or join efforts with the Bioelectrics Consortium to have smaller, maybe more focused and topical meetings in the year between the World Congresses, should we continue with the organisation of the webinars, or should we encourage organisation of more schools and workshops? I believe this is a question the Council and Society’s committees should be answering. What are their recommendations and guidelines? We are eagerly awaiting to hear about it in one of the next issues of the newsletter (*hint, hint*).

Efforts towards better reporting, higher quality, and reproducibility should continue. Attempts have been made in the form of Recommendation papers (<https://tinyurl.com/rec-papers>) that were prepared and published by most prominent scientists in our community; we should continue our efforts and consider activities towards preparing new recommendations and maybe even reporting standards.

Finally, one of the biggest successes (in my opinion) was the Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSM) programme that came with the COST action (lead by Mihaela Moisescu) – and even though we do not have funding from EC/COST anymore, I think we should find a way to reinstate STSMs. Perhaps similarly to how the BioEM society has its annual call and is funding this important mechanism, fostering collaboration and flow of ideas within the community.

Finally, do not merely sit and wait for things to happen, as they will not, not by themselves at least. If I may be allowed to paraphrase: “Do not ask what the Society can do for you – ask what you can do for the Society.”

Forthcoming events

**18th interdisciplinary postgraduate course and international workshop
Electroporation Based Technologies and Treatments (EBTT)**

Ljubljana, November 11 – 16, 2024 (*on-site* and *on-line* event)

<https://2024.ebtt.org/>

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